

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

Meeting minutes: Community Advisory Group Meeting, July 11, 2024, 4 -5:00 pm

Attendees: [you have the master list]

Caroline Mercury (Chair)
Carrie Schulstad (DCA)
Stephanie Ogle — Washington Department of Ecology
David Ripp – CAG member
Zach Linn - CAG member
Marty Snell -CAG member
Larry Keister - CAG member
April Berlin – CAG member
Mark Nickerson – CAG member
Abbi Russell - Past consultant
Will Henderson - Past Consultant
Elena Ramirez (Yakama Nation, Observer)
Molly McKay Williams (Observer)
Joan Brueckner
Ken Lederman

Chair Mercury called the meeting to order indicating while the agenda was short, the primary item was discussion of Department of Ecology/Health public meeting as well as the FAQ maintained by DCA.

Five CAG members attended the public meeting: Caroline, Carrie, April, David and Randal. Four members of the Camas City Council attended. Chair Mercury estimated 50 members of the public (including children) attended.

CAG member April Berlin started by thanking agency staff for coming and answering questions thoughtfully. She asked staff afterwards what the most common questions were and was told the timeline of the cleanup.

CAG member Randal Friedman expressed thanks that the meeting happened. Randal talked with James, the section manager, a key decision maker serving as the interim dispute resolution point second only to the Director. James understands the importance to the community of the

cleanup. Randal mentioned the work of the Yakama Nation came up a number of times and they were recognized as a significant contributor and stakeholder to the cleanup. James stressed the need for the City of Camas to indicate a future vision. It does not have to be a formal land use/zoning plan, and Randal spoke of an overlay process with a well written narrative. James indicated the Camas Mill cleanup was a top priority in Ecology.

CAG member Carrie Schulstad agreed with the prior points but expressed the belief that a structure of a more formal presentation would have been nice. She talked to Mady Lyon and was pleased with the answers and attention she took to explain.

Chair Mercury concurred. She talked with people leaving and they felt their questions had been answered.

There was discussion about the jurisdiction of Department of Health, with an understanding that DOH doesn't get involved until contaminants are found, while DOE controls the sampling/investigation protocols. Chair Mercury indicated that as PFAS was detected they are involved in the city side, but the cleanup/mill side was still Ecology's jurisdiction.

An update on the sampling as shown at the meeting was the well fields on Lady Island are now show for sampling, as the Yakama Nation had requested, but not the production wells 1,000 feet from Well #13. It was once again stated the intention of Ecology to require testing of those wells as well. CAG member Steve Young indicated the production wells were up gradient from the well, and expressed doubt that it could travel given their shallowness.

CAG member Schulstad talked about the new Charter and timing for notice. CAG member Friedman indicated it should be part of the normal agenda notice. There was discussion of timing of the agenda going early to allow questions to be answered. The process does not require an answer at the meeting, just acknowledging at the meeting. CAG Member Snell indicated that there should be a time frame to provide an answer. CAG member Berlin suggested posting on Monday of the week, and consider on Wednesday about status of questions/answers.

There was consensus that the agenda will be sent on the Monday along with the opportunity to submit questions, and hopefully answer the straightforward questions at the meeting, and otherwise indicate a time

frame to answer after the meeting. CAG member Larry Keister emphasized that all the questions deserve an answer, and make people feel like they are part of the group. CAG member Friedman pointed out this is still a slow part of the process, and a year from now it will pick up. Having this process worked out now would also help in applying for another grant next year, at a time when we could use the technical expertise from sampling results.

CAG member Schulstad indicated the CAG should also review the FAQ document that CAG member Snell reminded was two years old. The FAQ can be found at https://downtowncamas.com/wp-content/uploads/090922_DCA_CamasMill_FAQ_FINAL.pdf

Chair Mercury indicated she had a conversation with Kristi Ward, GP's Communication contact, and reminded her that DCA and the community support the jobs at the mill and its role in the community. Ms. Ward indicated GP was here to cooperate with the community and agencies. Chair Mercury also brought up tabling at events as the CAG had not done any this summer. CAG member Schulstad reminded that tabling was done at the meeting. It was discussed that the CAG should be respectful of the community's time, and tailor events when there are needs for community knowledge and input, and not just having one for the sake of having one.

Chair Mercury indicated she had talked with City Administrator Quinn who indicated the Camas Heavy Industrial zone was different in that it allowed a multitude of uses, e.g. schools, parks, and most uses except residential. Quinn indicated this was another way the community's desire for future flexibility could be met. CAG member Schulstad indicated surprise this would be the case. CAG member Snell indicated there is no narrative of Heavy Industrial as a category, however there were use tables that said differently regarding what uses can go in Heavy Industrial. For example, Heavy Industry precludes hi-tech and residential (including upper floor), but schools and parks are allowed, as are trails and sports fields. Heavy industry is also used for "adult" uses.

CAG member Friedman spoke of the need of a narrative to explain sufficiently to support aspirational visions supporting unrestricted use. Several mentioned Quinn acknowledged this approach.

Chair Mercury also indicated there would be a new Port Director hopefully attending the next meeting.

Next meeting – Oct 10, 2024, 4- 5pm via Zoom. The agenda will be sent Oct 7th.