



1901 Parker Drive, Merritt BC V1K 1J3

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AGM

June 19, 2024

6:30 PM Merritt Civic Centre

Present: Jill Sanford, Gerry Sanford, John Anderson, Kate Anderson, Lou Cooke, Al MacKay-Smith, Sarah DeRosie, Bruce Beech, Rachel Riley (and her girls☺) Wayne Schindler, Katherine Gizikoff, Patrick Farmer, Haley Rutherford, Liis Jeffries, Tim Manuel

Opening Circle: 6:38 pm

Agenda was circulated

Last year AGM minutes were read.

~ Thank you to Gerry Sanford for his maintenance at the LGMGIS and keeping a watchful presence.

Financials: (attached)

Total in bank account is \$9,091.61

Reminder that funds include a TNRD grant to host a Forum.

Signing officers going forward will be Kate Anderson, Judy Guichon and Al MacKay-Smith

Financials – moved by Jill Sanford, seconded by Liis Jeffries

Chair Report:

Highlights: Another 10 year agreement for the LGMGIS will be signed with Ministry of Forests.

Viewing platform removed. Grasslands Conservation Council has offered help with financing projects and maintenance but has little capacity hands- on work.

Lou Cooke worked on a storage project for the upper Coldwater and took it as far as he could go....

Change is coming in water allocation and governance.

Appointment of Directors:

Jill Sanford

Gerry Sanford

Bruce Beech

Wayne Schindler

Judy Guichon

Patrick Farmer

Kate Anderson

John Anderson

Haley Rutherford

Discussions followed:

Task: Drought sign in Merritt is going down (Wayne and Gerry will take care of this)

Haley asked is there a way for Nicola Stockbreeders to reengage in the NWCRT?

Review on the WUMP could be useful for all people in the watershed.

Development in town: Concern and curiosity about water use in the city and the ability to support development for residents in the city water system.

There is power in informing and the NWCRT is good at collecting and presenting topics, which brought the conversation around to hosting another Forum. IF we want to more forums, we need younger folks to help. October through March are the best times for Forums.

The Nicola Watershed Management tool: Patrick spoke to this

- It's a slow process

- They are looking at doing projects
- Monitoring of the Beaver Analog projects are being conducted over the summer

Patrick spoke to the Ag/Land Use/Inventory update being conducted through imagery and cruising.

Guest Presenter: Tim Manuel from Upper Nicola Band shared his knowledge and education on some of the cultural ways that indigenous medicines and plants are used. He shared the importance of passing on learning to youth, on the land and through games. The thing that stood out was the importance of knowing that we are connected to the land, we are a part of the trees and the water, the fish and the birds. We are grateful for the time he took to share with us.

Tim left at 8:20 But clearly the meeting was not over, there was more to discuss!

Jills (and Gerry's) administrative capacity has come to an end, effective immediately after this meeting. Kate will be the temporary Secretary/Treasurer. WE all thanked them for their many years of service.

Al, Judy and Kate will be the signers

Forums:

Question:

Who represents Agriculture within the new Management tool being developed? Who is driving the process?

The process is driven by the Province of BC, with reconciliation part of the mandate.

The current process is closed not inclusive of all stake holders, with management and the 5 bands being the decision makers.

How is clear engagement achieved?

Raise awareness in the community about Water Planning.

What was done through the WUMP is happening with the NWGP (Nicola Watershed Governance Project).

Pay someone to help: Kerstin Auer's name was brought forward as someone who could help organize the forum.

Meet over the summer to further discuss Forum Topics. Send Email out with 2 dates to choose from in July and August.

Closing circle

Meeting ended at 9pm.