

**Crofton Community Advisory Forum Meeting Minutes**  
**Sept 18, 2018** – Crofton Community Center  
6:00 – 8:00 PM

Forum participants:

**Catalyst:** Brian Houle, George Milosevich

**Crofton and area Residents:** Jen Hlannon, Wayne Kingham, Tammy Morris, Keith Batstone, Annette Batstone

**Guest:** Timber West representative John Shearing

*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.*

Welcomes were extended to the two newest members of the Community Advisory Forum – residents of Crofton; Annette and Keith Batstone. Also a welcome to John Shearing, representing Timber West.

**1) Agenda Approval:**

September agenda approval – Approved

**2) Minutes Approval:**

Review and approval of previous meeting minutes

Brian to share electronic version of February and May meetings

Approval of minutes

Once approved, minutes are posted online at following link:

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

**3) Mill general update: (George Milosevich)**

- Safety of employees remains a top priority at the mill and 2018 year to date statistics are very good.
- Foreshore storm water management improvements continue. The added surface area related to Timber West log sales operations has resulted in a need to improve storm water system to ensure treatment of storm water.
- Complaints from neighbours are treated seriously at the mill. One specific issue (a deposit on a private automobile) was fully investigated including the use of outside laboratory services to ensure identification of root cause.

- Production at the kraft mill is a good level and price continues to hold also at a good level. The kraft mill is profitable currently.
- Paper and mechanical pulp (TMP) production not at same level as kraft business but paper business is also profitable.
- The paper mill is responding to declining markets for newsprint and directory paper (printing and writing grades) to more packaging grades where business is stronger.
- Countervailing duties and anti-dumping penalties has been worked through. The challenge initiated by Canadian industry was successful and the duties were eliminated
- Powell River and Port Alberni divisions showing profitability as well – with overall business for Catalyst improving
- The 2 U.S. divisions which were purchased in 2015 were recently sold to a Chinese company – Nine Dragons Paper. This sale brings Catalyst Paper back to the 3 Canadian sites on west coast.

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

- **May 1 effluent treatment upset.** At May CAF meeting the mill was working through the program of responding to a treated effluent test failure for Rainbow Trout toxicity from May 1 routine monthly sample. The required and subsequent 3 weekly Rainbow Trout toxicity tests were conducted in May and each test was a pass – allowing the mill to return to monthly monitoring program in June. The root cause of the failed test result was not found. A related issue was identified as the normal and expected unplugging of the “Return Activated Sludge” (RAS) tubes. The unplugging of RAS tubes may have introduced a short term upset that was then indicated with Rainbow Trout test result of May 1. A full investigation including extensive testing of the effluent sample showed overall treatment plant performance was excellent and no indication of a treatment plant inefficiency at that time. In response to not finding a root cause, the mill focus shifted to improving the operation of secondary treatment and implemented a new test program for the operators of the treatment plant. The May 1 was followed by 3 weekly test passes followed by 3 subsequent monthly test passes. Overall the treatment plant for effluent is in excellent shape and providing very efficient treatment.
- **Lake and river** were in good condition as discussed at May meeting and based in part on the similar snow pack as seen in 2017. May ended up being very warm and allowed early melt of the healthy snow pack. Conditions in 2018 were again very challenging with not enough water in the lake to support the license required base flow of 7.08 cms. In 2018, working collaboratively with the many stakeholders of the Cowichan Watershed, Catalyst gained approvals for the required flow reductions to secure a sustained river base flow through to the return of fall rain and refilling of the

lake. Flow reduction from 7 to 5.5 cms was achieved in late July and in early August further reduction down to 4.5 cms was conducted. In 2018 (as was also the case in 2014, 2015 and 2016) the Cowichan River flow was reduced to 4.5 cms to ensure a sustained flow through to return of fall rains. As of September 18, two substantial rainfall events in previous 2 weeks has helped raise lake level. More rainfall is required to cancel plans for pumping from lake to river this year. The 10-year license authorizing the use of negative storage in the lake was issued by provincial water manager and this authorization will allow pumping to be used in each of the coming 10 years. One of the two authorizations to be issued by Fisheries and Oceans Canada has not yet been issued. Catalyst is awaiting approval of the salvage permit to allow relocation of SARA listed Vancouver Lamprey – if impacted by negative storage lake level reductions. With adequate lake level to defer any activity related to pumping in 2018 in hand, if the predicted rainfall this weekend arrives, it is likely Catalyst will be able to cancel plans for pumping this year.

- **Swallowfield landfill question** from previous CAF meeting asked what the monitoring program was. Catalyst attends the Swallowfield Landfill every month to sample and in general provide oversight. BC MOECC specified the monthly and quarterly monitoring program for this closed landfill site. Once each month the mill assesses the conditions in the estuary – in area of discharge of the leachate that continues to release from the South side of this landfill. The focus of the estuary monitoring is to ensure the leachate discharged does not impact the dissolved Oxygen levels in the estuary – two tests are conducted in area impacted by leachate discharge and 1 sample collected from up current location – not impacted by landfill leachate discharge. This monitoring continues to demonstrate no impact on dissolved Oxygen levels due to the discharge of leachate. The monitoring program also requires quarterly leachate sampling and testing for toxicity to Rainbow Trout. This quarterly testing often does not show a leachate flow (landfill can dry out) but when a flow is present, the test result is always a pass. In previous 5 years, there have been 13 toxicity tests for discharges from the North side of the landfill and 16 tests for the discharges from the South side and all tests showed zero dead fish – an excellent test result confirming the landfill is in good order.
- **Air monitoring program update:** The owner of the residential property on Georgia Park Heights that was vacant and was the location of the ambient air monitoring station sold the vacant lot. The new owners purchased the property to build a new residential home and that is necessitating the relocation of this monitoring station. The local school district has authorized the ambient station to relocate onto the South-East corner of the Crofton primary school property. This location has been reviewed by Catalyst and by BC MOE (Earle Plain) and has been approved as a site for air quality monitoring. The newly placed trailer to be located on the primary school property in Crofton is recommended to also include a

meteorological station to register wind speed, wind direction, temperature and humidity. BC MOE guidance is for the station to be relocated promptly in January to both allow 2018 data set to be complete year and to allow the new location to accumulate as close to a full year of data in 2019 as possible.

## **5) Open House review and planning for 2019 (All)**

- Open house took place on May 31 (Thursday) from 7:00 to 9:00 PM
- George Milosevich presented overview of mill through slide show and discussion beginning at 7:30 PM and attended by 35 guests from community
- Coffee, tea and snacks were provided
- Format slightly different from open house held in 2017 and as follows:
  - 7:00 – 7:30 / table set up like last year – information sharing
  - 7:30 – 8:00 / Formal presentation by Catalyst Paper (George)
  - 8:00 – 9:00 / return to table set up like last year – information sharing
  - Specific tables for: 1. Paper Making, 2. Kraft Pulping, 3. Human Resources / mill careers, 4. Cowichan Watershed, 5. EEM Program and 6. A representative of Timber West discussed the log sales facility at the mill.

It was agreed at meeting that 2019 will include an open house program and following the format used in 2018. Mill tours also possible for 2019.

Planning for the details of 2019 open house to defer to future meeting with intent that open house would again occur in late May.

## **6) Noise issues – Timber West log operations** (John Shearing)

- Ship loading by Timber West has been ongoing for many years with the most recent 2 years including the increased activity on Catalyst Paper site.
- Noise issues have been brought to Timber West attention previously and action was taken to reduce noise levels from site.
- The furthest south row of peeled logs destined to Japan is being used as a noise barrier – like a fence line – to reduce noise from foreshore active area moving to Crofton community.
- Discussion with residents highlighted one specific noise that is troublesome – the sound of dropping logs hitting ground. This sound was also observed when ships drop logs into the hold of the ship – it can be louder if logs are dropped from elevation. Timber West to review the practice used in relation to dropping logs – as that activity can be replaced with lowering logs slower and less noise
- Hog cat used by Catalyst also highlighted as a noticeable and ongoing noise from the industrial site. Mill to review the use of lower volume
- The loss of trees on south side of Timber West log scaling area (to south of the massive noise reduction berm installed by Timber West – to minimize

noise issues) was discussed. Timber West has tried to sustain a healthy forest in this area. Timber West has observed excessive deer issues including the damaging of trees already planted by Timber West. More trees are to be planted in this area and the use of protection from deer will be considered.

- Another noise considerations was identified by Timber West as 2 log ships per month that would be loaded at Catalyst Paper dock on foreshore. Log loading already has restrictions relating to time of day loading – avoiding loading during regular sleep hours at night. The time of day restriction should prevent noise from this equipment resulting in a call to mill to complain.

### **7) Ambient Air quality BC MOE CC**

- Earle circulated copies of the BC Lung Association 2017 State of the Air Report
- Report was reviewed page by page.
- Ambient air quality in the Crofton area was observed ranked next to other ambient air quality levels as reported by BC Lung Association.
- Of note was the ranking of Crofton Georgia Park Heights ambient station showing overall high levels of SO<sub>2</sub> – ranking second worst level in table in report.

### **8) Public Questions / Comments**

- - Time constraint – this agenda item skipped / no additions this meeting.

### **9) - Agenda Items for future meetings**

December meeting to include 2017 Crofton Annual Ambient Air report review  
Crofton road condition highlighted as very poor and needing attention  
Halalt area road speed restriction was also discussed as an issue to review at a future meeting  
Repeat the EEM presentation for Cycle 8 summary in later 2019 and after submission of report early in 2019.

CAF meetings for 2019 are to take place on Tuesdays from 6:00-8:00 PM

2019: Feb 19, May 14, Sep 17, and Dec 10

Open house in 2019 to be scheduled for late May and from 7:00 – 9:00 PM