

**PRINCE GEORGE AIR IMPROVEMENT ROUNDTABLE  
MINUTES OF MEETING  
Tuesday, May 26, 2009, 5:30 – 8:30pm  
City Hall Annex**

In Attendance: Jocelyn White, Wayne Rommerdahl, Dan Adamson, Jillian Merrick, Greg Thibault, Rachel Ryder (proxy for Petra Wildauer), Kyle Aben (proxy for Ken Wilkening), Kristen Johnson, Mellissa Winfield-Lesk, Martin Meyer, Laurie Cook, George Stedeford, Dave Fuller, Dennis Fudge (proxy for Maureen Bilawchuk), Sherry MacIntyre, Glenda Waddell, Greg Calpas, Barb Oke, Daniela Fisher (AQ Management Coordinator)

Guests: Gord Hoekstra (PG Citizen)

**REVIEW AND ADOPT MINUTES OF LAST MEETING**

- Reviewed action from previous minutes. Previous minutes, with changes noted, adopted by consensus.
- Reviewed action items

**REPORTS**

- Executive (M. Winfield-Lesk): met on May 12, reviewed year work plan, financial review, finances transferred to accountant for a trial basis, looked at funding options, general administration, looking into postal box, drafting media relations info, committee structure that PGAIR is using and how to get others engaged– standing committees or appoint committees as needed, looking at executive structure and replacement/succession planning
- Research Working Group (J. White, Chair)
  - RWDI conducting external review of the dispersion model study, draft report expected week of June 7th
- Monitoring Working Group (D. Jewesson, Chair)
  - No update
- Education & Awareness Working Group (G. Thibault)
  - Educational evening – Air Quality & Health Forum – planned for 6-9pm on June 15<sup>th</sup> with BC Lung Association, Northern Health, PGAIR and others at the Coast Inn; open to the public
  - AQ Warning light – looking at Victoria and 15<sup>th</sup>, and Hwy 16 and 97 intersections based on vehicle counts; budget proposal being prepared based on engineering requirements

**CURRENT BUSINESS**

- Phase II Work plan Action Items
  - Odour study (M. Winfield-Lesk)
    - A pie chart has been prepared for odour complaints received by MOE; from 2000 and on, 73% of complaints due to asphalt, then next highest area City Central (bowl area) at 17%,
    - Remainder of VOC analysis completed that looked at health aspects
    - Formaldehyde – BC has episode (370 ug/m3) and action levels (60 ug/m3) based on 1 hour levels, and one sample exceeded the episode level by three times; three samples exceeded the action level
    - MOE is continuing analysis and will provide update at next meeting
  - **Action: M. Winfield-Lesk**
  - Request to transfer a portion of excess funds from odour project to the idle-reduction project so to qualify for anti-idling grant from NRCAN, as the funding request to MOE for such amount has not been committed; if the MOE funding is subsequently approved, the transferred funds would be returned to the odour study; request approved by consensus.

## **NEW BUSINESS**

### **a. Member Information Exchange**

#### **i. City of Prince George Air Quality / GHG Plan**

- City hired consultant to look at air quality and greenhouse gas and the possibility for integration; report concluded that there is no appetite to merge these two programs as they both have “full plates”, but that the City would continue to be the link between these program areas.

#### **ii. Public Member (B. Oke) – recently accepted a position with Northern Health, and will have to withdraw as a public member (as new position includes air quality so there may be potential conflict as public member), and will be taking over Greg Thibault’s position as Northern Health rep. PGAIR may want to consider revising bylaws to allow two Northern Health members; William Osei will remain as Chair of the Education Working Group; we will need to replace Public Member (please pass along anyone you think may be interested); Barb will check with her management if two members will be allowed.**

**Action: B. Oke, D. Fisher, Membership Committee**

- Will be advertising for Public member on the website and will look at short list from last round

**Action: Membership Committee**

- Add section to the website where the public can send their contact info if they are interested in volunteering for future events

**Action: D. Fisher**

### **b. Phase II Work Plan Quarterly Review**

- Daniela provided a presentation; plan to have quarterly review of Phase II Plan
- Purpose of review is to obtain information to update work plan and distribute updated plan to members for next meeting
- 42 recommendations (30 PGAIR, 12 MTFQAQ); 7 are complete, 20 partially implemented; 5 not implemented; may want to include a separate category for those programs that are ongoing because they are yearly projects, but the action item is complete

**Action: D. Fisher to add category for next review**

- Reviewed progress tracking for each action item under each area and under whose responsibility it belongs to
- Reviewed work plan
- Need a process to continually update progress on the work plan – standing items on the agenda or quarterly review
- Daniela will provide a copy of the presentation to all members

**Action: D. Fisher**

- R1 – Canfor and Husky have upgrade plans, but are not able to share what the plans will be until the Boards have approved the projects; Husky is looking at next steps including the updates to the effluent system and land farm; MOE may be providing other recommendations to R1 based on review of data from the community odour program;

#### **• R4, R5, R6, R7**

- R4 – no update
- R5 – MOTI will provide written update for work plan based on info provided by Nini

**Action: Nini Long/Kristen Johnson**

- R6 – no update on subdivision progress
- R7 - MOE will be approaching property owners regarding upgrading roads, lots
- R9 – emission inventory third party review in progress, update timelines; this will include remodelling
- M38 – relates to #9; will form Phase III

- R10 – OCP under review; PGAIR has submitted comments and will be able to include comments down the road; will need to develop an action plan for RDFFG  
**Action: P. Wildauer to provide update on OCP timelines**
- R11 – update on Industrial Land Use Plan; RFP issues for air quality info on potential industrial sites looking at meteorology, monitoring and modelling; dangerous goods route bylaw approved  
**Action: J White to circulate dangerous goods route report**
- R17 – MOE is working on letters and intends to send out letters this week  
**Action: M. Winfield-Lesk**
- M32 – Aircare program – idling ambassador will be looking into this over the summer
- City will provide written comments related to updates on other action items tied to the City  
**Action: D. Adamson/J. White**
- Follow-up with Smart Growth regarding tree planting on roof tops and negative impacts  
**Action: D. Fisher**
- All members need to review Phase II and bring update to next meeting (provide information to D. Fisher before next meeting for inclusion in updated work plan)  
**Action: All members**

c. Phase III Committee Update

- Mellissa provided presentation and will circulate to the group  
**Action: M. Winfield-Lesk**
- Different opinions from the Phase III committee and RWG on how the Phase III Air Quality Management Plan should be developed and what criteria should be considered; lack of representation from a wide range of members
- Questions posed to the group for consideration:
  - Should Phase III Plan comprise single-pollutant (PM) or multi-pollutant strategy? (e.g. ozone, sulphur compounds, etc.)
  - How should emission reductions be prioritized? Human health, technology, costs, environmental performance, nuisance
    - Human health – looking at areas with sensitive receptors, greatest population areas and predicted concentrations
    - Technology – what is being used now (upgrades since model conducted?), priority for those not using BAT
    - Cost – need cost benefit analysis, what about other costs such as health benefits, loss of productivity?; how will this cost be borne – government, citizens, industry, and consider them the same?
    - Environmental performance – some reductions have occurred since 2005, what about past behaviour as an indicator of future performance
    - Nuisance risks – odour, visibility, aesthetics, related to enjoyment of life and property rather than health
- If human health is paramount, then we could look at a GIS analysis of exposure hotspots – population density, sensitive receptors
  - Look at reductions for those hot spots and select for reduction based on some of the other criteria
- What is the best process for moving Phase III forward? Unbiased facilitator, committee of the whole (CoW), Phase III committee; committee likely not an option since it is not a well represented group; committee of the whole would mean stronger commitment (separate meeting) from this group
  - CoW would have greater buy-in from group
  - Facilitator – could consider hiring someone to come to meetings to facilitate discussion (or for more difficult discussion) – neutral person with negotiation skills; likely costly and may be difficult to find locally. Fraser Basin Council may be able to assist with facilitation
  - Try moving forward with CoW with a facilitator to assist with discussion

- Need to tease out priorities from research to assist with developing the Phase III plan
- Cost and time of GIS analysis? – could be completed in 3-4 months (similar time frame for remodelling and revision of Dispersion Model report, which will occur once external review is completed)
- Phase III framework will be presented the public for input once draft completed; framework may be presented at the public forum (where study results will be presented to public) if the timing works
- Have a day long event rather than over several meetings to save time and costs
- Focus on magnitude of sources, or look at impacts to human health as the key driver for the plan; how would human health factors be incorporated?
- It may be difficult to have “hotspots” in the city, because they may end up melding together with population spending time at home versus work and sensitive receptors scattered throughout the city.
- Most of the data follows those that have chronic conditions, not those healthy individuals and what the long term effects have on personal health
- We do not have monitors in all areas of the City
- Chronic versus acute exposure – resources are available to help focus on exposure levels
- Group likes the idea of single-focused meeting (one to two days), focused solely on developing framework
- Jillian will research facilitator and find out what their preferred method is (several meetings versus one meeting).

**Action: J. Merrick**

- d. Administrative Matters – Quarterly budget update – deferred to next meeting, please review and send questions to B. Oke

**Action: All members**

### **OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**Next meeting date and time: Tuesday, June 30, 2009 – 5:30pm**

**Location: City Hall Annex**