

**Crofton Community Advisory Forum Meeting Minutes**  
**August 18, 2020** – Crofton Community Center  
6:00 – 8:00 PM

Forum participants:

**Catalyst:** Brian Houle, Mark Wunderlich, Kristie Ross, Lana Wilhelm

**PPWC (Catalyst):**

**Crofton and area Residents:** Keith Batstone, Annette Batstone, Robert Mayers, Pat Hawkes

BC MOECCS: Tarek Ayeche – called in to meeting, everyone else was at meeting

***Our mandate is to review and make recommendations to address concerns regarding environment, health, safety and other issues relevant to Crofton Mill operations and the surrounding communities that may be brought before us, and by so doing to build and maintain a solid relationship between Catalyst Paper Crofton Division and its neighbours.***

**1)Agenda Approval:**

August agenda approval – Agenda approved

**2)Minutes Approval:**

December/2019 minutes for approval – minutes approved

Minutes are posted online at following link:

<http://www.catalystpaper.com/page/community-advisory-forum>

**3)Mill general update:** (Mark Wunderlich)

- Ownership by Paper Excellence for over 1 year now
- 600 employees at mill, Covid protocols are in place to ensure protection of employees
- As many as 60 of Crofton employees were impacted by self isolation in the early days (many returning from other places) and very few impacted currently
- Crofton paper was curtailed earlier this year and #3 paper machine has remained shut down while #2 paper machine has been restarted a few times to meet customer demands for those products.
- Kraft mill continues to operate full

- Western Forest Products shut down from last year into this year impacted mill significantly due to dependence on sawmill residual fibre and hog fuel.
- With sawmilling returning to normal, both chips and hog fuel supply are in good order

#### **4) Mill Environmental update:** (Brian Houle)

- **Swallowfield Landfill review in progress**  
In response to enquiries from local First Nations, a more in-depth review of the landfill is currently ongoing. Initial reports have been provided to province and discussion about these reports is planned for this fall.
- **Cowichan Lake and River**  
2020 is continuing as an excellent water year with enough water in Cowichan Lake to sustain the ideal river flows through entire dry season. Ideal river conditions are specified as at least 25 cubic meters per second (cms) flow in April followed by 15 cms flow for May and to June 15. The remainder of dry season to have at least 7.1 cms and that will be achieved this year.
- **Mill Environmental Performance**  
No issues with mill emissions control equipment and overall excellent performance of the mill effluent treatment facility. The mill assisted the Town of Ladysmith with management of effluent biosolids earlier this year. Catalyst has assisted with effluent related problems at Ladysmith on 2 previous occasions and has assisted North Cowichan once. This assistance with treatment and disposal of biosolids does not impact the mill effluent plant due to the large size of the plant and the small volumes coming in from local municipalities.
- **Kraft Mill Bleach Plant Chlorine Dioxide emissions**  
Kraft mill bleach plant Chlorine Dioxide (ClO<sub>2</sub>) emissions continue to be an environmental focus for the mill. The amendment request to update the air permit to specify use of the provinces recommended Wet Chem method of quantifying ClO<sub>2</sub> was submitted to province in January. The basis of the amendment is to use the Wet Chem method and not the use of continuous emission monitors for measuring emissions of ClO<sub>2</sub>. Next step in this amendment process is a meeting with the province to discuss the details. At the mill, an improvement with the control of the bleach plant has recently resulted in a full month of compliance with the current air permit but just for B Bleach. B Bleach was recently upgraded with new equipment to improve

control of the bleaching process – new Kappa measurement equipment. Old Kappa measurement equipment is operating in A Bleach and will now be the focus on this same upgrade to improve (reduce) emissions of ClO<sub>2</sub> through the bleach plant stack.

## **5) Environmental Emergency (E2) program (Brian Houle)**

In 2019 Environment Canada issued an update to the already existing Environmental Emergency Regulation. This regulation was updated to improve health and safety and environmental performance of pulp and paper mills across Canada. The updated regulation results in Catalyst Crofton registering for 3 “E2” chemicals; Chlorine Dioxide, Sodium Chlorate and Fuel Oil. A key component of the new E2 regulation is dialogue with people who could be impacted by an emergency involving those 3 chemicals. In order to fully understand the nature of emergencies involving the 3 E2 chemicals, Catalyst employed experts in air emissions modelling to predict what would happen in specific defined conditions of emergency releases of these chemicals.

For Crofton, of the 3 E2 chemicals on site, both fuel oil and Sodium Chlorate are predicted to, even in worst case scenario, not have an impact beyond the mill fence line. Residents of Crofton and neighbouring communities would not be impacted even in worst case release events. For example, if there was an emergency involving fuel oil, the emergency is confined to within the berm within which this tank of fuel oil is kept. The air emission modelling for an emergency involving ClO<sub>2</sub> showed impacts that could reach across the town of Crofton and a similar distance in other directions as well. For Crofton, an emergency involving the storage of Chlorine Dioxide can have impacts that reach into the Town of Crofton and could impact neighbours of the mill. Given the specific nature of the emergency involving, the new regulation directs the mill to openly discuss the possible emergency with the people who could be impacted by that emergency event.

In order to comply with the new regulation Catalyst Crofton has produced an “Environmental Emergency Pamphlet” and is sharing that pamphlet here at the CAF meeting and will be posting an electronic version on the public access Catalyst Paper internet site. The pamphlet introduces the new focus for emergency preparedness and specifically related to emergencies involving ClO<sub>2</sub>. All chemical emergencies have plans for response and the mitigative measures in place for ClO<sub>2</sub> storage are significant and effective – there have not been any Chlorine Dioxide emergencies at the Crofton mill since ClO<sub>2</sub> was first produced at the mill over 30 years ago.

A key objective of the federal government is to ensure our neighbours are aware of the hazards that the mill brings to them where they live. To that end, Catalyst’s first discussion is this meeting, introducing the representatives of Crofton residents the information that is required to be shared with them. A brainstorming session of presentation of the E2 pamphlet and how best to

communicate this to the many residents of Crofton and nearby areas resulted in the following guidance from CAF members:

- a. Review communication message in pamphlet and e post to ensure it conveys a strong enough message to encourage the reader to fully review the contents – more emphasis on the strong commitment that Catalyst has made to protect employees and neighbours, and that the critical safety instructions and contact information is easily found may encourage more interest.
- b. Like the invitations to the open house, have the post office place a copy of the Crofton E2 pamphlet into each resident mailbox. Current CAF members attended the previous open house after reading it in CAF mail out.
- c. Post the 2 pager E2 information notice on bulletin boards throughout Crofton
  - a. Galletto Foods
  - b. Third Way store
  - c. Osborne Bay Resort posting board
  - d. Other posting boards around town
- d. Consider an advertisement in local paper – possibly a joint emergency preparedness statement both introducing Catalyst’s public sharing document and that CVRD and North Cowichan both have emergency notification systems – and to encourage all residents to sign up to these services to ensure they are kept aware of any emergency that could affect them – including emergencies at the pulp and paper mill in town.
- e. Separately, Lana Wilhelm to facilitate sharing of the E2 program information with local First Nations.

## **6) 2019 Ambient Air Report (if time)**

Brian Houle

- Due to little time left, a copy of the 2019 ambient air report was shared with attendees and this agenda item will repeat at next CAF meeting.

## **7) Public Questions/Comments:**

- The recent discussions between CAF members and Larry Pynn was noted by CAF member. Larry Pynn has approached two CAF members in relation to an article Larry is producing for the environmental magazine, Hakai. Larry has a scheduled mill visit in September to continue with his Hakai magazine article research.
- Request made that Mosaic be invited to attend the December CAF meeting
- Sadly, Keith and Anna have announced their moving from Crofton and will no longer participate in the CAF. In response to the loss of 2 of the 4 CAF members at the meeting, both Bob and Pat agreed to try to find new CAF members.

## **8) - Agenda Items for future meetings:**

- Cycle 8 EEM (environmental effects monitoring) summary slide deck presentation by Hatfield – resolve if to be included in 2020 open house or presentation at CAF
- 2019 Ambient Air report review – proposed for first meeting in 2020
- BCMOECC to present the state of air report for most recent year issued

## **9) Meeting schedule for 2020**

Covid has impacted our plans for meetings and an open house for 2020. In 2021, we can revisit the open house plans for that year. With this special Q3 meeting, the originally planned Q3 meeting in September is cancelled.

**March 10 - Q1 meeting – COVID related cancellation**  
**May 7 - Open House – COVID related cancellation**  
**September 8 - Q3 meeting – this meeting August 18**  
**December 8 - Q4 meeting – Our next and last meeting for year**

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Adjourned at 7:50 PM

Minutes prepared by Brian Houle