

Central Cariboo/City of Williams Lake Joint Committee
Memorandum

To: Central Cariboo/City of Williams Lake Joint Committee

From: Director S. Forseth (Electoral Area 'D')

Date: April 15th, 2019

Re: Development of new comprehensive Airshed Management Plan

PURPOSE:

To discuss development of a new comprehensive Airshed Management Plan for the Williams Lake and Fringe Areas and determine next steps...

BACKGROUND:

Currently, the Williams Lake and WL Fringe Areas (City of WL + CRD Areas D,E,F) has an outdated Airshed Management Plan, dating back to 2016 however the Plan covers the period of 2006-2016 inclusive. This Plan can be viewed online at https://breatheasywilliamslake.files.wordpress.com/2015/03/wlairshed_mgt_plan_final.pdf

I would recommend having a outside facilitator, like Fraser Basin Council, to develop a new Airshed Management Plan to cover the City of Williams Lake and the rural fringe areas outside Williams Lake in CRD Electoral Areas D, E,F as they would have the ability to facilitate a challenging conversation while having no stake in the process nor in the final result

Given recent public discussions around airshed impacts from industrial proposals (ie: Atlantic Power & Pinnacle Pellet) and not having an effective and up to date Airshed Management Plan to measure if a proposed project would positively or negatively impact the sub-regional Airshed and unfortunately leading to challenging public policy conversations around being supportive of the local economy while supporting the principle of a clean environment – it is time, I would argue, to develop a new Airshed Management Plan and this is supported by many recent conversations I've had with individual Williams Lake City Councillors and CRD Area 'E' Director Angie Delaine

The Cariboo RD Board has already written to BC's Environment Minister for funding of an Airshed Management Plan however we might be able to use CRD Community Works Funds to help develop the sub-regional Airshed Management Plan plus apply to the BC Real Estate Foundation (City of Kamloops did this for their Airshed Plan a number of years ago) however the deadline to apply to the Foundation is September 5th, 2019

It would be recommended that CAO's MacLean/MacDonald report back by the June Joint Committee meeting outlining what next steps look like including engaging the Williams' Lake & Soda Creek Indian Bands and TNG to see if they are interested in participating and to what extent

OPTIONS:

- 1) Receive this memorandum and take no further action
- 2) Endorse recommendation
- 3) Any further direction the Joint Committee considers appropriate

RECOMMENDATION:

That the memorandum of Director Forseth, dated April 15th, 2019, be received. Further, that the CRD and City of Williams Lake CAO's report back by the June 19th, 2019 Joint Committee meetings as to next steps in establishing a new Williams Lake and Fringe Areas Comprehensive Airshed Management Plan

Respectfully submitted,

Steve Forseth
Director – Electoral Area 'D' (Commodore Heights – McLeese Lake)
Cariboo Regional District
SF/sf