

Northwest Invasive Plant Council Annual General Meeting 2010

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: Thursday, April 15, 2010

TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 4:05 p.m.

PLACE: Community Futures Development Corp of Nadina, Houston, BC

PRESENT: Denise McLean, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Prince George, Meeting Chair
Ron Anthony, NWIPC Director, Prince George
Marc Schuffert, Ministry of Forests and Range, Smithers
Bob Drinkwater, Ministry of Forests and Range, Prince George
Brian Smith, Ministry of Forests and Range, Burns Lake
Lila Delury, Ministry of Forests and Range, Houston
Jerry Daoust, Ministry of Environment, Prince George
Graeme Johnstone, Graeme's Agricultural Services, Smithers
Chris Johnstone, Graeme's Agricultural Services, Smithers
Shirley Hamblin, Nadina Agri-Tech Services, Houston
Shannon Herman, Houston
Andrea Eastham, NWIPC Program Manager, Prince George
Wendy Siemens, NWIPC Program Assistant, Houston
Merci Hillis, Gitxsan-Midskeena Watershed, Kispiox, NWIPC First Nation Program Assistant
Bob Fowler, Ministry of Forests and Range, Burns Lake
Christine Friedrichsmeier, Ministry of Forests and Range, Vanderhoof
Darrell Hill, Roots and Shoots Environmental Services, Burns Lake
Peter Mohammed, Spectrum Resources Group, Prince George
Myrtle Muldoe, Gitxsan-Midskeena Watershed, Hazelton, NWIPC Director
Rick Heinrichs, Ministry of Environment - Parks, Smithers
Matt Harder, contractor, Vanderhoof
Claire Watkins, City of Prince George, NWIPC Director
Doug Corrin, DC Forestry, Prince George
Paul Glover, Smithers, NWIPC Director
Josh Pressey, Ministry of Forests and Range, Burns Lake
Raylene Otto, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, Prince George
Frank Varga, BC Timber Sales, Burns Lake
Ken Strymecki, Terrace
John Davidson, Bulkley Valley Cattlemen, Smithers, NWIPC Director
Darryl Berger, Vanderhoof

1. Around the room introductions.
2. Review minutes from the November 17, 2009 meeting: Accepted.
3. Reviewed Action Items from November meeting, see following table:

Task list from November 17, 2009 meeting

ACTION ITEM	WHO	STATUS
Notify Denise McLean if you know of any sites suitable for using Milestone within the PFZ; for use by David Ralph	Members	Ongoing
Potted weed display maintenance	Wendy Siemens	Create 3 displays, caretakers include REAPS – PG, Wendy S. – Houston, Merci H. Hazelton
Prepare written proposal to find funds to uplift 50/50 program to a \$1000 limit.	Shirley Hamblin	Done
Definition of the term “residential” in regards to pesticide use	Pesticide Issues Committee – Jerry Daoust	Done, agenda item for discussion
Change First Nation Partnership Agreements to 3-year renewable contracts contingent on available funding	Merci Hillis	Ongoing
Changes to written strategic plan in 2010 draft that reflect discussions from fall meeting	Bob Drinkwater/Andrea Eastham	Done
Write letter to NEIPC in support of their efforts to persuade MOE to review the issues around changing regulations	Andrea Eastham	Done

4. Directors 2010

- Bob Drinkwater: Ministry of Forests and Range, Chair
- Paul Glover: Northwest Coalition for Alternative to Pesticides
- Marc Schuffert: Ministry of Forests and Range
- Ron Anthony: District C Farmer’s Institute
- Denise McLean: Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
- Ian Hayes: Has changed interest group from Bulkley Nechako Regional District to private sector environmental consultant
- John Davidson: Cattlemen’s Association, Smithers
- Geoff Helfrich: Transportation and Utility Companies
- Bruce Middleton: Forest Industry, BCTS Vanderhoof
- Trevor Tapp: Livestock and Guide Outfitters associations
- Myrtle Muldoe: Gixtsan First Nation Mid-Skeena Watershed
- New Directors:
 - Lester Boulin: Farmers Institute District “C” Robson Valley
 - Claire Watkins City of Prince George

-
- Replacement staff person from Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
 - Retired Directors:
 - Ron Winsler, Tl'azt'en First Nation

Accept slate of directors: Moved Peter Mohammed, Shirley Hamblin 2nd - **carried**

Changes from constitution 2 term maximum limit needed to be removed (if not already revised)
Moved by Bob Drinkwater, 2nd by Shirley Hamblin - **carried**

From current Bylaws:

Part 5 28 (b) 1 "... appointments are for three (3) years."

Part 7 40 "The society shall have four (4) officers, who shall be the chair, vice-chair, secretary and treasurer."

Part 7 40 (a) After each annual meeting, the directors will appoint from among the directors the chair and vice chair, each of whom shall hold office until the annual general meeting that follows two (2) years of service from the date of appointment, at which meeting their successors shall be appointed or the directors serving as chair or vice chair may be re-appointed for the next two (2) year term.

(b) The members or directors shall appoint a secretary and treasurer to serve at the pleasure of the members.

5. Report on IPCBC Outreach Project Jan to Mar 2010 - Wendy Siemens:

- Weeds and the Works Seminar: Result of interest from 2009 when training gap identified. Developed workshop to include plant identification, herbicides characteristics and use, safe handling of chemicals, sprayer equipment and calibration. Includes local presenters and has had strong public interest. Goal to have 25 landowners, farmers and ranchers participate at each location.
- Disposal Program: Anti-dumping program similar to the Cariboo Regional District program. Working with REAPS, City of Prince George and the Regional District of Fraser Fort George. Have cost estimates on rack cards. Need more information on the cost of bin removal. Program start date: mid June.
- Garden Poster: A waterproof northern garden poster was developed to focus on locally relevant species and includes catching tips and contact information. Information packages have been sent to greenhouses, garden centres and nurseries in the northwest and will they will be sent the poster by the end of April.
- Contact development: Spent time contacting community groups not reached before. Groups were then sent an information package that included a letter focused on their area of interest and potential invasive plant implications, appropriate T.I.P.S. sheets and carabineers. This was an important process because many groups were not aware of NWIPC or IPCBC. Contacted

groups include: guide outfitters, greenhouses, landscapers, ATV clubs, snowmobile associations, back country horseman, 4-H clubs, school districts and independent schools, community gardens, chambers of commerce, tourist info booths, and First Nations communities.

- Awareness events: The NWIPC display and educational materials were present at high traffic events with target audiences in tune with our issues. This included cattlemen's groups, forage seminars, Seedy Saturdays and two Spotters Networks presentations (Back Country Horseman, Northwest Chapter and a 4-H youth group age 7-17). Upcoming events: Lakes District Cattlemen's meeting, Skeena Regional Cattlemen's meeting and trade show, Prince George Cattlemen's meeting and forage seminar, Bulkley Valley 4-H Council meeting, Prince George Home Show, Terrace Home and Recreation Show, Houston Home and Recreation Show, Haisla training (First Nations), NWIPC AGM and Weeds and the Works Seminar.
- Incidental activities: potted plant display criteria, 50/50 contractor updates, PMP review, highway signage, inventories, labels and carabineers. Shortcomings in Program Delivery:
- Program drawbacks:
 - Contract timing the only active community groups were snowmobile associations (who were all keen), other community groups may show higher interest if approached during the growing season.
 - Program area is very large and it may not be feasible to travel to all areas to deliver the program, therefore local public and independent schools were focused on to narrow the field of delivery.

6. Reviewed 2009 budget and accomplishments (for details see the 2009 annual report): **Approved**

7. Committee reports:

1. Containment Line Committee: Marc Schuffert

- Currently building the committee
- Protocol for containment line management: Management must be undertaken outside the containment line; inside the containment line management can happen if it is justified, Multi-Agency Integrated Pest Management Plan for Central and Northern BC http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/Publications/invasive_plants/PMP-402-0657-DRAFT_8_3.pdf Appendix 4 page 60.
- Currently revising field scabious containment lines with Matthew Harder.
 - Bob Drinkwater: Spotted knapweed in Valemount should be developed.
 - Shirley Hamblin joined committee.

2. Pesticide Issues Committee: Jerry Daoust:

- Clarification requested around residential vs. urban definitions
- Residential: PMRA defines as sites where bystanders (general public and children) can be exposed. Ex. within the Houston IPMA, CN Smithers, is considered residential, as there could be lots of traffic through the area.



-
- Definition is included in new PMP. Contact Yvonne Herbison, Regional Pesticide Officer PMRA (yvonne.herbison@hc-sc.gc.ca) or Jerry Daoust with questions.
 - Urban -within town
 - Industrial – non cropland producing
 - Wipe-on and stem injection treatments in residential and urban areas discussed, technique not as important as herbicide selection. Wipe-on or stem injection treatments cannot be done with herbicides that are not permitted in the treatment jurisdiction. Ex. Picloram products are not permitted for use in urban areas
3. Education and Awareness Committee:
- Committee members are Claire Watkins, Ken Strymecki, Denise McLean, Shannon Herman and Wendy Siemens.
4. Multi-agency PMP update: Bob Drinkwater:
- Previously 4 PMPs existed to cover our operating area which expire 2009/early 2010
 - New multi-agency PMP will cover herbicide application on the following crown jurisdictions: MFR, MOTI, ILMB, and MOE (Parks). It will also cover the NEIPC operating area.
 - 11 people on development team
 - Used the Coast multi-agency PMP as a template
 - Will come into effect this spring
 - *“Reasonable attempts made to control before using herbicides”* new phrasing in plan
 - Draft 6 ready to post on the website (<http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/hra/Plants/PMP.htm>) next week – recommend contractors be familiar with document before pre-works where the Program Manager will deliver the new PMP with this year’s contract.

8. Business Plan

- The 2010 annual business plan is a planning tool to describe what we will be doing this year, plus our goals and future plans and incorporates the budget; posted on web site.
- Revenue: Policy and procedure document is on web page – growing document. Describes admin fee for program management from partners contributing to on the ground work; new as a NWIPC policy.
- Proposed budget does not use money from reserve fund in first column, the second column does.
- Explanation of the reserve fund: due to a variety of constraints (limited field season etc.) all the monies budgeted for 2005 - 2007 were not spent resulting in money in the bank. Some of the money was set aside as “reserve” to accomplish specific programs (Enhanced IP Management, Pine Pass IP Management, First Nations Assistant and Partnerships, Awareness Projects and Research). The goal was to reduce the amount of money carried over each year in the bank as NWIPC is a non-profit and not expected to have a healthy bank account.
- There were no questions or comments on revenue from the members.
- Disbursements:
 - IPMA contractors for 2010:
Haida Gwaii – Keith Alexander

Stikine-Skeena – Graeme’s Agricultural Services, Graeme Johnstone
Houston – Nadina Agri-Tech, Shirley Hamblin
Burns Lake – Roots and Shoots Environmental Services, Darrell Hill
Vanderhoof – Matt Harder
Prince George – Spectrum Resource Group, Peter Mohammed
Robson Valley – Beryl and Darrell Hagen

- Initial IPMA contracts will total \$45,000 before NWIPC revenue is confirmed. Contracts may be uplifted if revenues increase.
 - Budget uplifts depend on the goals identified in the IPMA and are approved by the board of directors.
 - Prince George IPMA has the highest population and the junction of two major highways so it requires the largest budget.
 - Prince George IPMA may not have corrections crew this year; looking for alternatives.

Budget and business plan reviewed by membership: **Approved**

9. Strategic Plan (has three levels):

- EARLY DETECTION RAPID RESPONSE (EDRR) is in place for weeds that are new invaders to our operating area; these new invaders are top priority.
- Stop the spread those plants that still have reasonable expectation of control, CONTAINMENT LEVEL
- REHABILITATION LEVEL, containment stops and rehabilitation techniques are employed. (ex. biocontrol). Containment work is done only if it fits the matrix (ex. Higher site priority).

a. Plant Species Changes:

- Eyebright: added to Category 2
- Hoary Alyssum: need to clarify “containment” in strategic plan
- Hairy Bittercrest (snapweed): introduced on root wads of ornamentals now moving to grass; added to Category 2. Add information to spring nursery blitz.
- Lamium galeobdolon: Added to Category 2. Add information to spring nursery blitz.
- Evening Primrose: Remains Category 4 but needs risk assessment.

b. Risk assessments needed for several plants in the strategic plan.

- Program Manager to draft letter to IMIPWG and IPCBC for support to do risk assessments (financial or technical staff).
- Use developed ranking tool to prioritize which plants will have assessments done
 - Comfrey needs risk assessment

c. A draft Provincial EDRR Strategic Plan is in development. NWIPC supports a provincial EDRR plan and when finalized, will add the provincial level EDRR plan to the NIWPC strategic plan.

8. Other Business:

- a. Milestone: Letter to NEIPC, Bob Drinkwater gave background (NEIPC and local regional district) wanted definitive answer on use of Milestone near watercourses).
 - o The issue was referred to the Inter-ministerial Invasive Plant Working Group (IMIPWG) committees and MOE who concluded that funding is not available for them to work on it.
 - o Letter sent April 8 in support of the NEIPC and Milestone use near watercourses.

- b. First Nation Partnerships:
 - o First Nation partnerships have been moved within the budget into the same disbursement category as IPMA contracts because they serve the same role in terms of inventory and treatment. Managing invasive plants in their own territory is more efficient and cost effective than sending an IPMA contractor.

- c. Approved Funded project: Keith Alexander invited Frank Geyer, Biologist Quilute Tribe, WA to speak on herbicide treatment and knotweed within First Nations communities. NWIPC support totalled \$605 for travel expenses.

- d. 50/50 uplift: Shirley Hamblin
 - o Requested uplift to 50/50 reimbursements from \$ 500 to \$ 1000/person per season. To more effectively deal with hawkweed and daisy fields because landowners do not enough money to cover treatment costs.
 - o Will help knock back infestations back to manageable level.
 - o Will encourage larger landowners to participate in program.
 - o Motion to Approve new \$1000 50/50 rebate maximum: **Rejected.**

- e. Other IPCBC updates:
 - Invasive Plant Management Training sessions sponsored by IPCBC for unemployed or underemployed natural resource workers, 3 sessions are scheduled for our operating area: 1 - 7 day session in Terrace, cost \$50; 1 day refresher in Terrace, no cost and 1 – 1 day refresher in Prince George, no cost.
 - This is the last year for training funding.
 - Thank you to Andrea for working and getting so much support from IPCBC!

9. In parts of the province some councils are changing from “Invasive Plant” Councils to “Invasive Species” councils. Ex. IPCBC is including discussion about invasive invertebrates in their refresher course. Members should consider the implications of being a “plant” vs “all invasive species” council. This issue is likely to resurface in the future.

Adjourned 4:05



Action Items for November 16 Fall Meeting

ACTION ITEM	WHO	WHEN
Notify Denise McLean if you know of any sites suitable for using Milestone within the PFZ; for use by David Ralph	Members	Ongoing
Distribute Northern Garden Poster to Greenhouses	Wendy Siemens	Throughout field season
Locate a spotted knapweed containment line near Valemount	Bob Drinkwater	By next field season
Revise the Prince Rupert marsh plume thistle containment line	Graeme Johnstone	By next field season
Change First Nation Partnership Agreements to 3-year renewable contracts contingent on available funding	Merci Hillis	Ongoing
Become familiar with new Multi-agency PMP	NWIPC Contractors	By this field season
Submit suggestions to the Program Manager on deal with the lack of a corrections crew.	Members	Ongoing
Add Hairy bittercrest and <i>Lamium galeobdolon</i> to garden center information packages and send out packages	Wendy Siemens	Throughout field season
Add Eyebright to Category 2	Andrea Eastham	By this field season
Add "containment" to Hoary alyssum	Andrea Eastham	By this field season
Send a letter to IMIPWG and IPCBC requesting support for risk assessments – Technical staff or \$\$	Andrea Eastham	This field season
Use ranking tool to prioritize risk assessments	Wendy Siemens	This field season