

Community Liaison Committee Meeting Minutes

March 13th, 2020
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: Marti Lindsay, Rodger Muir, Marvin Arthur MECP: Krysta-Leigh Johnston Guest: Ruben Plaza (VCNA St Marys Cement – Corporate Environmental Manager), Winnie Song (BCX Environmental Consulting) Regrets: Brent Kittmer (Town), Stewart Grant (Community)
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1. **Welcome and Introduction**

10:00am Kara welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Round table introductions of CLC Members.

Also at today's meeting we have a period when residents who have put their names forward to be members on the CLC meetings will discuss some round table ideas to see what their contribution would be to the CLC. The Terms of Reference states we can have 'up to six members' on the CLC, and with Sylvia Harvey no longer on the committee we are at 4.

Seven residents have put their names forward to be on the committee.

2. **Format of CLC Meetings**

Reviewed an excerpt from the CLC Terms of Reference, signed and dated April 13th, 2018.

From Section 5 'Meeting and Minutes Procedure, Reporting to Council'

"Members of the public in attendance will sit in a public observer section of the meeting room with no speaking status. Public observers who wish to discuss the content of the meeting may do so by expressing their thoughts with a member of the Committee".

Kara reminded today's guests of this clause, and highlighted that residents would also be able to discuss ideas with the CLC members immediately after the meeting, time permitting.

Also Terms of Reference are to be reviewed annually, so Kara provided each member with a copy and asked them to review prior to the next meeting scheduled likely in June 2020.

Guest speakers today are Ruben Plaza (VCNA – St Marys Cement, Corporate Environmental Manager) and Winnie Song who is giving a presentation on "Weather Impacts on Air Dispersion".

3. **Paperwork Provided**

Minutes from December 6th Community Liaison Committee Meeting – with Addendums.

Copy of March 13th Community Liaison Committee Meeting Presentation

Copy of BCX Environmental Consulting presentation "Weather Impacts on Air Dispersion"

Copy of the CLC Terms of Reference, signed and dated April 13th, 2020.

4. Community Complaints

Total number for the complete 2019 year.

Total number for the complaints 2020 YTD.

Jim Craigmile suggested looking to see if there are trends of complaints coming from specific households.

Reminder that Complaints which 'Mention Health' are counted when a resident calls with an odour complaint and highlights that they have a health concern. They are not separate complaints received by the plant.

5. Noise Update

SMC reviewed the details about noise monitoring done at a residents house in November 2020. The noise monitor measured frequency and volume and determined there are 2 sources at the location; a 240Hz frequency (SMC) and a 250Hz frequency – adjacent facility. The noise coming from the adjacent facility aligned with times that the resident noted shifts in the noise levels.

SMC provided the report to the resident, the MECF, and adjacent facilities.

St Marys Cement is committed to implementing the Noise Abatement Action Plan. The plan has a 10 year roll out plan however each phase will have an impact on noise from the plant.

Jose highlighted that at SMC we know our processes and it doesn't line up with the characteristics of the noise complaints received. The report can only have a positive impact on the community as it now involves other facilities looking at their noise impact on the community.

6. BCX Environmental Consulting; Weather Impacts on Air Dispersion

Winnie Song presented on how weather impacts air dispersion of the stack using the analogy of a hot air balloon. Weather is primarily impacted by the Adiabatic Lapse rate (standard rate of which air cools with altitude- at -1C per 100m) compared to the actual Environmental Lapse Rate (actual rate of air cooling with altitude due to wind, air fronts, and time of day). The presentation will be posted on the website, if anyone has any additional questions Kara can submit to Winnie with BCX.

7. New CLC Members Open Discussion

The following questions were presented to Fred Stam and Gord Snelling, who came to the CLC meeting to put their names forward as residents interested in sitting on the CLC committee. The discussion was open with all existing CLC Members.

1. What attracted you to apply for the CLC? From your perspective, what will be your contribution to the CLC if you become a member?
2. During the past 3 years we have also had guest speakers and plant specific presentations including the Perth District Health Unit, industry experts discussing operations and petcoke as a fuel at St Marys Cement, the Pond Bio-fuels project, and Weather Dispersion (today). What are some other topics that would be beneficial to have experts come in and discuss at upcoming CLC Meetings?

- Ideas presented include Energy Conservation projects in the cement industry, standards for the Cement Industry globally, innovations in cement globally, information on the reporting required by SMC and the differentiation between NPRI, Emissions, ESDM, TRA, GHG Reporting, Carbon Tax, and how SMC differentiates and determines which dust samples came from SMC or not.
3. The Community Liaison Committee has been fortunate to have the Ministry of Environment, Conservation and Parks as a permanent CLC member since it was formed three years ago. We have also had the Perth District Health Unit attend several meetings as guest consultants. During the past 3 years the MECP has issued several reports on air quality monitoring in St Marys, and the PDHU have issued several reports about health statistics in St Marys and Perth County. These reports outline compliance with MECP regulations and illustrate the levels of health in the community are within the same ranges as other areas within Perth County and the Province. How do we convey the results of these reports to residents in St Marys who question the validity of these reports?
 4. The CLC is aware of residents who have expressed their concerns about St Marys Cement operations through various outlets including social media and the town newspaper, however when the plant or the CLC reaches out to these residents we have not been able to make contact. What are some suggestions to improve communication with residents who are unable or unwilling to attend CLC meetings (which were formed for discussion with concerned residents and St Marys Cement plant)?
 5. What are your concerns about the Community Liaison Committee and where do you see the future of the Community Liaison Committee?

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

Email from Resident;

1. Krys, from the ministry, said at the December meeting that when the dust on cars comes from the St. Marys cement plant, it is typically fugitive dust. Jose followed that statement to say that when that occurs, they check to see if an event has occurred. Could you please clarify what type of event or events Jose looks for?
 - Our on-site fugitive dust control plan lists paved and unpaved roads, material stockpiles, loading and unloading cementitious products, material spills from equipment, clinker loadout and reclaim, sand screening operations, material conveyors, and building openings as our sources of dust.
 - SMC will examine all of these to determine if any source of fugitive dust can be identified at the time of an incident. Specifically SMC looks for changing conditions that could be attributed to fugitive dust incidents.
 - Examples of previous incidents which impacted neighbours are the outside clinker storage pile (June 14th 2019), clinker loadout (June 15th 2020), material transfer point from our finish mill where we grind the clinker into cement to the cement silos where it is sold to the customer (December 2019).
 - Jose added some examples on site include plugged dust collectors, our main baghouse going positive, having a worn belt which needs to be replaced.
2. There was some mention of Dust also coming from the Material Transfer Point at the cement loading area and that modifications had been done to address this transfer point. What kind of materials are we talking about that are at the Material Transfer point? Is Petcoke one of the materials involved in the Material Transfer point? Where does the transfer of Petcoke occur?

- This material was cement product being transferred from our finish mill where we grind the clinker into cement to the cement silos. Modifications included installing additional covers on the belts until it could be entirely replaced – which was done in January 2020.
 - SMC has not found any dust complaints which could be attributed to petcoke.
 - Petcoke is stored in an outside pile located at the base of the quarry. It has a surfactant crust on it to prevent fugitive dust emissions. Petcoke is fed into a hopper beside our fuel mill – located south of the kiln.
3. At these meetings, there have been references made regarding the new higher standards for sulphur dioxide emissions. The cement plant was able to meet these more stringent targets. What did the staff at the cement plant physically do to in order to meet these new standards?
- Sulphur Dioxide is produced in the kiln, the process itself acts as a scrubber and reacts with the Sulphur Dioxide to re-adsorb it into the clinker.
 - St Marys Plant was designed to have very low sulphur emissions compared to other cement plants in Ontario- due to efficiency of this capture rate. Without making any changes to the process, the emissions are 7.2% of the MECP Point of Impingement Limit so no physical changes were needed for the new SO2 limits.
 - For reference - The CLC discussed these new targets at the June 7th 2019 meeting.

9. Round Table

Tony knows there are still concerns in town about SO2 and will direct concerns to the CLC or the plant as possible.

Krys highlighted that there is a change in the MECP District Officer who manages SMC; Bob Slivar will replace Krys at the end of the month and going forward.

Krys has also sat on several CLCs and thinks the CLC for St Marys Cement is respectful and informative.

Kara reminded people to stay safe during the current World Health Organization Pandemic for COVID-19.

Residents who put their names forward for the CLC will be contacted shortly for going forward.

10. Closing Remarks

The next meeting will be in June 2020.