

PRINCE GEORGE AIR IMPROVEMENT ROUNDTABLE
MINUTES OF MEETING
Tuesday, February 24, 2009
6:30 – 9:00pm
Regional District Office

In Attendance: Mellissa Winfield-Lesk, Maureen Bilawchuk, Jocelyn White, Glenda Waddell, Greg Calpas, Martin Meyer, George Stedeford, Ken Wilkening, Sherry MacIntyre, Betty Beckering (proxy for Dave Fuller), Jillian Merrick, Barb Oke, Daniela Fisher (Air Quality Management Coordinator), Dave Jewesson (MWG Chair), Kim Frost (Recorder)

Guests: Karen Furlong (MOE)

REVIEW AND ADOPT MINUTES OF LAST MEETING

- Reviewed action from previous minutes

REPORTS

- Executive – Maureen Bilawchuk
 - Meeting was held last week. Will coordinate regular meetings every second Tuesday of the month. Discussed Woodstove Exchange, Bike to Work, funds for PGAIR, Clean Air Forum, and new time for PGAIR meetings
- Research Working Group – Jocelyn White
 - Meeting to be arranged in the next couple of weeks. John Spagnol has completed most of the revisions to the report, data will be compiled
- Monitoring Working Group – Dave Jewesson
 - Meeting was held February 18. Confirmed that the monitoring contract with Focus has been signed off by the City. A mobile monitoring unit is available for temporary use from Victoria, eliminating the current need to purchase a mobile monitor. Fixed monitoring costs have increased from last year. Currently reviewing finances and justifying costs to programs. Discussed PGAIR's request to potentially reallocate some Coordinator funds to PGAIR overhead – issue deferred to next meeting
- Education & Awareness Working Group – William Osei
 - Deferred to next meeting

CURRENT BUSINESS:

- Updates on Phase II Work Plan Action items from last meeting
 - i. **R5 – Ministry of Transportation dust reduction**
 - Deferred to next meeting
 - ii. **R9 – Research**
 - Third Party Review – Compiled report document is to go to RWDI in March. Kathy Preston (RWDI) will meet with PGAIR and RWG in April
 - Research Committee update – Development of Phase 3 Airshed Management Plan – hope to expand the committee to include an industry representative. A project plan and timeline have been developed; first deadline for the first phase draft is next Friday. Goal is to have the final draft ready for October 2009. There will be periodic reviews by the Research Working Group
 - iii. **R14 – Anti-idling EcoEnergy funding**
 - Letter received from NRCAN – PGAIR application accepted for consideration, subject to accepting a proposed agreement. Daniela will follow up. \$70,000 was requested for 2009 Anti-idling Program

iv. R25 – Wood Stove Exchange Program

- Wood Stove Launch is scheduled for February 28, from 9:30 – 10:00, at the Civic Centre Plaza Area. The Mayor, Regional District Chair and MLAs have been invited to speak and present cheques to PGAIR.
- Burn it Smart Workshop (led by Zigi – President of WET BC), will take place after the launch, from 10AM to 1PM. It is an interactive presentation. Daniela will forward posters for the event, please forward to people within members' organizations (and friends and family)
- Wood Stove Exchange Program runs from March 1 – April 30. \$150 discounts will be offered from retailers. The first 70 people to change out their wood stove for a new qualifying appliance will also obtain a voucher to receive a \$250 cheque from PGAIR (funding for this is from the Provincial Government)
- Nominate Your Neighbour – door cards are available to place at properties
- Commitment to Clean Burning Initiative – individuals can commit to follow proper burning practices

v. R28 – NHA Mobile Monitor Project

- Postponing data collection to September 2009. In the mean time, will prepare design, conduct literature review and hire a person to collect data

NEW BUSINESS

● Member Information (& Brilliant Ideas) Exchange

i. City of PG Integrated Air Quality/GHG Plan

- Draft plan complete. Jocelyn will prepare a Report to Council, and then report will be available to the public. The City is presenting at the Clean Air Forum in Vancouver on March 9

ii. City of PG Clean Air Bylaw Review

- Jocelyn has prepared a discussion paper with all of the issues, including recommendations from PGAIR. Enforcement provisions are included as well. Bylaws, across BC, were reviewed. The paper is circulating internally at the City, before it goes to public consultation. At least two public meetings will be held, probably in March. On-line surveys will be arranged. The paper will come to PGAIR in March for review and comment.

iii. Other

- PACHA – concerned with the last 5-day air quality advisory and high PM2.5 levels. The group is questioning issues that PGAIR had previously indicated were “complete” in Phase I. PACHA sent a letter to Peter Scharf (MOE) this morning, and MLAs were copied. The content of the letter includes PACHA's disappointment that MOE has not “followed through”, particularly regarding industry and their voluntary control of emissions. PACHA would prefer to see this regulated. PACHA was reminded that it should first relay concerns to PGAIR if they relate to recommendations or action items found in the Phase II Plan, such as those relating to air quality advisories (see below)
- Air Quality Advisory – advisories are drafted and released to a distribution list. List includes media, industry, interest groups, etc. Voluntary reduction options during an advisory include: dryer bypass, prevention of cold start ups, jobs are deferred. PG Sawmill & Rustad were down for the duration of the last advisory. The City is currently researching improved methods for getting the message out to the public. It may or may not be possible to notify the public of unfavourable meteorological conditions that may result in an air advisory. A transit initiative is under review – may offer free transit during air advisory days
- Discussion re: What will happen with the science that has been contributed to date? Modelling, updates, monitoring, analysis, etc. MOE anticipates providing technical support for development of new discoveries. The relationship will maintain its flexibility – PGAIR can voice concerns and MOE can run the model to provide answers
- Air Quality Episodes – MOE did an analysis on what drives annual averages. Values of less than 20 micrograms / cubic metre account for 60% of the contribution to the annual

- average. The valley topography limits dispersion; there is a likelihood future air quality advisories will occur even if ambient levels are reduced
 - Pacific Institute for Climate Solutions – hired campus coordinator for climate change. Kyle Aben holds a master's degree; he will begin work on March 9. He will attend the PGAIR meeting in March
- Anti-idling Awareness Campaign – deferred to next meeting
- Administrative Matters
 - i. **Signing Authority**
 - PGAIR agreed, by consensus, to extend signing authority on cheques to Daniela Fisher (Air Quality Management Coordinator), Jocelyn White (Vice President), Maureen Bilawchuk (Secretary), Barbara Oke (Treasurer) and Anne Fediuk (accountant). Mellissa Winfield-Lesk's signing authority will be retained; PGAIR members Martin Meyer and Sherry MacIntyre will step down as authorized signatories.
 - PGAIR agreed, by consensus, that Daniela is also authorized to sign contracts on behalf of PGAIR that are previously approved by PGAIR or PGAIR executive
 - ii. **Conference Attendance – Clean Air Forum, BCLA Forum**
 - Daniela to attend both conferences; will provide update to PGAIR on same
- Partnerships
 - i. **BC Locomotive and Railway AQ Work Group**
 - Environment Canada contacted Daniela a month ago re: dispersion amounts and PM from railways, as there had been an article in the local newspaper. There exists a BC Locomotive and Railway AQ Work Group in Vancouver and they deal with these issues. Feb 10 – Daniela participated in a teleconference call that addressed California research, Metro Vancouver anti-idling study of locomotives, etc. This information will be useful for Phase 3. Another conference call will be held later this summer
 - ii. **PG Smart Growth on the Ground**
 - Amanda Mitchell contacted Daniela re: downtown sustainability principles for the Smart Growth on the Ground project. Air quality was identified by the public as a major issue. Daniela and Mellissa will be presenting at the Ramada Hotel on March 4 on air quality measures, benchmarking, etc. March 5 – Climate Change will be presented
 - iii. **Ministry of Healthy Living Survey**
 - In January, Rolf Hodgkins, consultant for the Ministry of Healthy Living, contacted Daniela re: survey of airshed planning in BC. Daniela completed it and sent it back to them. Purpose of survey is to assess status of airshed management throughout BC.
 - iv. **Clean Air Forum Organizing Committee**
 - Glenda Waddell withdrew from the committee. After discussing it with the PGAIR executive and coordinator, Glenda recommended to the Committee that Daniela be appointed to that position (as it is not expected that this will increase her current work load significantly)
 - v. **Bike to Work Week**
 - May 11 – 17 is Bike to Work week. PGAIR is on the organizing committee.
- R11, R17 and R18 of Phase 2 – Air Quality Advisories
 - Action items to be reviewed and discussed
 - R11 – Jocelyn to follow up on development permits
 - R17 – action items include clause in air quality advisories that are published. MOE sends letters to major emitters, requesting reduction and following up on measures taken. Sections are included in the new and revised permits to address air quality advisory issues
 - R18 – Petra will be asked to provide an update for the bylaw

- New Meeting Time – PGAIR will continue to meet at 5:30, beginning in March. Meals will not be served, as all City air quality money has been directed to specific PGAIR projects (e.g. woodstove exchange, etc.)
- Other
 - Fixed Monitoring Contract – CN withdrew funding support for MWG monitoring but did, however, agree to continue to provide funding for the coordinator for the next three years. MOE and PGAIR will arrange to meet with CN to discuss reinstating its membership on PGAIR. CN attended a meeting with PGAIR last year – could another one be initiated with the new PGAIR group? The City is the administrator for this contract. Discussion re: should the current contract be cancelled and reissued to PGAIR? PGAIR could assume the administrative role only, not the liability.
 - BC Lung Association – Road Show in mid-April. Earth Day is also scheduled for April, may coordinate so that the two overlap
 - MOE – Friday, February 20 – annual asphalt stakeholder meeting occurred. Regulatory review was a topic of discussion
 - PGAIR website – progress reports are to be displayed. The Education Working Group discussed this and there will be a website revision
 - Media Attendance at PGAIR meetings – discussion as to whether future meetings should include media, with restrictions. A designated spokesperson should be delegated to speak for PGAIR. Mellissa will obtain information on this issue. **Action: M. Winfield-Lesk**
 - Annual General Meeting – tentatively set for June 22
 - Reminder that issues between members should take place at this table, particularly action items.
 - Proxy representatives are members designated within respective organizations. They are not to be appointed outside of these organizations
 - Bylaws & Constitution – administrative attention is required. A committee will be arranged to address these issues

Next meeting date and time: March 31, 2009 – 5:30pm
Location: City Hall Annex