



Public Participation in the Georgia-Pacific Mill Site Clean Up Project

Meeting minutes: Community Advisory Group Meeting, July 13, 2023, 4 -5:30 pm

Attendees

Community Advisory Group (CAG) Members:

- Caroline Mercury, Chair
- Bonnie Carter, City of Camas
- Larry Keister, Port of Camas-Washougal
- Carrie Schulstad, DCA Executive Director
- Natalie Swan, Yakama Nation
- Randal Friedman
- April Berlin
- Marty Snell
- Steve Young

Maul Foster Alongi (MFA) Members:

- Abbi Russell
- Will Henderson

Six members of the community observed via Zoom.

Meeting Minutes

Meeting began at 4:00 pm. Minutes from May 11, 2023, were reviewed and approved by consensus.

Grant status:

The Department of Ecology (DOE) grant was not awarded for the next 2-year cycle. On July 20, 2023, Carrie Schulstad, Caroline Mercury, and Abbi Russell had a debrief with DOE grant manager, Faith Wimberley, who reinforced the high quality work and reporting of this group, especially the well-articulated deliverables and community engagement efforts. Steven Williams, DOE Natural Resource Specialist, was also present.

The strong support we have enjoyed from everyone at Maul, Foster & Alongi (MFA) has been greatly appreciated and effective. MFA representatives, Abbi Russell and Will Henderson joined the call, and we were able to thank them personally for their work.

Further details on the grant program:

- The Public Participation Grant program (PPG) has been in place since 1988.
- \$5 million dollars were available for this cycle, a large increase from previous years based on the success and impact of the PPGs in communities around the state.
- They had a large increase in applicants, more than could be funded. (73 applications, 45 funded.)

- Three independent evaluators' scores are averaged. Priority considerations include impact on focus populations effected by the contaminated site, prior grant award, and toxicity score of the site. Having been a previous recipient and a toxicity score of 3/10 put us lower in the ranking. Eight other previous grant recipients were also not renewed this cycle.
- The biggest challenge will be the expert review of submitted documents from GP that MFA was providing. Faith suggested some additional resources such as the Port, Columbia River Economic Development Council and Clark County. DOE has a community outreach education specialist on staff that may also be a good resource.

Because the project is a slow moving one, the group agreed that we will continue the work on a smaller scale for the foreseeable future. We will consider reapplying in the next cycle when there may be more substantive activity at the site.

Going forward:

- DCA will manage meeting invites, notes, activities, and policies of the CAG as the umbrella organization
- DCA will continue to update the website and newsletter
- CAG will stay connected with actions between DOE and GP
- CAG will meet once per quarter via Zoom, publicly available open for observation
- CAG will plan two public outreach events; consider events other than ones we have done in the past two years.

Car show recap:

The event was very successful with many new community members reached. CAG member experiences continue to reinforce that one-on-one conversations are valued by the community. See summary on website for details.

Review of chemical pathways graphic prepared by MFA:

The diagram is a general one, not specific to GP site, to show the ways manufacturing chemicals can potentially move into the environment, affecting people, wildlife, air, water, and soil.

The group discussion concluded that this graphic may need some alterations to make the chemical names and other features more accessible to the public. The current verbiage could be adjusted to make it easier to connect with. When presented in person with conversation at an event is different than it being viewed without further explanation on the website. CAG members received the chemical pathways diagram with supporting text drafted by MFA. This will be useful as we tackle adjusting the diagram language.

CAG had already decided to have an educational focus for the next two years and are committed to maintain that, even without grant support. As noted during the call, education is the best course to alleviate community concern and rumors.

Next steps:

- DCA will reissue the meeting invite to committee members to reflect the new quarterly schedule.
- To replace two members that are not continuing with the CAG, the CAG Chair and DCA executive director will review list of prior applicants as a starting point to recommend replacements.

Next meeting – October 12, 4- 5pm via Zoom.