

Community Liaison Committee Meeting Minutes

March 8th 2019
10:00am
Town Hall, St Marys

Present	St Marys Cement: Kara Terpstra, Vanessa Barr, Jose Soraggi St Marys Council: Jim Craigmile, Tony Winter Community Members: Marvin Arthur, Sylvia Harvey, Marti Lindsay, Rodger Muir MECP: Regrets: Brent Kittmer (St Marys Council), Krysta-Leigh Johnston (MECP), Stewart Grant (Community Member)
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1. **Welcome and Introduction**

10:00am Kara welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Round table introductions of CLC Members.

Krysta-Leigh Johnston from the MECP is unable to attend and has provided an email with answers to some questions brought to the MECP in advance of the meeting.

Tony Winter

will be replacing Al Strathdee as a town council representative.

Guests are Ruben Plaza (VCNA Environmental Manager), David Hanratty (VCNA Director of Lands and Resources North America), and Jennifer Bernard (VCNA Lands and Resources Coordinator).

2. **Paperwork Provided**

Minutes from December 6th meeting

Copy of March 8th Community Liaison Committee Meeting Presentation

Copy of Bonis Quarry Expansion Project Presentation

Copy of email from PDHU regarding questions brought to the health unit in advance of the meeting.

Copy of email from Krysta-Leigh Johnston regarding questions brought to the MECP in advance of the meeting.

3. **Community Complaints**

Total number for Year End 2018 were shared. Also complaints from January – February 2019. Note that Health Complaints are identified as part of odour complaints so the number of health complaints in a month is a portion of the odour complaints.

Kara also highlighted that out of 3 complaints received in January, 2 had wind direction which did not line up with St Marys Cement. This gets highlighted in the report sent to the MECP.

4. Review of December 6th Meeting

Open table discussion on the December 6th meeting including comments on the amount of time and resources that went into organizing the meeting. Also discussed SMCs commitment to continuing meetings with transparency to provide information to community members.

5. Email from PDHU Regarding Concerns at the December 6th Meeting

Copy provided to all CLC Members, answers from Dr. Klassen read aloud.

6. Bonis Quarry Expansion Project

David Hanratty and Jennifer Bernard presented on the property located west of the existing quarry which was purchased to extend the life of the Thomas Street Quarry. They highlighted the resources available, the permitting process, and next steps for the project.

7. Stack Extension for Odour Abatement

Jose confirmed the plant's commitment to mitigate the odour via dispersion which will be achieved through dispersion. The process requires engineering, design, fabrication and execution.

8. Website

<http://www.stmaryscement.com/Pages/Sustainability/Community-Liaison-Committee.aspx>

Website is now live. Kara will be adding a list of contact information for CLC Members.

9. Concerns Brought Forward in Advance of Today's Meeting

Letter from Marvin Arthur:

I realize this committee is St. Marys Cement organized and funded by St. Marys Cement. I commend St. Marys Cement for their transparency and commitment to be a good citizen by looking at concerns from our community, answering questions showing their production process in easily understandable language and planning to alleviate any areas they can.

As a concerned citizen I tend to look at the larger picture concerning the air quality of St. Marys. As we live in a valley in St. Marys, air movement I have noticed can be almost none existent downtown while walking west toward the edge of town, the air movement picks up at the Hospital area.

As an example, in the 1800's in England there was a village located in a valley. During the winter, when the weather was cold and there was very little air movement, there were deaths and illnesses reported and it was felt it was a result of more coal fired heating of buildings that created the problem.

Point being: Considering the heavier, light traffic, medium traffic and substantially increased heavy transport traffic in St.Marys, as a community are we looking at this as being part of the problem of

poor air quality and odour. Over the years I have experienced odour at times at our residence and suspected it was from Schneiders.

On two other occasions large firms have been spraying the farmers fields behind our home and our neighbours. Not only could you smell the spray in the air, on one occasion it could be seen going right over our home. The companies were spraying on windy day that was over the allowable limit for spraying. We phoned the company and their only excuse was they have a large number of acres to get sprayed. They stopped immediately, considering the direction of the wind current which goes through St. Marys. We had damage done to a grapevine, garden, flower beds on more than one occasion and once the leaves on full grown maple trees were affected.

When considering this odour and health issues, it would advisable to look at all areas that seem to contribute to poor air quality in St. Marys, not just the St. Marys Cement Company.

Why was the air quality station, which was located behind the fire station in town, removed by the MECP? Will it be replaced?

Response from the MECP: The ambient air monitoring station was removed in late December, when the 18 month commitment was met. It will not be replaced with another station, however, the ministry plans to continue mobile monitoring in 2019.

The ministry will share the third interim air monitoring report (June to December 2018), as well as the 2018 mobile monitoring report, once they have been completed.

At the last meeting, Roger asked if the difference between the odourous samples of limestone (as analyzed by the olfactory machine) and the non-odourous samples of limestone had been researched. Jose said that they had tried to analyze it, but they could not separate what was what.

- a) Which methods did you use to try to compare the two types of samples?
 - Both samples (odourous and non-odourous) were analyzed using both an electronic odour sensor and an olfactometer. Both are devices used to quantify odour.
- b) Have you used any other methods since the last meeting to compare the differences in chemical components of the two types of limestone samples?
 - No. It is important to note that there are not two different limestone samples, rather various limestone samples showed varying levels of odour. We now know the source of the odour is the limestone coming from the quarry, which is not substitutable in the process.
- c) Have you hired the services of a geologist to help research the differences in limestone samples?
 - St Marys Cement does employ in house geologists. Their focus is directed towards the variations in chemical components of the limestone which affect cement quality.

Could we please see an aerial view of where limestone has been extracted pre-2015 and then more specifically in 2015, 2016, 2017 and 2018?



- 2013 Quarry Face
- 2015 Quarry Face
- 2016 Quarry Face
- 2017 Quarry Face
- 2018 Quarry Face
- Existing Quarry Boundary

10. Round Table

Tony Winters asked about Benzene and SO₂ – The MECP will be working on reports and sending them out in the upcoming months.

Marvin Arthur asked how long the quarry life would be extended for.

Jim Craigmile has some follow up questions regarding SO₂ which he will email to the plant regarding SO₂ and health, how long the MECP has been working on the reports for SO₂, non-attainable SO₂ levels, and when the Environmental Registry would be updated to show the new SO₂ AAQC Levels.

Marti Lindsay commented on SMCs transparency.

Jose Soraggi mentioned the 10 year no lost time milestone that the plant just reached.

Kara will send out electronic versions of the documents provided today and will upload them to the website.

The next meeting will be uploaded to the website.

11. Closing Remarks

The next meeting will be in March 2019.