

**Crofton Community Advisory Forum Meeting Minutes**  
**December 10, 2019** – Crofton Community Center  
6:00 – 8:00 PM

Forum participants:

**Catalyst:** Brian Houle, Chuck Walls

**PPWC (Catalyst):**

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

***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:**

December agenda approval – December agenda approved

### **2)Minutes Approval:**

September/2019 minutes for approval – September Minutes were approved.

Minutes are posted online at following link:

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

### **3)Mill general update: (Chuck Walls)**

- Pulp and paper industry is currently in rough condition with fibre supply, product pricing and market volume.
- Normally 90% residual chips which are highest quality and lowest price. With upset to fibre supply, the mill is forced to use higher priced and lower quality fibre.
- Without sawmill residual the mill draws from pulp wood inventory to produce whole log chips – and whole log chips are lower quality than sawmill residual
- Crofton paper machines and TMP have taken 41 days of curtailment in 2019 while the kraft mill has not taken any market related downtime. The other two paper divisions on the island have also taken extended down time this year.

- Catalyst is now wholly owned by Paper Excellence which is a privately-owned corporation.
- Due to the long term down turn in the market for printing and writing paper grades, the mill is transitioning over to packaging grades.
- Plastic is becoming more and more a problem and wood fibre based alternative products are helping secure that in the long-term, wood fibre will be good business
- Paper machine #2, the smaller machine at Crofton, is now producing significant volume of packaging grades of paper
- Paper machine #3, the larger and more modern machine, is beginning to also shift over to packaging grades but very early in process for #3 machine
- Kraft mill energy efficiency and water use reduction are priorities and improvements are expected during 2020

#### **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 performance of the landfill is currently in progress. New increased frequency of monitoring and reporting continues into 2020. Further discussion will take place related to this project after more progress has been made with these new studies of potential impacts from the leachate from this landfill.
- **Lime Pit #8 construction completed**  
The mill has shifted operation from the full Pit 7 to the newly constructed Pit 8. Pit 7 is being cleaned up and contoured to return the area to a natural appearance. Clean soil is to be placed onto surface of closed Pit 7 and like Pits 1 through 6, final capping to take place later.
- **Cowichan Lake and River**  
The dry season of 2019 is now behind us. 2019 concluded as the most challenging dry season ever. The dry season began after the major storm of January and substantial rainfall did not return until mid September. A key action from 2019 was to build a better program for managing water in Cowichan Lake. On December 5 the core group of stakeholders on the Cowichan Watershed began planning for 2020 and beyond. That meeting identified that a smaller team should now build an improved weir operating strategy including lake level, snow pack and weather forecasting. The first meeting of that smaller group is Dec 18 and it is expected multiple meetings may be needed to build the improved program to assist with managing river flows and lake levels. It is important to have the plan in place well in advance of 2020 dry season beginning.

## **5) Mosaic South Island Log Facility:**

Wes Jamieson

- General discussion about operation of the log facility at the mill site
- Discussion about old growth highlighted public misperceptions. Group recommended that Mosaic invite person with expertise on forest management to educate the group on this key aspect of the logging industry.
- Mosaic plants many more seedlings than the number of trees removed from the forests.
- Mosaic is a privately held company that prides itself in the sustainable forestry practices that is its core business.
- While many logs are exported overseas, Canadian customers have first option for purchase of all trees harvested in BC.
- December 11 is last day of operation of the South Island Log Facility with restart date yet to be announced. No one is buying logs currently.

## **6)Open House review and planning for 2020:** (All)

- Open house this year took place on May 2 and from 7:00 to 9:00 PM
- Group discussion landed on May 7 or April 30 for the 2020 open house
- The 2019 open house was the third annual open house and used the following format:
  - 7:00 – 7:15 / informal discussion at the various show and tell stations
  - 7:15 – 7:45 / Formal presentation by General Manager
  - 8:00 – 9:00 / Informal discussion at the various show and tell stations
  - Specific “show and tell” tables for:
    - 1. Paper Making,
    - 2. Kraft Pulping,
    - 3. Human Resources / mill careers,
    - 4. Cowichan Watershed,
    - 5. EEM Program
    - 6. Mosaic South Island Log Facility

Alternative plan discussed was short presentations by each key area of presentation and not continue with the show and tell stations. During the 2019 open house, the show and tell stations did not get used much as the focus was on the General Manager presentation which went long. This presentation was very interesting and generated many questions.

## **7) Air Permit Amendment – Revise ClO2 limit** Brian Houle

- **Air Permit amendment initiated on November 14.**
  - Crofton air permit was revised in 2007 to add a limit for the emissions of Chlorine Dioxide (ClO2) from each of the 2 bleach plants operating at Crofton. In 2007 and after the new permit was issued, the mill

replaced the ClO<sub>2</sub> sensor and during recalibration the mill observed much higher readings and since 2007 the mill has reported daily average readings from the ClO<sub>2</sub> sensor that often exceed the maximum allowed 10 ppm. The reason for this 2019 amendment is to revise permit to no longer reference the continuous emission monitors (CEMs) for Chlorine Dioxide (ClO<sub>2</sub>) monitoring. The method that BC MOECCS recommends and supports is the use of Wet Chemistry to assess the concentration of ClO<sub>2</sub> in the stack emissions. As with the similar issue with particulate emissions where BC MOECCS air audit team cannot certify continuous emission monitors for stack opacity, the province cannot certify the calibration of the ClO<sub>2</sub> monitors either. The use of continuous emission monitors (CEMs) for ClO<sub>2</sub> and for opacity are not supported by BC MOE and on that basis the air permit should not refer to this equipment. The CEMs equipment required by the Crofton air permit has demonstrated many issues with erroneous data over the years and overall, the entire historical data set is of questionable accuracy. The permit amendment is requesting that the manual Wet Chemistry test method is used instead of the currently specified CEMs method.

## **8) 2018 Ambient Air Report (if time)**

Brian Houle

- Due to time left, a copy of the 2018 ambient air report was shared with attendees and this agenda item will repeat in March.

## **9)Public Questions:**

- Ferry terminal improvements in Crofton
  - BC Ferries and the Municipality of North Cowichan are working together to resolve the limited life left with the pier currently used to access the Saltspring Island Ferry.
  - The two key options are to rebuild the existing pier or to build a brand-new ferry access point to the North of the current boat launch.
  - Catalyst owns the land that would be needed to build the new ferry terminal and Catalyst ownership is supportive of this initiative.

## **10) - 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
- 2018 Ambient Air report review – proposed for first meeting in 2020
- BCMOEECC to present the state of air report for most recent year issued

## **11) Meeting schedule for 2020**

Plan agreed to was to continue with second Tuesday of month 3 of each quarter. Meeting time to remain unchanged at 6:00 – 8:00 PM at Crofton Community Center. The Q2 meeting, like in 2019, will not take place and instead the group will coordinate the open house.

**March 10 - Q1 meeting**

**May 7 - Open House (no Q2 CAF meeting)**

**September 8 - Q3 meeting**

**December 8 - Q4 meeting**

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Adjourned at 8:00 PM

Minutes prepared by Brian Houle