

THE CORPORATION OF THE CITY OF GRAND FORKS  
PARTICIPANTS INAUGURAL MEETING  
AIR QUALITY  
FEBRUARY 13, 2006 @ 1:00 P.M.

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Councillor Chris Moslin started the meeting at 1:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone and thanked them for attending.

Persons present:

From the Ministries

Ministry of Environment – Mike Reiner

Ministry of Health – Karen Kilpatrick, representative from the Boundary Hospital  
- Lesley Shelley, Interior Health Inspector

Michelle Caskey – representative from the B.C. Lung Association

From the Industries

Pacific Abrasives – Steve Zibin

Selkirk Paving – Chris Milne and Robert Brosko

Roxul – Bent Jorgensen, VP of operations and Philip Sweeney, Plant Manager

Pope & Talbot Ltd. – Andrew Horahan, Plan Manager

Canpar Industries – Randy Johnson, General Manager

Citizens

Garfield Marshall, Advance Orchards, Robert Chornenki, Lyle Olsen and David Simm

City of Grand Forks, RDKB Area C and D Representatives

Tony Lodder, Area D Director, Grace McGregor, Area C Director, Councillor Chris Moslin, Councillor Gene Robert, Victor Kumar, City Manager and Kathy LaBossiere, City Planning Tech.

Victor Kumar, City Manager, called the meeting to order and passed around agenda and MOE's Air Quality Planning Tool document to everyone in attendance.

The participants introduced themselves and the organization they were representing and made a short statement as to their interests in participating in the process to set up an air quality committee.

Councillor Moslin then made a power point presentation showing what has been done so far with respect to air quality monitoring in Grand Forks and in other communities.

- mention was made about Quesnel's Airshed Management Plan
- 1992 – MOE placed the first PM10 air quality monitoring system on the roof of the City Hall.
- 1996 – RDKB formed the first Air Quality Committee in the area.
- 1997 – portable air monitoring trailer installed at Councillor O'Doherty's residence for 6 months.
- 1998 – The Reid report was done by the Ministry of Environment indicating their major findings and their recommendations.
- 1999 – the pollution hotline was created by MOE.
- 2002 – The Ralph Adams report was done by the Ministry of Environment containing their conclusions and recommendation on air quality control.
- 2005 – a second PM10 monitoring station and a PM2.5 monitoring station were placed on the roof of the City Hall.

After the presentation, the floor was open for discussions.

#### Industry Comments

##### Representatives from Selkirk Paving

- questioned why the photographs in the presentation were both focused on the paving plant's stacks.
- since those pictures were taken, Selkirk Paving has improved their plant operations with respect to emissions and air quality a great deal at a substantial cost to the company.
- noted that road dust was a major contributor to air quality at this time of year.
- Industries should not be deemed the major contributors to poor air quality and citizens should participate in the management of dust control, wood stove burning emissions and out door burning.
- Industry is already mandated by MOE to participate in emission control.

##### Respresentative from CanPar

- CanPar has reduced their emissions – the blue haze that is created when drying the lumber.

- have instituted a maintenance program at their plant for dust control.
- will be changing air flow emissions this spring.
- will start trucking materials from Pope & Talbot to CanPar instead of blowing it over.
- have reduced natural gas emissions by 50% and are in accordance with the KYOTO standards.
- have made a commitment for funding of the PM2.5 monitoring station.
- industries gather data on air emission and quality from a scientific perspective, while private individuals consider air quality from an emotional, personal level making it difficult for the 2 sectors to communicate and co-operate.
- The power point presentation pictures all showed the industry stacks which could create a prejudice that industry was the preconceived culprit.
- MOE only regulates industrial emissions not wood stoves, road dust, auto emissions, etc.

#### Representatives from Pope & Talbot

- Committee needs to get the citizens and the industries working together to make things work.
- data is being gathered on a regular basis and the committee has to look at the whole picture.

#### Representatives from Interior Health, Boundary Hospital and BC Lung Assn

- B.C. Lung Association is sponsoring a Rural Air Quality Forum on February 23 in Duncan, B.C. Registration forms are available from Michelle Caskey, BC Lung representative.
- the Boundary Hospital representative stated that the citizens need to be informed as to where ALL the air emissions are coming from, not just from industry.
- when air quality data is gathered, it is very biased, depending on which faction is gathering the information.
- need to set up sub-committees that can deal with collecting the data and getting more public involvement.
- next meeting of the participants should elect a chair and a steering committee.

#### Representatives from Ministry of Environment

- there are province wide regulations for industrial emissions and MOE surveys and monitors each individual industry.

- the Ministry has a draft report prepared from the two PM10 and the PM2.5 monitoring stations on the roof of City Hall, which not ready for the public yet, but could be sent to the committee for review.
- wood stove burning, road dust, auto emissions and outdoor burning are not regulated by the MOE and the Ministry would look to the City and RDKB for regulating these emissions by bylaw.
- MOE controls industrial emissions, however, has no control over weather and wind direction.
- would like to see a larger component from the citizens to be on the committee and suggested that a public forum could be held to raise awareness.
- raise awareness and public participation, first, and then include the industries in the process.
- MOE has a monitoring station that measures air quality every hour, but needs to find a location and funding in order to proceed.
- City needs to control air quality through land use planning with respect to new industries and businesses.
- there could be funding available for the air shed project.
- need to elect a chair at the next meeting of the participants.

#### Citizen's comments

- Robert Chornenki felt the committee needed to educate the public and right misunderstandings regarding air quality regulations and causes.
- Lyle Olsen felt that a committee of 20 participants was too large and that steering committees needed to be established after a chair was elected.
- David Simm
- the committee needs a structured term of reference before starting.
- there needs to be a commitment for assistance from Area C & D and the City.
- Garfield Marshall
- felt that MOE's "Air Quality Planning Tool" process was a starting point for the committee.
- the RDKB and City had put in funding and supplied staff and meeting areas for the previous Air Quality Committee he was chair.
- need to put forward a plan of action.
- need to review the Quesnel Airshed Management Plan and the two reports prepared by the MOE.

#### Representatives from the City, RDKB Areas C&D

- Tony Lodder, Area D Director
- wanted to know if there was a method of detecting harmful chemicals in the air.

- stated that he would not be personally available to be on the committee but he would find an alternate to take his place and would also ask RDKB staff to be of assistance to the committee
- Grace McGregor, Area C Director
- citizens need to get involved not only the industries.
- wanted to know where to get information on air quality and who is responsible for vehicle and stove emissions.
- Victor Kumar, City Manager
- by invitation to the stakeholders, the City has started the process to set up an air quality program.
- local government does not have authority over industries by bylaw and cannot override MOE regulations.
- role of the City within the committee is a passive one. The City needs to know what direction the committee wants to go.
- need to form a main committee and then sub-committees to research different pollutants and get public input and participation.
- the City cannot be seen as "running the show".
- Council has allotted \$5,000.00 toward the operation of this committee plus application to RDKB.
- the City and the RDKB could supply the structure of the Committee once they know what the Committee wants.
- will be acting chair for the next meeting scheduled for April 11 at 3pm, meeting place to be arranged.
- Chris Moslin, Councillor
- During his campaign for Council, he received numerous requests about improving air quality from the public.
- Wanted to have more monitoring equipment available that tested more often than every 6 days.
- Need to gather all the data there is available for the committee to proceed.

The meeting adjourned at 3:10pm.

