

## Downtown Camas Association – Public Participation in the Georgia-Pacific Mill Site Clean Up Project



Meeting minutes: Community Advisory Group Meeting #1

Thursday, January 14, 2022 | 4 – 5:30 p.m.

### **Meeting Attendees**

#### Community Advisory Group (CAG) Members:

- Isaac Dizon
- Leslie Lewallen, City of Camas
- Marty Snell
- April Berlin
- Randal Friedman
- David Ripp, Port of Camas-Washougal
- Tim Hein, City of Camas
- Mark Nickerson
- Steve Young

#### Maul, Foster & Alongi (MFA) Members:

- Alan Hughes, MFA
- Will Henderson, MFA
- Emily Hess, MFA
- Abbi Russell, MFA
- ZZ Lundburg, MFA

#### Downtown Camas Association (DCA) Members:

- Caroline Mercury, Chair
- Carrie Schulstad, DCA Executive Director

### **Meeting Purpose and Topics:**

Meeting objectives included:

- Orient the CAG to the Georgia-Pacific Mill Site Clean Up Project
- Review and approve CAG charter
- Review and discuss Public Involvement Plan
- Discuss next steps
- **Opening:** 4 – 4:15 p.m.
  - Welcome and introductions
  - Agenda review
- **Georgia Pacific Mill Site Clean Up Project:** 4:15 – 4:25 p.m.
  - Project overview
  - Timeline
- **CAG Charter:** 4:25 – 4:55 p.m.
  - Vision

- Goals
- Outcomes
- **Break:** 4:55 – 5:00 p.m.
- **Public Involvement Plan:** 5:00 – 5:25 p.m.
  - Goals
  - Audiences
  - Key messages
  - Timeline
- **Next steps:** 5:25 – 5:30 p.m.
- **Adjourn:** 5:30 p.m.

[The full meeting agenda can be found online.](#)

### **Meeting Minutes:**

*Meeting began at 4:30 pm.*

MFA staff, DCA and CAG members introduced themselves and review the proposed agenda for the meeting.

**General Project Overview: Alan Hughes, MFA,** presented the project overview and showed a map of the GP Mill site from the Draft RI workplan map. He went on to explain a general overview of the project starting with a description of the workplan and the reason. The Agreed Order is a formal agreement between GP and the Washington Dept. of Ecology (Ecology) that sets the stage for contamination investigation and clean up. Ecology will act as the regulatory body and oversee each step and the public will have the opportunity to provide input. Ecology is funding a public participation through the DCA to support these efforts.

Hughes explained the project is needed because GP has been operating a large facility and there is potential for contamination. The current scope of the RI focuses in the property boundaries. The focus from the Agreed Order will be GP investigating and collecting sampled of soil, sediment, water, or other various media with potential contamination. They compare concentration levels to regulatory criteria for potential human and environmental risk. Timing varies greatly and we are in the early stages of this process. To manage expectations, it is important to note that the range of timeline is quite large and could potentially take a number of years to complete.

CAG Member, Steve Young, asked if they would have the opportunity to review the work plan to ensure that known or suspected contamination areas are being evaluated. Hughes responded that the RI work plan is on the Ecology website, they have a table of listed suspected release points.

CAG Member Randal Friedman asked about the investigation's footprint and if it has been finalized. Hughes responded that the RI work plan has identified investigation locations that are limited to inside the property boundary, however more testing will be done to see if that is the

extent of contamination has been defined. David Ripp asked for confirmation on if the boundary will change if there is a quantified need. Hughes confirmed and said that the extent is not defined, the investigation would need to go beyond the current boundary of the proposed investigation, such as in the sediments abutting the property.

CAG member, Issac Dizon asked if by sediment that meant the river. Hughes confirmed that yes, it refers to the slough between the GP mill and Lady Island.

**CAG Charter Review: Abbi Russell, MFA**, presented the basics of a group charter as well as a public involvement plan (PIP). She explained that the charter gives the group goals, ideals, and outcomes to adhere to and provides structure. She continued to explain that a PIP tells us why we are doing public involvement, who to involve, how we are inclusive and effective ways to talk about the project. It is a living document that changes and grows as the engagement and group does. She expressed that the CAG brings unique knowledge, values and local awareness and will lead the goals, outcome, and vision.

Using a Mural Dashboard, the CAG members discussed the goals, outcome, and vision to be incorporated into the PIP.

### **Vision: What will the Camas Community be/look like because of this group's work?**

CAG Input:

- Ensuring we hear from all members of the community with DEI in mind.
- A key interest would be selecting a vision or visions of the future uses of mill, CRD, or Lady Island property. The vision will drive the methods and endpoints of the clean-up project.
- Community to be comfortable with result in terms of safety and ability to be further developed
- Inform community and viewing the future - plan, vision and layout the highest and best use - understanding what that looks like
- Understanding a range of possibilities - no stone unturned, as we move forward - ability to be adaptive
- Include protective measures and awareness of climate change effects
- Engaging the City of Camas and a partner in clean-up and vision - Layers of involvement
- Enrich the Camas/Wash communities rather than diminish existing – reinvention
- Pride and Connection to our past, the industry of our town - not lose sight of our history
- Economic/ Residential/ Recreation etc - Multi-use space - What can the waterfront of the Columbia be?
- Comprehensive Waterfront Access Opportunity
- Living in harmony with wildlife
- Mill Cleaned-Up to higher level than current use

**Goals: What goals do you envision for the CAG? What do you want to accomplish as a group?**

CAG Input:

- Translating complex and comprehensive technical information to the layperson (including me).
- Involvement with community
- Include, Connect, Inform
- Resiliency for site and community
- Purpose and People in mind - placemaking in the forefront
- Focus on what people need, want, and require
- Thoughtful about current downtown and future - robust chance to be a part of that, inclusivity, and community building
- Big Picture Benefits & Forward thinking (Puzzle Piece - Ability to be Complimentary to existing land)
- Reflects the range and depth of public response and opinion purposefully

**Outcomes: The process will be considered a success if...?**

CAG Input:

- Property can accommodate the vision
- Camas as a leader
- Community aligned with the result/feel heard, represented and seen
- Camas as a west coast bucket list destination
- Inclusivity in community and stakeholder groups opinions and needs
- Community understands potential
- Education opportunities for environmental
- Tied to downtown
- Compliment community and Washougal
- Everyone is involved, informed and aware

*The group took a 5-minute break at 4:57.*

**Public Participation Plan: MFA staff, CAG and DCA members** were split into three break-out rooms to discuss goals, audiences, key messages, and overall timeline.

*After 15 minutes, at 5:25 the group reconvened to present their discussions.*

**Group One: Tim Hein presented for his group.** Group one discussed their hopes that the community will be providing as well as receiving information from a variety of sources. They want information to be found at meetings, the farmer's market, and other public places. Everything should also be consistent and connected while appearing online, printed and in other forms. They also noted that it is important for the community to understand that this is a lengthy process and want to ensure that there is a dialogue between all parties.

**Group Two: Carrie Schulstad presented for her group.** Group two discussed having a variety of options for the public to be engaged. They acknowledged that people will have a range of investments and hope to provide interactive engagement and social opportunities rather than just purely informational. They'd also like to ensure that the whole community knows that the DCA website is a hub for all the information regarding the GP Mill site remediation and overall redevelopment. The website should be consistent, thorough, and timely. Regarding audience the group discussed they want to reach folks from kindergarteners to the elderly. Local School District involvement was also highlighted, as the kids of today will be the ones reaping the benefits of this project in years to come. The message to the public should be that every voice is important that the DCA wants to highlight that they are listening to all voices to make sure that the needs of the entire community are being relayed to Ecology.

**Group Three: Caroline Mercury presented for her group.** Group three discussed the need to convey the answers to two questions: "Why should the public care?" and "Why now?" The group acknowledges that there won't be much to report regarding GP work as the current phase is mostly strategy, planning and testing. Instead, they hope to bring a bit more clarity to the site as far as its history, operations and what's been going on over the years. Group three also mentioned that they would like to involve the library as they have such a strong connection to the community. They also want to address and incorporate the impact on wildlife and environmental impacts. For the DCA website, they discussed tactics to drive traffic to the site so that folks get used to turning there for information, updates, and announcements. They also highlighted their understanding that no clean up will be happening in this stage of the process and the importance of repeating that to the public.

**Next Steps: Will Henderson, MFA,** wrapped up the meeting and went over next steps:

- Incorporating notes into the CAG charter
- Incorporating notes into Public Participation Plan
- Next CAG Meeting: February 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022
  - o They will meet as a group and discuss their reviews of the RI plan and public comments

*Meeting officially adjourned at 5:30 pm.*

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## **CONTACT INFORMATION AND RESOURCES**

Sign up for email updates and learn more at: [www.downtowncamas.com/camaswamillinfo](http://www.downtowncamas.com/camaswamillinfo)

Email questions and comments to Caroline Mercury, DCA Past President:  
[camaswamillinfo@downtowncamas.com](mailto:camaswamillinfo@downtowncamas.com)

Read and review the draft Remedial Investigation Work Plan:  
<https://apps.ecology.wa.gov/gsp/Sitepage.aspx?%20csid=15156>