

# Camas Mill Cleanup Community Advisory Group 2.0

## May 24, 2024

### Purpose and Responsibility

The Camas Mill Cleanup Community Advisory Group (CAG) was created after an outpouring of concern to the Washington State Department of Ecology's (DOE) initial public comment period on the Agreed Order between DOE and Georgia Pacific. The CAG was a response to the greater community's belief that the cleanup of the Camas Mill would profoundly impact their future. The community needed a seat at the table during the investigation and cleanup process, providing input to decisions made along the way.

The CAG was supported by Camas native Denis Hayes, who left Camas to become the National Organizer for the original Earth Day. Pursuant to an Ecology grant, the Downtown Camas Association (DCA) organized the CAG, created an informational website, engaged a consultant, created social media posts, and received input from 1,000 in-person interactions at 5 events including participating in "dot" exercises to express their priorities on the cleanup. The website has generated 7452 site visits, with 6,569 unique visitors.

The first CAG was focused primarily on the greater Camas area. A highlight of the CAG was the early and continued participation by Yakama Nation Fisheries. Supportive of significant independent work the Yakama Nation did, the CAG agreed with major conclusions and provided that as input to DOE.

### Scope:

From the Agreed Order's Public Participation Plan (PPP): "the public is invited to review site documents before they become final. This is the most direct and influential way to learn more about the site and be involved in the cleanup's decision-making." Seeing the community's request for a CAG, DOE noted "The group would function as a forum for more efficient exchange of information between Ecology and the community."

The CAG's scope does not include specific recommendations on future land uses for the mill property, recognizing that as a city function.

### Vision

As a result of our entire community's involvement in this process, including Georgia-Pacific, the mill site will be cleaned up to a level that supports the future uses desired by the community as a whole. It will serve the needs of the community and reflect the sense of pride, enrichment and resilience for which Camas is known. It will be accessible to all, residents and visitors alike.

### Goals

- Inclusive, connective, informative public engagement that translates the process for everyone in accessible and meaningful ways.
- Informed, community-centric feedback to GP through Ecology.
- Environmental cleanup plans that reflect the community's needs, wants, and requirements for the future of the mill site and the community at large.
- Set the stage for future redevelopment that puts purpose and people first, lives in harmony with the natural environment, and provides innovative benefits to the entire region.

### Outcomes

The process will be considered a success if:

- People throughout the community are aware of the DCA's project and the Ecology process and know how they can participate.
- The community feels heard and represented in the cleanup plans and eventual outcome.
- The property can accommodate the vision of Camas as a growing, thriving, connected and resilient community.
- The Camas area is a destination that attracts locals as well as regional visitor, and beyond.
- The process considers the needs of the natural environmental systems both for residents, visitors, and tribal governments.

## **Tribal Government**

The Yakama, Umatilla, Warm Springs, and Nez Perce Tribes are federally recognized tribes that own land and/or rely on resources that could be affected by the contamination. The CAG welcomes the participation of tribal nations but recognizes them as sovereign nations which the CAG could never represent. The CAG recognizes the substantial work tribal governments have done and continue to do as an invaluable addition to the cleanup process and is supportive of the findings specifically of the Yakama Nation.

The CAG welcomes tribal governments as participants, to join the voice of the greater community and region to the mill's cleanup. The CAG recognizes their independence, and the mutual desire to work together, with the community, for the proper cleanup of the Camas Mill including remedial work necessary to protect existing tribal fishing rights protected by longstanding treaties.

## **Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's)**

The CAG welcomes other NGO's to the process recognizing that many provide a unique and needed voice to the mill's cleanup.

## **Structure and Operating Procedures**

### **Members**

The following members, except for the chair, were selected through a competitive process and at the discretion of the DCA. The DCA has the sole power to appoint or remove CAG members. Members shall serve until June 30, 2025.

<b>Community Advisory Group Members</b>	<b>Technical Team/ Advisors</b>
Caroline Mercury, Chair and Downtown Camas Association Past President	Carrie Schulstad, Executive Director, Downtown Camas Association
April Berlin, Community Member	Ken Lederman, McCullough Hill, PLLC
Randal Friedman, Community Member	
Larry Keister, Port of Camas-Washougal	
Leslie Lewallen, City of Camas	
Zach Linn, Youth Community Member	
Mark Nickerson, Community Member	
Elena Ramirez, Yakama Nation	

David Ripp, Port of Camas-Washougal	
Jennifer Senescu, City of Camas	
Marty Snell, Community Member	
Steven Sylvester, Community Member	
Natalie Swan, Yakama Nation	
Davis Washines, Yakama Nation	
Steve Young, Community Member	

## **CAG 2.0**

The CAG operates on the same two-year cycle as the State of Washington’s budget cycle. The 2021-2022 CAG was organized and operated through a Public Participation Grant from the Department of Ecology. A summary report is available. The CAG had five events reaching 1,000 people directly, and information was available through social media and a DCA managed website.

The 2023-2025 CAG is referred to as CAG 2.0 as the group refines its functionality with experiences gleaned from the prior two years.

## **Public Participation**

With several new members, CAG 2.0 sought to widen its public intake of communication. To foster enhanced public participation, the following process will be followed:

All committee meetings will be open to the public. Meetings will continue to be announced and agendas provided via the DCA’s project website, [www.downtowncamas.com/CamasWaMillInfo](http://www.downtowncamas.com/CamasWaMillInfo) two working days in advance of each meeting. Meeting minutes and related documents will also be provided on this website for public access and transparency.

Prior to a CAG meeting, DCA will post an announcement and invitation to ask questions for the CAG. Questions received may be distributed to CAG members for voluntary drafting of a response. A question may be referred to an existing FAQ. When a draft response is prepared, CAG members will have two days to review any answers, after which the Chair shall respond. If appropriate, accumulated questions will be addressed during the next CAG meeting.

The public will have an opportunity to make a short comment to the CAG at the start of the meeting. Comments will be limited to three minutes with a total time of approximately 10 minutes. More time may be allotted if the agenda allows. The Chair may also impose shorter time limits responsive to the number of people and the CAG’s agenda. Questions will not be responded to during the meeting. Responses will either be in writing or addressed in a future meeting, as stated above.

Questions and Answers per these processes will periodically be placed on the CAG website.

## **Decision-making**

Decisions will be based on a consensus model that promotes collaboration, cooperation, equality of input, inclusion, and participation. CAG members should:

- Contribute to shared ideas and shape them into decisions that, to the extent possible, reflect the concerns of all members.
- Strive to reach the best possible decision for the entire group rather than competing for personal preferences.
- Afford equal opportunity to other members' ideas and input, and how they may shape a decision.
- Include as much stakeholder input into the decision-making process as possible within the process and CAG scope and timeframe.
- Actively participate and solicit the input and participation of other members, stakeholders, and the community.

## **Authority and Limitations**

The CAG has the following authority under this charter:

1. Represent the CAG and its work in the community and in public engagement events.
2. As a quorum, provide the CAG's approved comments on technical aspects of the project to Ecology.

CAG members do not have the authority to:

1. Individually represent the CAG to the news media or in project-related meetings with stakeholders or community partners.
2. Sign documents on behalf of this project or on behalf of the DCA.
3. Incur fees or spend funds as part of this project or on behalf of the DCA.

CAG members agree to follow this communications protocol:

1. Each member is responsible for contacting Chair Mercury and Director Schulstad on any issues that arise.
2. Each member is responsible for using agreed-upon, pre-approved key messages when discussing the project in public discussions, such as during community conversations and outreach events.
3. Requests for information from the news media and stakeholders/community partners will be referred to Chair Mercury as the CAG spokesperson. Chair Mercury will coordinate with DCA Director Schulstad as necessary, depending on the content of the request.

In approving this Charter, we commit to following these guidelines and supporting this effort with participation and leadership.