

Trail Area Health & Environment Committee



MINUTES

Meeting:
City of Trail – Committee Room #2
Tuesday, February 7, 2017 – 7:00 pm

Committee Members in Attendance:

Mike Martin, Chair, City of Trail
Lisa Pasin, Alternate Chair, City of Trail
Mark Tinholt, Teck Trail Operations
Jeannine Stefani, Interior Health
Tiffany Armstrong, Community Member

Ron Joseph, Community Member
Marylynn Rakuson, Community Member
Sonia Tavares, Community Member
Dawn Tomlin, Interior Health

Others in Attendance:

Bruce Enns, SNC-Lavalin Inc.
Cindy Hall, SNC-Lavalin Inc.
Ruth Beck, Program Manager
Shane Ferraro, Warfield Councilor
Donna Haga, Ministry of Environment

Daniel Bouillon, Teck Trail
Andrea McCormick, SNC-Lavalin Inc.
Liz Anderson, SNC-Lavalin Inc.
Jason Lasuik, Ministry of Environment

MEETING MINUTES: Dated November 22, 2016

Motion to approve the minutes from November 22, 2016. With no omissions or errors noted, the minutes were accepted as is.

Note: Mike noted that at the end of the agenda discussions, there will be a short in-camera meeting.

PRESENTATIONS, REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Presentations:

Home & Garden Program: 2016 Annual Report; attached
Cindy and Andrea shared the PowerPoint presentation of the 2016 annual report for the Home & Garden program.

With regard to the indoor dust study, Mark commented that the study's rationale was to update our information on the relationship between emissions of fugitive dust and the dust that gets into the home. This will inform future programming and provide us with a baseline for indoor dust from before the smelter recycle building came into operation.

Andrea clarified that some property owners decline remediation (after they have requested sampling), for many reasons, but often it's because they have put a lot of time and energy into their yards and gardens and they are comfortable with their soil numbers.

Mark would like to know the total number of gardens that have been sampled by the program and wondered aloud if there will be a point where we will have sampled all the gardens in town?

Andrea clarified that one contractor (Alpine) performs the remediations, yard improvements, and conditioning of yards. Bruce commented that it may make more sense to do full yard remediations as a

rule, rather than partial remediations where we may need to go back and remediate again in the future as the program progresses.

Discussion took place about promoting the program by placing a sign in the yard while it is under remediation. It has been mentioned in the past, but two concerns have stopped us: it may become a problem for the contractor while they are trying to get the work done if they are interrupted by those wanting to know more. Also, it may affect some homeowners and their desire for privacy. We could consider putting a sign up in the yard after the work is completed for a time, with permission from the homeowner.

Ruth mentioned that the preliminary results from the public consultation are in and there is a good satisfaction rate for the Home & Garden program: 72%.

Mike commented, "Thanks; great report. Lots of work happening and great results".

Early Years Initiatives in the Lower Columbia; attached

Sonia presented an update on Early Years Initiatives in the Lower Columbia. The EDI (Early Development Instrument) questionnaire results were provided via email prior to the meeting and Sonia encouraged everyone to refer to them on their own time. She highlighted that the EDI is performed with kindergarten children and the questionnaire is delivered by their teacher (who has training to do so). The results for our area, Kootenay-Columbia South, indicate that Trail is less vulnerable than BC overall. Our area has decreased in vulnerability over time, from 29% to 22%. There is good investment in the area by the CBT (Columbia Basin Trust), as well as the work done by CBAL (Columbia Basin Alliance for Literacy), FAN (Family Action Network), Strong Start, as well as a strong community. Sonia mentioned Revelstoke; they have only 7% vulnerability as a result of big financial investments and putting almost all services under the same roof to improve access.

Success by 6 and FAN utilize the EDI results and are advocating for more community education and community screenings of young children's developmental milestones: "check early, check often".

Sonia added that there is also a TDI (Toddler Development Instrument) that examines contextual factors that influence ECD (early childhood development). This is more about the family and early life experiences; not necessarily the child. The aim is to normalize screening for developmental milestones.

Sonia encouraged anyone who would like more information to speak with her. She cannot divulge info pertaining to specific schools but can separate the data between Castlegar and Trail. She also clarified that this year's data are for public schools, but they hope to involve private schools next year.

Family Action Network Update; attached

Ruth provided the update for FAN and highlighted the dedication to early screening and networking, with supports for families with young children. She also shared that FAN will soon be celebrating the opening of 2 new Easy Peezy comfort stations; one at the Aquatic Centre and one at the Trail Memorial Centre.

Sonia shared that FAN was not the successful applicant for hosting the Cities Fit for Children Summit, but they are looking into why they didn't get it.

Ruth highlighted HELP (Human Early Learning Partnership) and the research the THEC commissioned and shared with the community. (Note subsequent to the meeting: the literature reviews are referenced on HELP's website at: <http://earlylearning.ubc.ca/library/citations/>)

Minimizing lead exposure in combination with improving other developmental inputs makes for the best outcome for children: it is why we're here!

Program Updates and Business Arising:

Community Check-In:

In response to a question from Shane Ferraro with regard to Haley Gulley in Warfield, Mark clarified that in the fall of 2016 Teck installed a sediment trap to stop sediments from travelling offsite down the creek.

Teck is coming up with a long-term plan for reclamation of the closed landfills located at the head of Haley Gulley. This work is being done under the review of the BC Ministry of Environment Land Remediation Section and Environment Canada.

Air Quality: *report attached*

Mark highlighted the annual averages for lead and arsenic in air. The 2016 annual average for lead in air is the lowest overall that we've ever had (even for strike and shutdown years). Mark is hopeful that the smelter recycle building is a major reason for the low levels, but there was also exceptional rainfall, a short maintenance shutdown, and snowfall. The trend is continuing in January and we are hopeful that it will continue throughout the year. The 2016 annual average for arsenic in air, $0.0078 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, is below the 2018 goal of $0.01 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$!

Mike commented that the result is incredible; we've had weather variables in the past and not seen this level of improvement.

Family Health: *attached*

Jeannine spoke about the upcoming winter blood lead clinics. She also highlighted the development of the new IH database; it should have more functionality and reduce the time Jeannine has to spend organizing the data collection.

Home & Garden: *no report beyond the 2016 annual report.*

Program Manager's Report: *attached*

Ruth presented the report and highlighted that she is working on reviewing the draft consultation report and updating our knowledge on sulphur dioxide (SO_2). She also raised that the spring 2017 newsletter will be in the works soon enough and we should consider what we would like to have in it. Suggestions for the newsletter from those in attendance: consultation update, home and garden, a note for expectant parents, dust study update (if available), feature a THEC member, FAN update, Easy Peezy comfort stations, air quality update (Mark will check on specific content, e.g. possibly about the second acid plant or a Teck fugitive dust update (possibly mention our key messages about SO_2)).

Executive Meeting Report: *verbal report*

Ruth listed the various working group meetings that will be taking place over the next few months:

- The Consultation Working Group and the Community and Families Working Group will jointly meet in early March to go over the draft consultation report. A doodle poll is forthcoming to arrange the date.
- Air Quality Technical Working Group: Ruth will present a draft Issues Brief and PowerPoint on SO_2 at the next meeting in early April (date TBD).
- The WAS Impacts Assessment Working Group will meet in early March.
- The Blood Lead Levels Reduction Working Group will meet later in Spring (May or June) to look at details of further supporting the reduction of blood lead levels. This group will look at the findings of the dust study, the draft plan for soil remediation (WARP), and work being undertaken by the MHO and BCCDC as well.

Upcoming THEC meetings

Ruth listed the proposed THEC meeting dates for the rest of 2017:

- April 18, 2017: Consultation Report and Presentation on SO_2
- June 27, 2017: Fugitive Dust Reduction Program update and Dust Study findings
- September 19, 2017
- November 28, 2017: Results from the 2017 Fall Blood Lead Clinic

ACTION: Liz to send out the proposed dates via email.

NEXT MEETING: **Tuesday, April 18, 2017**