

PRINCE GEORGE AIR IMPROVEMENT ROUNDTABLE
MINUTES OF MEETING
Tuesday, June 30, 2009, 5:30 – 8:30pm
City Hall Conference Room

In Attendance: Maureen Bilawchuk, Dennis Fudge (proxy for Mellissa Winfield-Lesk), William Osei, Dan Adamson, Jocelyn White, Ron Fujino (proxy for Glenda Waddell), Martin Meyer, George Stedeford, Wayne Rommerdahl, Ken Wilkening, Sergio Petrucci (proxy for Dave Fuller), Jillian Merrick, Sherry MacIntyre, Barb Oke, Dave Jewesson (Monitoring Working Group Chair), Daniela Fisher (AQ Management Coordinator)

Guests: Gord Hoekstra (PG Citizen)

REVIEW AND ADOPT MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- Reviewed action from previous minutes. Previous minutes adopted by consensus.

REPORTS

- **Executive (M. Bilawchuk, Secretary)**
 - Met on June 9, discussed administrative matters including: funding opportunities (ongoing); meeting with CN (tentatively scheduled for July), Air Quality & Health Forum overview; update on anti-idling campaign.
 - Met with City Council (Mayor, Councillor Frizzell, Councillor Stolz) on June 16 to provide overview and update of PG AIR projects and programs; trying to meet with Regional District.
 - PG AIR members discussed whether PG AIR should obtain charitable status; because it's an expensive process, and PG AIR has many projects and programs in progress, it was decided to review this issue again later.
 - **Action (PG AIR):** reconsider charitable status issue during 2009-10 financial year
- **Research Working Group (J. White, Chair)**
 - Received draft report from RWDI re: third party review; reviewed by Jocelyn and Mellissa to ensure scope of review was met; one outstanding issue to be resolved. Expect to receive final report a few weeks thereafter; at that time, it will be distributed to the Research Working Group for consideration.
- **Monitoring Working Group (D. Jewesson, Chair)**
 - Met on June 29; discussed:
 - contractor (Focus) requirements under Monitoring contract: Steve Lamble (MOE) is on medical leave and Brenda Leatham (MOE) will take over as MOE technical contact in interim; Focus will attend next MWG meeting for update;
 - mobile monitoring unit: MWG has decided not to purchase mobile monitor at this time because one is available from MOE (Victoria) for use across BC; MWG is considering potential projects for Fall/Winter 2009;
 - dispersion model study: PG AIR provided update on status of third party review;
 - finances: 2008-09 monitoring program funded; reviewing capital expenditures and policy;
 - Next meeting September 2009; will review invoices, finances for 2009-10 fiscal year.
- **Education & Awareness Working Group (W. Osei, Chair)**
 - BC Lung Association, Northern Health, and PG AIR hosted public forum on air quality & health on June 15th from 6-9:00PM at the Coast; approx 80 people attended. Ongoing issue for EAWG is to determine locally the messaging re: air quality and health
 - EAWG met on June 22; discussed:
 - membership: new members, new potential members.
 - **Action (William):** send letter to Ken to distribute to UNBC
 - proposed projects: (1) public symposium (research results; Phase III framework); (2) air quality warning light: looking at Victoria and 15th, and Hwy 16 and 97 intersections based on vehicle counts; budget proposal being prepared based on engineering requirements at

- approx \$10K; (3) quarterly newsletter (electronic): hoping to starting summer 2009; (4) annual highlights report: EAWG to prepare in conjunction with PG AIR executive; (5) website revisions: updates ongoing; overhaul planned for 2010.
 - Next meeting July 21.

CURRENT BUSINESS

- **Phase II Work Plan Action Items**

- The group continued its quarterly review and update the Phase II AQMP Work Plan. Updates provided below; Daniela will update Phase II Work Plan and distribute it to members before or at the next meeting:
 - **R3:** early sweep of arterial roads has happened in the past and would require budget request to continue; often difficult to juggle between sweeping and snow clearing equipment in the winter (additional staff time comprises the cost \$ increase)
 - **R4:** entire city is swept within a 6 week period. Limited by equipment and budget to increase this; budget requests can go forward again this year
 - **R6:** Willow Cale Rd. has not been transferred to the yet City (no timelines available); once owned by City, it will need budget request for upgrades and paving
 - **R10:** City OCP review to start this fall; PG AIR will be consulted as a stakeholder
 - **R11, R17:** Dangerous Goods Route complete
 - **R14:** City staff have been directed to focus on education rather than anti-idling bylaw at this time; city still working on E3 program
 - **R14:** Idle Free Ambassador has been hired and will work from July 6 to Dec 18, 2009. 2009 Idle-Reduction & Eco-Driving program expanded version of 2008 program, and includes: education and awareness (public, businesses, schools); increasing amount of idle-free zones in City, especially in idling hotspots and sensitive receptors; free vehicle emissions testing clinic; research on establishing mandatory AirCare in PG. Focus is on reducing greenhouses gases (GHGs) and improving air quality. It was pointed out that there exists a pilot program, providing \$1,500 grants to small businesses to reduce GHGs; this (and other) relevant programs could also be promoted.
 - **Action (Jillian):** provide information on pilot program
 - **M32:** Idle Free Ambassador will research Aircare
 - **R15:** Responsibility should be changed to BC Transit, not City; it is within BC transit's authority for biodiesel and they have decided it is not feasible at this time. The group agreed to invite Daniel Pearce to upcoming PG AIR meeting to discuss transit and see if can obtain information re: BC Transit steps to improve air quality.
 - **Action (Daniela):** invite Daniel Pearce to upcoming PG AIR meeting
 - **R17:** MOE letters have been sent out, also referencing R27 (reduction targets), requesting companies to advise on what doing during air quality advisories; reply is requested by mid-July, but some companies have asked for extensions. MOE is hoping to tabulate the information into a report to that could be distributed to public.
 - **R19, R20, R23, R25:** Clean Air Bylaw review in progress; revised bylaw expected to go to Council this summer. PG AIR to provide comments on review, including any comments received from members; Daniela will forward copy of letter to members.
 - **Action (Daniela):** provide PG AIR comments and send copy to members
 - **R25:** 2009 program results: 20 vouchers submitted for reimbursement to date; program (\$250 rebate only) proposed to be extended to fall. 2010 funding proposal due in July.
 - **R22:** community energy system in planning stage
 - **R26:** City is still working on Milestone 4, completion in 2012
 - It was observed that significant momentum has taken place behind the scenes to improve air quality, though no breakthrough yet; this will be the aim of Phase III. PG AIR should celebrate efforts of PG AIR and members during Phase II – include in Annual Highlights report, newsletter (with quantitative information (stats) whenever possible).
 - **Action (all members):** provide updated information to Daniela before next meeting
- **Quarterly Update:**
 - If members have any questions on the current quarterly update, send to Barb.
 - **Action (all members):** send Barb any questions on current update

- **Phase III Air Quality Management Plan – Development**
 - **Facilitator:** Jillian advised that FBC facilitator is available, just need to determine if PG AIR wants to use facilitator and when (from Cariboo region). Barb has information on another facilitator (UNBC) who assisted with facilitations under MTF, who is interested in assisting (and has background knowledge); will ask for honorarium for research group in lieu of payment. Small potential conflict for both facilitators (b/c NHA, FBC). Barb and Jillian will forward bios to group. Barb will also find out re: costs for next executive meeting.
 - **Phase III Development:** Mellissa provided suggestion (email) on a different approach to Phase III Plan, based on comments from last meeting re: lack of consensus over health focus, source reductions, etc. (major contributors), sources vs. receptors, etc. Group discussed suggestion of differential approach and liked the immediacy of starting industry reductions, but agreed that a facilitation session is still needed so that all members can discuss and agree on the foundation/focus of Phase III. Potential facilitators were discussed. It was also suggested that, in addition to focusing on PM and odour, PG AIR may want to add an “other” category (e.g. smog, other toxics, etc.) to be considered after PM and odour recommendations are implemented/completed. Continue discussion at next meeting.
 - **Action (all members):** forward any comments to Mellissa (back on July 13th)
- **Member Information Exchange**
 - **Northern Health:** NHA air quality research project: two nephelometers have been acquired, and project timeline extension has been approved such that data collection can occur in Fall 2009 (when burning takes place). Final report expected July 2010.
 - **Fraser Basin Council:** FBC is reducing voluntary hours; Jillian has highlighted PG AIR as priority, so hopefully can stay on as member.
 - **Ministry of Environment:** Asphalt plants – little complaints from residents this summer.
 - **Canfor Pulp Limited Partnership:** Three-year funding program (Green Transformation Program) for Canadian pulp mills, including CPLP, has been announced by the federal government. Program being administered by NRCan and eligible projects must relate to improving not only environmental performance but also energy efficiency. Project must be initiated, implemented, completed within 3-year period; funding applies to new projects only. Funding is based on amount of black liquor produced by pulp mills; pro-rated to begin in 2009. CPLP hopes funding can be used for odour and emission reduction, but will not know until program details are released; at this stage, CPLP is still awaiting guidelines from NRCan. It was noted that, if program requires a climate change focus, it could be pointed out that aerosols (including PM) have climate change properties, so altering PM concentrations should improve climate change.
 - **Action (Ron/Glenda, Maureen):** forward information to members as become aware, and advise whether and how PG AIR can assist CPLP with same.
- **Public Member:** the application deadline was extended to July 31st.
 - **Action (Daniela):** update website, send revised posting to members
 - **Action (all members):** distribute revised posting to contacts
- **CAF Funding Proposal:** Daniela submitted a proposal to the Community Adjustment Fund (CAF), a one-time funding opportunity announced by the federal government. Purpose of CAF is to create immediate, temporary employment in communities negatively impacted by the economic downturn. PG AIR has requested funding for two Assistant Coordinators (ACs) for a 19-month period (Sep 2009 to Mar 2011). The proposed ACs would facilitate efficient development and implementation of the Phase III Plan, by carrying out any required research (mapping, etc.) for the Phase III Plan development, as well as implement Phase III programs – 2010 Wood Stove Exchange Program and 2010 Idle Reduction Program – so that Daniela can work to implement other priority (or more complex) recommendations of the Phase III Plan.

OTHER BUSINESS

None

Next meeting date and time: Tuesday, July 28, 2009 – 5:30pm
Location: City Hall Annex