



bulkley valley - lakes district
airshed management society

**Annual General Meeting
Final MINUTES
April 30, 2024**

Telecommunications: Paula Tait and Northern Health,
paula.Tait@northernhealth.ca

Meeting in Person at the District of Houston Council Chambers,
3367 - 12th Street, (PO Box 370), Houston, BC, V0J 1Z0
Phone: 250 845-2238
Regular District Hours: 8:00am to 4:30pm

Chair: Troy Reitsma

Recording: Sue Brookes

Present: Directors: Troy, Sybille, Nikki, Sue, Dave, Genevieve
Guests: Cori, Paula, Natasha Paulson, Patience Rakochy, Jay Gilden

Regrets: Ray Sturney, Dennis Strain, Charley Rensby, Doug Bysouth

Call to order: 3:00pm

Land Acknowledgement

Introductions

Adoption of agenda - Dave motioned, Sybille seconded.

Genevieve wanted to add an item about AMS priorities for 2024 under open discussions. No other items were added to the agenda. All were in favour.

Motion to approve the minutes of May 4, 2023. Sybille made the motion and it was seconded by Dave. All were in favour.

First Guest: **Patience Rakochy, RPF, General Manager PG Air Improvement Roundtable.** Patience gave a brief slide presentation on what they've done in the past, who they are, and what their focus is now.

Highlights:

- around since the 90's, air problems in the bowl of PG, grassroots advocacy started as a technical management committee, then became an implementation committee, Mayors task force and eventually formed a Roundtable in 2008.
- their mission is collaboration, information sharing, recommendations around air quality and mitigation strategies.
- projects include anti idling campaigns, bike to work, keep the dust down, influence, and monitoring. They currently have a masters student who is doing a study of air quality (AQ) in school districts and where AQ might be better to support active transportation. This is based on a Calgary study and Patience can provide a link if requested.
- PM2.5, PM10 focus.
- AQ is not just a respiratory issue, there are economic impacts, they recognize the benefits of managing AQ and climate change together.
- PG has improved stats, a 26% improvement in PM2.5 since 2008.
- Air Quest is a modelling software for emission inventories, developed by Peter Jackson, UNBC, its easily adapted to changing industrial emissions.
- the Roundtable (PG Air) has data sharing with the monitoring group - they are a separate society that own the equipment and report out to the Ministry of the Environment.
- Project of late: a positive feedback loop through the UBC Masters program. They took a look at existing AQ and Climate Action plans and pulled out actions that PG Air could drive or advance through a co-benefit lens. https://www.pgairquality.com/uploads/FinalReport_PG AIR_April4th.pdf. It's a substantial report, worth wading thru, if we want to try they can hook us up with this group. It was roughly a \$3000 total price tag, great to work with the students.
- PG Air has a long term focus, engaging citizens and emission stakeholders, considering local health, quality of life, allocation of responsibility, and more.
- challenges they experience include the type of AQ planning - regional or strategic, commitment, limited resources, voluntary adherence and stakeholder priorities, consensus driven.
- Paula is a long time Director.

Directors discussion:

- How do you monitor and review your Clean Air Plan?
- Answer: by subcommittee - the operations committee makes recommendations to the board, or the ad hoc air quality management plan committee
- Air Quest: is it possible to implement here? great slide
- What about aerosols from pulp and paper?

- Answer: Canfor Pulp participates in advancing air quality and they sit at the table. Odour thresholds for health impacts are lower than PM2.5 tolerances. Sulphur and other compounds are more dangerous to health than originally thought.
- What is your funding model? Answer: local government and Province of BC, grant based

related links: central interior air zone report

Action Item (AI)**** Sybille - can you connect with Patience and try to get information on the UBC Masters project and the co-benefit lens on Air Quality. Can we get this going here - how much, what commitments do we need, timelines?

Guest: **Jay Gilden on behalf of What Matters in our Valley**, concerned about industry, particularly coal mine proposals in Telkwa and residential quality of life.

Highlights:

- Telkwa was a cottage coal industry in the old days, in the 1980s Shell Canada began to explore the Telkwa River coal beds. Minalta came along in the 1990's and this led to an Environmental Assessment, many issues were raised around the project.
- Jay has an extensive list of issues, one of them being the nuisance effects of mining, where is dust going? what is the nature of the material and more?
- the generally accepted notion around coal development is you can have a clean town or coal mining town not both
- in the 1990's red flags were raised about Minalta's application and their attempt to get around the EA. The response from the Province then was there was no proposal that would happen without a EA, they said they expected to extract this much per annum and the size of their extraction kept changing - 750 - 825 thousand tonnes, raising issues around air quality.
- in Nov. 2016, Minalta's EA application information requirements were insufficient.
- there is still no health information from the applicant. In Dec. 2022 the EA deadline was not met. The EAO said give up or agree to an extension which would mean their application would be government by the 2018 EA Act. This application is extended indefinitely.
- Issues also include:
 - dispersion and deposition

- your air is bad but we aren't exceeding any limits, this raises questions around management, public relations, motivations
 - the description of nuisance effects, an inappropriate term - the project is 10km from the Bulkley River, downwind we have skihill, Telkwa and Smithers.
 - the Province is no longer requiring certain assessments, like they did prior to 2018.
 - what about arsenic, ammonia, heavy metals and nitrates?
- The ask - What Matters in our Valley is asking the Environmental Assessment office for more assessment and to have some kind of forum before the 60 day final process of public input begins. They was us to write a letter requesting the same.

Directors discussion:

- very interested, habitat loss for Caribou another problem
- check out their comment about the full gamut of issues on line at: <https://whatmattersinourvalley.com/>
- we will table the request for discussion at the next Director's meeting

Treasurer's Report:

Current balance, \$14 400.00.

Rebate activity in the fall of 2023 was worth about \$4000.

There is a small incoming grant from The Regional District of Kitimat Stikine for purple airs in the northern part of our airshed.

Coordinator Report:

This can be found on the last pages of the minutes.

Election of Directors:

Dave Duncan - agrees to be Treasurer for another term.

Natasha Paulson - she will soon be on maternity leave so is not joining the board just now but will contact Doug about his position. Doug's intentions are not known.

Troy Reitsma will stay as Director but step down as Chair.

Sybille Haeussler PhD RPF - yes will stay as a Director but not Chair.

Genieve Paterson - will stay as a Director but make note she will also be on maternity leave soon.

Nikki Papps - will joining the Board for the first time

Ray Sturney - will stand as a Director

Doug Bysouth will be stepping down after a long stint as Director
It will be confirmed in email whether Charlie and Simon will keep the appointments to the Board.

Open Discussion:

1. Quick update to Directors on how the AGM notification went out, posters, inthloop - mail list, direct mail to members, web posts
2. A Director asks what our mission is exactly - from page ix of the Clean Air Plan ...

“ The BVLD Airshed Management Society’s mission is to facilitate clean air solutions in the Bulkley Valley - Lakes District for the Protection and Improvement of the Health of BVLD Residents by Continuously Improving Air Quality. As part of this 2012 update, the two original goals were expanded and enhanced to become five goals:

1. Maintain and improve our understanding of air quality science in the BVLD
2. Meet ambient air quality targets at Ministry of Environment monitoring stations in the airshed
3. Improve stakeholder awareness of and participation in airshed management activities
4. Reduce emissions in all sectors
5. Strengthen the linkage between air quality and human health by identifying specific goals, indicators and strategies as appropriate

3. A Director wants to schedule an agenda item for the next Director’s meeting around hosting annual workshops and to have a conversation around the Clean Air Plan and priorities within the plan. How are we advancing those?

How can we support better communication?

What does review of the clean air plan look like?

What are the priorities that we’ve perceived and what can we tackle in the next year?

4. Generally our priorities are directed by communities, what they ask for and what we facilitate.

Houston’s public engagement has not taken the form of formal air quality or burn operator forums but more like public meetings and open houses around clean burning or filtration in your house at the library and the senior centre workshop - pre covid. Workshops are cross functional and various priorities of the plan are addressed. In a recent Burns Lake open house (at the library) discussion topics included:

- cloud seeding
- the community wood smoke reduction plan and WETT certification, installation and operation education
- car fires and careless butt throwing along the highway
- fire responder jurisdiction and confusion from motorists who are calling 911 to report fires and being asked to call the Wildfire Service instead
- air filters and community science
- monitoring PM2.5, 10 and temperature
- open burning
- health impacts and the perpetual dry cough not accompanied by other cold or flu symptoms
- mortality rates and reasons

5. The process of consultation with municipalities is this: topics/issues come forward to the BVLD AMS Board, get discussed then go back to council for discussion and recommendations, then return to the BVLD AMS for action. All minutes are also submitted by Councillors to their Council for review and entry into public record.

6. Open Burning Forums - the Ministry Of Forests are not emphasizing air quality. Custom venting exercises are outsourced by West Fraser (have been for about 5 years), the Province is developing some new modelling options for licensees but not willing to fund a forum. We need to talk to stakeholders with regard to funding.

7. Other impacts on the Clean Air Plan:

- the 6 emission sources, new sources
- the provincial push to get rid of open burning by 2030

next agenda item: via email lets get emails going back and forth and discuss specifics on the clean air plan

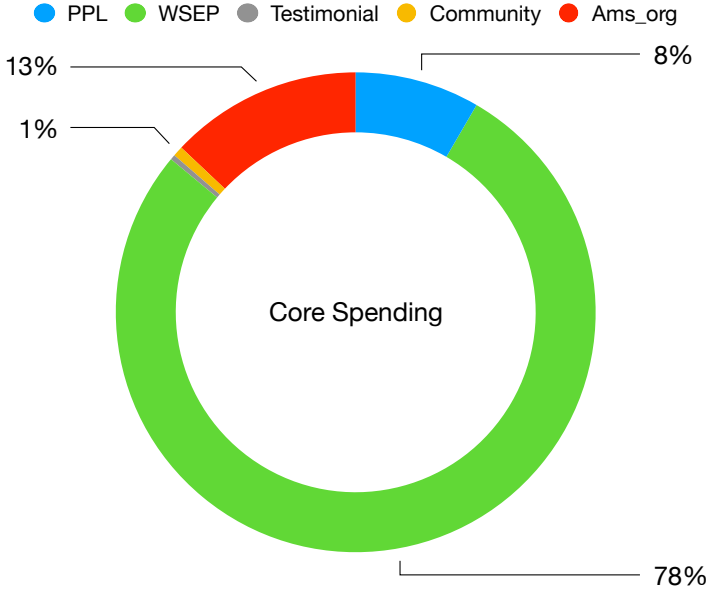
- rail - transporting LNG - long loads, poor engine maintenance, more trains - 25% more traffic, no EA required, a second project or plans for righta new plant near PG which might result in 1 or 2 more cars a day, emergency response plans and more...

- minerals and exploration, banning thermal coal exports by 2030
- tie into Climate action plans
- right to farm legislation

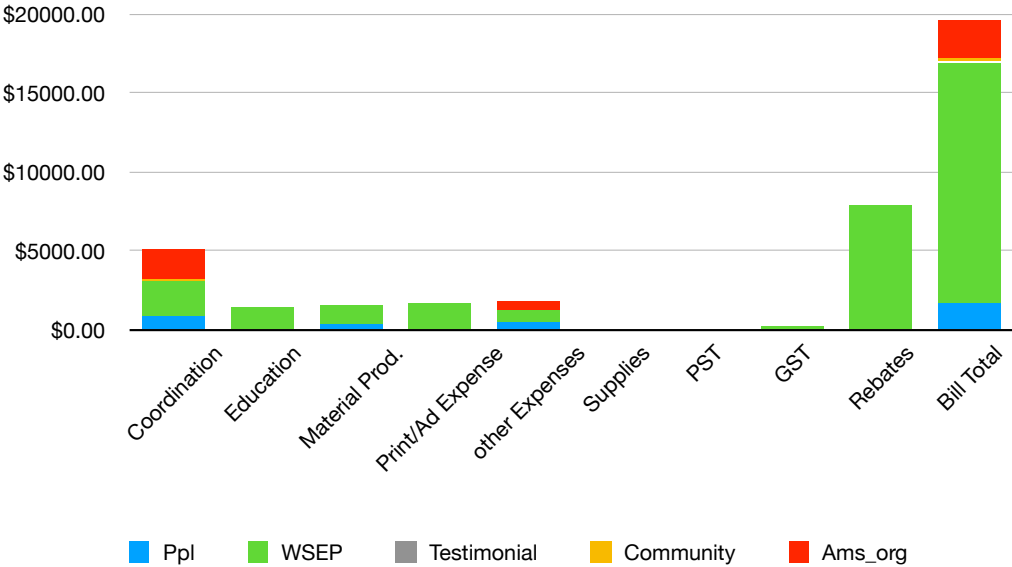
Next Meeting Date: June 20th 3 - 5pm. Smithers AMS Office, Community Futures, MS TEAMS

Adjourned at 5pm

Sue Brookes, Coordinator Report, BVLD AMS AGM, April 30, 2023



2023 Spending Breakdown



What's Up for 2024/2025? Core Operations:

- quarterly director meetings
- annual agm
- management of list serve, members and directors
- management of email box, coordinator@cleanairplan.ca
- director support
- maintenance of website and domains, word press sites, optimization
- responding to inquiries, outreach
- resource management - sensors, reports, drone, filters and sundry

Projects:

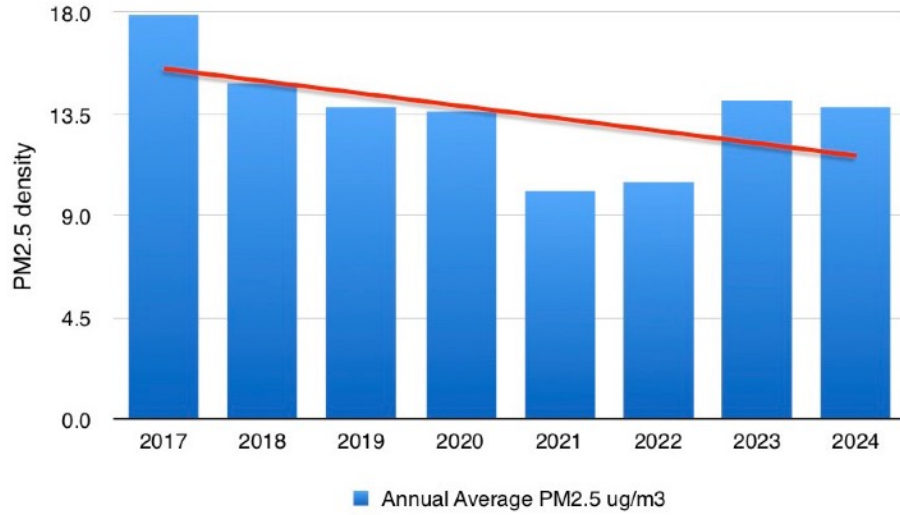
- clean air plan review
- community wood smoke reduction program - purple air project
- air quality planning
- burn operators and/or clean air forum
- fundraising
- membership drive and fees
- community projects
- research and reports - MEI, Score Cards
- stakeholder outreach - governmental, health authority, industry, general public

Thank-you to the Significant In Kind and Cash Partners of 2023



Purple Report:

Raw Unadjusted Purple Air Data from a all locations but not all sensors in the BVLD AMS Airshed



Average PM2.5 from 2017 - 2023, only for illustration
Annual Objective 8.0

