

## WORKSHOP ON INDICATORS, TARGETS & ACTIONS FOR THE SEA-TO-SKY CORRIDOR AQMP

~ A meeting of the Sea to Sky Air Quality Coordinating Committee~

**Sea-to-Sky Hotel, Tantalus Room  
6 October 2005, 9:15am – 3:00 pm**

### MEETING NOTES

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#### Participants:

Brent Moore	Environmental Quality Section Head, Lower Mainland Region, MOE
Cindy Walsh	Regional Meteorologist, MOE
Dave Allen	Director of Development Services, Village of Pemberton
David Bodner	Community, Aboriginal and Government Relations, Terasen Gas
Emma Dalsanto	Transportation Demand Management Planner, RMOW
Francesca Langford	Environmental Coordinator, District of Squamish
Jeanne Taylor	Environmental Supervisor, Western Pulp
Lisa Griffith	Planner, SLRD
Lourette Swanepoel	Facilitator, The Sheltair Group
Peter Frinton	Councillor, Bowen Island
Scott Pass	Transit Manager, Whistler Transit
Stephanie Meyn	Air Quality Meteorologist, MOE
Samantha Petticrew	Consultant, The Sheltair Group

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#### WORKSHOP OBJECTIVES

1. Adopt Vision and Goals
2. Confirm funding for 2005/06
3. Review and sign-off on indicators and targets.
4. Review and discuss air emission sources.
5. Identify preferred actions for each emission source.

#### WORKSHOP OUTLINE

1. Adoption of vision and goals.
2. Overview of funding status.
3. Finalize indicators and targets.
4. Review of major air emission sources.
5. Brainstorm potential actions for emission sources.
6. Next steps...

## **PRESENTATION OVERVIEW**

Lourette Swanepoel (Sheltair) facilitated the workshop, filling in for Cora Hallsworth. Stephanie Meyn (MOE) introduced Cindy Walsh who has replaced her as the regional meteorologist<sup>1</sup>. The workshop format consisted of short presentations interspersed with group discussions. Lourette started off the meeting with a quick reminder overview of the Adaptive Management Framework.

### **Name of Airshed**

A short discussion ensued on the suggestion from the June meeting to change the name to Howe Sound – Sea-to-Sky Air Quality Management Plan. For logistical reasons, the group would like to leave the name as is, but asked that a section be added to the Plan that describes the boundaries of the initiative.

### **Vision**

Lourette ran through the vision, asking for any last comments on the vision. There were minor comments on adding commas to the lists in the vision. Lourette then asked for a show of hands for those in favour of adopting the vision. All agreed to adopt. See attached Vision and Goals

### **Goals**

After the vision was adopted, Lourette went through the associated goals. There was a question about the definition of Quality of Life. It was noted that Quality of Life is really an overarching goal of the management plan and is addressed through each of the proposed goals. It was suggested that Quality of Life be incorporated as part of the vision.

Suggestions on the “leadership” goal and the “national & international perception” goal were also discussed and comments included the following:

- It is not just about national & international perception, also about local and regional perceptions.
- It is not just leadership but also partnerships that are important.
- The “national & international perception” goal reads too negatively with the word “address”. Suggested changes included replacing “address” with “To maintain...” or “To promote positive...”
- There seems to be overlap between the “leadership” and “national & international perception” goals. We change perceptions through our leadership.

### **Funding**

Currently funding commitments have been obtained from Bowen Island, Gibsons, Squamish, and Whistler for a total of \$15,080 with a shortfall of \$3,310.

- Squamish can contribute funding for the remainder of this calendar year. Approximately \$6,000.
- Whistler reconfirmed its commitment for funding this year.
- Bowen Island has approved the funding for this year. Funding for the following years is reviewable each year.
- Pemberton asked for an official letter requesting funding.
- Lions Bay would like a presentation to council.
- SLRD would like the funding for the regional districts broken out distinctly. Stephanie can divide out the population to determine funding for the SLRD and SCRD.
- Stephanie to look into Environment Canada partnership funding to cover any shortfall in funding. She will be putting a proposal together. Group to think about how to use any extra monies, e.g., additional monitoring.

The role of project administrator still needs to be confirmed. Both Squamish and the SLRD will explore this option in the next 2 weeks and provide feedback. A key question to explore is whether funds can be held and carried forward from one fiscal year to the next. Primary duties would include receiving funds from other municipalities, setting up the contract with the consultant (MOE can assist with this), and paying invoices. The goal is to have an administrator designated by end October. GVRD was suggested as a back-up alternative. Stephanie will investigate further the funding structure of other AQMP processes.

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<sup>1</sup> Stephanie is now based at the Ministry of Environment's headquarters in Victoria. She will continue to act as an advisor to the project.

## Indicators and Targets

Samantha presented a quick overview of indicators and targets, reviewing the definition of both and identifying criteria that make an ideal indicator. The Sheltair Group and MOE developed a recommended set of indicators and targets. Cindy presented these identifying monitoring locations and the rationale behind using the indicator. The following notes are comments or questions from the group made during the presentation.

### Context Indicator

- How can we measure visitor population on smaller communities (e.g., Pemberton, electoral areas)?
- Check if visitors centres / tourism centres track number of people stopping by for information.
- Also need a strong definition of visitor population (day visitors vs. overnight). Day visitors typically not tracked or easy to track.

### Canada Wide Standards

- Monitoring primarily in isolated portions of the airshed (Squamish, Whistler, Pemberton). Concern that this does not give an accurate picture. Need to identify needed locations (for each indicator) for future monitoring stations to get a more accurate picture.

### Air Quality Index

- Explained that it reflects events such as a big forest fire and not necessarily health of overall air quality. Need to communicate this in the plan and make sure it is understood – it indicates bad events and not whether we have good air quality overall.

### Economic Impacts

- Some models exist that can be used. Stephanie will select and present a model at the next meeting.

### Visibility

- Use a webcam to determine poor visibility days. Currently only one location, need more.
- Potential locations include along the highway or linked to important vistas and viewpoints identified with SmartGrowth Squamish.

### Odour

- Pulp mills currently track odour complaints.
- It may be useful to develop a database for tracking complaints for municipalities. Different people receive the calls and a standard protocol is needed for dealing with complaints and reporting them back into the AQMP.
- Diesel smells from agriculture, ferries and trains are not currently tracked. We need to identify and separate out complaints for odours that are normal environmental odours.

### Leadership and Perception Ideas

- Is there a survey that tracks perceptions on things going on in the community?
- Tourism Whistler surveys guests of resorts
  - Also does community survey about things people need and want (Winter & Summer survey for both visitors and residents)
- Monitor number of hits on AQ site – gives an indicator of how many people are aware
- Squamish Adventure Centre - possibility for survey kiosk there
- RMOW visitor info center tracks types of questions and types of info given out

### Comments on Leadership and Perception Indicators:

- Don't need to flog perception. Perception is result of the leadership, from what we are doing.
- This will naturally follow if we are doing all these good things
- Leadership in Education
  - Support & educate at school level in addition to broader community
- Not essential to have quantitative indicators for these qualitative things

## Causes and Sources

Cindy quickly reviewed the sources and causes of air pollution in the Sea-to-Sky airshed. The major sources in the airshed are transportation / mobile, area and point sources.

## Brainstorming Potential Actions

The group participated in a brainstorming session on potential actions for the AQMP. Based on a list of actions, taken from suggestion made in previous meetings from surveys taken of AQCC members, and other AQMP's, the group discussed existing and potential actions in six categories. These categories are:

- All Sources
- Mobile Sources – Light and Heavy Duty
- Mobile Sources – Marine and Rail Transportation
- Residential/Community Sources – Space Heating
- Residential/Community Sources – Open Burning
- Point Sources - Industry

Under each category, we first discussed which emissions are most manageable. We then identified potential actions and evaluated them based on the following questions:

- Which actions will have the greatest impact (i.e. emission reduction potential)?
- How easy is it to implement?
- Is it a cost effective measure?
- What are the co-benefits / multiple benefits?

It was noted that not all actions are within the scope or responsibility of AQCC member organizations. In some cases, the AQCC will need to establish partnerships with external agencies and organizations if it wishes to implement measures beyond its sphere of responsibility. Time did not allow for in-depth discussion on Mobile Sources or Point Sources, but actions were reviewed. At the end of the discussion, members of the group were given the opportunity to independently vote on which actions are most important to them. See attachment for results.

## Next Steps

Following this workshop, the next steps are to:

- Compile the results of this workshop (indicators, targets and actions)
- Circulate indicators, targets and actions for committee approval.
- Develop draft AQMP (end of December 2005).
- Assign an administrator and coordinate release of funds.
- Begin actions by coordinating an Open Burning workshop to explore woodwaste diversion options and bylaws.
- Develop economic business case fact sheet for air quality management in the Sea to Sky Airshed for distribution to members (and to present to any new mayors and council not familiar with AQMP).

## WRAP UP

Please report any errors or omissions within these meeting notes to Samantha Petticrew by email at [spetticrew@sheltair.com](mailto:spetticrew@sheltair.com), or by phone at 604-732-9106, ext. 311.