

Public Participation Georgia-Pacific Mill Site Clean Up Project

Meeting minutes: Community Advisory Group Meeting, October 8, 2026, 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.

Meeting Attendees

Community Advisory Group (CAG):

- Caroline Mercury, Chair
- April Berlin
- Marilyn Boerke, City of Camas
- Mahsa Eshghi, City of Camas
- Randal Friedman
- Trang Lam, Port of Camas Washougal
- Marty Snell
- Steve Sylvester
- Steve Young

Downtown Camas Association (DCA):

- Carrie Schulstad, Executive Director

Maul Foster & Alongi (MFA):

- Alan Hughes
- Seth Baker

Number of observers: 6

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

- Caroline Mercury opened the meeting and announced that Seth Baker with Maul Foster and Alongi would be facilitating the meeting.
- Caroline also announced that Carrie Schulstad will be retiring from the Downtown Camas Association (DCA). Although Carrie's final day with DCA will be November 30, 2026, she will remain involved with the Community Advisory Group (CAG) as the grant coordinator through the end of the current grant period.

Recap of outreach events

- Caroline provided a recap of the CAG's outreach at Camas Days on July 24, 2026, which she attended with Steve Sylvester and Mahsa Eshghi.
 - Many attendees asked questions the CAG has heard at previous outreach events, although the information was generally new to the individual community members asking the questions.
 - Community members were particularly interested in the demolition occurring at the mill site. CAG members clarified that the demolition is separate from the environmental cleanup process.
 - Attendees also asked whether an industrial accident similar to the recent incident in Longview could occur at the Camas mill. CAG representatives explained that the circumstances of that incident were not applicable to the Camas site.
- Mahsa added that community members were interested in what is planned for the areas affected by the demolition.

Year 2 deliverables plan

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- Seth asked the group to discuss the Year 2 deliverables plan, which had been distributed as a pre-read. Seth reviewed the proposed deliverables, which include:
 - An updated frequently asked questions document
 - Website updates
 - An updated project one-pager
 - An updated mill site map
 - A map showing sampling locations
 - An updated project timeline handout
- Randal Friedman submitted comments before the meeting, and other CAG members provided additional feedback during the discussion.
- Randal Friedman raised questions about the concept of "future social use" under the Model Toxics Control Act (MTCA), noting discussions he has had with the Office of the Attorney General and suggesting the CAG consider further outreach and educational materials on the topic.
 - Alan Hughes provided context from his experience with brownfield cleanups, explaining that future social use is typically one factor considered in the cleanup process rather than the primary determinant of cleanup requirements.
 - Several members discussed how future social use, zoning, and cleanup standards are considered under the MTCA process. Randal questioned Ecology's interpretation of the concept and its application to the site, while others noted that Ecology has addressed the topic previously and that any related educational materials would require coordination with Ecology.
- Trang Lam asked for clarification on unrestricted cleanup standards, testing requirements, and the current Agreed Order. Alan explained that investigation requirements are driven by the approved sampling approach and regulatory process.
 - Mahsa Eshghi emphasized the importance of framing questions carefully and directing them to the appropriate Ecology staff to obtain clear responses.
- Glen DeWillie asked in the meeting chat whether the CAG would seek an independent legal opinion on the issue. Caroline Mercury responded that funding is not available for independent legal review.
 - Glen also asked about the former Camas Business Center property. Alan confirmed it was a brownfield site and noted that redevelopment efforts depend on property owner participation.
- Seth Baker acknowledged that the issue of including Future Social Use in outreach materials could not be fully resolved during the meeting without further clarifications from Ecology and said he would follow up with the group. Draft questions to send to Ecology were shared in the meeting chat for further consideration.
- The group moved to Randal's next comment regarding updates to the project maps. Randal suggested that maps developed by Georgia-Pacific should also be made available to the public.
 - Caroline agreed that the maps could help the public understand the property owner's current plans for the site.
 - Trang asked that Georgia-Pacific be informed if one of its maps will be reproduced or incorporated into CAG materials.
- Randal withdrew his third comment on the deliverables plan from CAG consideration.
- Caroline reminded the group that Ecology previously described the project as being in the initial stages of the current Agreed Order. Once testing is complete, a subsequent agreement is expected to address what cleanup actions will occur and the standards that will apply.

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- Randal asked why zoning would not directly determine the required cleanup level.
- Caroline explained that zoning is established by the City and is one of the considerations Ecology uses when evaluating restricted and unrestricted land uses. Because some residential uses are allowed within the applicable zoning designation, she said the cleanup may need to meet an unrestricted-use standard.
- Randal referred to the legislative analysis of the relevant bill and noted that it uses the word “shall” in discussing industrial cleanups on industrial land. He expressed concern that the City Council may be receiving incorrect information.
- Mahsa asked what materials would be provided to the CAG for review in the coming months.
 - The consultant team will provide updated materials to the CAG for review by late December. CAG comments will be due January 13 so that they can be discussed at the January 14 meeting.
 - Mahsa also asked about the CAG’s involvement in the sampling process and whether the group would receive status updates from Georgia-Pacific.
 - Caroline noted that the CAG is copied on information exchanged between Ecology and Georgia-Pacific.
- Marilyn agreed that Mahsa’s draft question to Ecology about future social use was valuable and suggested revising its wording. The proposed question reads:

“The City of Camas zoning for heavy industrial allows residential, mixed-use, and other conditional uses. Does Ecology consider these uses to meet the definition of ‘Future Social Use,’ and therefore require unrestricted cleanup?”

- Mahsa asked which Ecology representative should receive the question. Seth recommended submitting it first to Mady Lyon.
 - Trang asked whether the question could also be elevated within Ecology so that it receives broader review.

Action Items

- As CAG Chair, Caroline Mercury will submit the CAG’s question regarding future social use to Mady Lyon at Ecology and request the Ecology regional director be involved in clarifying the question.
- Caroline Mercury will share Ecology’s response with CAG members
- The consultant team will confirm permissions and attribution requirements before using Georgia-Pacific maps in public-facing materials.

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