

Trail Area Health & Environment Committee



MINUTES

Meeting:
Tuesday, September 9, 2014
City of Trail – Committee Room #2
7:00 pm

Committee Members in Attendance:

Dieter Bogs, Chair, City of Trail
John Crozier, Councillor, Village of Warfield
Mark Tinholt, Teck Trail Operations
Craig Adams, Community Rep.
Steve Como, USWA 480 Rep.
Marylynn Rakuson, Community Rep.
Brandi Thirsk, Community Rep.

Brad McCandlish, Ministry of Environment
Linda Worley, RDKB Area B
Graham Kenyon, Community Rep.
Jeannine Stefani, Interior Health
Dawn Tomlin, Interior Health
Sonia Tavares, WK Early Years

Others in Attendance:

Dr. Rob Parker, Interior Health, MHO
Greg Belland, Teck Trail Operations
Richard Deane, Teck Trail Operation
Dr. Nelson Ames, retired MHO
Cindy Hall, SNC-Lavalin Inc
Glyn Fox, Ministry of Environment
Peggy Evans, Ministry of Environment

Clare North, Teck Trail Operations
Sheri Regnier, Trail Times
Mike Martin, Community Member
Bruce Enns, SNC-Lavalin Inc
Andrea McCormick, SNC-Lavalin Inc
Catherine Juelfs, SNC-Lavalin Inc

MEETING MINUTES: Dated July 8, 2014

Motion to approve July 8, 2014 minutes: Mark Tinholt moved; Steve Como seconded. Passed.

REPORTS & RECOMMENDATIONS:

Trail Area Health & Environment Program Document:

Mark introduced the final Trail Area Health & Environment Program (THEP) document, which is ready for committee member signatures. Dieter commented that it is a living document, as stated on the signature page. As such, as information becomes available and the document requires updating, we will do just that. Mark referred to page 55, where the process to update the THEP document is spelled out. Dieter added that the Ministry of Environment (MoE) is reviewing the THEP document and there will likely be changes resulting from their feedback.

The committee members present signed the Signatory Page of the THEP document.

Dieter read out the proposed media release; no objections or changes were made. Dieter commented that he has chaired the THEC for 17 years and will be stepping down when he is no longer the Mayor of Trail: the November meeting will be his last as Chair. Dieter acknowledged the hard work that has gone into creating the Program; "Well done, thank you".

Air Quality: Report attached

Mark presented the Teck Report on Air Quality. Total Suspended Particulate (TSP) of lead in August at Butler Park was $0.34\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, much lower this year than last year's value of $0.7\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (Note: post meeting correction - the actual value for August was $0.38\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$). Mark is optimistic about the blood lead results from the upcoming Fall clinic.

Greg Belland presented a media release to be issued on September 10, 2014, announcing that the Fugitive Dust Reduction Program is making good progress and that construction of smelter recycle building is going ahead. This is expected to result in an approximate 25% reduction in fugitive dust. Planning and design will begin in 2015 and the enclosure will take about one year to build. Jeannine clarified that it is at “the beach” area in Tadanac. Graham asked for clarification on the completion date. Greg answered that the building will be completed toward the end of 2015 or early 2016. Dieter commented that it is heartening to see the commitments being carried out by Teck; “this is major”. Dieter thanked the company on behalf of the THEC and also complimented Teck on completion of the Acid Plant.

Linda thanked Mayor Bogs, Mark Tinholt, and Teck for their generosity in providing the Emcon street washing in Rivervale. Mark pointed out the Fall 2014 Newsletter article on Rivervale street washing.

Mark continued presenting the Air Quality Report. The arsenic goal for 2018 is $0.01\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and as of the third quarter this year the goal is being achieved. Richard Deane added that there are a couple key areas where we watch for arsenic, and as we reduce lead emissions, we’ll also see drops in other metals such as arsenic.

Mark presented the Air Quality Technical Working Group meeting summary. Graham pointed out that request was made for a summary of complaints/feedback from citizens to be provided at each AQTWG meeting. It’s important to have transparency and follow up from the Company.

Presentations:

Teck Trail Operations Groundwater Project Update; PowerPoint attached

Clare North presented the PowerPoint presentation. John Crozier sought clarification on the extent of the affected areas and expressed interest in having Clare come and speak to Warfield City Council. John will speak to Vince Morelli.

Update on Human Health Risks from Metals

Mark presented an abbreviated version of his full presentation on this topic. After discussion, the THEC agreed that it would be worth holding a separate meeting to allow for more time for the full presentation.

Other than lead, there are three metals of concern:

- thallium: A 2001 study found Trail residents’ average urine level to be $0.25\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$, which is well below the WHO Level of Concern of $5\mu\text{g}/\text{L}$, and thallium emissions have not increased since then;
- cadmium: The main exposure is from eating produce, leafy vegetables in particular, but risks are within the level considered to be safe; and
- arsenic: The main concern is breathing air, for which the incremental risk of cancer if you live in Trail for 70 years is 8-9 out of 100,000. This is comparable to larger cities but in any case the air quality improvements will lower this risk.

John asked if we only sample produce in the Long Term Study (LTS) or soil as well. Mark confirmed we sample the soil as well. A discussion took place about numerical versus risk based standards and arsenic and cadmium in the body. Dr. Ames clarified that arsenic slowly leaves the body but cadmium will accumulate in the kidneys. Mark referenced the 1994 study which found no increased incidence of chronic renal (kidney) disease in Trail.

The full PowerPoint presentation will occur at a future date; the slides will be provided at that time.

Family Health: Report attached

Jeannine presented the Interior Health Report. There are 170 children invited to the Fall blood lead clinic from the target area. The results will be presented at the November 18 meeting. Jeannine passed around posters promoting the clinics. A discussion took place about the outreach Jeannine has been doing for the clinic. Jeannine explained that cold calls don’t always get a positive response, but parents contacted through the Home & Garden program and expectant parent events already have an idea of the program and are more responsive. During baby visits, the attending public health nurse gives a blanket

and information about a future Healthy Families visit. Three families have declined a Healthy Families visit this year. Sonia suggested we could add some HFHH information to the Books for Babies bag.

ACTION: Cindy to get HFHH rack cards to Sonia to be added to the Books for Babies bag.

The Ages and Stages Screening event will take place at Kiro Wellness Centre on October 8th.

Home & Garden: Report attached

Cindy highlighted the Fall THEP Newsletter and pointed out the photos of participating HFHH families.

ACTION: Liz to get more radon test kits from Golder Associates.

Cindy presented the Home & Garden Report. The number of vacuums given out this year is greater than the number of families visited because vacuums were supplied to families visited in 2013 as well as 2014. Andrea presented the assessment part of the H&G Report. Dieter asked for reiteration about how many properties were added to our list when the Upper Cap Concentration dropped from 5000 to 4000ppm. Andrea responded that there were about 9 properties. Peggy Evans asked whether we seek out "at risk" properties for soil assessment. Andrea responded that we don't turn away any Trail resident who requests sampling, but our priority is families with children under three. For the benefit of Peggy and Glyn (Ministry of Environment representatives), discussion took place about the process of sampling a property and any subsequent remediation. Further discussion took place about what happens when remediation and improvement recipients don't take care of their yards. Andrea stated that as the program exists now, if we go back and there's bare dirt, we'd probably provide new cover again. It is an important question that requires some thought: how can we encourage people to take care of their yards? Craig commented on the cost of the program and having to return to certain properties; he suggested we need to set parameters and limits. The money spent returning to a property could be utilized on another property that needs it. Andrea agreed; there are one or two properties a year and that it is something the committee should address. Dieter suggested that we come up with a process, some kind of 1 page document. Craig added that the community representatives on the Committee also need to take onus and speak up in the community. (Note: Post meeting - The Program Team has since added language to the Program Enrollment form to try to address this issue, which will be further discussed.)

Andrea noted the complaint about roofing in downtown Trail; a contractor was blowing dirt and dust off of a roof on Bay Avenue. She noted that she spoke to the contractor (who was Vancouver-based) and received some good feedback for the contractor engagement program.

Additional items:

Mark provided highlights from the meeting that took place earlier in the day regarding the development of new proposed blood lead goals for 2016. The recommendation is to form a Technical Working Group to recommend new proposed goals. The Working Group will be established after we receive the blood lead results from the 2014 fall clinic this November. Dieter added that we'll have community consultation after that.

Marylynn confirmed that we will call a separate meeting for the Human Health Risks from Metals presentation. Mark and Dieter agreed; a date will be set in the near future.

ACTION: Mark to consult with the THEC to determine a date for the full presentation.

Meeting adjourned at 8:54pm

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, November 18, 2014