

Trail Area Health & Environment Committee



MINUTES

Meeting: Tuesday, November 22, 2016
City of Trail – Committee Room #2
7:00 pm

Committee Members in Attendance:

Mike Martin, Chair, City of Trail
Marylynn Rakuson, Community Member
Mike Adams, Interior Health
Jeannine Stefani, Interior Health

Linda Worley, Director, RDKB Area B
Tiffany Armstrong, Community Member
Mark Tinholt, Teck Trail Operations
Dawn Tomlin, Interior Health

Others in Attendance:

Bruce Enns, SNC-Lavalin Inc.
Cindy Hall, SNC-Lavalin Inc.
Andrea McCormick, SNC-Lavalin Inc.
Liz Anderson, SNC-Lavalin Inc.

Dan Bouillon, Teck Trail Operations
Frances Maika, VOX Communications
Ruth Beck, THEP Program Manager
Thompson Hickey, Teck Trail Operations

MEETING MINUTES: Dated Tuesday, September 20, 2016

Motion to approve the minutes from Tuesday, September 20, 2016. No errors or omissions; accepted as circulated.

PRESENTATIONS, REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Presentation:

2016 Children's Lead Testing Results – Jeannine Stefani, Interior Health; attached

Jeannine presented the results of the Fall 2016 Children's Blood Lead Testing Clinic with a PowerPoint presentation.

Discussion took place about comparing data from other areas that report children's blood lead; Mark would need full data sets to be able to compare 'apples to apples' as the age range of children tested varies from place to place. Marylynn commented that we have done remarkably well at reducing blood lead levels in children. Mark added that blood lead levels at all the smelters have come down and we have been learning a lot from each other (people from Port Pirie, Australia have come here, we have gone to Torreon, Mexico).

Mark highlighted Slide 15: the relationship between the geometric mean for children's blood lead levels and the level of lead in the community air in the month of August in any given year. We're observing a different relationship in the years 2010 – 2016 compared with previous years. In the more recent period, changes in children's lead levels have a different correlation with air lead levels. This could be a reflection of the fact that our programs for families have expanded considerably since 2010 (soil testing and remediation/yard improvement, Healthy Families Healthy Homes, Lead Safe Renovation) and that children's lead levels now reflect a combination of all of our programs working together. Mark also noted that prior to 2003, the air monitoring station was in a different location: it was moved to Butler Park to be more conservative/protective: readings at the Butler Park station are typically 1.7x greater than the readings at the previous location. Mark will look into adjusting the graph to compensate for this difference – that is, readings prior to 2003 would be adjusted upwards by a factor of 1.7.

Mark clarified that the main pathway for lead exposure is dust from aerial emissions settling on surfaces, then children getting the dust on their hands (or toys etc.) and then ingesting it. Previous data has

indicated that dustfall outweighs the soil as the most consequential pathway and therefore, the greatest opportunity for reducing children's blood lead levels is reducing fugitive dust. The results of the ongoing Dust Study will further clarify conditions today. Mark further explained that the proposed blood lead goal for 2020 (3.5 µg/dL) was identified from an assessment of information and data on the projected outcomes of the fugitive dust reduction project and modeling the geometric mean blood lead level that would correlate if the 2018 air quality goal were achieved. The 2018 air quality goal is based on the Ontario standard, the most conservative standard/guidance in Canada. *(Note subsequent to the meeting: the standard was also chosen because it was the most recent and most closely aligned with current science.)*

Linda shared that Rivervale is grateful for the street washing that is provided to them twice a year; it shows the residents that the THEC cares about them.

Blood Lead results media release: Ruth led the group through the release and highlighted the three quotes from Dr Golmohammadi (the MHO), Mayor Martin, and Dan Bouillon. After some discussion, several small adjustments were made. The THEC approved the content of the media release; once small grammatical corrections are made in the morning by Ruth and Mark, it will be sent out by the City of Trail.

Reports & Issues Arising:

Consultation Process Update – Frances Maika, VOX Communications

Frances Maika provided an update on the consultation process to date. The surveys have all been entered for analysis. Overall, support for the goals is approximately 80%; very similar to the outcome of the 2010 consultation. Frances will present the draft report at the February THEC meeting.

Maryllynn commented that one woman, a food bank recipient, who attended the focus group told her that she felt really good about what she learned about Trail and the work being done here to address lead. This woman is now spreading the word about the THEP at the food banks.

Community Check-In

Maryllynn asked Mark to provide an update on what is happening at the creek in Warfield; specifically, are we testing for contaminants in the creek? Mark clarified that this was in reference to the groundwater project in Haley Gulley, about which a presentation was made at the previous THEC meeting. There are two old landfills and yes, Teck is monitoring the creek. There are elevated metals in sediment, so Teck just completed a project to install a settlement pond to trap sediment and stop it from moving down the creek. This work is being done with review and approval by the BC Ministry of Environment and Environment Canada. Mark offered to provide a more in-depth review at a future meeting. Maryllynn added that she understands we've inherited the problems from the past, and that we're working on mitigating them. Thompson commented on legacy issues and current operations' environmental performance: "we're trying to balance both". Mark will confirm what notifications went out to the public in advance of the work.

Program Reports and Issues Arising:

Air Quality – Mark Tinholt, Teck Trail Operations; report attached

Mark presented the Teck Air Quality Report. He highlighted the low air lead in October this year and added that the October dustfall jar data shows low lead as well: Mark noted that this could be due to the record rainfall in October. The arsenic average for the year-to-date meets the 2018 goal (with 10 of 12 months data reported) and is on track to be Teck's best result ever.

Air Quality Technical Working Group (AQTWG); minutes attached

Mark presented the minutes of the AQTWG meeting. The meeting was to discuss the sulphur dioxide (SO₂) Canadian Ambient Air Quality Standards (CAAQS) that have now been released. The new CAAQS are being adopted as the air quality objective in BC. The AQTWG recommended to the THEC that SO₂ be added as an issue that the THEC monitors and participates in, and requested the mandate to follow up and report back to the THEC regarding SO₂ issues and the new guidance. The working group would prepare draft communications/educational materials to present to the THEC at a future meeting.

MOTION: Mark moved: That the THEC give the Air Quality Technical Working Group a mandate to follow up and report back to the THEC regarding SO₂ issues and the new CAAQS guidance. This includes

drafting internal and external THEC communication (e.g. Issues Brief, THEC PPT, Fact Sheet for the website etc.); following up contacts with identified resource groups; and identifying other helpful actions. Marylynn seconded. None against; carried.

Note: Frances pointed out that Ruth Hull was left off the attendees list in the AQTWG minutes.

Family Health – Jeannine Stefani, Interior Health; report attached

Jeannine shared the Family Health report and noted that there are 14 children identified as case management this year based on the results of the 2016 Fall Clinic: 7 new, 7 repeat. Jeannine described the kinds of actions that take place to support case management children/families: we provide education, soil testing, yard improvement and/or remediation, and Home & Garden supports. We offer a lot of supports so it's not easy to identify which support or combination of supports makes the difference in a particular case. The case management children will get tested again in February; the one child who tested over 15ug/dL will be tested by their doctor much sooner than that.

Home & Garden – Cindy Hall, Andrea McCormick, and Bruce Enns, SNC-Lavalin Inc; report attached

Cindy provided the Healthy Homes update. Andrea gave an update on the soils program. Bruce spoke about the dust study and added that we can expect data by the end of the year. Andrea spoke about Lead Safe Renovation (LSR). Cindy added that a more detailed update on the Home & Garden program will be given at the February meeting. Ruth informed Andrea that the analytics for LSR traffic on the website will be provided soon. Discussion took place about soil assessment requests and waitlists.

Program Manager – Ruth Beck, Circle B Services Consulting

No specific report; Ruth has been integral in supporting the activities mentioned above.

Executive Committee – verbal report

Ruth spoke about prioritizing the timing of working group meetings due to capacity constraints. The priority order is for the WAS Impacts Terms of Reference (ToR) group to meet later in November; the Consultation Working Group will meet in January to review draft report; the AQTWG will work as needed over winter and spring with regard to SO₂; the Blood Lead Reduction Working Group (BLRWG) and the Community and Families Working Group (CFWG) will be meeting in spring 2017. Ruth will include the CFWG in the meeting to review the consultation results.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, February 7, 2017