

Trail Area Health & Environment Committee



MINUTES

Meeting: Tuesday, April 17, 2018 7:00 p.m.
City of Trail – Committee Room #2

Committee Members in Attendance:

Mike Martin, Chair, City of Trail
Dawn Tomlin, Interior Health
Mike Adams, Interior Health
Brad McCandlish, Ministry of Environment

Lisa Pasin, Trail City Council
Jeannine Stefani, Interior Health
Dan Bouillon, Teck Trail Operations

Others in Attendance:

Lynne Betts, Facilitator
Aaron Miller, Interior Health (via phone)
Julia Stockhausen, Family Action Network
Andrea McCormick, SNC-Lavalin Inc.
Catherine Adair, Teck Trail Ops
Ken Hodgins, Resident of Trail

Clare North, Teck Trail Operations
Thompson Hickey, Teck Trail Operations
Cindy Hall, SNC-Lavalin Inc.
Bruce Enns, SNC-Lavalin Inc.
Liz Anderson, SNC-Lavalin Inc.

Round of introductions

Mike opened the meeting and introduced Lynne Betts who was in attendance to facilitate the meeting. Lynne led a round of introductions.

MEETING MINUTES: Dated February 6, 2018

With no additions or omissions, the minutes from February 6, 2018 were approved as circulated.

PRESENTATIONS, REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

Presentation:

2016 Dust Study Results – SNC-Lavalin

Andrea presented findings from the 2016 Dust Study. While the amount of dust in the Community has not lessened, the ratio of lead in the dust has declined. Bruce added that it's important to note that the amount of dust we're discussing is a very small amount. In general, mats had 5 g to 10 g of dust on them after having been left at the front door for a month. The full report is not yet available, but will be public when it has been finalized. In the meantime, Andrea's PowerPoint presentation is public and attendees are welcome to speak with anyone about the trends shown in it. Dan asked if there was any correlation with case management homes and the amount of dust; Andrea shared that there weren't enough participants to tease out data to answer that.

ACTION: Andrea and Bruce to share the full report once finalized.

ACTION: Liz to share the PowerPoint presentation and letter to participants with Mayor Martin.

Program Reports & Business Arising:

Air Quality – Teck Trail Operations

Dan presented the Air Quality report. Teck achieved the 2018 target for lead in air in 2017 and that trend continues so far this year. The 2018 target for arsenic in air is $0.01 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and was achieved in 2016; Teck measured the arsenic in air for this quarter at $0.009 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$.

Discussion turned to sulphur dioxide (SO_2), which is measured by Teck, but not reported to the THEC. Ken commented that he is interested in the fact that Trail is notably higher for SO_2 emissions than

anywhere else in the province and he would expect to see it as a higher priority on the agenda. Dan and Mike replied that while THEC's main focus is lead and children's blood lead levels, other aspects that affect the health of the community are coming into focus. Andrea added that THEC has technical working groups to address these issues; the next Air Quality Technical Working Group will present a report on SO₂. Mike added that the focus of THEC is related to smelter emissions and metals levels in the community; he referred to the Terms of Reference and the mandate of the committee: to reduce exposure of lead and other smelter metals in the community. We have become aware of SO₂ more recently and that's why we have started to look into the issue through the technical working group. The intention is to add it to our focus, and that may include changing the Terms of Reference. Mike is aware that Teck is doing a lot of work to reduce SO₂ emissions. If Ken would like to follow up further, he can get in touch with Teck through Catherine Adair or THEP through Mike or the Program Team. Brad offered to add input from the Ministry of Environment's perspective too. Ken expressed his alarm at the report that he had read; Trail is the outlier. He wonders if the public should be anxious and if there is a plan to address it.

ACTION: Invite Ken to the Air Quality Technical Working Group

Family Health – Interior Health

Jeannine presented the Family Health report and thanked Dawn for stepping up to present the results from the Fall 2017 blood lead clinics at the last meeting. Jeannine reviewed the winter clinic and announced the tentative dates for the 2018 Fall clinic. This year, the clinic will include children from Area 1 (Warfield, Oasis, Casino, and Waneta).

Aaron commended Dawn; this year the winter clinic had some staffing issues and Dawn "pulled out the stops" to bring in staff from the East Kootenays. Her effort avoided having to cancel the clinics.

Home & Garden – SNC-Lavalin

Cindy presented the Home & Garden report. Discussion took place about the various capacities of the program; this year we are aiming to sample 300 properties and this raises the possibility of having more properties on the list for remediation than can be reasonably accomplished in a short timeframe. Some restraints are budget, availability of soil and sod, and contractor availability. As we look at ramping up the number of remediations, we are looking at overcoming those constraints. Andrea added that this year we are more focused on remediation than yard improvements. There are 22 full yard remediations scheduled for this year, as opposed to 10 last year.

Community Check-In

Ken raised the topic of budget constraints and how the remediation budget is established. Clare explained that the budget comes from Teck and the prioritization for remediation is based on a framework. Homes where children younger than 36 months of age reside full time are the priority; where children are frequent visitors, we offer ground cover improvement and other strategies to minimize dust. Andrea added that in past years, we have had fewer properties that qualified for remediation. This year, we are working at lower soil metal levels and the reality is that we can't get to everyone. Ken added that he feels like his concerns have been heard and his property is receiving lawn care. Cindy shared that she will be providing an update on lawn care at the next THEC meeting.

Ken commented that he is still interested in learning about a budget that allows for more response. Dan shared that Teck is working with IH and ENV to develop a Wide Area Remediation Plan that will address all of the aspects of a long term remediation schedule. Clare commented that it is reasonable to say the budget will increase in future years as the scope increases. Mike expressed the hope that Ken and THEC can continue to dialogue.

Discussion continued and Andrea commented that the question isn't about how we prioritize properties per se, but as we test more properties we will find a lot that qualify for some kind of remediation. As we find more properties, the waitlist grows. Properties with young children are still the priority and we *can* reach all of the primary residences of children. Furthermore, we know that the soil lead is not the most important pathway for exposure. We also know that good ground cover (greening) mitigates the risk from Trail Area Health & Environment Committee Meeting

soil metals. Lisa added that having 2 contractors now is a boon. Jeannine pointed out that we do want to connect with families when they're pregnant to attend to their yard before the child is active in it. Cindy offered an observation that neighbours are spreading word of the program to families when they move in.

Ken shared that he worked in a neighbourhood in Toronto where a company contaminated the neighbourhood with lead, and it's still contaminated 40 years later. He expressed anxiety about 'slow walking' the clean up as was his observation of the company in Toronto. Mike pointed out that the community of Trail is different and THEC has been in operation for almost 30 years. As a resident, Mike is encouraged by the history and the progress and the future of the community. The decisions of the committee are driven by the input of the community; so it's important to hear the input such as Ken has given.

Executive Committee Report – Mike Martin, THEC Chair

Mike shared a verbal update on a follow-up meeting with IH and ENV along with members from the THEC Executive. The meeting was to further clarify roles of the participating parties. All attending felt encouraged by the frank and open meeting. The same group will meet again to continue the conversation in June before the next THEC meeting.

Program Manager

Mike offered thanks to Clare for spearheading and stick-handling program management since Ruth's departure. Liz will step into the gap as an interim measure. We'll also be consulting with Ruth Beck on the role and fleshing-out how the program manager position will look in the future.

2018 Fall Blood Lead Clinic

The upcoming Fall 2018 Children's Blood Lead Clinic will include children from Area 1. Mike shared that we'll reach out to the electorate to engage with them and keep them informed leading up to the clinics.

Working Groups update

The Air Quality Technical Working Group is scheduled to meet May 1st.

There is no meeting scheduled for the Blood Lead Levels Reduction Working Group; we are looking at picking up the work of the group in the near future to continue moving its mandate forward.

Other Business – THEC Chair

Mike shared a recent communication to the program with questions regarding bone lead in adults. The letter was received from a Rossland resident who asked if THEC would undertake a bone lead study for adults to assess if adults store lead in bone which is then released back into the blood when the bone degenerates. Dr. Goodison (MHO) will correspond with the writer to get a better understanding of what she is looking for. The study would be extremely complex and there have been some studies already done elsewhere. This matter doesn't strictly fall into the scope of the THEC. Catherine added that Teck also responded to the writer via the manager of health and safety who highlighted that Teck is undertaking preventative measures to stop exposure before it happens.

NEXT MEETING: Tuesday, June 26, 2018



April 17, 2018

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

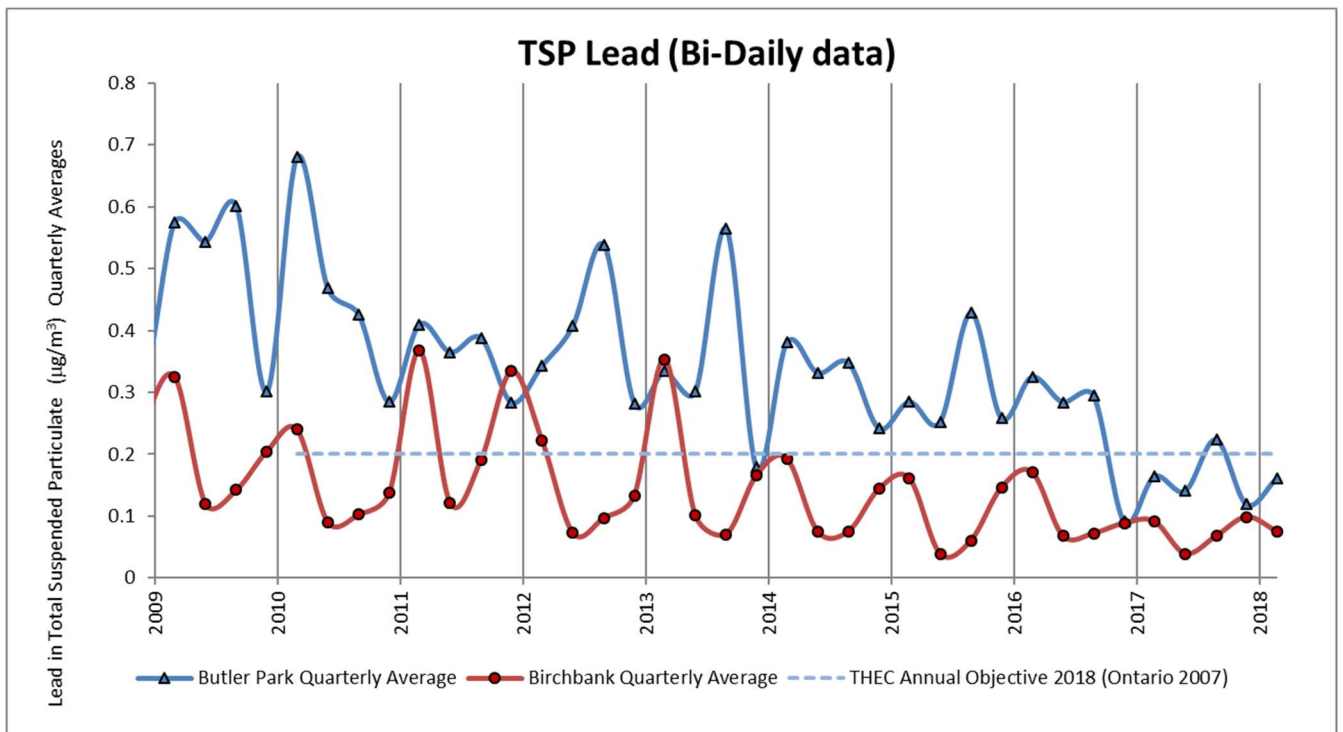
1. Lead in Air:

- Lead in air monthly averages for January, February and March 2018 were 0.14, 0.15 and 0.19 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$, respectively and the quarterly average was 0.16 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ which is below the THEC 2018 Annual Objective and was similar to first quarter 2017.

Details:

The chart shows quarterly averages for Lead in air (measured in Total Suspended Particulate) for Butler Park (dark blue) and Birchbank (red), in comparison to the 2018 THEC Air Quality Objective (dashed line). The green line is the average of the two. Quarterly averages for Lead in ambient air are expected to have some variability due to season, weather, predominant wind direction and operational variance.

Figure 1: Average TSP lead (bi-daily), Butler Park and Birchbank stations



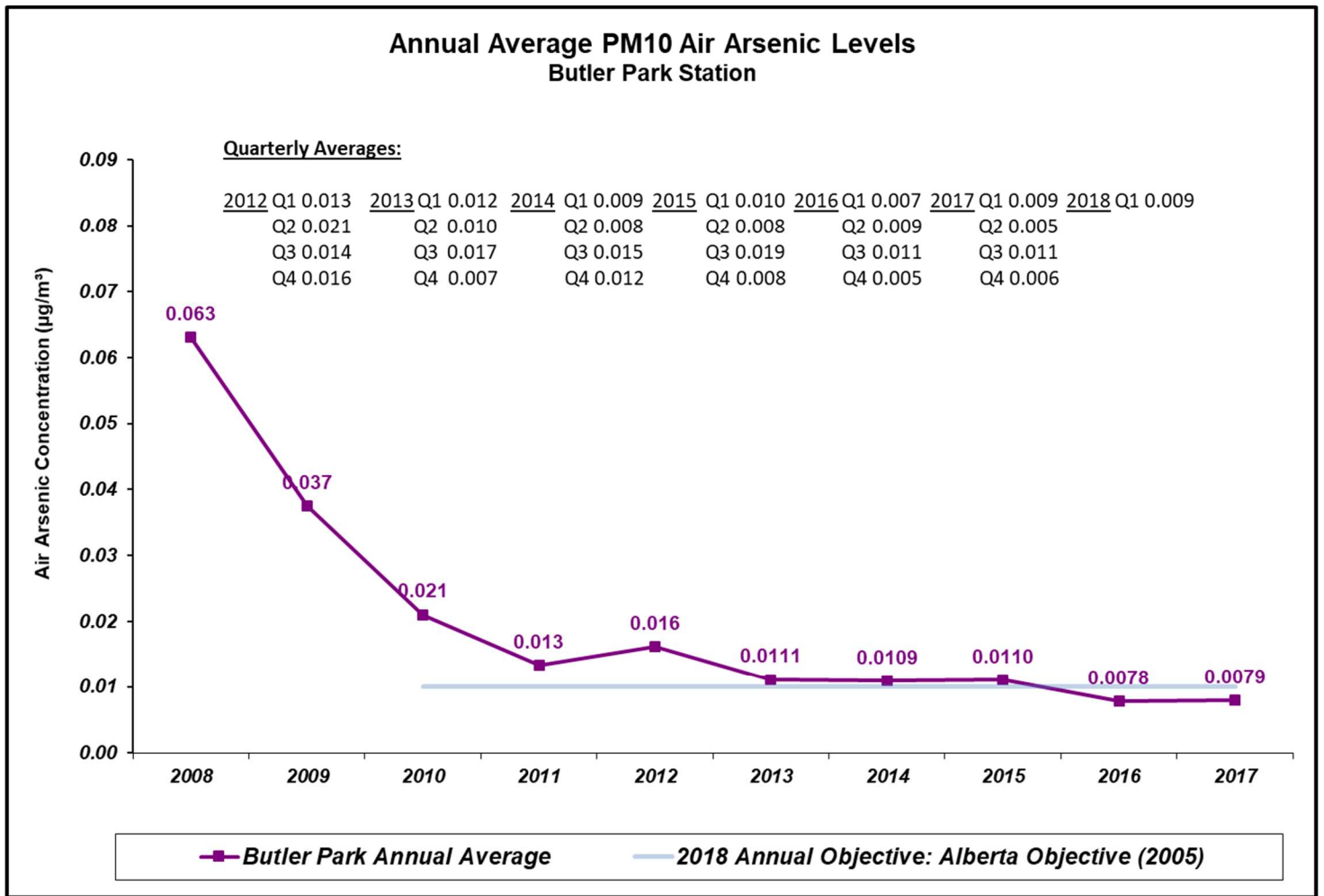
2. Arsenic in Air:

- First quarter (January, February, March) 2018 average for arsenic in community air at Butler Park was below the THEC 2018 Annual Objective and was similar to first quarter 2017.

Details:

The chart shows the annual average for Arsenic in air (measured as inhalable PM₁₀ fraction) for Butler Park (purple) in comparison to the 2018 THEC Air Quality Objective (blue line).

Figure 2: Annual average and quarterly average PM10 air arsenic levels, Butler Park station



FAMILY HEALTH REPORT



April 17, 2018

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

1. February 19th and 20th, 2018 Lead Clinics
 2. Fall 2018 Lead Clinic tentative dates
 3. Healthy Family Visits
 4. Community Outreach
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ADDITIONAL DETAILS

1. February 19th and 20th, 2018 Lead Clinics
 - 43 children invited
 - 33 children attended
 - 8 unable to attend, 1 no show, 1 not interested
 - No new Case Management
 - 1 repeat Case Management
 - Translated Blood Lead Testing Consent form into Arabic
2. Fall 2018 Lead Clinic tentative dates
 - September 10, 11, 17, 18 24, and 25.
3. Healthy Family Visits
 - 15 done so far 2018
 - 7 since last THEC meeting February 6, 2018
 - 2 more visits scheduled
4. Community Outreach
 - Attended local pregnancy outreach program on March 13th and April 10th and continue about once a month.
 - Presenting with Cindy at Prenatal Classes on April 26th.
 - Ready, Set, Learn at Glenmerry School scheduled on May 25th.
 - Teddy Bear Picnic scheduled at Gyro June 19th.

April 17, 2018

It's that time of year!! The soil programs are ramping up, Healthy Homes visits are picking up, and home owners are planning their renovations. There has been a notable increase in traffic at the Community Program Office.

RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

1. **New Hire:** Alexa Matthes has officially joined the SNC-Lavalin Inc. and as part of the H&G Team she will be largely responsible for soil assessment. She will also provide support for remediation and be available for other projects.
2. **Soil Assessment:** 284 letters requesting consent for soil assessment were mailed out to property owners in East Trail. To date, 97 letters have been returned and 85 properties queued for sampling. Of the letters returned, 12 declined soil assessment. We continue to prioritize assessment for properties where young children reside, and accept sampling requests from all neighbourhoods in Trail.
3. **Remediation:** A Request for Proposals for the remediation contract went out last December (2017). It generated interest amongst local contractors but in the end only two submissions were received. In anticipation of increased remediation activities in years to come, it was decided that this was a good opportunity to offer two contracts: Alpine Contracting, is returning and Simm Excavating & Snow Removal Ltd is our new contractor. There are currently 22 Healthy Homes Properties queued for remediation and 15 vegetable gardens which we will be starting next week.