

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



Meeting minutes: Community Advisory Group Meeting #11

Thursday, May 11, 2023 | 4 – 5:30 p.m.

Meeting Attendees

Community Advisory Group (CAG) Members:

- Marty Snell
- Randal Friedman
- Steve Young
- April Berlin
- Larry Keister
- Issac Dizon
- David Ripp
- Kalani Cox
- Mark Nickerson

Community Advisory Group Liaisons

- Natalie Swan
- Elena Ramierz Groszowski

Maul Foster & Alongi (MFA) Members:

- Will Henderson
- Alan Hughes
- Abbi Russell
- Sulley Schuster

Downtown Camas Association (DCA) Members:

Members:

- Carrie Schulstad, Executive Director

Guests:

- Bill Baird
- Ken Lederman
- Rachel Morgan
- Tom Crozier (left near start of meeting)
- Rachel Morgan

Meeting Purpose and Topics:

Meeting objectives included:

- Provide updates on the Washington State Department of Ecology process and RI workplan

- Debrief May 5, 2023, First Friday Event
- Discuss 2023 outreach activities and community education question topics

Agenda

Opening

- Welcome and introductions
- Agenda review
- Approve minutes of the March 9, 2023, meeting

Washington State Department of Ecology process updates and RI workplan comments

- Review RI workplan comments
- 2023–2025 Public Participation Grant availability
- Discuss CAG member recruitment updates

May First Friday Event Debrief

Discuss 2023 outreach activities and community education question topics

- Discuss upcoming engagement opportunities
- Discuss partner packet/one-pager utilization and engagement
- Discuss community education questions for in-person engagement dot survey

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.

Washington State Department of Ecology process updates and RI workplan comments: Carrie Schulstad, DCA and Alan Hughes, MFA

Alan Hughes, MFA shared an update on coordination with the Washington State Department of Ecology and the RI work plan comments. Alan shared that Georgia Pacific (GP) and their consultant did a good job addressing Ecology's comments and added a lot into the RI work plan. In the work plan, GP updated the operational areas, which actually decreased how much of the area was actively being used and opens up more of the property for investigation. GP included additional details about underground storage tanks, pipelines, facilities, etc., which will help with understanding potential sources on the property. GP included past data, well logs, known spills, and inventory of tanks and equipment on the property in new appendices. In total,

there were about 300 pages of new information added to the report. One of the biggest things GP is not addressing in the RI work plan is sediment and surface water. It appears as though GP has negotiated with Ecology to prepare a separate RI work plan for that work at a later date. Alan noted that there was nothing in GP's comments about timing.

Marty Snell, CAG member, asked Alan if Ecology makes any distinction between a recommendation and an observation. Alan shared that the recommendation/observation column was added to help the CAG understand some of the important items in the revised work plan and the recommendations were items that MFA felt should still be addressed in the work plan. The group should discuss whether to include observations in our communications to Ecology or just send the recommendations for consideration.

Randal Friedman, CAG member, asked if the additional wells adequately allow for the monitoring of the upland areas. Alan shared that increased number of wells will help, but it remains to be seen if they'll have enough information or not. The additional wells also cover a bigger portion of the property.

Carrie Schulstad, DCA, asked for clarification regarding what a quality assurance project plan (QAPP) is. Alan shared that the QAPP lays out how an investigation is going to collect data that's usable. An example is: How many times do you collect duplicate samples to verify your original sample is accurate? The QAPP describes a lot of quality assurance procedures to follow to make sure your data is accurate. It's good to see those things and typical of any investigation.

Carrie then asked how soon we can expect to see comments from Ecology. Alan noted that their review is typically 90 days.

CAG Recruitment update: Carrie Schulstad, DCA

Carrie Schulstad, DCA, then provided an update on the 2023 CAG recruitment process. She shared that DCA was able to go back to the original list of interested CAG members and selected individuals from that list. DCA will then have a subcommittee meeting to further narrow down the list and interest of potential candidates. Carrie reached out to the school district to see if there are any students who would be interested in participating.

Randal Friedman, CAG member asked if it is possible to look for any other non-governmental organizations (NGOs), such as Columbia Riverkeeper, that might be added to the CAG. Carrie shared that she would circle back on this and noted that organizational liaisons could be incorporated rather than adding NGOs as CAG members.

May First Friday Event Debrief: Carrie Schulstad, DCA and Abbi Russell, MFA

CAG members Caroline Mercury and April Berlin and MFA staffer Abbi Russell staffed the CAG booth during the May First Friday event.

Abbi Russell, MFA, provided an update regarding the CAG's involvement at the Camas First Fridays event on May 5. Abbi shared that it went really well and many members of the community were engaged. Roughly 25 members of the community spoke with booth staff Abbi noted that there was a lot of interest in adjoining properties, in addition to learning more about the overall cleanup. Many community members shared that they appreciated how early information was being shared prior to the cleanup taking place.

April Berlin, CAG member, shared that she heard a lot of similar questions from previous conversations, which included confusion about whether the mill had shut down and concerns about pollutants in the area.

Carrie Schulstad, DCA, added that Faith from Ecology was at the event. Carrie shared that Faith had positive comments regarding the CAG's work to date. Carrie also shared that DCA would be informed as to whether or not they would be granted the public participation grant from Ecology by the end of June. She thanked the Port of Camas-Washougal, the Yakama Nation, and the City of Camas for their letters of support.

Marty Snell, CAG member, asked if would it be appropriate to draft a timeline of this RI effort and next steps to give people a sense that redevelopment is still several years off. Alan Hughes, MFA, shared that it's hard to estimate when cleanup might take place. Ecology has modified the schedule a bit based on the new information we have.

Carrie Schulstad, DCA, asked how long the cleanup took place in Bellingham. David Ripp, CAG member, shared that clean-up started in the early 2000's. He offered to follow up with more details after the meeting.

2023 outreach activities and community education question topics: Will Henderson, MFA

Will Henderson, MFA, shared that there is upcoming event on June 24 at Camas Car Show. He noted that three CAG members have already signed up to volunteer and there was an afternoon spot available. Will also shared that the CAG would be participating at the Camas Farmers market in September 2023.

He shared that in previous meetings, there was good conversation about future outreach activities for the CAG. Going forward, it seems important to gauge the community's interest in certain engagement topics. This will help us develop materials and identify events and outreach activities. He then asked CAG members how they were utilizing the existing outreach materials.

Issac Dizon, CAG member, shared that he sent materials to a few Bible study groups, all of which were interested in the project.

Will Henderson, MFA, shared that given that the dot survey on "CAG Priorities" was so well received at previous events, it was proposed that another dot survey be conducted, but focus on the kinds of education topics that community members wanted to learn about. He then asked the CAG for suggestions. The CAG provided the following:

- How does the cleanup happen?
- Chemical types, how they behave, and how the chemical sampling process works
- Health concerns and impacts
- Soil depth testing
- The mill's paper making process
- Bioremediation and whether or not live organisms will be used during the cleanup process
- Difference in contamination across the different parts of the site
- How and where people could interact with site chemicals in the community outside of the mill

He then asked the CAG for suggestions on the types of visuals/handouts that should accompany the topics listed. The following suggestions were provided:

- Hands on activities (STEM)
- Process graphics that show when active cleanup work will take place and the various steps of cleanup

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

- Follow up with signup list for the June 24 Camas Car Show
- Consolidate education topics, work into events both in-person and digitally
- David to reach out to the Port of Bellingham about their cleanup timeline; he will share with Will, who can share with the group
- Carrie will notify CAG members of the grant status by the end of June
- Next meeting: July 13, 4 – 5 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 4:58 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>