

Crofton Community Advisory Forum Meeting Minutes
April 13, 2021 – Teleconference
6:00 – 8:00 PM

Forum participants:

Catalyst: Brian Houle, Steve Bird, Lana Wilhelm

Crofton and area Residents: Pat Hawkes, Garth Mihalcheon

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.

Bob Mayer has alerted us that he will step down from CAF. Thank you, Bob, for your many years of participation in this committee. You will always be welcome to return.

1) Agenda Approval:

Due to teleconference style meeting, agenda was accepted without meeting attendees having it in front of them.

2) Minutes Approval:

Dec 8, 2020 minutes for approval – defer to next meeting

Approved minutes are posted online at following link:

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

And as well, Paper Excellence now has web site with entire company accessible as well as a focus page for Crofton mill at following link:

<https://paperexcellence.com/>

and for Crofton specific information, you can navigate from main page – or use the following link to reach Crofton page directly

<https://paperexcellence.com/mill-location/crofton/>

3) Mill general update: (Steve Bird)

- Covid precautions continue to dominate mill activities both with regular running of mill and especially with major shutdowns when more workers are at mill.
- Very few actual cases of Covid have been encountered and no outbreaks of Covid experienced. Strict protocols are in place to ensure this outcome.
- Mill operation benefited in Sept of 2020 with restart of paper machine #2.
- With successful operation of #2 paper machine, market development progressed and by January of 2021 restarting of paper machine #3 was achieved
- Q1 of 2021 included a record level of production for kraft operations
- Due to the impact of mill shutting down paper operations early in 2020 permanent employees left Catalyst leaving the mill with rehiring needs in order to restart #3 paper machine
- 70 new employees hired mill wide over previous months
- Restart of paper machines was achieved due to the product development work that has been ongoing for many years, transitioning the mill from printing and writing grades of paper to packaging and paper used for producing bags and other brown grades of paper.
- In June of this year the mill will take a major outage including a total mill shut down. The total mill shut down is needed to allow maintenance on our main mill water line from Cowichan River.
- Safety performance at the mill has been very good since year began with zero incidents causing lost work time in Jan and Feb

4) Mill Environmental update: (Brian Houle)

The mill has had the single compliance issue year to date, the ongoing elevated ClO₂ emissions from Bleach Plant stacks. The air permit amendment that is in progress is to address this issue and is discussed later in meeting.

Mill effluent treatment efficiency is excellent these days and is the result of ongoing improvements that have been made over the previous years. It has been 3 years since the mill experienced an issue with quality of treated effluent.

Complaints from residents has been very few in recent months. First call to mill this year was in late March for noise levels on Salt Spring Island and in recent days a few calls about odour in Crofton.

ISO audit of Environmental programs completed in March and the mill was provided successful audit outcome – full compliance with ISO program.

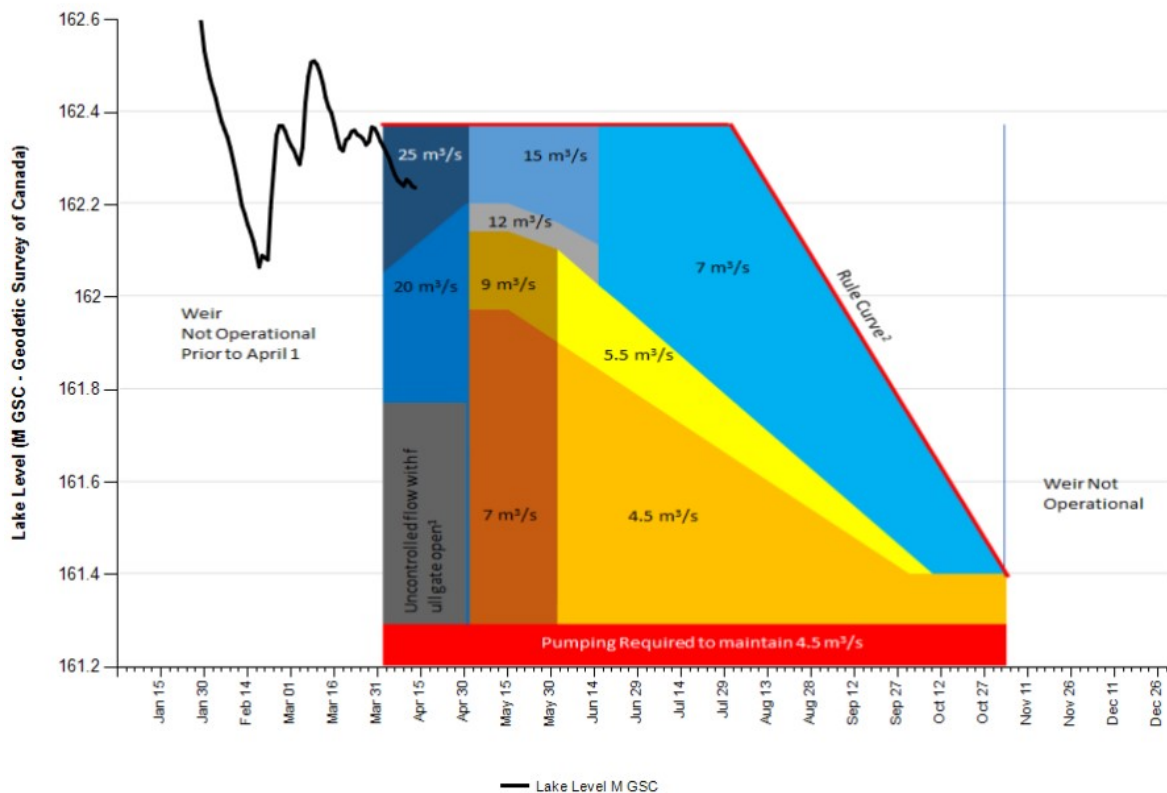
- **Swallowfield Landfill review in progress**

Catalyst has submitted to regulator a report providing guidance for future and ongoing monitoring of the landfill. The next step in this review of Swallowfield Landfill can include more specific and targeted environmental studies or just continued routine monitoring. The targeted studies conducted so far have not identified any specific environmental issues related to the landfill or the leachate that discharges from this landfill.

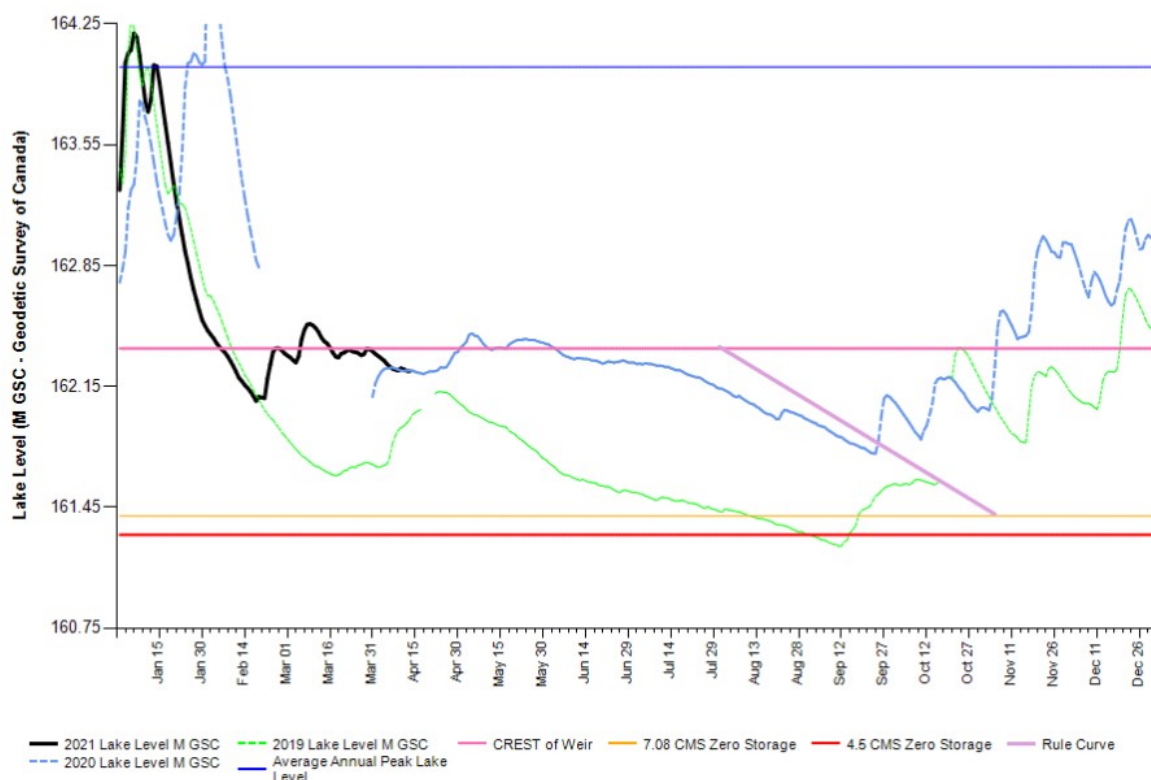
- **Cowichan Lake and River**

2021 conditions at Cowichan Lake are very good again this year, and similar to conditions of last year. Significant snowpack in local mountains will begin melting soon and regular rainfall in recent months has kept lake nearly full. Control of river began on April 1 and flow leaving lake is now being controlled at 25 cms as per fish stewardship guidelines. Beginning May 1 river flow will be ramped down to 15 cms and that flow to be held until June 15. New chart (see below) developed to help guide lake/river operations. Regular lake level trend is also presented.

2021 Cowichan Lake Level and River Flow Guidance Chart - Above Average snow pack



2021 Cowichan Lake Level - 2021 (Black) & 2020 (Blue) & 2019 (Green)



- Kraft Mill Bleach Plant Chlorine Dioxide emissions**

Earlier in 2020 the mill initiated a permit amendment to address the long-standing and ongoing issue related to the measurement of Chlorine Dioxide (ClO₂) in the emissions from both A and B Bleach Plants in the Kraft Mill. The air permit amendment process has progressed and the next step for Catalyst is to submit the final application package. This air permit amendment package is due to the Ministry of Environment by May 3, 2021. The mill is seeking a minor amendment to its air permit. The requested change to the air permit is to use the B.C. Field Sampling Guide prescribed wet chemistry method for determining the concentration of ClO₂ discharging in the bleach plant stacks from a regulatory perspective. The Wet Chemistry method is the method recommended by the Ministry for this purpose, as per the Field Sampling Guide.

Concern voiced by Patricia regarding loss of data from continuous monitoring (CEMS) if the air permit amendment is granted and the province prescribes quarterly manual stack testing for ClO₂ emissions and does not require submission of CEMS data.

Response: The mill will continue to use and to depend on the estimation of ClO₂ discharging through the stacks, which includes ongoing use of the

continuous emission ClO2 sensor. The air permit amendment is intended to improve the reliability of ClO2 measurements by using the recommended Wet Chemistry method for regulatory (ie. compliance) purposes.

5)Public Questions/Comments:

Patricia Hawkes commented on presence of background noise evident at her house in Crofton and that the noise appears to originate from mill. The noise is described as a "chatter" sound. The sound is not keeping her awake so not a complaint as such. Comments were offered in response to recent noise complaint logged by resident of Salt Spring Island – across from the mill.

Garth Mihalcheon enquired about the process that an industrial site like Crofton would go through if the mill were to shut down permanently. BC government regulations are in place guiding industry on that point. Best example is the sister mill of Crofton in Campbell River which was shut down just over 10 years ago. In summary, the process is a phased approach where Phase 1 is to learn and register environmental concerns for the industrial site, Phase 2, to obtain samples to quantify impacts and Phase 3, if needed, to physically address contamination through soil relocation or cleaning activities. Garth is guided to contact BC MOECCS for further details and Garth will be provided email contact information for the regulator.

Patricia enquired of Lana for an update of what Lana is working on:
Covid has impacted mill outreach programs and especially so for outreach with local First Nations where Covid impacts have been severe.
Crofton scholarship program has been progressed and there are 10 scholarships available and designated for general public, local First Nations and Metis
Building of Paper Excellence social media presence through new web site

CAF committee membership was questioned given the current low numbers of participation. Patricia and Garth are welcomed to canvas for more members of this committee. While the committee is best kept small and personal, the committee can grow to more members.

CAF meeting time was set many years ago as an evening meeting due to time schedules of members. Group discussion clarified that the meetings can take place in the afternoon and not in the evening. In addition, members were okay with the meeting shifting back to Catalyst Paper Crofton conference room. Group was aligned that if possible, the next meeting should

be in person at the mill. If that kind of get together is still discouraged in June, the meeting will be "Zoom" style to allow sharing of information.

6) - Agenda Items for future meetings:

- Cycle 8 EEM (environmental effects monitoring) summary slide deck presentation by Hatfield
- BCMOECC to present the state of air report for most recent year issued
- 2020 ambient air report – deadline for submission to province is in June, 2021.
- Quarterly Air report review
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7) Meeting schedule for 2021

It is expected that Covid restrictions will continue into 2021 and in that case, no plans for open house in 2021 and teleconference or Zoom meeting style to be followed until Covid restrictions are ended.

April 13 - Q1 meeting
June 15 - Q2 meeting
September 7 - Q3 meeting
December 14 - Q4 meeting

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Adjourned at 7:50 PM

Minutes prepared by Brian Houle