

2012-Feb 28 Minutes

Written by admin on March 22nd, 2012

MINUTES - final

Meeting: Tuesday, Feb 28, 2012
City of Trail – Committee Room #2
7:00 pm

Committee Members in Attendance:

Dieter Bogs, Chair, City of Trail Gord DeRosa, Alternate Chair, City of Trail
Mark Tinholt, Teck Trail Operations Brad McCandlish, BC Ministry of Environment
Jeannine Stefani, Interior Health Authority John Crozier, Councilor, Village of Warfield
Craig Adams, Community Rep. Marylyn Rakuson, Community Rep.
Ron Joseph, Community Rep

Others in Attendance:

Bruce Enns, SNC-Lavalin Environment Richard Deane, Teck Metals Ltd.
Valerie Pitman, Interior Health Authority Fiona Mooney, Interim Program Manager
Christina Pistner, Inside Job Consulting Dave Godlewski, Teck American Incorporated
Marko Adzic, Teck American Incorporated Yasemine Caron, Teck Resources, Vancouver

MEETING MINUTES: Dated Nov. 22, 2011 (approved as amended) Dieter Bogs/Mark Tinholt-carried

PRESENTATION:

“Upper Columbia River (UCR) Remedial Investigation Feasibility Study (RI/FS)”

Marko Adzic and Dave Godlewski, Teck American Incorporated

See attached summary report.

All EPA approved data and technical data are publicly available on the following websites.

<http://www.ucr-rifs.com>

<http://teck-ucr.exponent.com> – the public can register to access this website

REPORTS

Program Planning and Operations: Ruth Beck, Program Manager Report attached

Transitions

Ruth Beck - returned after an illness – her health is her priority and she will prioritize her work, with Fiona providing back up as needed

Fiona Mooney – will facilitate the Family Action advisory group, see below

Christina Pistner – is moving to Chile with her husband at the end of May – the program office is looking into hiring a new full time front of office staff member who will also take on Chris' administrative duties

Family Action Initiative:

An advisory group has formed to develop a model for an integrated approach to delivering child and family services in the Greater Trail area; Fiona has been contracted by Teck to facilitate this group and the smaller steering committee that has been established. They expect to have a recommendation by early June.

Website revamp: has been delayed, Ruth will review content and expects website to go live June 2012

“Thinking of Moving to Trail” Brochure – Ruth to review

Spring Newsletter – will come out in beginning of May to coincide with upcoming Home & Garden events

Community Involvement – continue to promote community participation on the committee
5 Year Plan – a progress report was presented (see attached) by the 5 Year Plan Working Group. The report outlines an upcoming program review to be done by the working group, in consideration of new guidance and recommendations from a recently published report by a committee of the US CDC (Jan 4, 2012) “Low Level Lead Exposure Harms Children: A Renewed Call for Primary Prevention”. The CDC will respond to the committee’s report in April. It is expected that Health Canada will follow the CDC guidance closely when it publishes its guidance.

ACTION: please read the progress report and pass on any questions or comments to the 5 year working group (Ruth, Mark, Brad, Jeannine, Graham, Jacquie)

ACTION: anyone interested in participating in the program review, please contact the working group

Air Quality – Mark Tinholt, Teck. Report attached.

Air Quality Program - reviewed report

Lead levels in Butler Park continue to remain low but hold with seasonal variations. A new graph was created in a simpler format that shows when lead levels in Butler Park are up, the levels in Birchbank are down (and vice versa), likely due to prevailing wind direction

Question: Can production levels be plotted against air quality? Yes

Arsenic levels also continue to remain low and seem to have stabilized over last 2 years.

Report on Lead in Dustfalls – Dust levels in Tadanac show high spikes in winter

Question: there seems to be a trend in Tadanac that the winter dustfall levels are steadily rising – any idea why? Will be investigated and reported on at future meetings.

Question: Is testing done in homes during winter months and are furnace filters tested for dust accumulation? Response after double checking with Steve Hilts: the TLTF had a “sentinel homes” program wherein approximately 35 homes were sampled quarterly, including indoor dustfall which is the most representative in terms of exposure. The data clearly showed that lead in indoor dust is higher in the summer (open windows and doors make a much bigger difference compared to what the furnace circulates).

Discussion – Richard Deane: Teck has established a “Focused Fugitive Dust Reduction Program” headed by Bill Jankola, Sr. Staff member. at Teck. A team from Teck visited the smelter at Torreón, Mexico in Dec 2011 to look at their aggressive program to reduce fugitive dust levels. With old blast furnace technology (similar to Teck’s from 1995), they have achieved substantial improvements (community blood lead levels close to our current levels) using enclosed piles, negative pressure in storage buildings, extensive street sweeping and vehicle wash stations, dust clean up in plants. These ideas are being brought back to Teck to see how they can be incorporated but it will be some time before we see comprehensive action plans.

ACTION: proposed that Bill Jankola be invited to a future meeting to make a presentation

Discussion: Teck’s vacuum street sweeper can only collect very small particulate. Teck has ordered a new mechanical sweeper for larger particulate, especially frozen pieces in winter that will be used in tandem with the vacuum sweeper

Discussion: Teck is introducing sodium bicarbonate into the slag fuming furnace off gas stream to manage SO₂ and it has had the added benefit of capturing mercury (which is found in off shore manufactured batteries that are now being processed at Teck as part of the e-waste recycling program)

Family Health:

Interior Health – Jeannine Stefani, Report attached

Winter Blood Lead Clinic Results

- Held Feb 7/8, 50 children tested of 68 invited (73.5%), results mailed Feb. 23

Case Management – 24 of 26 identified in fall have been completed

Community Education – visited ‘Building Beautiful Babies’, ‘Early Pregnancy Event’; been invited to ‘Family Fun Day’ in April, ‘Beaver Valley Adventure Picnic’ in June, ‘Teddy Bear Picnic’ in June

Continuing Education – IH has approved education leave for Jeannine to attend CDC National Healthy Homes and Lead Poisoning Prevention Training Centre workshop in Chicago Mar 28-30th, and she has received a scholarship from CDC for registration and travel costs; IH has approved education leave for Jeannine to attend Lead Collaborative Consortium conference in Hamilton June 7-8

ACTION: send a thank you letter to CDC after Jeannine returns including her comments – Ruth, Jeannine

Point of Care: Received interpretation results Feb. 15, reviewed by Dr. Larder (Sr. Medical Health officer) Feb 16, waiting for his formal recommendation; Will report to THEC at next meeting

Park & Wildlands: Verbal report provided by Mark Tinholt

City parks and playgrounds were sampled by SNC as part of the THEP program. All of the parks and playgrounds were found to contain metals concentrations below that found in typical yards and the current yard remediation program triggers. Composite samples from below all playground equipment contained less than 1000 mg/kg lead. Nevertheless, the following is recommended for two specific locations to provide continual improvement:

- For the boulevard green-space along Esplanade, two bare areas where grass is not growing well (under trees at Jubilee Park, and Victoria St. Bridge Abutment) would benefit from installation a landscape fabric cover with mulch or gravel.
- For the Tadanac Soccer Field (owned by Teck, Licensed to the City), some additional sampling should be undertaken to delineate localized hotspots, and if bare areas are present, improve the ground cover.

Teck is prepared to fund these improvements as part of our typical yearly contribution to Community Greening as part of the THEP

Home & Garden: Community Program Office – Bruce Enns, SNC Lavalin Environment

Home Renovation Support Program/Soils Program –

Targeting 1400-1600 blocks of Columbia Ave. in E. Trail (approaching 92 residents, anticipating 80 properties to be sampled); Will also answer requests outside the target area to expand knowledge of what is out there: Case Management resulting from Winter Blood Lead clinic: 24 in total

Property Development: no update

Other

The chair asked the THEC to consider if it would be ok for members of another community to attend future meetings to see how our program works, as a possible model for their community.

NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, May 1, 2012 – City of Trail, Committee Room #2