

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



Meeting minutes: Community Advisory Group Meeting #10

Thursday, March 9, 2023 | 4 – 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Attendees

Community Advisory Group (CAG) Members:

- Marty Snell
- Randal Friedman
- David Ripp
- Steve Young
- Kalani Cox
- April Berlin
- Timothy Hein
- Larry Keister
- Natalie Swan

Maul Foster & Alongi (MFA) Members:

- Will Henderson
- Alan Hughes

Downtown Camas Association (DCA) Members:

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

Guests:

- Amanda Martinez
- Joan Bueckner
- Bill Baird
- Kate Murphy

Meeting Purpose and Topics:

Meeting objectives included:

- Provide updates on the Washington State Department of Ecology and public participation grant application process
- Discuss 2023 outreach activities and review updated communication materials

Agenda

Opening

- Welcome and introductions
- Agenda review
- Approve minutes of the January 12, 2023, meeting

Washington State Department of Ecology process and 2023 Ecology Grant process updates

Question and answer

Outreach updates

- School district communications
- HOA contact list updates
- Port of Camas-Washougal annual report

Discuss 2023 outreach activities and materials

- Review partner packets and updated one-pager
- First Friday event in 2023
- Car Show event in 2023

Next steps and open discussion

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

Meeting Minutes:

Meeting began at 4:03 p.m.

Opening: Will Henderson, MFA, welcomed meeting attendees and walked through the proposed agenda for the meeting.

The CAG members reviewed the minutes of the January 12, 2023, meeting.

The CAG members approved the minutes of the January 12, 2023, meeting.

Washington State Department of Ecology process updates: Alan Hughes, MFA

Alan Hughes, MFA, shared an update on coordination with the Washington State Department of Ecology. Georgia Pacific (GP) is still addressing the comments they received from Ecology. We don't know the timing when GP will provide the revised RI Work Plan based on the comments.

Alan addressed CAG member Randal Friedman's question about whether or not Ecology utilizes operable units in their process. Alan shared that the MTCA regulations do not provide language for operable units used to divide sites based on types of operation, differences in contamination, and ability to separate contamination, unlike EPA's Superfund world, where they often create different operable units. Ecology does not have a formal process for this but has set precedence for the concept. If this approach is warranted or used it will be driven by a property owner.

Caroline Mercury, CAG Chair, shared that with the current site, the CBC part of property is the 27 acres that used to be the research center on which they have demolished the structures. CAG members wanted to know if this would be put on the market if GP decided to sell ahead of

the rest of the Site. Since the rights of the property owner are not dictated by the cleanup process, GP could potentially do this if they wanted to and Ecology agrees with the necessary cleanup approach, if warranted.

Carrie Schulstad, DCA, requested that Alan share this information via email, as it would be helpful for the City.

Dave Ripp, CAG member, said that as of right now, GP does not seem to have interest in selling the property, but they could if they decided to. He has shared this with the City.

Tim Hein, CAG member, asked who Carrie spoke with at the City of Camas. Carrie clarified that she had been in contact with Doug. Tim said that he would follow up and get this clarified.

Marty Snell, CAG member, asked if GP decided to sell the property, would it be a part of the consent decree? Alan Hughes, MFA, shared that there are many different answers to this question as it all depends on the level of cleanup and when the sale happens in relation to the cleanup.

Ecology Grant Application

Carrie Schulstad shared that Ecology has pushed out the Public Participation Grant cycle as they are doing website upgrades and want to ensure this is finished before the applications are open. The application will now open on April 12 and due by May 11, 2023. Carrie will need community support letters from organizations or people that are working alongside DCA or are providing anything to the project. Carrie shared that she would like to inquire about a letter of support from the Yakama Nation. Natalie Swan, CAG member, shared that she would check with her manager to see if they can provide a support letter and will follow up. Support letters should be sent to Carrie Schulstad.

Tim Hein asked if there is a letter template that can be used. Carrie shared that she can send over the letter that was received from the mayor's office last year to CAG members as a reference.

Randal asked if the letter could incorporate engagement metrics. Carrie and Caroline agreed that this would be helpful.

Outreach updates

Camas Mill Outreach Example from Ecology

Carrie Schulstad shared that Faith Wimberly, the Grant Administrator with Ecology, sent an email to grantees that included an example of DCA's 2022 Plant Fair event summary. Faith said that the summary was useful as it included metrics, topics and metrics that substantiated the write up. Carrie wanted to share this with the CAG as it is an example of how impactful their work has been in the community.

Carrie asked Ecology if DCA needed to do an open bid process to continue their relationship with MFA. Ecology informed her that this was not necessary and that DCA could continue to utilize MFA's services, assuming the grant is extended.

School district outreach

Carrie Schulstad shared the school district is open to sharing out information about the CAG through their email system. When the one-pager is completed, Carrie will send it to the school

district for it to be distributed. The Car Show and First Friday event dates will be included in this communication.

City of Camas HOA Contacts

Caroline Mercury shared that DCA received a list of HOA contacts from the City. They will plan on emailing this list with the on-pager when it is updated and approved. Caroline asked the CAG members to review the list and identify any contacts that they may know and would be willing to connect with. Dave Ripp shared that he has already sent this information to his HOA.

Port of Camas-Washougal Annual Report

Dave Ripp shared that he received newsletter information from MFA and plans to include this in the Port's Annual Report, that is expected to be distributed and made public in April/May 2023. Dave said that he will follow up with Carrie regarding how many people this report will reach.

2023 Outreach Material Updates

One-Pager

Will Henderson, MFA, shared following the January 2023 meeting, DCA and MFA have updated the on-pager and partner packet. He stated that the partner packet now includes an email template that can be copied and pasted for CAG member contacts.

Will shared the updated one-pager on his screen and asked CAG members to provide feedback on updates that they would like to see. CAG members offered the following suggestions:

- Add a picture of the mill on the left side of the one-pager. Carrie Schulstad downloaded some examples that she would share.
- Remove the crop marks so that the document can be printed.

Caroline Mercury asked that the CAG inform her of any outreach that they do, as it will be instrumental for the Ecology progress reports.

Partner Packet

Will Henderson shared the updated partner packet on his screen and asked CAG members to provide feedback on updates that they would like to see. CAG members offered the following suggestions:

- Include outreach metrics (in a sentence) from 2022 as it shows the impact and work that the CAG has accomplished over the past year.

Spring/Summer 2023 Outreach Activities

Will Henderson shared that in January, CAG members identified and volunteered to reach out to the following organizations/groups:

CAG Member	Organizations/Groups
April Berlin	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Washougal Salvation Army• Other organizations that have not yet been assigned• East County Citizens Alliance Group
Carrie Schulstad	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Interfaith Treasure House• Camas and Washougal Libraries

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Camas and Washougal Community Centers • Clark County Realtors Association • City of Camas HOA Network
Caroline Mercury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Veterans of Foreign Wars (Camas) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Reached out to by Caroline – she will reach out again. • Camas Book Club
Dave Ripp	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Port of Camas-Washougal • View Ridge HOA
Kalani Cox	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Peace Health • Vancouver Clinic • Sea-Mar Community Health Center • Northwest Gospel
Isaac Dizon	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Local Book Clubs and Bible Studies
Randal Friedman	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rotary Club of Camas-Washougal

Will Henderson thanked CAG members for their participation and enthusiasm. He shared that DCA/MFA would be updating materials in the coming week and will send it to the CAG once finalized.

Carrie Schulstad concluded the conversation by sharing that the CAG was positioning themselves well, as they were getting information to the public ahead of any process milestones/decisions. She appreciated everyone’s thoughts and looks forward to engaging more community members.

In-person Events

Will Henderson shared that there is a slight adjustment to the agenda: DCA is now proposing that the CAG attend the first Friday event in May as well as the Camas Car Show on June 24. Carrie Schulstad stated that Ecology is available to do a site visit in May and as a result, would be able to also attend the First Friday event. She also shared that the CAG was not in attendance at the Car show last year and that it would reach a different demographic. Caroline Mercury added that many people travel for the Car Show and that attendance typically is around 5,000 people.

Carrie shared that it would be nice to include a STEM activity at the First Friday event that incorporates paper and the types of contaminants that may be present at the site. Caroline shared that it would be nice to have a graphic that describe the paper making process in the context of the mill clean up. Will shared that he would follow up with the MFA team to discuss this.

April Berlin, CAG member, added that it would be nice to include why the “white puffy clouds” exist as a part of the communication materials. Kalani Cox, CAG member, asked if it would be helpful to have a children’s activity, as she has many different materials that can be used.

Will then asked the CAG about the types of things that the CAG wants to be asking the community at the upcoming events. He shared that it may be helpful to ask community members about their understanding of the project and whether or not they have heard about it within the past year. Caroline likes the idea of asking community members about awareness, as it can shape how they will deliver communications in the future.

April asked about whether or not there was a theme or goal for the upcoming year. She expressed that it would be helpful to get a sense of what that might be in order to brainstorm questions for the community. Caroline shared that it would be later in the year where GP would respond with updates and what needs to be revised. Once Ecology approves this, the CAG could then engage the community about the implementation of the work plan Alan shared that per the agreed order, GP has 12 months from the approved work plan to get the work done and then provide a report.

April shared that education could be a focus for the coming year (i.e., soil sampling and water sampling). She said that we could ask community members about whether or not they are interested in learning about various educational topics regarding the mill and the cleanup process. Caroline agreed that education about the manufacturing would be a great topic to bring to the community. CAG members agreed that STEM activities that catered to younger audiences would be a great way to engage the community. CAG members agreed that for the next grant cycle, outreach and education will focus on paper making chemicals (paper ingredients and other machines/things used to make paper), as well as, the cleanup process for soil and water.

Randal Friedman shared that in the next cycle, it would be good to do outreach regarding the mill site and the river.

Kalani shared that doing a bubble activity would be fun as it would incorporate elements of the river.

Carrie expressed that many of the things people are worried about happened in the past, and that differentiating what occurs today is an important distinction that should be shared with the community.

Steve Young, CAG member, shared that it may be worth proving the community with answers to the following questions: what questions are we looking for, where should we look and how should we sample, and if we find them, how do we make the situation better.

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

- MFA will update the one-pager and partner packets.
- MFA will send and distribute sign-up links for the May and June events.
- Next CAG meeting is May 11.
- CAG members to inform Carrie/Caroline as to whether or not they will continue their CAG membership.

Meeting adjourned at 5:20 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>