

Public Participation Georgia-Pacific Mill Site Clean Up Project

Meeting minutes: Community Advisory Group Meeting, April 9, 2026, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Attendees

Community Advisory Group (CAG):

- Caroline Mercury, Chair
- April Berlin
- Randal Friedman
- Elena Ramirez Groszowski, Yakama Nation
- Steve Sylvester
- Larry Keister, Port of Camas Washougal
- Steve Young

Downtown Camas Association (DCA):

- Carrie Schulstad, Executive Director

Maul Foster & Alongi (MFA):

- Seth Baker
- Alan Hughes
- Colleen Newell

Observers

- Teryn Yazdani, Columbia Riverkeeper

Meeting called to order at 4:00 p.m.

- All participants introduced themselves. Seth Baker reviewed the CAG Charter, including the group's purpose, decision-making process, and roles and responsibilities.

Camas First Friday Recap

- Caroline Mercury and Alan Hughes provided an overview of their tabling outreach at the Camas First Friday outreach event on April 3.
 - They spoke to approximately 60 community members. There were several community members who were new to the area and unfamiliar with the site cleanup process.
 - Alan noted that several people took the handout that showed the Model Toxics Control Act cleanup process.
- The next tabling event will be on May 9 at the Downtown Camas Association's annual Plant and Garden Fair.
- Carrie and Caroline Mercury provided a recap of their recent meeting with the Georgia-Pacific (GP) Mill's leadership.
 - They reviewed environmental information that will be included in future materials, and the mill's leadership showed interest in getting more involved in the community.

Interim Actions Discussion

- Alan presented an overview of Interim Actions (IA) within the cleanup process.

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- IAs are a tool that allows Ecology and property owners to perform cleanup actions prior to the final site remedy.
- IAs may be initiated for a couple of reasons:
 - Ecology may request an IA of a liable party likely due to identification of an immediate threat to health or the environment or an environmental condition that may become substantially worse over time.
 - A property owner may initiate an IA if they seek to sell or redevelop a portion of their property.
- Making a determination to conduct an IA and if it will be successful in protecting human health and the environment requires that sufficient environmental data is available.
- IAs typically do not occur in areas where the cleanup actions could be recontaminated by other existing environmental impacts.
- Carrie asked when sampling would begin. Alan confirmed that once the Remedial Investigation Work Plan (RIWP) is approved, the Mill has a 12-month window to complete sampling.
 - Elena Ramirez Groszowski noted that the RIWP was approved on the day of the meeting.
- Seth asked CAG members whether they were hearing questions from the community related to IAs.
 - Randal Friedman noted that community questions often focus on the length of the cleanup timeline, and that IAs provide a tool to address immediate concerns sooner. He added that the community should be informed that IAs are an available tool.
 - Alan acknowledged that early cleanup is beneficial, but progress toward an IA often depends on interest from property owners in either selling or redeveloping the property. Randal disagreed that it was dependent on property owner requests, and that the community could request the action from the Department of Ecology (Ecology).
- April Berlin asked Alan to share his experiences working on previous cleanup projects.
 - Alan said that IAs often address smaller portions of a site and may align with the final cleanup, and that if there is an immediate threat Ecology may act more quickly.
 - April asked how the community can prepare once data is available, and Alan answered that there was limited action that can occur prior to receiving data. However, community interest can be communicated to Ecology once that data is available and any potential risks are better understood.
- Carrie shared that DCA and the City have discussed the redevelopment of a 27-acre parcel of property owned by GP. GP had previously expressed interest in selling, which generated community interest in redevelopment and integration with downtown.
 - The property was taken off the market for unclear reasons. Next steps are uncertain.
- Larry Keister noted that these cleanups are dependent on partnerships. Cleanup costs directly impact the cost of redevelopments, and that GP has not expressed interest in selling. A loss of partnership could limit future options, and he recommended continued collaboration with GP to keep those redevelopment opportunities in place.
- Randal emphasized the importance of introducing IAs to the public as an available tool.
- Elena noted Yakama Nation would like to use IAs to clean up high priority sites. Once enough data is available, it will help inform some of the next decisions.

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- Steve Young shared that, having done cleanups in the past on the GP Mill site, the focus will be on looking at what are the most critical areas to work on. For example, the area to focus cleanup actions may not be the lab site, but it could be somewhere else, such a deposit in the slough. The data will help determine what to focus on and what comes next.
- April noted a need to balance transparency about IAs with correct timing and cautioned against setting expectations too early without sufficient data.

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