

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



Meeting minutes: Community Advisory Group Meeting #5

Thursday, September 8, 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
- Commissioner Larry Keister, Port of Camas Washougal (substitute for David Ripp)
- Steve Young
- Kalani Cox

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

- Alan Hughes
- Abbi Russell
- ZZ Lundburg

### Downtown Camas Association (DCA) Members:

- Carrie Schulstad, Executive Director

### Guests:

- Shingo Yamazaki, Washington State Department of Ecology
- Mady Lyon, Washington State Department of Ecology

## **Meeting Purpose and Topics:**

Meeting objectives included:

- Provide updates on the Washington State Department of Ecology process
- Debrief Camas Days and Wings and Wheels Events
- Prepare for Camas Farmers' Market Event
- Review updated FAQ document
- Discuss next steps

## **Agenda**

Opening

- Welcome and introductions
- Agenda review
- Approve minutes of the July 14, 2022, meeting

Washington State Department of Ecology process updates

- Question and answer

Debrief Camas Days and Wings and Wheels Events and Prep for Farmers Market Event

- Engagement summary
- Dot survey results
- Farmers market logistics

Review Updated FAQ document

- Question and answer

Next steps and open discussion

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

### **Meeting Minutes:**

*Meeting began at 4:02 p.m.*

**Opening: Abbi Russell, MFA**, welcomed meeting attendees and walked through the proposed agenda for the meeting.

*The CAG members reviewed the minutes of the July 14, 2022, meeting.*

*The CAG members approved the minutes of the July 14, 2022, meeting.*

**Washington State Department of Ecology process: Caroline Mercury, CAG Chair** introduced Shingo Yamazaki and Mady Lyon. CAG members introduced themselves and spoke to their background and involvement in the CAG.

Shingo shared a brief update on the Ecology process and informed the group that Mady will be taking over his position on the project. Ecology will coordinate with and incorporate comments from the Yakama Nation. It is unclear when those comments will be back, but following input from the Tribe, all comments will be sent to GP so they can modify their draft Remedial Investigation (RI) Work plan and create a final document.

Shingo shared that Ecology has reviewed the CAG's comments on the RI Work Plan. Ecology is currently reviewing the work plan and developing its own comments. GP will have a structured timeframe for GP to incorporate Ecology's comments into the RI Work Plan.

Mady shared her background and said she will begin reviewing and hoping to get her draft comments to the Yakama Nation by mid- to late October.

Caroline shared with Mady that she is the Ecology contact for her at DCA and confirmed that Mady would like meeting minutes from the CAG meetings to review what is being discussed.

*Mady and Shingo left the meeting.*

**Debrief Camas Days and Wings and Wheels Events and Prep for Farmers Market Event:**  
**ZZ Lundburg, MFA**, led the discussion around the previous events as well as planning for the upcoming Farmers Market event. CAG members to shared their experiences at recent events.

April Berlin, CAG member, shared that she enjoyed the Wheels & Wings event, along with getting to meet other CAG members. She shared that the map display seems to draw a lot of interest and that she saw a shift in questions from the Plant Fair event. There were fewer questions at this event about whether the mill is a Superfund site and more questions about the process and timeline.

Randal Friedman, CAG member, shared that it had been his first time at Wheels & Wings. He said that he spoke with the public a lot about the Ecology process and shared with attendees some of the background information and history of the site and cleanup efforts. He said that with that history also comes lessons learned and the benefit of decades of precedent.

Steve Young, CAG member, said that there was a lot of positive feedback around the CAG and those volunteering to be on it and sharing information with the community. He mentioned that one of the questions he received was “What happens after the grant ends?” and that there seemed to be some question about how the involvement will continue. He mentioned this may be something for the group to consider moving forward.

Larry Keister, CAG member substitute, said he wasn’t sure on the exact number of attendees, but it was larger than prior events.

Caroline Mercury, CAG Chair, said that it was an event she had not attended before, and she enjoyed it. She mentioned that this was not a densely packed event like Camas Days, which may account for fewer interactions with the public, but the numbers were likely proportional based on attendance.

Abbi Russell, MFA, mentioned that the event likely attracted different demographics, which is helpful when trying to reach the entire Camas-Washougal community.

Marty Snell, CAG member, mentioned that at Camas Days, there were a handful of folks who were interested in the waterfront aspect as they have seen it from kayaking or powerboating in the slough. These people seemed to grasp the possibilities of waterfront interaction.

Randy Friedman, CAG member, mentioned previous conversation around the potential for filming the waterfront. Kalani said she would volunteer to collect raw footage from that vantage point which could be used for later. Caroline cautioned the group about moving too much toward what could be developed on the waterfront, as we are not sure what that future looks like.

April asked staff if during public events, they have noticed an area of the community the CAG is not addressing or if there is a gap where we can reach people.

Carrie Schulstad, DCA said she thinks grocery stores would be a great way to catch those who aren’t going to events or following socials.

Abbi said that staff has not been successful in getting approval from the Camas and Washougal Safeway stores and suggested that it may be time to move onto other options and venues. She asked if CAG had any other suggestions of where the group could best use project resources.

Kalani Cox, CAG member, mentioned that there was some space by the Safeway parking lot. Carrie said she was not sure how much foot traffic would come by that area, and they could look into it.

Leslie Lewallen, CAG member, suggested partnering with Meals on Wheels to reach a different segment of the population, including some that may be house-bound.

Abbi said that staff has experience working with social services to share information via tools like bulletin boards or email lists, and it can be very effective. Potential options include food banks and employment centers. She mentioned that she encourages the group to think about the community around the mill and those who would geographically be most heavily impacted by contamination.

Caroline suggested doing mailers, saying that while DCA has not used them in a while, they may have materials that lend well to postcard style. Abbi mentioned that they could also use the existing rack cards as inserts in utility bills, as that way the group can target specific areas.

Isaac Dizon, CAG member, suggested the Lost and Found Café, as they may still be serving meals out of the Lutheran Church in downtown. Another CAG member shared that this program has been discontinued.

Leslie suggested Veterans of Foreign Wars meetings at the community center. These meetings may draw a different demographic than previously reached.

Kalani suggested connecting with the downtown Camas community using the Nextdoor app. She also mentioned Refuel in Washougal, which is a food outreach program, and asked if the DCA has reached out to any community churches.

Abbi mentioned that the group did discuss providing rack cards at community churches and asked the DCA if they had done so yet. Caroline responded that they had not but could reach out. Abbi continued that it may be useful in reaching specific segments in the population, particularly those that speak languages other than English. Though they may require some interpretation services, the group has already translated materials into Spanish and Russian that could be used.

Leslie suggested tabling at locations near football games.

Kalani asked if there was a way to involve schools and catch parents that may not go to as many Camas or local events. Carrie responded that there is a program called PayJar where for a certain cost, the group could send messages to parents in a set amount of schools in the area. She said she could find out the cost but wanted to caution that the price can change significantly based on targeting an entire district or specific demographic.

Abbi suggested relevant events that may be happening around local schools such as Earth Day or other environmental programs. While the mill no longer does tours, there could be something that could connect the mill with the schools in people's minds.

Isaac said that Camas High School has a local green team that could be helpful. DCA staff says they know of a contact and will pass along the information.

Randal mentioned that the State of the City will be happening on September 15 at the Lacamas Lake Lodge where the city, port and school will be in attendance. He suggested the CAG drop off some materials.

Leslie wondered if there was a possibility for any online surveys outreach for social media or NextDoor. Abbi said that online surveys are relatively easy depending on how the group would like to do them.

Leslie continued that to grapple with the challenges of surveys and outreach, it may be helpful to spread education and awareness on NextDoor or do more of a general survey and info links. She suggested that someone from the CAG could be in charge to reach more people that do not come to events where the CAG is tabling. Leslie also mentioned that there is an Open House for the city admin on September 13 that could also be an option to pass out resources. There is also an open joint city meeting with Camas and Washougal in late October, which could be an opportunity to give public comment or engage with people around a survey.

Caroline said that the open meeting could be a good opportunity for a DCA representative to get on the agenda for a short description or demonstration rather than a tabling opportunity. Leslie encouraged DCA to reach out to the mayor's office to see what is available.

**FAQ Document: Abbi Russell, MFA**, shared a document that was developed following the first outreach event and answers Frequently Asked Questions recorded from the DCA events so far and broader outreach. She mentioned that they have received feedback from Faith Wimberly, which added context on CAB and public comments.

April Berlin, CAG member, asked if there was a way to outline operational areas outside of the Agreed Order. Alan recommended keeping the map as it is, so as to not cause confusion about what is included in the Agreed Order and what is not.

There were no further questions from the CAG.

**Next Steps: Abbi Russell MFA**, wrapped up the meeting and went over next steps:

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- MFA and DCA will discuss next events and community engagement strategies
  - The next CAG meeting will be on November 8 from 4 p.m. – 5:30 p.m.
  - Look forward to seeing everyone
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*Meeting adjourned at 5:13 p.m.*

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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>