

# Public Participation

## Georgia-Pacific Mill Site Clean Up Project

**Meeting minutes: Community Advisory Group Meeting, July 10, 2025, 4 -5:00 pm**

Attendees:

Caroline Mercury, Chair  
Carrie Schulstad, DCA  
Jennifer Senescu, Camas City Council  
Trang Lam, CEO Port of Camas Washougal  
Elena Ramirez Groszowski, Yakama Nation  
Natalie Swan, Yakama Nation  
April Berlin, CAG member  
Steve Young, CAG member  
Randal Friedman, CAG member  
Larry Keister, Port of Camas Washougal  
Marty Snell, CAG member  
Mark Nickerson, CAG member

The meeting began at 4:00 PM. Carrie Schulstad updated the Ecology Public Participation Grant (PPG) and indicated while the grant had been approved, the budget for grants has not. A reduced amount may require ranking the applications for priority including the size of the award. No work by Maul, Foster & Alongi can start until this is resolved.

Chair Mercury thanked the Port for providing access for a CAG event during its July 90th Anniversary celebration.

Chair Mercury talked about a call with Mady Lyon (Ecology) about the mill's NPDES permit including sampling for PFAS and reflecting changes in the production level. While sampling begins next year, the mill is not required to provide results until the final source document in 2029. This only applies to current wastewater and is in addition to PFAS requirements in the Agreed Order for other possible contaminants.

CAG member Friedman commented that this addition was requested by the Columbia Riverkeeper in a detailed comment letter. This represented a change as they recognized the cleanup as significant beyond Camas. Elena Rameriez from the Yakama Nation indicated they had been reaching out to the Columbia Riverkeeper as well.

Chair Mercury talked about the historical linkage of the mill to the city's history. This includes some time around the turn of the 20th century when the mill began reducing its footprint of 2,700 acres by selling off land that became the future Camas. The CAG is looking at the potential of a historical grant to consider this aspect of the mill's significance to Camas. There was discussion of also looking for oral histories and narratives. Lady Island was not part of the original mill and was also acquired in the early 20th century, but the history is foggy. While Ecology would allow use of the PPG money for this, the CAG desires to keep those funds available for already planned needs and will seek an additional historical grant. More to come.

Chats: Glen asked what happens if DOE finds PFAS. CAG member Young indicated he didn't expect to find PFAS in the current wastewater stream unless it came from 20+ years sludge in the ponds. He

indicated that the mill used a tremendous amount of Scotch Guard (PFAS) in the many paper coatings that were done in bulk at Camas, e.g. food wrap and then processed elsewhere. While the specialty paper machines were closed around when the ponds were last dredged, there could be PFAS contamination in several land fill areas used for non-recyclable paper as well as leakages. A question of whether the ponds were lined was answered by Mr. Young stating the bottom is clay and monitoring has not shown leakage except in the landfill also on Lady Island.

CAG member Friedman included information of a coming opportunity for community discussion on the Mill District Plan at the Camas Library.

Elena from the Yakama Nation informed the CAG that they had taken a tour of the mill including production areas.

A final question was if the mill's treatment process would remove PFAS and the answer from Steve Young was no.

The next CAG meeting is October 9, 2025, from 4-5 PM.