

## **January 20, 2009 Minutes**

2009-01-20 THEC Minutes

Written by admin on January 29th, 2009

### MINUTES

Meeting: Tuesday, January 20, 2009

Trail City Hall – Meeting Room No. 2

7:00 pm –8:30 pm

#### Committee Members Present:

Dieter Bogs, Chair, City of Trail Alternate: Councillor Al Graham

Dr. Nelson Ames, Interior Health Authority

Brad McCandlish, BC Ministry of Environment

Steve Hilts, Teck Trail Operations

Valerie Pitman, Interior Health Authority

Graham Kenyon, Community Rep.

John Crozier, Councillor, Village of Warfield

Marylynn Rakuson, Community Rep.

Gord Menelaws, USWA Local 480

Clare Dewitt, Community Rep.

Craig Adams, Community Rep.

#### Other Attendees:

Mike Martin, Darin Cooper, Georgio Akiki, Garry Gawryletz - Teck Trail Operations

Gurinder Saini, Interior Health

Andrea McCormick, SNC Lavalin Environment

Ruth Beck, Circle B Services

MEETING MINUTES: Dated November 18, 2008 – accepted as presented

### REPORTS

Interior Health (Valerie Pitman – report attached)

Follow-up to Fall blood testing clinic

Winter clinic will start February 9th

The winter clinic is for follow-up of children who had elevated or rising blood lead levels in the Fall, or who are new to town, and for new infants (6-12 mos)

Work Project Assistance Program

Graham asked that a regular report be provided to the committee on WPAP activities (e.g. number of projects/people contacting the office and obtaining advice/equipment)

Teck Trail Opertaions

Update on residential soil testing/remediation, and the Risk Assessment projects (Steve Hilts – report attached)

Steve was asked whether the Ecological Risk Assessment is finished. He replied that the draft final reports have been commented on by the BC Ministry of Environment (MoE), the external reviewer (Western Washington University) and members of the Technical Advisory Committee for the study. Teck has submitted responses to these comments, which indicate how the comments are to be addressed in final versions of the reports, which are currently being prepared.

Steve was asked what is next for the Lower Columbia Ecosystem Management Plan. He replied that the MoE now has placed an intern in its Nelson office to work with regional Environmental Stewardship staff, Teck and its consultant in developing the first phase of the plan. The first phase will involve introducing the concept to stakeholder groups, fine-tuning the goals, objectives and scope and compiling additional data for the plan area from available sources. The main emphasis of the plan will be on defining the best opportunities for wildlife habitat recovery, enhancement and protection.

Update on air monitoring/investigations (Georgio Akiki – presentation attached to hard copy minutes)

In response to a request/question from Dieter at the November meeting, Georgio presented charts which showed that the amount of lead, arsenic and zinc in feed to the #2 Slag Fuming Furnace had dropped since 2004. This coincides mostly with the completion of treatment in that furnace of stock-piled smelter furnace slag that contained higher metal levels. This decline in metals in feed explains much of the improvement in metal emission rates measured in the Dracco baghouse stack, which is the air filtration unit on the #2 Slag Fuming Furnace.

Georgio also presented again for review the charts which show that the importance of the Dracco baghouse stack as a source of lead emissions, relative to other key stacks, has diminished since 2004. In particular, the stack sampling data suggest that the Lead Refinery scrubber stack may be the main source of arsenic emissions and may now be roughly equivalent to the Dracco stack as a source of lead emissions.

Georgio cautioned that the regular stack monitoring data has significant limitations for use in identifying the most important sources. Regular stack monitoring is designed for checking compliance with air discharge permits, and is done only once a month or quarter, and only give a fairly instantaneous 'snapshot' of what is going up the stack. The new XACT 620 ambient air analyzer, which collects 24-hour samples in the community every day, and which measures metals in airborne dust each hour, will provide much more helpful information. Coupled with the XFM sampler/analyzer that is being used on site to characterize the different sources of air emissions, Teck will be able to look at how community air samples vary during the day and in their chemical 'signatures', and how this correlates with variation at the sources on site.

Georgio reported that Teck has met with the BC MoE and has committed to reporting back to the Ministry by the end of the second quarter of 2009 (June 2009) on possibilities for addressing emissions at the Dracco baghouse through upgrades (e.g. better bag technology for this specific air/dust stream) and at the Lead Refinery. Graham advised that some extensive research on baghouse operation and bag technology had been done some time ago, and that the Dracco baghouse was part of this work – it should be reviewed. Dieter requested that Teck report to the committee at any meetings in the March-June period with its progress is investigating improvement options, and specifically with respect to what might be done to reduce emissions at the Refinery scrubber stack.

Graham asked about the importance of fugitive emissions. Georgio acknowledged that the more easily measurable stack emissions are only part of the equation – that non-stack (or “fugitive”) emissions from the plants are likely significant contributors and are part of the investigations. Graham added that the outside storage and handling of fine materials is also an important potential issue, and that several other smelter sites have made some good progress by enclosing materials that used to be stored uncovered.

Technical/Consultation Working Group (Steve Hilts)

Update on public communication/consultation process

Steve recapped the purposes of the public consultation being planned for Spring 2009:

- To update the public on health and environmental risks associated with metals in the community
- To review/update the regulatory requirements and their implications
- To gather input for the plan forward for the next 5-10+ years, including setting new goals for blood lead levels in children

Ruth Beck of Circle B Services presented an outline of ideas for the consultation program (presentation attached to hard copy minutes)

Dieter noted that the second slide stated that the consultation process would ‘set new goals for acceptable blood lead’ and asked whether it would be more appropriate to say “gather input into the setting of...” The committee agreed.

Some of the plan elements that Ruth stressed as being of great importance were the proactive media relations plan and separate communications with people focused on real property issues

Graham asked whether the BC Ministry of Environment will be involved in consultation on real property issues. Brad replied that he could make presentations, but wouldn't be able to fully answer questions on behalf of the Land Remediation Section. Steve suggested that it would be extremely helpful to have an experienced, senior representative of the Section come to Trail for such discussions, and said that he would speak to the manager, Mike MacFarlane about this.

Mary suggested the possibility of piloting communications/presentation materials with the committee, and groups such as parents in the program, students, etc.

The committee offered the following suggestions for the “launch” of the consultation process:

- Shaw Cablevision program – Dieter willing to participate
- A radio call-in program
- Use of the column space provided for City mayors and councilors in the newspaper
- The City of Trail newsletter
- Contact with employees through United Steelworkers
- Parent Advisory Committees
- Lower Columbia Community Development Team
- Mall display

Craig asked about the potential implications of the Wide Area Site designation for real property issues. Steve replied that the most important aspects of the WAS designation is that it will allow the many properties in the area to be addressed as one site under the regulations and will exempt individual property owners from liability for remediation of smelter-impacted soils. He agreed that the issue is sensitive and will have to be communicated very clearly.

The committee offered the following suggestions for reaching the public in the consultation process:

- Contact/invite people who've had garden soil tested
- Contact people in health care – administration, nurses, technologists, physicians
- Consider making use of the WPAP “storefront” staffed by SNC Lavalin Environment as a contact point.

Ruth asked the committee for their notion of how many people at a meeting might constitute ‘success’ and the consensus was ‘around 50’.

Graham asked about Dr. Ames’ role as Medical Health Officer. Nelson that during the consultation, his role would be primarily to listen, and to comment later in his recommendations report to the Ministry of Environment. Graham remarked that he might also be asked to provide his opinion during the consultation.

## NEXT MEETING

Tuesday, March 3 7:00 pm

## Trail Health and Environment Committee

### Health Report

January 20, 2009

#### 1. Winter 2009 Blood Lead Clinic

Clinics are in the planning process  
Will be held during February  
Expected that 30-40 children will be tested.

#### 2. Storefront on Bay Avenue

SNC Lavalin’s store front office is now open, but the Work Project Assistance Program (WPAP) store front availability is scheduled to begin this spring.  
(WPAP activities will include intake calls, equipment loans, safety supply authorization, and expertise referrals)  
Through the fall they have been doing the soil testing for case management homes on referral from Valerie and following up community requests for soil testing in areas 2 and 3.  
This spring SNC Lavalin is expected to take over providing soil remediation for families that qualify for

soil removal/replacement or assistance with ground barrier supplies (topsoil, gravel, sod)  
They will also be increasing community awareness (connecting with building inspectors and realtors)  
and offering information to residents doing outdoor renovations.

Trail Health & Environment Committee

Teck Report

January 20, 2009

Wide Area Risk Assessment Projects Update

Eco Risk Assessment

draft final reports have been reviewed by BC Ministry of Environment, our external reviewer (Western Washington University) and the Technical Advisory Committee

final reports are being completed this quarter

Lower Columbia Ecosystem Management Plan is being initiated, led by Teck and the Environmental Stewardship division of BC MoE

Human Health Risk Assessment

Final report is currently under review by BC MoE

Residential Soil Remediation Pilot Project

4 yards identified as having soil lead concentrations greater than the 'upper cap standard' in the Draft BC Protocol for Classification of Site Risk Levels (5000 mg/kg) were remediated in September/October. Soil was removed and replaced to a depth of 30 cm across the yards in general, and to 60 cm depth in vegetable gardens.

Landscaping was quite complex on these 4 properties, including ornamental gardens, rock retaining walls, etc. Restoring the landscaping required a lot of hand labour and was very costly. Replacement topsoil of suitable quality was also difficult to source and very costly.

The disturbance to property owners was quite significant, with remediation taking over 4 weeks in some cases

The cost per property for these 4 test yards was somewhat over \$100,000.

Overall, the work was performed very well, and we obtained the sort of information we were looking for by doing these test yards.

All costs for the project were collected in detail and a 'debriefing' was held with the contractor and consultant, plus an outside expert, to identify ways of making future yard remediation work more efficient and cost effective.

Yard soil sampling was conducted in a one block area in another part of Trail this fall. This block is in an area that, based on past sampling, was considered one of the more likely areas to have soil lead concentrations of greater than 5000 mg/kg. Based on testing in the field with a portable analyzer, it does not appear that any of the yards sampled would exceed the upper cap number. Laboratory results have been received recently and are being analyzed.

8 vegetable gardens with soil lead concentrations over 1000 mg/kg were also remediated this fall

In response to requests from property owners following the distribution of the summer newsletter, approximately 54 vegetable gardens were also sampled this fall. Laboratory results are being received and assembled for analysis/reporting.