



Box 2332

Merritt BC

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NICOLA WATERSHED COMMUNITY ROUND TABLE

Meeting October 16 2024

NVCAC (Art Council Meeting Room)

6:30-8pm

Present: Gerry Sanford, John Anderson, Kate Anderson, Wayne Schindler, Al MacKay-Smith, Elliot Anderson, Bruce Beech, Judith Guichon, Jeanne Rutherford, Haley Rutherford, Rachel Whitehouse, Patrick Farmer

Regrets: Sarah Desrosie

1. Opening Circle at 6:35

2. General Discussion around the previous night's TNRD meeting held in at the Lower Nicola Hall by the TNRD who were presenting their OCP (Official Community Plan) and wanting public engagement.

- There is a survey that can be taken online (find Link and insert here)
- General Concern and discussion about Wind Mills being erected East of Helmer and RFP from BC Hydro for this project. How does this process work? Is there room for public engagement? What is the net benefit to the community if a project like this goes ahead? How will it change the landscape, access, traditional usage, right of ways? Concern that the very quiet proposal is 50% owned by LNIB, does the same level of public engagement need to be respected and followed?

- Questions arising from the OCP meeting made it clear that many people don't understand the different silos of Government and what falls under which jurisdiction.

3. Subcommittee briefing:

Al, Haley and John met August 16th to break down in finer detail a proposed Community Forum, taking notes from meeting at the River Ranch July 31, 2024.

Topic: Where Does Your Water Come From?

Date: November 20th 2024 Merritt Civic Centre, 6:30-8:30

Agenda:

-Opening Circle

Each person introduces themselves and tells where their water comes from.

-NWCRT explained (Noted that this year we are celebrating 30 years- I believe the longest running Round Table in Canada)

-Nicola WUMP – 37 recommendations – ask Katherine Gizikoff if she'd be willing to present this? 5 minutes

- Base Flows ?

- Ground Water

Break Out Tables:

Everyone will be given a number when arriving that will correspond with a table number. We would like to mix people up so there is broader discussions. Each Table will be given a series of questions to answer. Each table will have a scribe, a presenter, and a facilitator and will come up with consensus based answers...

- Each table will have flip chart paper to write on and bring up to talk to...

- Each Table will have an agenda with time lines attached.

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~15 minute coffee break~

Table presentations – 4 minutes per table

-2 success stories (7 minutes each) in our region of what has worked well when government and community and common knowledge, and common sense work together and decisions made around water are collaborative and flexible.

- possibilities:

1. Nicola/Helmer/Clapperton Creek

2. Tom Whilms – Beaver Analogues
3. Shulus – Aarts/Guichon Creek

Closing Circle ~ 20 seconds per person.

Our Closing Circle for this meeting:

Snow pack; who does the work?; Public engagement important, Invite TNRD, HVC (the elephant in the room), Community Conversations are important, City Representation is important, Understanding that flooding recharges aquifers, Help offered (thanks Elliot) with typing, and setting up a fb platform to link to the website, Material offers of flip charts and projector (thanks Pat).... And We are celebrating 30 years of being in existence! That is something to celebrate.

NEXT MEETING: Monday October 28th, 6:30-8pm at NVCAC Art Council Space beside Kekuli.

Goal: TO have transcribed questions on community concerns from broad based community and have public engagement and promote education and understanding.

Meeting ended at 8:44pm