

Public Participation Georgia-Pacific Mill Site Clean Up Project

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

Meeting Attendees

Community Advisory Group (CAG):

- Caroline Mercury, Chair
- April Berlin
- Mahsa Eshghi, City of Camas
- Randal Friedman
- Larry Keister, Port of Camas Washougal
- Elena Ramirez Groszowski, Yakama Nation
- Jennifer Senescu, City of Camas
- Marty Snell
- Steve Sylvester

Downtown Camas Association (DCA):

- Carrie Schulstad, Executive Director

Maul Foster & Alongi (MFA):

- Emily Hess
- Colleen Newell

Observers

- Scott Collins, City of Camas
- Tom Crozier, Rotary Club of Camas-Washougal
- Tanisha Harris, Office of U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell
- Dar Hoch

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

- All participants introduced themselves. Colleen Newell opened the meeting and reminded participants of the CAG charter language on collaboration and decision-making.

Recap of outreach events

- Caroline Mercury, Emily Hess, and other CAG members presented a recap of recent outreach events the CAG has had a presence at – the Camas Plant and Garden Fair (May 9, 2026) and Camas Farmer's Market (June 17, 2026).
- Caroline noted that additional volunteers are needed to staff the CAG table at the Camas Days event on July 24, 2026. She will send a follow-up email to CAG members requesting sign-ups.

Community questions from outreach events

- Emily presented some commonly-asked questions from the community during recent outreach events, and presented responses. These answers were confirmed by the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) and the Georgia-Pacific (GP) Mill.

1. **When will the site investigation and sampling begin?**

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- GP indicated to Ecology that they hope to start remedial investigation (RI) sampling activities later this summer around the end of August/beginning of September. This is still anticipated to be the schedule, and Ecology will share updates if that changes. Note that this is for the uplands portion of the site and that GP is preparing a separate RI work plan for the sediment (in-water) portion of the site.

2. When will the results from the investigation be available?

- The sampling effort will take a year, at minimum. Part of the sampling requirements were for groundwater samples to be collected quarterly over the span of one year. This is because there are tidal influences in the Columbia River that could potentially impact groundwater at the site.
- Also, sampling efforts could take longer if GP discovers a “hot spot,” or area of contamination, in which case Ecology can require more samples to be taken so that there is a good understanding of the area.
- Following collection of the samples, it also can take anywhere from weeks to months to get samples to the appropriate laboratories, processed in the lab, and then receive results and lab reports. The data will then be validated, tabulated, and screened to appropriate screening level values by GP’s consultants.
- Ultimately, the results from the upland RI may not be available for public review until 2028 or 2029 (see response to question below).
- Per the August 2021 agreed order between GP and Ecology:
 - RI fieldwork should be completed 12 months following the finalization of the work plan, which was dated March 2026.
 - Ecology should be provided the draft RI report 90 days following receipt of laboratory data.
 - The public review of the draft RI report should be 45 days following receipt of Ecology comments on the draft RI report.

3. What are the next steps after the results from the investigation are understood?

- Once GP receives all the sampling results required by Ecology, they will draft and submit an RI Report which will be made publicly available on Ecology’s GP Camas Cleanup webpage. This Report will document the activities performed and findings of the sampling effort. Ecology’s site manager, Mady Lyon, will need to review the Report and ensure it has all of the required information.
- This Report will also have a formal public comment period. This would be the time when the CAG can make formal public comments on the RI Report that will be included in the record. Ecology estimates that we might be at this comment period in 2 to 3 years. The CAG, and anyone else on the interested parties list maintained by Ecology, will get ample notice about the public comment period before it occurs.
- It is not known yet how Ecology will proceed following the RI Report. This will depend upon the Report’s findings. The current August 2021 agreed order covers completion of RI and interim actions, as needed, but does not include additional phases of the cleanup process.
- Ecology could choose to initiate another Agreed Order with GP for the next phase of the cleanup process, the Feasibility Study (FS) phase or Ecology could choose to wait until a later date to move on with the site cleanup.

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- Emily reminded the CAG that the Camas Mill Revitalization Project is not a part of the 2021 Agreed Order with Ecology, which is a separate effort. GP had announced prior to the Agreed Order that it would be removing these buildings.
- 4. **Is the mill shutting down, and/or selling their property?**
 - The mill is not closing down, and GP intends to continue operating it into the future.
 - GP has no plans to sell or lease any portion of the mill property.
- 5. **Why are parts of the mill being demolished?**
 - It's part of GP's stewardship commitment to remove older buildings that are no longer in use for papermaking. The mill is able to do more with a smaller physical footprint as technology advances.
 - The initial phase included removing several unused buildings, including the recovery boiler and bleaching and pulping buildings located along 6th Ave.
- 6. **Are there other parts that will be demolished, and if so, when will that happen?**
 - GP has no plans to do any additional demolition in 2026. Right now, GP is focused on safely executing the construction of new converting equipment and related investments.
 - The next phase is a more difficult endeavor because there are infrastructure changes that need to be made first and it will take time to plan. GP has no future demolition plans to announce this year, and does not have any updates to share about when future work may occur.
- Randal Friedman asked if the CAG will have access to the sampling results prior to publication of the draft RI. Caroline answered that the CAG has typically had access to information prior, but they would have to confirm it with Ecology before it gets released. Emily linked to a webpage (<https://ecology.wa.gov/spills-cleanup/contamination-cleanup/cleanup-process>) that shows Ecology's cleanup process and what parts of the process are described as including public input opportunities. The RI will not be made final until after public comment.
- Tanisha Harris said that the Office of U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell does not currently consider this site a federal issue, and they are listening in on the process. She added that the Senator's office hears similar questions as those answered in the commonly asked questions, and that she'll be using those responses in the future.

Outreach update

- Colleen summarized the deliverables that have been produced over the course of the first year of Ecology's Public Participation Grant (July 2025 to June 2026). In line with grant requirements, the consultant team produced:
 - Updated FAQs document
 - Updated Conceptual Site Model display board
 - Camas Mill historical display board
 - Project process timeline handout
 - Environmental compliance timeline handout
- As the public participation process heads into Year 2 (July 2026 to June 2027), the consultant team is scoped to update existing materials as needed and to produce

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additional educational materials. Colleen asked the CAG to share ideas for deliverables for the consultant team to work on.

- Carrie Schulstad pointed out that the supply of rack cards was beginning to get low and wanted to see about making sure they were up to date and ordering more.
- Mahsa Eshghi suggested creating a one-pager to share the timeline for the project over the next five years, highlighting public comment periods as well.
- Randal Friedman mentioned he had been looking into the “future social use” terminology in the bill that established the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA) process (SB 6123), and that he was working with the Office of the Attorney General and the Washington Public Ports Association on defining the term and seeing how it has been used in the past. Emily said she would like to reach out to Randal to hear more about his findings. Colleen added that Randal’s efforts highlight a need for educational materials that explain the MTCA process, since many community members may be unaware of what it is.
- Emily suggested creating a map that shows the locations on the site where sampling is being conducted, as proposed in the Ecology-approved upland RI work plan dated March 2026.
- Marty Snell suggested creating a map that shows the properties that have been transferred from the mill to the city.
- Larry Keister suggested creating materials that illustrate the progress that has been made on the cleanup efforts thus far and what is up next in the process. Colleen suggested combining that with Mahsa’s suggestion of a five-year lookahead one-pager.

Action Items

- Caroline will send out an email request to CAG members to sign up to table at Camas Days on July 24, 2026.
- Colleen will send a copy of the history display and other materials produced during Year 1 of the grant cycle to all CAG members.

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