

PRINCE GEORGE AIR QUALITY IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE MINUTES
TUESDAY, November 28, 2006
5:30 P.M. – 7:30 P.M.
Annex – City Hall

In Attendance: Dennis Fudge, Dave Sutherland, Mark Fercho, Ken Wilkening, Jocelyn White, Sherry McIntyre, Joan Chess, Ron Fujino, Jessica Madrid, Glenda Waddell, Lawrence Cook, Martin Meyer, Kim Frost, Barb Gauss, Ron Beram, Sergio Petrucci, John Swaan, Sharlene Lively, Katja Otting

Guests: Steve Brown (Sonoma Research, California), Mark Graham (Ministry of Environment, Victoria)

Regrets: Jim Martin

SONOMA RESEARCH PROJECT

- Chemical data collected from PM_{2.5} filters collected at the Plaza monitoring site – will backtrack to what sources the PM_{2.5} came from. Will assist in determining what the contribution is from different sources.
- Project is to enable us to understand the effect of individual sources (stacks) and groups of sources (vehicles, woodstoves, etc) and how they contribute to particulate matter.
- This data will be used to select additional emission reduction targets.

PHASE TWO COMMENTS

- Review Phase Two plan and identify those areas that we can contribute to. **Action: Everyone**
- Dave will update the team at the Steering Committee meeting.
- The Regional District will be updating the heavy industrial land use study next year.
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MEMBERSHIP SUB-COMMITTEE

- A Terms of Reference draft was supplied tonight. Please review and comment. **Action: Everyone**

COMMUNICATIONS SUB-COMMITTEE

- Confirm deadlines for the press release with Peter – complete.
- Cam McAlpine (consultant) is going to come to the January meeting. He is accumulating documents for a draft; it should be ready in December. Cam is requesting ideas for names and key messages. Please submit your ideas to the Communications team. We should organize a brainstorming session – December?
- The Ministry operates a Complaints Line, the City also fields calls. This group could address these issues as well. Formalized complaint data should be collected – in the City Calls for Service? – ongoing.
- Press release – UNBC is performing studies and our media release on airshed studies on November 7th was done to inform public of ongoing progress in implementing the airshed plan.

CLEAN AIR FORUM

- The planning group is looking for people to work with the group.
- The forum will be February or March of 2007.
- Members of the group had a conference call a few weeks ago. They reviewed topics, speakers, and a theme for the forum. Another conference call is scheduled for December.

MONITORING WORKING GROUP

- There may be additional monitoring needed at Fraser Bench and North Nechako. Mark Fercho requested costs of putting in and maintaining monitors at the suggested areas. What equipment is available? - Ministry to provide - ongoing.

- Should North Nechako be monitored? How do we segregate the sources? How do we educate to improve the practices? What are the Best Management Practices for these situations? – ongoing.
- Could monitoring be standardized and consistent – municipally and provincially? Who is ultimately responsible? What are the Best Management Practices? Is there a provincial Task Force for Air Quality monitoring? – ongoing.

RESEARCH PLAN PROGRESS

- Members had a meeting today.
- January 2007 – hope to have another report to present.
- Can work on odour and emission studies / inventory.
- Health research – can this be studied? Is there a respiratory co-relation to particulate matter? UNBC has done studies on this. How does inversion impact asthmatic patients? Dr. Cook will investigate if data is publicly available from medical records at PGRH regarding air quality concerns from patient “emergencies”.
- Barb Gauss asked to participate in odour emission study.

STEERING COMMITTEE PHASE 2 UPDATE

- Implementation Plan – Steering Committee approved the plan.
- Ministry is currently working with the City to develop a structure for developers for land use, etc.

OTHER BUSINESS

- Bylaw enforcement should be addressed as it is difficult to enforce and resolve issues. The wording in the bylaw needs refinement. Ron Beram is familiar with the provincial regulations.
- Fraser Basin Council – recently launched E3 fleet rating system – bronze, silver and gold levels.
- Official Community Plan – air quality considerations need to be a major point, the message has to be clear. The City is updating the OCP right now.
- There was concern that the Phase 1 actions were not all completed. The summary section of the Phase One Progress Report does not accurately reflect what is in that report. We are a research committee. The Task Force should be giving direction and addressing future plans. Phase 3 will identify management actions.

DISCUSSION FORUM

A regular feature of the Committee is the opportunity for members, especially new members, to raise and explore air quality management issues, including the role of the Committee.

The issue was raised as to how new management actions, such as MOE's decision to ban land clearing open burning in the North Nechako area, are selected while others have been deferred to the Phase III Airshed Plan when the source studies are completed. Discussion to be continued at next meeting.

Also raised was the issue of what would be done if the different source studies are in conflict. The available evidence suggests that a small number of dominant PM_{2.5} sources will emerge from these studies, rather than a larger number of equal contributors (that is on the broader, valley portion of the airshed: contributions in some local neighbourhoods may be driven by more local sources, certainly during episodes). Because the studies use different approaches to answer the same general questions, it is expected that the results will complement each other, rather than overlap. For instance, the wind sector analysis does not identify specific sources, only a breakdown of contributions to ambient levels by geographical area. The receptor modelling study is expected to identify source types (vehicles, pulpmills, dust, etc.), through analysis of source tracers, whereas the dispersion modelling study will identify the contributions from individual sources and source groups by type and location (e.g. different sawmill and pulpmill stacks, vehicle types and vehicle routes, etc.). More discussion welcomed on this issue.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, January --, 2007 - 5:30-7:30pm

Location: TBA