

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

Meeting minutes: Community Advisory Group Meeting, January 25th, 2024,
4 -5:00 pm

Attendees:

Caroline Mercury (Chair)
Carrie Schulstad. (DCA)
David Ripp – CAG member
Zach Linn - CAG member
Marty Snell -CAG member
Larry Keister - CAG member
April Berlin – CAG member
Mark Nickerson – CAG member
Ken Lederman

Abbi Russell - Past consultant

Will Henderson - Past Consultant
Elena Rameriez (Yakama Nation, Observer)
Molly McKay Williams (Observer)
Joan Brueckner(Observer)

The meeting began at 4:02 PM. Chair Mercury started by speaking to observers stating this was a working meeting. Observers are welcome but cannot ask questions verbally or in the chat – if you have a question – email the Chair and they will get back with you.

Chair Mercury indicated that CAG member Friedman had raised the possibility of the CAG making a statement to Ecology on the community desires for the future as it relates to the cleanup – so we will talk about that.

Chair Mercury raised PFAS and educational tools for later discussion.

Cleanup Update: Chair Mercury started stating Mady Lyon, the Ecology Project Manager, already met with City of Camas reps concerning the city's

role in considering land uses beyond current and historic heavy industrial. Mady is aware the city has started a Downtown Subarea plan, Comprehensive Plan update and Climate Change Plan with consultants assistance. DCA is involved as a stakeholder with the Sub Area Plan providing input into the mill property's future as well as the rest of downtown.

Chair Mercury continued the question becomes what the choice of clean up level. The cleanup level is based on future uses. This is a primary reason the CAG was created: connecting the community to the cleanup process as it relates to our future.

Chair Mercury indicated, per Mady, under Washington law there are only two levels of cleanup: Industrial and Unrestricted Use. Unrestricted includes all else. A central question before the CAG is whether the cleanup goal should be unrestricted use, and not continued industrial.

CAG member Snell talked about zoning having lots of levels, as does the process of city planning.

Chair Mercury indicated that, per Mady, the city doesn't have to re-zone the mill property. They can state their desire, through these coming plans, as the opportunity for the City to state their goals. That statement could be a narrative, and not detailed plans like zoning. While the current setting of the Agreed Order is an industrial cleanup, Ecology indicated there is time for reevaluating proposed clean up levels beyond the default industrial clean up level – through input from the city.

Remedial Investigation Status: If another draft of the Remedial Investigation Work Plan is not needed, and the work plan approved, GP will start their sampling and provide their findings relative to the industrial based report.

Feasibility Study. The Feasibility Study follows the Remedial Investigation report. This is where GP considers and proposes the cleanup alternatives for Ecology's review and approval. This is the key time to provide city input for the cleanup standard being the higher unrestricted level. The CAG can

continue outreach work with the community in the interim with updated tools under consideration.

Chair Mercury indicated this two-step process is all going to take some time as first there is sampling – and then – a determination of how much cleaning must be done in consideration of future uses.

There was substantial CAG discussion of this topic at a later part of the meeting.

PFAS INVESTIGATION: Chair Mercury indicated that in response to the efforts of CAG member Friedman, as a Camas citizen and in conjunction with a fellow Camas citizen, Ecology has offered to have a session to answer questions about PFAS issue. Ecology recognizes this as a topic of community concern and hopes to have someone from Dept of Health for the March 14th public meeting.

Before CAG discussion, Chair Mercury indicated the CAG should get ready for new rounds of community engagement when we can table and have new materials to consider.

CAG Discussion

CAG member Ripp – what is the format of the information Ecology needs for future uses?

CAG member Snell responded – by current law, the City of Camas will complete its GMA Comprehensive Plan by 6/30/2025. With 6-month extensions elsewhere (Puget Sound area), it would not surprise him to see an extension by the state for Camas to complete the plan by 12/31/2025.

CAG Member Snell continued that right now the growth plan policy sees this area as industrial only. To document a future different desire – the Plan is adopted by the Council and then becomes the formal statement from the City. In answering CAG member Ripp's question, it could be as simple as a plan policy.

Whether or not Georgia Pacific is an active partner, there was CAG discussion of specific land uses. There was discussion of how the CAG's purpose is not to delve into the planning process concerning specific uses. Instead, the question of "industrial or unrestricted use" is within the CAG's scope. The CAG is to report to Ecology conclusions from the CAG's engagement, including engagement funded by the Ecology Grant.

The planning process for specific uses is separate and distinct. Specific planning is not needed for Ecology's work, therefore not needed for the CAG's work.

There was discussion that the CAG's goal is for the mill property generally be cleaned consistent with other non-industrial future uses. Of course, if the City and community wanted to retain industrial, nothing changes for the cleanup process. That decision is for the city's planning process.

This provides Ecology the formal necessary support from the City to write the clean-up action plan to determine the level of clean up in the plans.

CAG member Ripp asked about the timing of the cleanup action. It was clarified that no cleanup action would begin until Ecology considered the sampling results, and future use and cleanup level, before approving a specific cleanup action.

CAG member Nickerson raised the difference between demolition and clean (GP Has submitted a plan for demo of buildings separately).

Chair Mercury spoke on the need to make sure timing of docs happen in time to drive Ecology to direct GP for the appropriate cleanup.

CAG Documentation: CAG member Ripp said the CAG should be the community's voice but asked about documentation. Chair Mercury indicated we have heard "loud and clear" from the community.

Carrie Schulstad talked about the CAG having conversations with community members at community events including level of cleanup but would have to review the event summaries for specifics as she didn't think

any of the dot surveys asked cleanup level questions. More surveys could be done to gather further data on specific cleanup level questions.

CAG Member Berlin expressed the sentiments of the community that does not want to drink contaminated water and wants to grow vegetables in the soil as examples. The CAG should recognize benefits the community would get out of having a “healthy place to live” through unrestricted cleanup beyond land use consideration.

CAG member Linn expressed the mill has been following rules and the CAG should be non-biased in any additional “polling” people will want parks. He talked about any new industrial use having to follow modern environmental standards beyond the notion that future industrial would pollute.

This concern reflects the CAG’s scope to recognize the Georgia Pacific site as currently industrial, and industrial is still a needed land use.

There was discussion about what the CAG has heard from the community about future vision, and all need to be presented.

CAG member Snell indicated he wasn’t aware there was a binary – only A or B – it is either “industrial” or “unrestricted” standard. He questioned and wanted to confirm that industrial is a lower level than “other use” standard. Chair Mercury indicated that this was a situation where the binary was adequate. It keeps it simple.

PFAS meeting. The meeting will be open to the public but virtual. The 3/14 date is confirmed. Ecology is confirming with Health. The Chair appreciated CAG member Friedman being able to move that forward for the community on the PFAS issue, and recognized the issue of potential connectivity between the mill’s groundwater and city groundwater resources should be considered. Ecology was open to how it is conducted.

The Chair talked about the public meeting’s structure, where people ask their questions on the chat, as cleaner to manage. Hearing no response she we will let Mady know.

Takeaways — Chair Will prepare discussion of a CAG vision statement for CAG consideration.

Next meeting – March 14, 2024, 4- 5pm via Zoom.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS AFTER 1/25/2024

1. The March 14 meeting will be an internal working meeting for CAG to discuss meeting protocol going forward, potential charter updates and a CAG statement reflecting community feedback on the proposed cleanup level of the mill site.
2. An in-person public meeting is to be scheduled and managed by DOE, hopefully in conjunction with DOH, to address both mill cleanup and PFAS/drinking water questions from the community. This will likely be in late May-June. DOE will inform us of a date when it's determined and the DCA will assist with promotion and other meeting logistics as needed.
3. Mady Lyon will attend the next scheduled CAG meeting on April 11, 2024 where she will address PFAS in relation to any potential findings on the mill site.