



REGULAR MEETING
Wells Gray Country Services Committee
Wednesday, June 18, 2008

Minutes of the Meeting of the Wells Gray Country Services Committee held at the Community Resource Centre, Clearwater, BC, on Wednesday, June 18th, 2008, commencing at 7:00PM.

PRESENT:

TNRD Director Bert Walker, Chair
Mr. Rick Dee
Mr. John Wilcox
Mr. Ted Richardson
Mr. Bob Rexin
Ms. Hazel Wadlegger
Sherry Madden . Services Coordinator
Ms. Cheryl Thomas
Ms. Judy Panko . Recording Secretary

GUESTS:

Mr. Mike McPhee . Tourism Wells Gray . Tourism and Marketing Manager

PRESS:

None present.

ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by the Chairperson Walker at 7:05PM.

1. MINUTES

Minutes of May 21, 2008

Moved by B. Rexin
Seconded by H. Wadlegger

“That the Minutes from May 21, 2008, be adopted as circulated.”

CARRIED

2. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA

It was noted that there were no additions/changes to the Agenda.

Moved by R. Dee

Seconded by T. Richardson

That the Agenda for June 18, 2008, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED

3. DELEGATIONS/GUESTS

- a) Mike McPhee . Tourism Wells Gray . Tourism and Marketing Manager

Mr. Mike McPhee introduced himself. He has been in Clearwater for one week and will be away for the next three weeks. This is a new job challenge for him and he is looking forward to it. He commented that tourism in general has changed dramatically . much more is being done online. His main focus or first goal is to establish an umbrella tourism website for this area. He may need outside expertise. Other items to focus on are a budget and a timeline. Golden has a new website that he was involved with. Need to create a level playing field to compete. Need a professional program. This might take up to 6 months to create. Tourists have changed their way of thinking. Other priorities are to establish niche products that are stand alones . find 3 or 4 and concentrate on them. Clearwater is known internationally as a canoeing destination. Need to look at off shoulder and winter products. The new website will focus on everything that Clearwater has to offer.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) Star Gazer Festival

See page 15 of the handout.

The festival date has been narrowed down to 5 or 6 dates. Colin Taylor from TRU has agreed to come. Possibly August 12th or 13th, leaning towards the 13th. Not sure of the venue . could be the Wells Gray Golf Course, Lararya Golf Course, the Buffalo Ranch, etc. Insurance is a concern. Public or private venue? The 2007 t-shirts . might try and see if they can be altered to 2008 for sale this year. Hope to involve Mike McPhee. Invite other star gazer groups. Do the festival mid-week so there will be available hotel space for those coming from out of town. The optimal viewing time is around 11PM or so. Last year's venue was at the Stock Car Races site. Is this festival tourism related or a local event? Possibly provide transport service for campgrounds and RV sites? We want to keep the festival alive. We are in transition right now. Maybe put an ad in the Kamloops Daily News. Notify the astronomy department at

TRU (and astronomy club if there is one). Add this event to the community events calendar. Only have \$500.00 funding. Is there any BC 150 money available? Sherri to check on this. Ron Vanderzwan will participate. The t-shirts will generate some income, but fixing the t-shirts will come out of the \$500.00. The money will go to the Star Gazer Committee. The committee will choose the venue, etc. Advertising in Kamloops is well worth the money. keep Clearwater in the minds of Kamloops residents. Might not be huge attendance this year. The Community Resource Centre is about to coordinate all Clearwater community events. this will be great for all future planning.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

a) Thompson Valley Television Society

See page 10 and 11 of the handout.

Letter to the CBC requesting an increase in coverage/service. TVTS discussed this at their AGM. The WGCSC covers Area %A+. should we support this? Yes. Vavenby has FM. Possibly Blackpool could send a letter of support also. they are a separate entity. It seems like the service has been steadily decreasing.

Motion by T. Richardson

Seconded by J. Wilcox

“That the WGCSC send a letter of support to the CBC.”

CARRIED

b) Kerry Joy . Becoming Shiloh Gospel Music Festival

See page 12, 13 and 14 of the handout.

B. Rexin brought this item to our attention. This music jamboree will be held on August 8th . 10th on Shirley DeVought's property. A brochure and a poster have already been done. The WGCSC would like to help promote this event. There is a website also. Kerry Joy would like to make this an annual/destination event. Looking for ideas and any help. Maybe the new festival and events coordinator at the Community Resource Centre would be able to help and provide information. Also Mike McPhee at Tourism Wells Gray. Is this a community event or not? Talk to Sherri regarding the speakers in the furnace room. This is a good community event. Little niche product that could grow into something bigger. Advise other Christian communities of this event. Hold the event on a weekend, but not a long weekend. If there are 500 or more persons present, then a TNRD permit is required. Might move the event to the Vavenby Community Property in the future. Grassroots projects that grow are the best kind of events. Maybe meet with T. Richardson, C.

Thomas and Sylvia Arduini to discuss the possibilities. Maybe we could use the Rotary Banner.

6. REPORTS

a) Coordinators Report

See page 15 of the handout.

S. Madden went through all the boxes with L. Groulx and handed all tourism information over to Mike McPhee. Now need to look at economics . there will be a meeting soon. With the TV sites, there were lots of issues, especially Russell Creek, but now all are fixed. The suggestion boxes have been sent out for installation and will be monitored. In August, finance budget must be discussed. Will want strong budget planning. Need to look at the broad picture . S. Madden hopes to have a forecast based on what was planned for 2008 and what has been spent so far by the July meeting. January to December is the fiscal year, but the budget must be set by the third week in September. Then the budget will go to the TNRD Board in October. On June 11th, there was a Clearwater and Area Inter Agency meeting. T. Richardson to chair on behalf of the Community Resource Centre. It is OK for S. Madden to attend as a representative of the WGCSC. Topics will include social housing and youth . what does the community need. The next meeting will be on September 18th, 3PM at the Community Resource Centre. Invite SPARK also. S. Madden also received a phone call from Black Press inquiring as to whether or not we would like to put the Clearwater/Barriere map in again. Maybe Tourism Wells Gray should be involved with this instead? All maps are copyrighted. Must go through BC Parks. Printing is next week . not a lot of notice. Not really effective. The District of Clearwater is doing a ~~what's~~ happening+column.

Motion by J. Wilcox

Seconded by R. Dee

"That the WGCSC discontinue its involvement with the printing of the Clearwater/Barriere map."

CARRIED

b) Member Reports

R. Dee:

The Birch Island Park looks green . there is a good watering system. Several trees that were just planted died. Sherri to check on availability of replacement trees. S. Madden was wondering if we could talk to Highways and see if we could plant several trees on the right of way next to the park to provide some future shade for the playground.

B. Rexin:

The fire hall now has stairs . they still need to be bolted to the building and coverage overtop has to be done.

How much money will Vavenby receive from the municipal taxes due to the industrial area? Approximately \$6,500.00. Maybe the community could have a meeting and discuss the priorities and ideas. S. Madden to investigate. Money must be put into community assets. Maybe a questionnaire/mail out with addresses so there can be no duplication.

At the Vavenby Hall, the back steps need to be removed . new rim joist, etc. Bid for the job. Keith Hanna could design something. There is money in the capital reserve for this work.

No safety concerns presently for the bleachers on the ball field.

J. Wilcox:

There are MANY mosquitoes in Blackpool. Everything else seems to be fine.

The covered area on the fire hall is being done.

J. Wilcox attended the last 3 TNRD meetings in Kamloops on B. Walker's behalf. J. Wilcox also went to a meeting at the North Kamloops Library. Attendance at these meetings is important . shows interest on our part.

H. Wadlegger:

Regarding mosquitoes . BTI attacks larvae at a certain stage. When the water levels fluctuate, this plan does not work so well. There is an internal program which is on a volunteer basis. There is also a provincial program with the Ministry of Health. There are 50 kinds of mosquitoes in this area . certain types are more prone to carrying the West Nile Virus. Let S. Madden know if you have any mosquito complaints and she will lobby hard to get traps. The District of Clearwater may take part also.

The Rotary Golf Tournament last weekend went very well.

T. Richardson:

CFES is sponsoring a music festival on the August long weekend. There is a brochure handout. They would like to borrow the sound system. The lending of this audio equipment will be moved to New Business, as %WGSC Audio System+.

T. Richardson met last week with the Fraser Basin Council regarding valley wide asset mapping. C. Thomas also attended. Dave Whiting and Brad Mason (Department of Fisheries and Oceans) want to create these maps. Create a sustainable watershed atlas for this area. They will set

up the initial portal for free. Create a repository of information . only information sharing at this point. Let everyone know what is in the works, including the District of Clearwater. Will cost \$20.00 per kilometer for pictures, using 30 centimeter pixels. Must find the money somewhere. This relates to the agricultural plan for the valley. Can be used by all sectors. Agreement will probably be with the Community Resource Centre/partnership. This is a long term plan.

Community Forest had a public forum with very little turnout. No real issues at this point. Interim advisory committee. Will have tighter terms of reference in the near future. If anyone is interested, please contact T. Richardson. The bid for who will manage the 3rd and 4th year cuts will close on Monday. Will use local contractors.

Presentation at the Sechelt AGM Community Forests meeting was well received.

T. Richardson spoke at the Barriere Community Garden kickoff last Sunday. Everyone is working well together.

C. Thomas:

C. Thomas was wondering about lending the tents out. There are no guidelines, but we should not lend out privately. S. Madden to check if there are any guidelines on this.

See handout on page 8 and 9.

Space to Place Conference. 5 people went from Clearwater, including T. Richardson. It was very interesting. Networking is very important.

There was an artisan group in Barriere on the last Sunday in May . all artists from the North Thompson Valley. First annual event.

June 21st is National Aboriginal Day. Celebration will be held in the Yellowhead Community Services backyard. There is also a dance at the ski hill that evening.

On June 26th, 7PM at the Community Resource Centre, there will be a meeting regarding buying back the Buck Hill lease (re: application for World Heritage Status).

On June 28th, at the Farmers Market, there will be an annual live arts showing.

On June 28th . 30th there will be a North Thompson Valley homecoming in Barriere.

On July 2nd, looking at a class on MAC computers. Les Sakals is an expert on MAC. If anyone is interested, please contact the Community Resource Centre.

On July 5th, there will be strawberry festival theme at the Farmers Market. You will be able to buy strawberries also.

On July 26th in Louis Creek, there will be a wildfire (2003) monument dedication . it would be great to have some representation from Clearwater.

August 9th and 10th kayak festival.

August 20th is the First Fish Ceremony which will be held on the lawn at the Fisheries and Oceans building.

C. Thomas is involved with the community charter on food and agricultural land. Bits and Bites, a provincially funded group, is involved with this.

B. Walker:

B. Walker attended an Electoral Area Directors meeting in Victoria recently. Communities need support . there is a big push to get administrative staff in electoral areas. One of the main topics was how to access grant monies. The District of Clearwater and other incorporated areas receive unconditional grants, but other electoral areas receive nothing. This issue is becoming more public. These unincorporated areas pay the same taxes and money should support the area that it comes from. Don Manson, from UNBC, uses Clearwater as a good example of a community that gets things done.

c) Thompson Valley TV Society AGM Agenda and Minutes

See pages 16 through 20 of the handout.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a) Donated Kiosk

Rich Willan, through Weyerhaeuser, donated this kiosk to the Vavenby Community Park. The kiosk was in the way by the Birch Island Hall when sandbags were needed when the water level was high. Need to move the kiosk. The kiosk should be put out by the fence near the highway . this was the original plan. S. Madden needs direction . what to do with the kiosk now? It needs to be put up close to the highway, inside the park fence halfway between the ball diamond and the skating rink. Plan to put some monies in the next budget to get a sign made.

**Motion by B. Rexin
Seconded by T. Richardson**

“That the WGCSC requests that S. Madden arrange to have the kiosk set up close to the highway, inside the park fence, halfway between the ball diamond and the skating rink in Vavenby.”

CARRIED

b) Buck Hill

On the weekend, Trevor Goward had an open house. T. Richardson noted that the value of the Buck Hill volcanic site should be included/considered with the application for the World Heritage status. Buy out lease . must go through MLA Krueger. Must have strong community support for this application. What strategy should we adopt to move forward? Letters should be written, if unanimous support for the value of the Buck Hill site. Need to move on this soon. Mr. Al Pete has current mining lease for the site. Key organizations should be working together. Buck Hill is the gateway to the World Heritage area. Need adequate land use development. There is an upcoming meeting to work on this on June 26th, 7PM, at the Community Resource Centre. Make lower end of the Park Road more interesting. You can almost drive right up to the Buck Hill site. Will need to develop management plan, with full community support, for a park with World Heritage Status. This is not a preservation situation. Catherine Hickson was important for bringing the value of the site to our attention. Having Wells Gray Park as a UNESCO World Heritage Site is worth considerable free PR . it will be a huge feather for Clearwater if it goes through (short window of opportunity). In the latest Canadian Tourism Commission newsletter it was stated that there has been an unprecedented decline in tourism . a very pessimistic view. Generally people still want to travel but they want better service and a more unique experience (world class). We must create a brand experience and deliver it well. Consumers have a higher standard now.

**Motion by J. Wilcox
Seconded by C. Thomas**

“That the WGCSC supports participating as a signatory party on a letter to be drafted by the Buck Hill Committee. Other signatories will include: the District of Clearwater, Tourism Wells Gray and the Chamber of Commerce. The intent of the letter is to request that the government take action to preserve this unique geological feature as it supports the application for World Heritage Status for Wells Gray Park. The letter will be sent to: the Minister of the Environment, MTSA, MLA Kevin Krueger and to the Premier of BC. Voting will take place via email.”

CARRIED

c) WGCSC Audio System

CFES would like to borrow the sound system. T. Richardson will run the equipment at the festival. This time it is not a problem as we know T. Richardson will take care of the equipment. Need to create guidelines for the lending out of the audio system . this will make all future decisions easier. Maybe we should take a deposit each time the equipment is borrowed.

**Motion by J. Wilcox
Seconded by C. Thomas**

“That the WGCSC requests that S. Madden develop a guidelines draft for the lending out of the audio system and the tents.”

CARRIED

8. QUESTION PERIOD

There were no more questions at this time.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, July 16, 2008, at 7:00PM and will be held at the Community Resource Centre.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Moved by C. Thomas

“That the meeting be adjourned at 9:45PM.”

Certified Correct:

Chair

Minutes reviewed by:

Services Coordinator