

# Trail Area Health & Environment Committee



## Summary

Virtual Meeting: Wednesday, June 17, 2020, 7:00 p.m.

### Committee Members in attendance:

Lisa Pasin, Chair, City of Trail  
Cyra Yunkws, Village of Warfield  
Linda Worley, RDKB Area B  
Dan Bouillon, Teck Trail Operations  
Clare North, Teck Trail Operations

Jane Power, Interior Health (designate)  
Cassandra Caunce, BC Ministry of Environment  
Kyle Jorgenson, USW Local 480 Rep.  
Julia Stockhausen, Community Member  
Marylynn Rakuson, Community Member

### Others in attendance:

Dr. Nelson Ames, MHO, Retired  
Jayne Garry, Teck Trail Operations  
Danielle Grbavac, BC Ministry of Environment  
Michelle Laurie, THEC Lead Facilitator

Christina Yamada, Interior Health  
Lew Owens, Port Pirie consultant  
Meghan Morris, Family Health team  
Andrea McCormick, Home & Garden team

### WELCOME and INTRODUCTIONS

- Opening remarks from Mayor Lisa Pasin, THEC Chair touched on the affect COVID has had on our lives and the stress of both shutting down and re-opening.

### MEETING MINUTES

- Minutes from the THEC meeting, April 30, 2020 were approved.

### PRESENTATIONS, REPORTS, DISCUSSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

*There were no presentations*

### Program Reports & Updates

#### Air Quality

##### Air Quality Report - **Dan Bouillon, Teck Trail Operations**

- Air quality continues to show improvement. This is a result of the ongoing capital investments and behavior changes associated with the Fugitive Dust Reduction Program and offered a more detailed update on this program at a future THEC meeting.
- Clarification was sought regarding why there are peaks in ambient air emissions in the winter. The answer suggested cold and dry weather means that not all onsite dust management actions can be used e.g. vehicle wheel washes and road flushing trucks. Teck is working on strategies to manage dust all year.
- It was requested that more context on the graphs be presented, including comparison to other communities. It was suggested that this could be discussed at the AQWG to evaluate possible options.
- Report is attached.

Update on Air Quality Working Group - **Lisa Pasin, Chair**

- The AQWG had a meeting June 9, 2020. Dr. Sarah Henderson from the BC CDC provided an overview of Sulphur Dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>) as an air pollutant including an overview of sources, Canadian emissions levels and health effects. It may be possible to invite Dr Henderson, or an alternate speaker, to a future THEC meeting should an educational session on SO<sub>2</sub> be of interest.
- Members of the AQWG initiated a shared communications plan for broad messaging on SO<sub>2</sub> to the Greater Trail public. Tailored messaging will be considered at a later stage to reach out to more vulnerable populations. Michelle Laurie will work on a communications plan with the AQWG.
- The Air Quality Program Fact Sheet was updated and is online at thep.ca. It was noted that the content was still very technical and that simplified messaging should be considered for the general public.
- The Air Quality Working Group Terms of Reference were updated and accepted. One key change was the removal of the word 'technical' from the title given some members found the name to be somewhat misleading. See attached.

### **Family Health – Meghan Morris, Interior Health**

- Meghan shared that since May she has been back working with THEP 3 days a week. She is planning the fall blood lead clinics with the inclusion of Area 1 as recommended by the MHO. She continues Health Family visits virtually or at Kiro and is trying to engage with the community online and as possible.
- A question was put forth regarding how many children could be tested this fall. Thus far 261 children are to be invited to the Fall Clinic (includes Areas 1, 2, and 3 up to 3 yrs old; some children are above 3 years old as follow up or by request).

### **Home & Garden Report – Andrea McCormick, SNC Lavalin**

- Andrea provided an update as per the report (attached).
- With respect to the house cleaning for Enhanced Support families, four families are keen to resume services once COVID protocols are finalized.
- A question was asked about the state to which yards are remediated. Yards are remediated as closely as possible to their previous state. Plants are warranted for 1 year. In some instances, households work with the contractors separately to achieve enhancements (these are not paid for by the program).
- A second question was asked about soil testing and the level of requests received this year. Demands for testing are not as high as previous years despite increased efforts; there is a need to continue to spread the word that soil testing is free and available to everyone.

### **Soil Management Plan Report - Clare North, Teck Trail Operations**

- The soil management plan update is as per the H&G report.
  - Remediation progress is on track for highest priority properties who want to proceed. 20 properties are completed, 25 are currently in planning and another 25-30 will be scheduled.

### **Community Check-In - All community members**

- Cyra Yunkws and Linda Worley offered to help local communications on soil testing. Michelle Laurie will reach out for communicating to Warfield and electoral Area B.
- Lew Owens, a consultant reviewing the Trail Lead Abatement Program (TLAP) in Port Pirie, Australia provided overall impressions from participating in the meeting. When comparing THEP with TLAP, his notable observation is TLAP does not have community and local

participation. He believes this may be a contributor to their lower participation rates for TLAP services. In his opinion, having the Mayor and community members involved in Trail, along with a transparent process (for example public meetings) contribute to community buy-in and positive results.

#### **Program planning - Michelle Laurie, THEC Lead Facilitator**

- Michelle shared updates on programmatic projects, including:
  - Website is undergoing updates (request for testers, please email your interest);
  - September THEP newsletter will be drafted in July (ideas welcome);
  - Soil testing outreach has taken place with schools, community groups, Trail Times and through the Downtown Trail Electronic Message Board;
  - Supporting the Air Quality Working Group on the SO2 communications plan; and
  - Supporting the THEP team on Q&A for fall blood lead testing, particularly with annual testing in Area 1.

#### **Executive Report - Lisa Pasin, THEC Chair, Mayor, City of Trail**

- There was no executive meeting and no report.

#### **2020 THEC MEETINGS**

- Sept 16
- Nov 26

# Air Quality Report



## Air Quality Report

June 17, 2020

### 1. Lead in Air:

First quarter average for lead in air at Butler Park was  $0.129 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , which is lower than the first quarter in previous years. Second quarter results to date are trending lower with monthly averages for April and May of  $0.097$  and  $0.030 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , respectively. The low ambient air concentrations in April and May likely reflect increased dust control measures available once freezing conditions are passed (e.g., road washing and operationalizing vehicle rinses) along with a wetter spring.

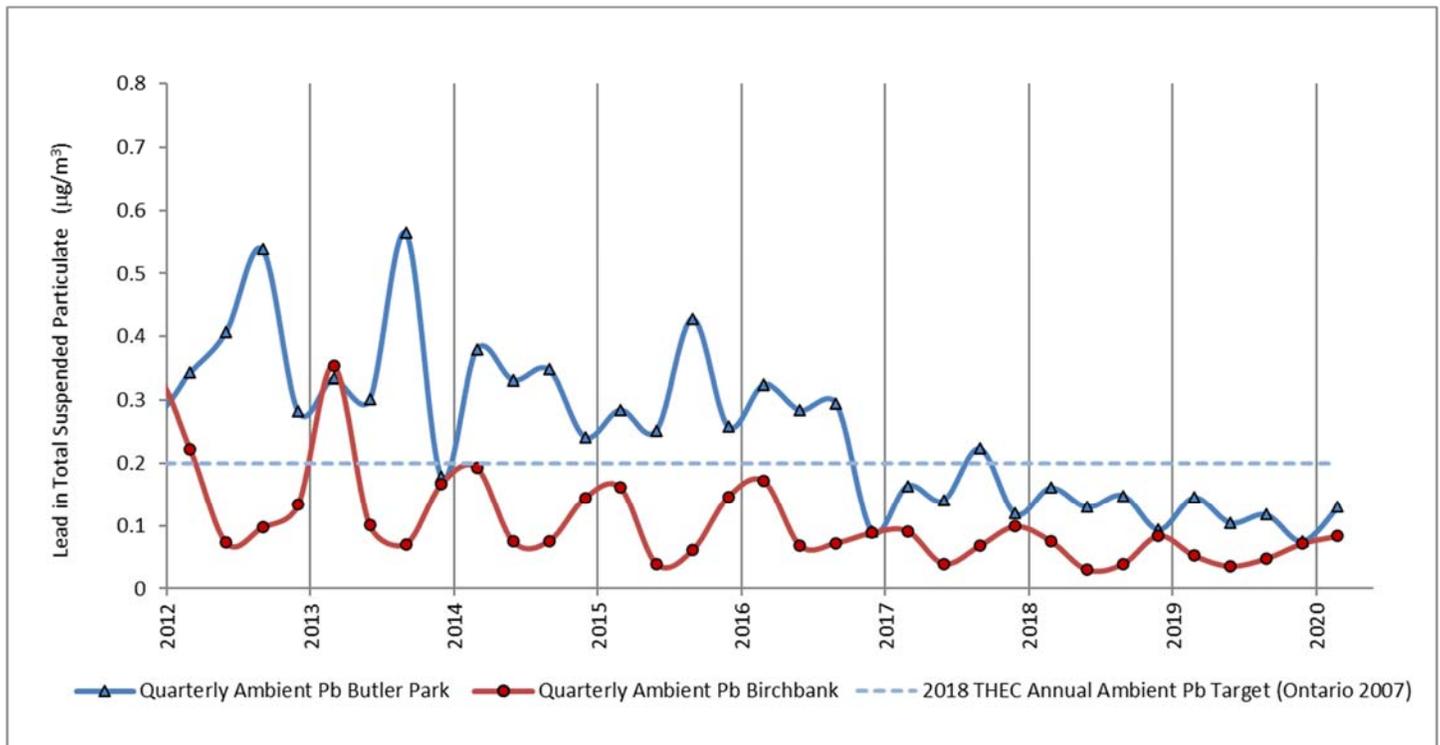


Figure 1: Quarterly monthly average lead at Butler Park and Birchbank stations (as total suspended particulate measured bi-daily)

The chart in Figure 1 shows quarterly averages for Lead in air for Butler Park (dark blue) and Birchbank (red), in comparison to the 2018 THEC Annual Ambient Lead in Air Objective (dashed line).

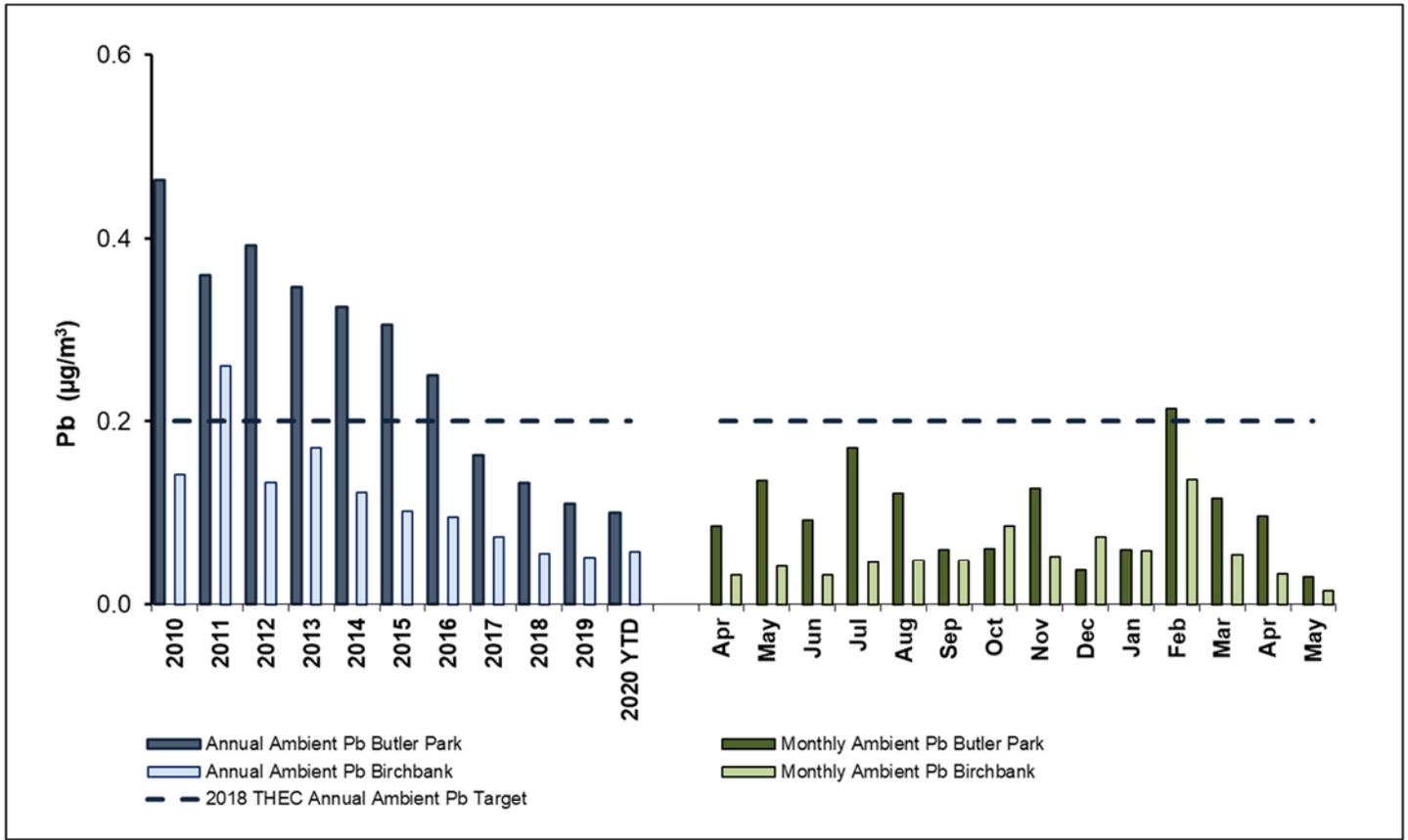


Figure 2: Annual and monthly average lead at Butler Park and Birchbank stations (as total suspended particulate measured bi-daily)

The chart in Figure 2 shows annual and monthly averages for Lead in air for Butler Park. Annual averages are shown on the left for Butler Park (dark blue) and Birchbank (light blue). Monthly averages for the past year are shown on the right for Butler Park (dark green) and Birchbank (light green). The 2018 THEC Annual Ambient Lead in Air Objective is shown as a dashed line. Monthly averages for Lead in ambient air are expected to have some variability due to season, weather, predominant wind direction and operational variance.

## 2. Arsenic in Air:

First quarter average for arsenic in air at Butler Park was  $0.007 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , similar to the first quarter of 2019. Second quarter results to date are trending lower with monthly averages for April and March of  $0.003$  and  $0.002 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ , respectively.

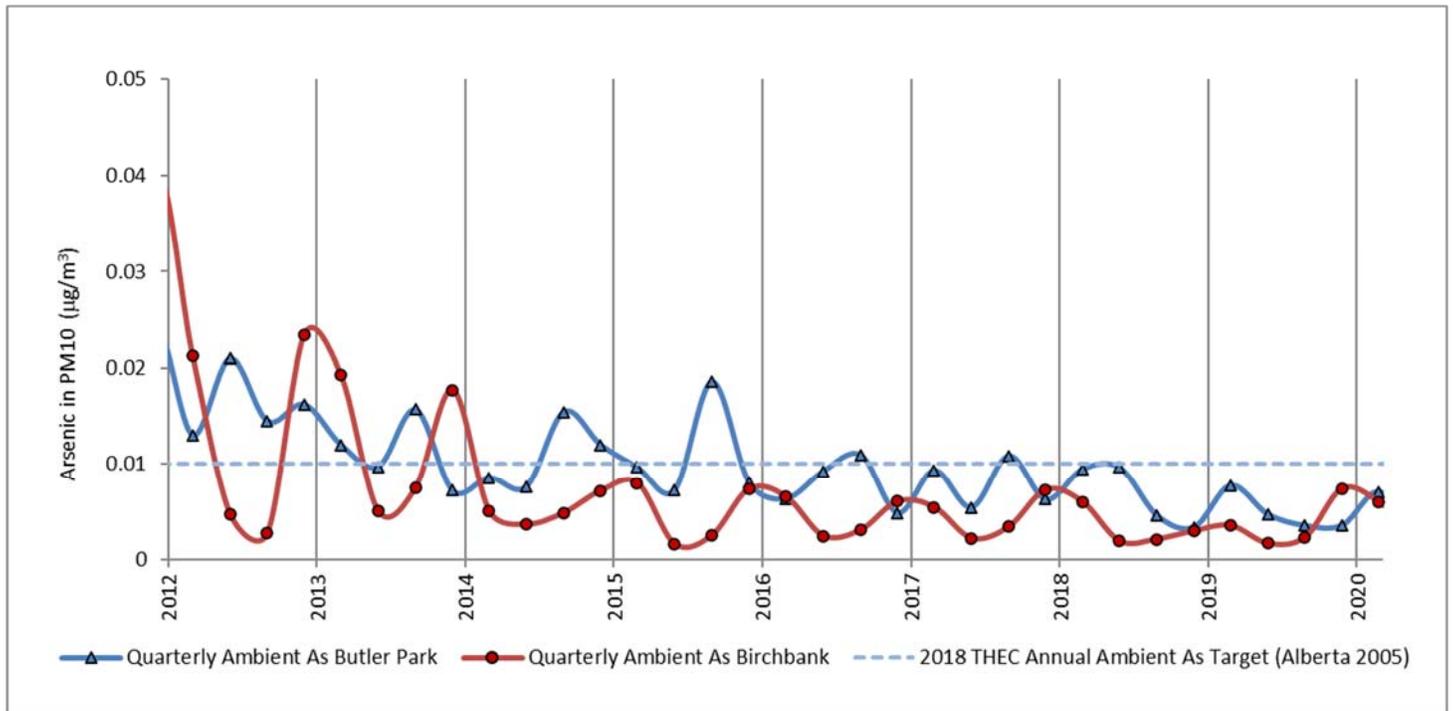


Figure 3: Quarterly average arsenic at Butler Park and Birchbank stations (as inhalable PM<sub>10</sub> fraction measured weekly)

The chart in Figure 3 shows the annual average for Arsenic in air (measured as inhalable PM<sub>10</sub> fraction) at Butler Park (blue) and Birchbank (red) in comparison to the 2018 THEC Air Quality Objective (blue line).

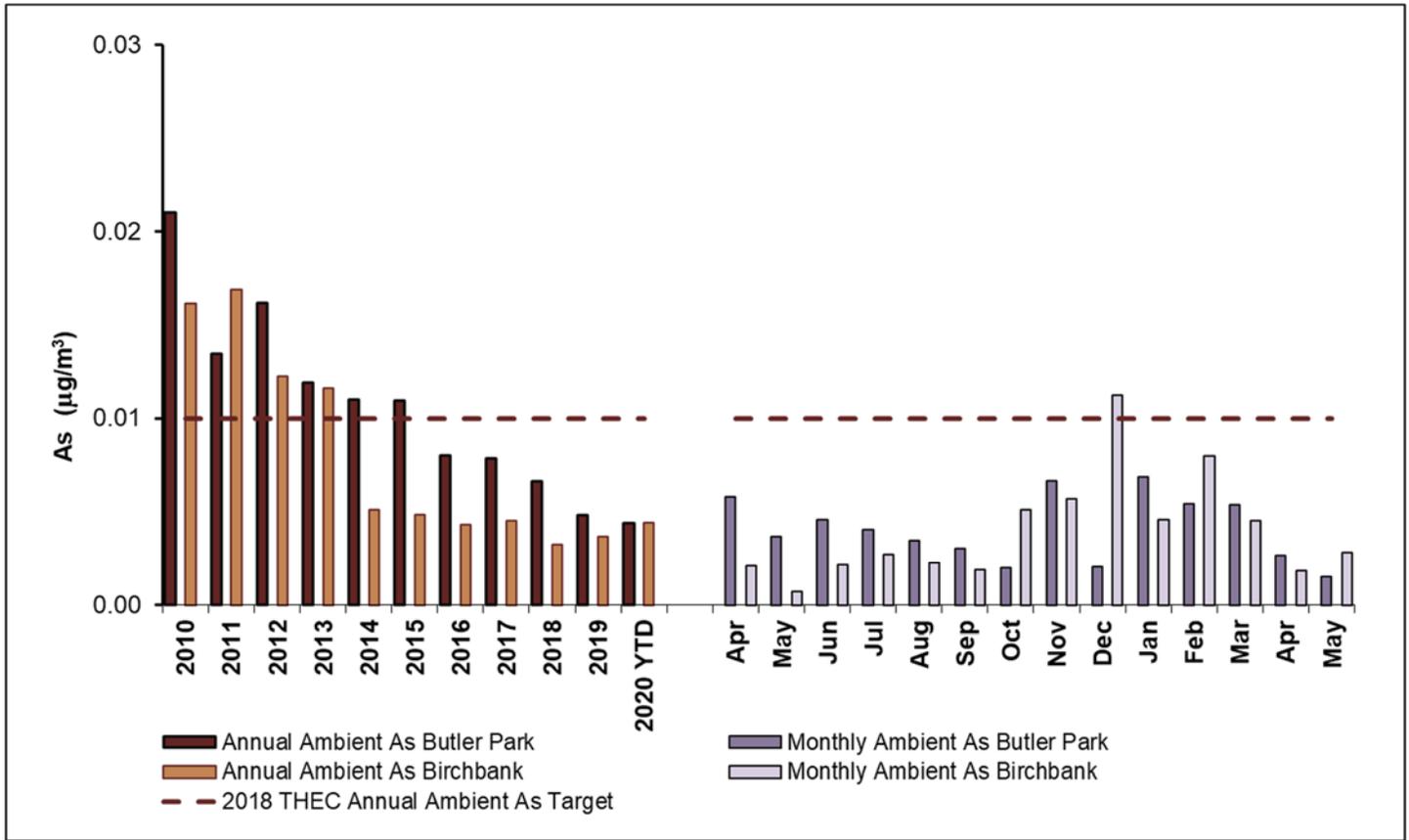


Figure 4: Annual and monthly average arsenic at Butler Park and Birchbank stations (as inhalable PM10 fraction measured weekly)

The chart in Figure 4 shows annual and monthly averages for Arsenic in air at Butler Park and Birchbank. Annual averages are shown on the left for Butler Park (dark brown) and Birchbank (light brown). Monthly averages for the past year are shown on the right for Butler Park (dark purple) and Birchbank (light purple). The 2018 THEC Air Quality Objective is shown as a dashed line. Monthly averages for Arsenic in ambient air are expected to have some variability due to season, weather, predominant wind direction, operational variance and sampling frequency.

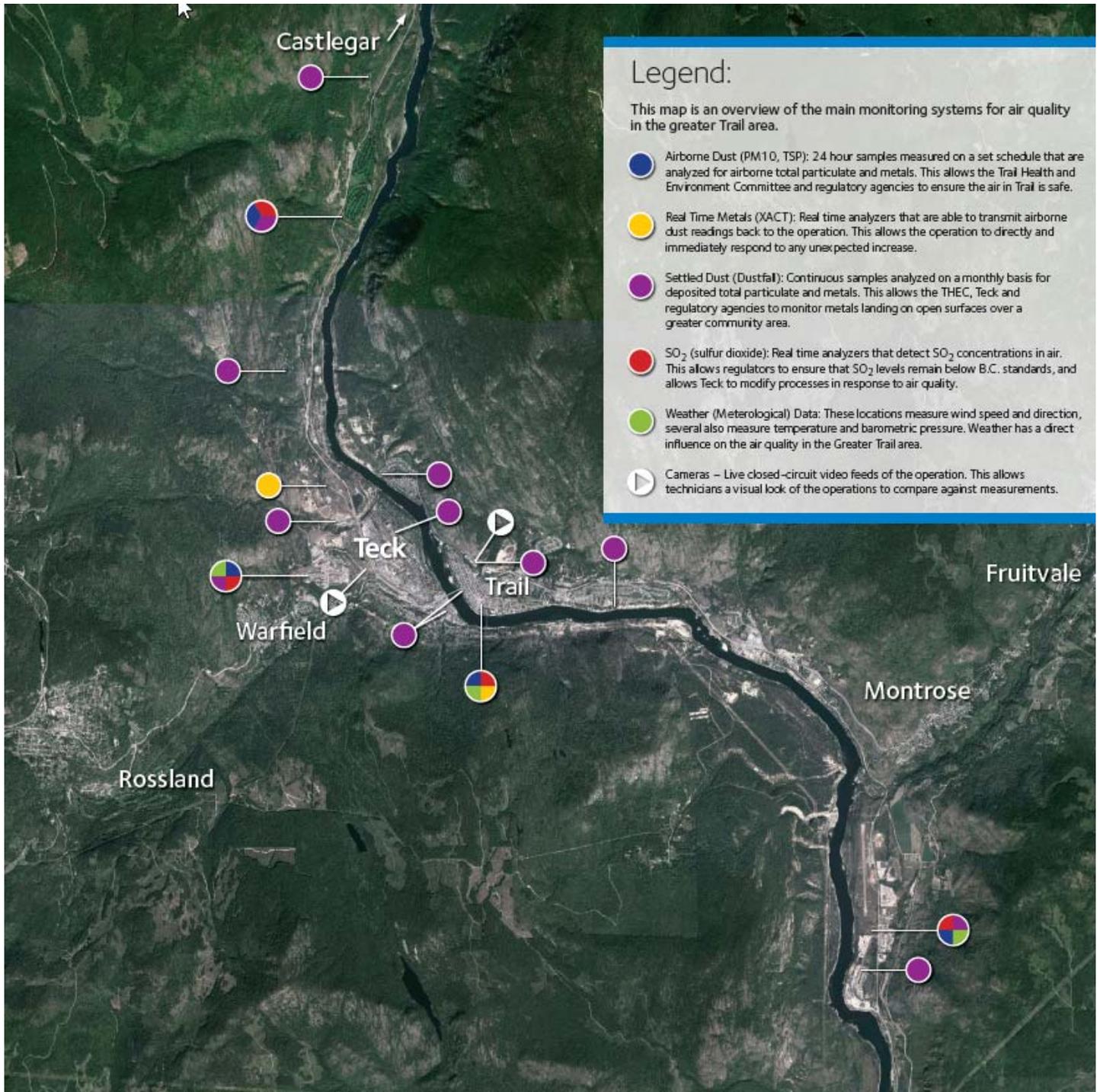


Figure 5: Teck Community Air Monitoring Stations

# Air Quality Working Group Update

**Trail Area Health & Environment Committee**  
**Air Quality Working Group**  
**Terms of Reference (updated June 2020)**

**Background:**

The Air Quality Working Group (AQWG) provides a forum to discuss air quality in a dedicated setting separate from the regular Trail Area Health & Environment Committee (THEC) meetings. The AQWG is intended to advance understanding of the state of the ambient air quality in our community through discussion of air quality matters related to public health and the environment. The AQWG also provides a forum for discussions around aesthetic concerns, which do not have a dedicated space for dialogue. Since the AQWG's inception in 2013, multiple topics have been discussed, both regulatory and non-regulatory in nature. The AQWG may make recommendations to the THEC regarding air quality or aesthetic initiatives, being mindful of regulations and permits in place. The members of the AQWG have different areas of expertise and bring different perspectives to the Group's discussion in order to advance understanding of air quality in our community. The AQWG reports to the THEC.

**Objectives:**

1. To gain a shared understanding of current and emerging air quality issues in the community.
2. To work together on developing air quality messaging and communications products for recommendation to THEC and other identified stakeholders.
3. To be a forum for discussion of community concerns beyond traditional air quality definitions including, but not limited to, aesthetics.
4. To make recommendations to the THEC as needed.

**Definitions:**

- Air quality: Levels of air pollutants that are directly related to the health of people and the environment.
- Aesthetics: Considerations include qualitative visual quality, odour and noise.

**Members:**

- City of Trail Mayor & Alternate, as Chair
- Community Members
- Ministry of Environment & Climate Change Strategy
- Teck
- Interior Health

- THEC Lead Facilitator

Subject matter experts will be invited to participate as needed to help address specific topics.

**How We Work Together:**

The AQWG is collaborative and attempts to reach consensus when making recommendations. Input will be sought from all members. While consensus may not always be reached, there is inherent value in meeting in this dedicated setting to share, learn and build an understanding amongst all members. Work plans will be developed as required.

**Meetings:**

The AQWG will meet a minimum of four times per year between THEC meetings. The location of in person meetings will be in Trail with video conferencing options available. Meetings will be held during the day for approximately 2-4 hrs.

**Minutes:**

Minutes will record main topics of conversation and action items to allow for open discussion on issues. Where agreement is not reached, the minutes will record the degree of consensus and divergent views.

**Reporting & Deliverables:**

The AQWG will provide updates and recommendations at the THEC meetings via a regular AQWG report to be delivered by the AQWG Chair and/or his/her delegate(s). Presentations will be incorporated as necessary.

# Family Health Report



## FAMILY HEALTH REPORT

June 18, 2019

### RECENT HIGHLIGHTS

1. Fall 2020 Blood Lead Clinics
  2. Healthy Family Visits
  3. Community Outreach
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### ADDITIONAL DETAILS

1. Fall 2020 Blood Lead Clinic Dates
  - September 14<sup>th</sup> 9am-4pm
  - September 15<sup>th</sup> 9am-4pm
  - September 21<sup>st</sup> 11am-6pm
  - September 23<sup>rd</sup> 9am-4pm
  - September 28<sup>th</sup> 9am-4pm
  - September 29<sup>th</sup> 11am-6pm
  - Area 1 children (Warfield, Waneta, Casino and Oasis) ages 6-36 months will be invited in addition to children in Trail and Rivervale.
  - Some changes to clinic flow will be made to ensure Safety for staff and clients in regards to Covid.
2. Healthy Family Visits
  - Visits being offered to families in Trail and Rivervale (Area 2 and 3) at this time. Expansion to Area 1 to be explored after Fall BL Clinic.
  - 20 Visits completed this year
  - Since Mid-March Visits are being done either while families at Kiro for Immunizations or via Zoom. Both methods are working well, but not the same as an in home visit.
3. Community Outreach
  - Engaging with Area 1 families opportunistically when at Kiro to discuss Blood Lead Testing for Fall 2020. Very well received by all families.
  - Attended Zoom Building Beautiful Babies Meeting June 9<sup>th</sup>.
  - Participation on Trail Early Years committee. Working to provide resources to families during this time. Developed Teddy Bear Picnic Bingo Card in lieu of annual Teddy Bear Picnic usually held at Gyro Park in June.

# Home & Garden Report

June 17, 2020

### HIGHLIGHTS

1. The H&G program is operational under what is now our 'new normal'. This includes working from home, virtual visits and meetings and ensuring people we interact with are aware of provincial COVID-19 safety requirements. Staff will start returning to the office this week but the Program Office will remain closed to the public. Advice is still available over the phone and in-person meetings can be arranged. The on-line sign up for Healthy Home visits and Soil Testing is working well and is now the main way we are receiving forms and requests.
2. Soils Program: Despite a delayed start, the soil remediation program is on target to provide work at top priority properties. Highlights from the season are:
  - Soil replacement is complete at 17 properties and 3 Vegetable gardens.
  - Soil replacement is scheduled at 29 properties and being planned at 25 properties.
  - Three residents asked to delay remediation because of COVID.
  - Soil testing and ground cover evaluations are ongoing. There is still room to sample more properties this year!
  - Lawn care has started at 68 properties and other types of yard improvement has been completed at 11 properties.
  - There are 13 properties with difficult access that are being addressed through yard improvement. This year we are trying to solve access issues through sampling adjacent properties and getting help from experts (eg. engineering support). Remediation for some of these is planned for 2021, or later.
3. Healthy Homes:
  - Since April we have completed 10 Virtual Healthy Home visits, either through FaceTime, WhatsApp or over the phone depending on the preference of the family. During the visit a time is arranged to deliver the dust buster and /or garden kit to the family within the next 2 weeks. This second interaction is an opportunity to follow up with the family face to face, while maintaining a safe 2 m distance on their property.

- The house cleaning program for our Enhanced Service families was put on hold in March. We are in the process of finalizing the health and safety documents in collaboration with our house cleaning contractor to ensure risk of Covid 19 is minimized. It is hoped that all eligible families will have this service again by the end of June.
4. Outreach has been modified to reduce the risk of Covid 19. We are still participating in remote meetings with our community partners such as the Family Action Network, and the Early Years coalition. As these groups were unable to run the Annual Teddy Bear Picnic, a modified Teddy Bear Bingo was created to get families with children aged 0-6 involved in different activities throughout the month of June. Our Soil Management Program sandwich board will also be on display at the June 13<sup>th</sup> IncrEdible Market to promote our programs and encourage people to sign up on line.

Additional advertising and outreach in June and July to encourage more soil testing includes:

- Advertising in the Trail Times
- Message on the downtown Trail electronic board by the arena
- Communication and messages to SD20, principals and PACS to share our posters
- FaceBook sharing via the City of Trail, FAN, Building Beautiful Babies, and Trail FAIR.