

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



Meeting minutes: Community Advisory Group Meeting #5

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

Meeting Attendees

Community Advisory Group (CAG) Members:

- Caroline Mercury, Chair
- Leslie Lewallen, City of Camas
- Marty Snell
- April Berlin
- Randal Friedman
- Isaac Dizon
- Marquita Call
- Commissioner Larry Keister, Port of Camas Washougal (substitute for David Ripp)
- Steve Young
- Kalani Cox

Maul Foster & Alongi (MFA) Members:

- Meaghan Pollock
- Will Henderson
- ZZ Lundburg

Downtown Camas Association (DCA) Members:

- Carrie Schulstad, Executive Director

Meeting Purpose and Topics:

Meeting objectives included:

- Provide updates on the Washington State Department of Ecology process
- Prepare for Camas Day Event on July 22
- Discuss additional summer events and CAG participation
- Review FAQ document
- Discuss next steps

Agenda

Opening

- Welcome and introductions
- Agenda review
- Approve minutes of the May 12, 2022, meeting

Washington State Department of Ecology process

- Updates
- Question and answer

Prepare for Camas Days event

- Event logistics
- Materials
- Dot survey question

Review FAQ document

- Question and answer

CAG participation in summer events

- Upcoming/proposed events

Next steps and open discussion

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

Meeting Minutes:

Meeting began at 4:02 p.m.

Opening: Will Henderson, MFA, welcomed meeting attendees and introduced Meaghan Pollock, MFA who will be stepping as technical support. MFA staff also walked through the proposed agenda for the meeting.

The CAG members reviewed the minutes of the May 12, 2022, meeting.

Marty Snell, CAG member, mentioned that DOE has dropped the word “state” from their name and staff confirmed they would make that change and continue going forward.

The CAG members approved the minutes of the May 12, 2022, meeting.

Washington State Department of Ecology process: Caroline Mercury, CAG Chair, shared that she corresponded with Shingo Yamazaki with the Department of Ecology (DOE). Shingo shared that his position has been filled and he will be moving departments shortly after onboarding the new person. Shingo also informed Caroline that once the new DOE contact is onboarded, he will set up an introductory meeting. Shingo shared that he is finishing up comments for GP and will have the new DOE employee review them and edit before passing along. The final comments are expected to be complete and sent in the next few weeks.

Prepare for Camas Days event: ZZ Lundburg, MFA, led the discussion around the upcoming event.

Carrie Schulstad, DCA Executive Director, gave a brief overview of Camas Days and shared that it is a large event and draws people back to Camas from all over the county. Carrie walked the group through the event and explained the different daily activities as well as why it is such a beloved Camas addition.

ZZ explained that the set up will be similar to the last event at the Camas Plant Fair. Setup will include a booth, tables and the same materials including displays, comment cards, rack cards and dot exercise used to gather public feedback. She also mentioned that there are two volunteer spots open for CAG members to staff the event and speak to the public from 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.

Randal Friedman, CAG member, said he will be at other booths during the event, but will try to stop by.

Leslie Lewallen, CAG member, said she would volunteer, but is volunteering for the Chamber as well as Rotary.

April Berlin, CAG member, said she is planning to be out of town during that time, but would let the group know if her plans change.

ZZ displayed an online Mural Board with the dot exercise from the last event including question and multiple answers. She asked the Group if they had any suggestions for changing the question or answer for the Camas Days event.

Caroline Mercury, CAG Chair, mentioned that there is a broader scope of people attending Camas Days, so it would likely be okay to repeat the question. She asked to change one of the responses from “Getting my Input” to “Public Outreach.”

April Berlin, CAG member, agreed with changing “Getting my Input,” noting that it received the least number of dots at the plant fair and mentioned people said that the outreach events are already generating their feedback.

FAQ Document: Will Henderson, MFA, shared a document that was developed following the last outreach event and answers Frequently Asked Questions recorded from that May 7th Plant Fair event and broader outreach. He also mentioned that the FAQs would be a living document that can be updated as needed.

Meaghan Pollock, MFA, added that she will track types of questions received at Camas Days so that they can be incorporated into this document.

Randal Friedman, CAG member, felt the FAQ document needed something that alluded to why a future vision is important. He proposed something similar to, “How are future land uses being incorporated?” He thought that there might not be enough content in the document to make people pay attention, and that it is a good opportunity to bring up the fact that the city is starting a city sub-area plan that will guide the cleanup. Caroline Mercury responded that while we don’t know the future of the property, the potential future use does guide to what level we will get it cleaned and impacts the process. Staff will incorporate something that makes it clearer.

Randal Friedman, CAG member, added that the question could be “Are future land uses considered as part of the process?” The answer doesn’t have to be specific, but can specify that what happens will not be constrained by clean up levels. Caroline Mercury said they will incorporate something about the sub-area plan as a consideration for future uses.

Steve Young, CAG member, suggested adding PFAS to the list of chemical families listed in question 5 on the FAQ document, as related materials were used in various specialty papers. Staff confirmed addition.

Marty Snell, CAG member, asked if it would be appropriate to have a question similar to, "What is Ecology's role in this?" He added that it is important for people to understand their role in the project. Staff confirmed addition.

Leslie Lewallen, CAG member, suggested adding a question that helps guide community members toward education about the history of the mill and surrounding property. She added that she would like to explain that the parcels require different levels of clean up, have different owners, and have different current and future uses. She feels it's important for the community to understand the differences between the site's current state and need for parcels, and that Ecology's role dovetails into that. She acknowledged that the future is unknown, but education is important as Camas moves forward with sub-area plan. She suggested that the CAG could work with GP to handle properties that are being sold or are no longer in use. Thereafter, the public could be educated about parcels which are critical to existing operations.

Marquita Call, CAG member, responded that parcel information is GP's call and does not have anything to do with what the CAG is doing. The information isn't under the CAG's purview and if GP chose to cease more operations, it is unclear who would be responsible for clean-up.

Caroline Mercury, CAG Chair, proposed that a map designating operational vs. idle areas would be a useful tool. She added that this map could be useful in understanding big picture items, like how big the area is or what is operating without being too speculative on future uses. Staff confirmed that they would look into it and develop in the future.

Marquita Call, CAG member, said that she has been broad and vague in explaining future use, but is looking for accurate language. Will Henderson mentioned that the CAG has partner packets with this information, and Caroline stated that she will send it to Marquita.

Caroline Mercury, CAG Chair, clarified that currently the DCA only knows the current state of the mill area and the future of the site is unclear. However, she emphasized that someday, the city and other stakeholders may have input on future use. She continued that in the past, the mill has sold off a variety of parcels which are now part of the broader Camas and Washougal city space.

Steve Young said that a question he has received is: "If GP does close the mill, what is the community doing about funding the acquisition?" He asked if the DCA was seeking grants or other funding from the state or federal sources to acquire property in an effort to keep it together, rather than having the area carved up and pieced off if it doesn't fit into our future vision. Caroline Mercury said that the DCA currently has nothing in the works that is focused on future funding.

Leslie Lewallen, CAG member, agreed with what Steve said and added that while GP operations are not the group's decision, the history of Camas comes into play. She continued that she hopes the committee will consider a plan to keep the property together and utilize the sub-area plan. She suggested that a blueprint that could be utilized when visioning occurs, along with an educational component that incorporates Camas' mill town history. She emphasized the hope to coordinate and make sure there isn't a "jigsaw event."

Caroline Mercury, CAG Chair, clarified that the current scope of the CAG is limited to the community engagement in clean-up process, but it is likely appropriate to include feedback regarding the public's visioning hopes to Ecology. She said they have heard a strong narrative

from the public that they are happy this is occurring and are interested in what entities (City/Port/etc.) can influence what comes next.

Carrie Schulstad, DCA Executive Director, agreed that making sure that other stakeholders know that the community is interested in the future of the site is important. She also added that currently the sub-area plan does not include the mill property.

Isaac Dizon, CAG member, asked when the sub-area plan was happening. Carrie Schulstad responded that the plan will start early next year.

Caroline Mercury, CAG Chair, thanked the group for their feedback and mentioned that they will try to incorporate the changes as soon as possible, but due to the long review process, they may have to use the current document for Camas Days and update the FAQ after the event.

Marquita Call, CAG member, expressed her gratitude to the DCA for the work of the committee as a strong voice to stand up for Camas.

CAG participation in summer events: Will Henderson, MFA reviewed the upcoming summer events for CAG involvement. The events are as follows:

- **Camas Days**
 - July 22, 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.
- **Wheels and Wings**
 - August 27 from 11 a.m. – 3 p.m.
- **Camas Farmers Market**
 - September 14 from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Carrie Schulstad, DCA Executive Director, said that the DCA has distributed rack cards in all the identified languages at the library and post office. She also confirmed that the DCA printed more cards for the Camas Days event and reminded the group of the partner toolkits to use as talking points when speaking to folks in the community.

Marquita Call, CAG member, requested the partner toolkit be sent to her.

Open Discussion: Randal Friedman, CAG member, asked if the DCA anticipated applying for another Public Participation Grant. Caroline Mercury responded that she is not sure how this cycle goes and it will depend on where the CAG is at that time and if there is still a need.

Ken Lederman, legal counsel for the DCA, explained that there was no guarantee of further grants, but emphasized that if the group is showing progress, then that would improve the chances. Caroline Mercury added that if there is still work to be done, Ecology would likely want them to continue. Carrie Schulstad added that the group was approved for funding for their second year, and they are in a good place.

April Berlin, CAG member, asked if the rack cards had a QR code and if the QR code would be available at the summer events. Caroline Mercury confirmed yes on both questions.

Leslie Lewallen, CAG member mentioned historical education opportunities for the community and recommended that it be incorporated into the outreach. Caroline Mercury responded that

there is a lot of history available on website and walking tour but could be added to the project website as well.

Carrie Schulstad, DCA Executive Director suggested giving people more avenues to sign up to join the newsletter besides comment cards, as they received a limited number. Caroline Mercury suggested a sign-up sheet for emails. MFA staff confirmed they will create.

Carrie Schulstad, DCA Executive Director asked about the barrier MFA was encountering when attempting to coordinate tabling outreach at the local Safeway stores. Will explained that as of now, it has been difficult to confirm schedules, but he will follow up with the local MFA team and try to move forward.

Carrie Schulstad, DCA Executive Director emphasized that this opportunity was really valuable, and she hopes that it will be possible.

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

- The CAG will receive a list of proposed events for summer 2022. Once approved, MFA will coordinate sign ups via email.
- The next CAG meeting will be on September 8 from 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
- Look forward to seeing everyone

Meeting adjourned at 4:53 p.m.

CONTACT INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

Sign up for email updates and learn more at: www.downtowncamas.com/camaswamillinfo

Email questions and comments to Caroline Mercury, DCA Past President:
camaswamillinfo@downtowncamas.com

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