

REGULAR MEETING
Wells Gray Country Services Committee
Wednesday, November 19th, 2008

Minutes of the Meeting of the Wells Gray Country Services Committee held at the Community Resource Centre, Clearwater, BC, on Wednesday, November 19th, 2008, commencing at 7:00PM.

PRESENT:

Mr. Bert Walker, Chairperson
Mr. John Wilcox
Mr. Rick Dee
Mr. Ted Richardson
Ms. Hazel Wadlegger
Ms. Cheryl Thomas
Mr. Ray Jackson
Mr. Bob Rexin
Ms. Sherry Madden – Services Coordinator
Ms. Judy Panko – Recording Secretary

ABSENT:

None.

GUESTS:

Mr. Tim Pennell – Director-Elect for TNRD Area “A”
Mr. Mike McPhee – Tourism Wells Gray Marketing Manager

PRESS:

None.

ORDER:

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

1. MINUTES

Minutes of October 15, 2008

Moved by B. Rexin
Seconded by C. Thomas

That the Minutes from October 15, 2008, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

2. ADDITIONS/CHANGES TO AGENDA

**Moved by H. Wadlegger
Seconded by T. Richardson**

That the Agenda for November 19, 2008, be adopted as circulated.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

3. DELEGATIONS/GUESTS

- a) Tim Pennell – Director-Elect Area “A”
- Mr. Pennell introduced himself.
 - He thanked the WGCSC for the invitation.
 - He wants a smooth transition – will be in office December 4th.
- b) Mike McPhee, TWG Marketing and Promotions Manager
(UNESCO application process update – Appendix 1)
- Mr. McPhee did a report for the DOC – he will email to S. Madden and she will add it to the minutes.
 - The UNESCO application goes through the federal government (Parks Canada).
 - Cathy Hickson is on the selection committee for the UN. She started this process for us.
 - Canada only takes one application forward for World Heritage Status per year.
 - Wells Gray Park is the largest protected watershed in North America.

4. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- a) www.wellsgraycountry.ca website
- Incorporate existing community page into newly designed site.
 - An events calendar is an important community information asset.
 - TWG will host the site and the WGCSC will pay the domain registry.

5. CORRESPONDENCE:

None.

6. REPORTS

a) Coordinator's Report (Appendix 2)

There is a Strategic Planning Meeting tonight regarding Dutch Lake and Rotary Sports Park. The WGCSC is a stakeholder but was unable to attend due to scheduling conflict – send input via a written submission (T. Richardson, Ray Jackson and Cheryl Thomas to coordinate and submit).

b) Member Reports

R. Dee:

- Birch Island Community Park topsoil, leveling and seeding should be completed by this weekend.
- There is interest with the Birch Island community to acquire the dump site as a recycling facility site.

T. Richardson:

- The Friends of Buck Hill are working on Society status application.
- Working on atlas mapping with the Fraser Basin Council. A submission went in last Friday. There will be a workshop on February 25, 2009, sponsored by the Rural Partnership Program. How atlases work, etc. Create readily accessible information.
- Community Forests – not logging right now. Had a call from Mayor Harwood – working on funding through SIBAC – possibly sit with the District of Clearwater in the future.
- The Clearwater and Area Inter Agency group has a meeting scheduled for tomorrow regarding SPARC, 3:00PM at the Resource Centre.

H. Wadlegger:

- Just wanted to advise the Committee that a noise bylaw will be introduced at the next District of Clearwater council meeting. The draft of the bylaw is on the website.
- The inaugural DOC meeting will be held on December 1st, 7:00PM at the Legion.

C. Thomas:

- The Chamber of Commerce is having its AGM on December 2nd, 7:00PM at the Clearwater Lodge.
- Cheryl was in Ottawa last weekend, representing the BC Food Networking Board. Need to create awareness regarding the future of our food supplies.
- At the Elks Hall on Sunday, November 23rd, Louis Riel Day – from noon until 6:00PM.

J. Wilcox:

- The Blackpool Fire Hall is having an open house on December 14th, from noon until 4:00PM. Santa will be there.
- The covered walkway is mostly done – the cement will be done next year.

B. Rexin:

- Interior Health was in Vavenby yesterday – passed all tests. Individual water filters in each home might be the way to go – might be cheaper in the end.
- Standpipes in the parks – make sure they are down and closed with a steel box over top.
- The standpipe at the rink has to be covered or it will freeze – it is not draining properly. Possibly put a heated building on it and it will also become a storage spot. Possibly blow it back with a compressor? S. Madden to check on this. Only the ice maker should have a key – Kevin Sheffield.
- Mr. Sheffield has moved out of Vavenby and has to incur travel to maintain the ice surface.

**Moved by R. Jackson
Seconded by B. Rexin**

That the WGCSC present Mr. K. Sheffield with a gift certificate for gas at Dee's General Store, value \$100.00.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

R. Jackson:

- The idea for the mural at the Sportsplex came from the WGCSC – the recent article in the paper did not mention the WGCSC.
- The North Thompson Community Foundation is ongoing and growing.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a) Harper Creek Mine

- S. Madden received an email from C. Thomas regarding this project and has previously forwarded it to all of the WGCSC members.

- b) Ida Falls – 3rd Canyon Creek Trail
- Chuck Emery came in to talk about this – Ida Falls located above 3rd Canyon Bridge.
 - If a Buck Hill Regional Park goes ahead, Ida Falls is just down the road – could this be included as well?
 - Raft Peak Trail and Clearwater River Trail – have sponsored work previously. Lack of tenure has been an ongoing issue.
 - S. Madden to contact Janice Bell from the Caribou Regional District regarding the same process (see how they are doing).
- c) Sustainability Planning Workshop – Spring 2009
- The Real Estate Foundation sponsored the Reversing the Tide seminar recently in Prince George. Cheryl Thomas, Susan Garland and Ted had made a submission for \$10,000.00 for a conference (there were 9 submissions in total), and their submission has been chosen for funding.
- d) WGCSC Appointments
- There is an ad in the newspaper listing the appointments.
 - Letters must be in by Friday, December 5th, to the TNRD.
 - 4 members for the WGCSC for positions starting January 1st, 2008.

8. QUESTION PERIOD

There were no more questions at this time.

9. NEXT MEETING DATE

The next regular meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, December 17th, 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 9:40PM.

Certified Correct:

Minutes Reviewed by:

Chairperson

Services Coordinator

Wells Gray UNESCO Status Update

Through researching several UNESCO documents and various correspondences with John Pinkerton the International Programs Manager for Parks Canada, several facts have become apparent:

- All contact with the UN must go through the Federal Government.
- Parks Canada handles all UNESCO applications and the tentative list for the federal government, even if sites are not in the National Park system. John Pinkerton's office handles the files and process.
- The tentative list was last updated in 2004, before that 1980. 125 sites were reviewed over a 2-year period with 10 ending up being added to Canada's tentative list.
- The tentative list will next be updated in 2014, with the selection process starting in 2012 or so.
- 12 sites are already on file for the next review of the list.
- Wells Gray now has a file going.
- UNESCO has stated they will be looking for more "Natural" sites in the future, in order to even out the list, as there are already many "cultural" sites.
- Parks Canada is only willing to put sites that have an almost guaranteed chance of attaining the designation on the list. Sites must have superlative qualities (be the best examples in the world).
- Comparisons to similar sites and a global comparative analysis must be done.
- Canada only puts in 1 application per year (at most) for World Heritage Site designation.
- The application process would be managed by Parks Canada but the actual application would probably be done the Provincial and regional governments.
- Joggins application was a 200-page dossier taking 2 years to complete and costing 100 k. It was a collaboration of different levels of government and many specialists. The funding came from a provincial economic development fund.
- The application must be in UNSECO language and cover everything from the natural history and significance of the feature being recognized to long-term management plans and tourism strategies. Basically the more information the better.
- As long as the features being recognized and protected are not compromised, the management plan can be pretty open. Current and or new activities can take place and new infrastructure can be built.
- World Heritage status can be taken away through mismanagement.
- The criteria Wells Gray would best suit is "criterion viii" of the Operational Guidelines for World Heritage (2005), which states that sites: be outstanding examples representing major stages of earth's history, including the record of life, significant ongoing geological processes in the

development of landforms, or significant geomorphic or physiographic features.

Recommended next steps:

1. Set a public open-house information session for spring 2009 (April 15th?). This will give us time to collect more information. The recession will also be in full swing giving any naysayers more aptitude for change.
2. Provincial politicians should be urged to speak with their federal counterparts to see if the tentative list process could be started earlier than 2012.
3. The Friends of Buck Hill will continue to push forward, become a society and seek resolution to that specific piece of the puzzle.
4. A resolution of support for the pursuit of UNESCO Heritage Site status by the DOC and TNRD should be obtained.
5. Other letters of support gathered from organizations and stakeholders.
6. Continued Research on the process and contact with Parks Canada.
7. Cathy Hickson to help write tentative list proposal.
8. Tentative list proposal submitted to Parks Canada – 2010?
9. In parallel to any UNESCO designation application, a focus on Wells Grays Volcanic attributes should be part of the Wells Gray Park master plan revision, Tourism Wells Gray strategies and any further infrastructure or enhancements in the area

SERVICES COORDINATOR REPORT
Wednesday, November 19th, 2008

TV/Radio:

- Issues with Blackpool Repeater, cannot be resolved locally so tech will be out this weekend.

Parks:

- Kevin will continue to do the ice, he enjoys it. Insulated shed would help so he wouldn't have to haul the hose home every time.
- Kevin has completed the repairs of the arena and will start making ice as soon as the weather cooperates

Misc

- WGCSC had input thru Cheryl Thomas during planning stages for Solid Waste Management. As WGCSC is an extension of TNRD, would not be prudent to write a letter.
- Joint Committee meeting should start in January. This is for services that are funded jointly by DOC and WGCSC only. Information sharing, probably quarterly but that is to be determined.
- TNRD Staff were already preparing a report for the TNRD regarding UNESCO, so there is no need for WGCSC write a letter requesting TNRD Board support.
- Keep straight past the Trophy Meadows turn off, stay left on Rd 10 until just past the concrete bridge (turn off to quarry). Flagged trail from here down to 3rd Canyon bridge on Park Road, 2.5 hour hike. Chuck Emery brought this to WGC to get the trail covered under someone's management, perhaps in conjunction with Buck Hill if it's tenure changes, at least to the point of Ida Falls which is approx 50' down the trail. (please report back to Chuck).