



Regular Meeting February 04/20

Brambles Bakery Meeting room

Present: Terrence Grams, Tammy Caruso, Patrick Farmer, Reid McTavish, Lou Cooke, Bruno Mailloux, Judy Guichon, Jill Sanford, Gerry Sanford, Bruce Beech, Kate Anderson, Kerstin Auer, John Anderson, Al Mackay-Smith, Wayne Schindler, Crystal McMaster

1. Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Chair John Anderson at 1:07pm.

2. Round Table

- Everyone introduced themselves, welcoming the representatives from FLNRO and from the Nicola Pilot Project.

3. Web Site

- Kirsten thanked the group for choosing her to update and revamp the website. The content is now all transferred and the process for adding information, posting meeting minutes and other announcements is much easier. The site is also now accessible from all devices. There is an opportunity for the site to be used by Nicola Water Project. All content and posting will go through Al at amacsmi@telus.net.
- There needs to be a small committee from the NWCRT and the GCC to write content for the GIS page.
- Thank you to Kirsten for the great work.

4. Nicola Water Pilot Project Update

- This group was formed in 2018 with the 5 bands, Ministry of the Environment, & FLNRO to work on priority water management issues in the Nicola Watershed.
- Crystal, Tammy and Patrick presented information.
- Please see the update attached to these minutes.
- We need a process to determine what goes on the NWCRT web site, what is connected by links.
- There needs to be an index with subjects categorized. Future discussion to take place at the upcoming Round Table meeting.

5. Public Forum

- There is an opportunity for the RT to look at the possibility of future forums for public education about issues around the watershed. Our forums usually come from need

identified by developing community issues. We try to encourage respectful information exchange – we don't have to agree but we need to respect each other's opinions.

- Some brainstorming about possible topics:
 - There is increasing polarization about topics like Climate Change, e.g. how we can better use energy – similar to the series at the Library. (Life after Warming)
 - The presenter lives in the Valley and would likely be available at little or no cost.
 - DRIPA – Declaration Rights of Indigenous Peoples Act
 - The framework around the Forest Industry – this may be tied to City of Merritt development - roads & traffic planning
 - Drought information – response, preparedness, population growth – this also tied in with Climate Change. There may be plans under review by FLNRO regarding drought and water management.
 - Merritt Growth Plan
 - Remember everyone has a voice and is encouraged to use it.
- The RT members were in favour of helping with a forum if they agreed with the subject.

6. (A)GIS report

- Jill & Kate will report at the next RT meeting

(B)Fire Protection

- BC Cattlemen are funding a FLNRO project to study the use of cattle grazing for fireproofing. This project is near Logan Lake and Highway 97. The intent is to use displaced forestry workers as part of the project. This might be of interest to the community as a forum as well. More information will be brought to the next meeting.

7. Next Meeting : Wednesday March 4 1pm at NVIT

8. Probable items for agenda are:

Website content

Forum topic discussion

Terance's video Ted Talk: urban water storage

Information about grazing fire proofing

9. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned at 1:55pm after the closing circle.