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## NORTH WEST INVASIVE PLANT COUNCIL

### FALL MEETING Meeting Minutes

**DATE:** Tuesday, November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2010

**TIME:** 10:00 – 4:00, lunch provided

**PLACE:** Friendship Centre, Vanderhoof, BC

**PRESENT:** Ron Anthony, NWIPC Director, Prince George  
Amy Barnes, Industrial Forestry Service Ltd., Prince George  
Dan Bates, Ministry of Environment, Smithers  
Laura Blonski, Ministry of Forests and Range, Prince George  
Lester Blouin, NWIPC Director, McBride  
Jane Blouin, McBride  
Matthew Braun, Ministry of Forests and Range  
Lionel Chingee, McLeod Lake Indian Band, McLeod Lake  
Doug Corrin, Vegetation Management Contractor, Prince George  
Brian Crandell, NWIPC IPMA Contractor, Prince George  
Bob Drinkwater, NWIPC Director, Prince George  
Elliot Duncan, Haisla IP Crew, Kitamaat Village  
Andrea Eastham, NWIPC Program Manager, Prince George  
Paul Glover, NWIPC Director, Smithers  
Ben Haizimsque, Nisga'a IP Crew, Lisms Forest Resources, New Aiyansh  
Matt Harder, NWIPC IPMA Contractor, Vanderhoof  
Ian Hayes, NWIPC Director, Terrace  
Rick Heinrichs, Ministry of Environment, Smithers  
Darrell Hill, NWIPC IPMA Contractor, Burns Lake  
Merci Hillis, NWIPC First Nations Assistant, Kispiox  
Sabrina Johnny, Saik'uz, Saik'uz Reserve  
Chris Johnstone, NWIPC IPMA Contractor, Smithers  
Graeme Johnstone, NWIPC IPMA Contractor, Smithers  
Janie Labrash, Vanderhoof  
George Labrash, Vanderhoof  
Avril Lewis, Moricetown Band, Moricetown  
Roger Mitchell, Moricetown Band, Moricetown  
Jason McCleary, NWIPC Director, Burns Lake  
Denise McLean, NWIPC Director, Board & Meeting Chairperson, Prince George

Myrtle Muldoe, NWIPC Director, Hazelton  
Eric Nijboer, NWIPC IPMA Contractor, Prince George  
Daryl Nolan, Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure, Prince George  
Raylene Otto, Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure, Prince George  
Nicole Pressey, Ministry of Forests and Range, Burns Lake  
Renee Robinson, Saik'uz, Saik'uz Reserve  
Marc Schuffert, NWIPC Director, Smithers  
Wendy Siemens, Invasive Plant Council of BC Outreach Worker, Houston  
Trish Stevens, Spectrum Resource Group, Prince George  
Chris Stewart, Haisla IP Crew, Kitamaat Village  
Karen Tabe, Ministry of Forests and Range, Vanderhoof  
Gerry Thiessen, Mayor, District of Vanderhoof  
Maureen Thompson, District C Farmers Institute, Prince George  
Claire Watkins, NWIPC Director, Prince George  
Lynne Wilson, District C Farmers Institute, Prince George  
Richard Wright, Gitxsan, Gitannaax

Minutes prepared by: Andrea Eastham, NWIPC Program Manager

Forty-five members attended the 2010 fall meeting despite terrible weather and difficult road conditions. Thanks to all who made their way great distances to attend the meeting; one accident prevented a member from attending and we are glad that there were no serious injuries.



## **CONTRACTOR FORUM –10:00 to 12:00 pm: Facilitator, Andrea Eastham**

Lively and informative discussions during the morning session including such topics as:

- Issues with alsike clover, seed mixes, seed movement
- BCeID clarification of who does what to get access to what including Invasive Alien Plant Program (IAPP)
- Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure (MOTI) reporting requirements for highway inventory and gravel pit surveys; Daryl and Raylene were present with handouts and we all learned about their reporting needs and the systems that MOTI has in place like B.C. Landmark Kilometre Inventory and Road Features Inventory for 2ndary roads; Andrea will work with MOTI staff to get our Invasive Plant Management Area (IPMA) contractors and First Nations crews up to date on the requirements and develop new tracking forms for the 2011 season.
- Tracking sheets: emphasized the need for concise, detailed location descriptions for sites inventoried and/or treated as this information goes on the invoices to partners
- Discussion on timing and how many years contractors check “clean” sites

## **LUNCH – 12:00 pm to 1:00 pm:**

Members were welcomed to the fall meeting by Denise McLean, NWIPC Chairperson, and to Vanderhoof by Mayor Gerry Thiessen.

Two, long-time NWIPC Directors announced their retirement from the board. Bob Drinkwater and Ron Anthony have served the NWIPC well over many years, and have been fighting weeds their whole careers. Testimonies to their devotion and commitment to the cause were read by Denise McLean from Dave Ralph, Invasive Plant Technician, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Kamloops; Nicole Pressey from Bob Fowler, Range Officer, Ministry of Forests and Range, Burns Lake; and Maureen Thompson from District C Farmer’s Institute, Prince George. The members presented Bob and Ron with framed pictures and jackets made especially for them to recognize their years of dedication; so they know how much we will miss them; and, so they won’t forget us!



Bob Drinkwater and Ron Anthony, outgoing NWIPC Directors, sporting their new raincoats.



Bob Drinkwater accepting from Denise McLean his "Bionic Bob" colouring book cover signed by all the NWIPC directors and staff contractors.



Ron Anthony accepting from Denise McLean his framed photo of a STOP sign surrounded by oxeye daisies that so symbolizes what Ron's life has been about.

## NWIPC FALL MEETING

### Introductions

- Agenda accepted as presented.
- Reviewed and accepted the minutes from the April 15, 2010, Spring and Annual General Meeting.
- Reviewed list of tasks from April 15, 2010 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	Still Ongoing
Distribute Northern Garden Poster to Greenhouses	Wendy Siemens	Done
Locate a spotted knapweed containment line near Valemout	Bob Drinkwater	Formed containment line committee; Marc Schuffert is chairperson; involves other regional weed committees so may take time; the committee will continue to work on this line see notes below under committee reports.
Revise the Prince Rupert marsh plume thistle containment line	Graeme Johnstone	Done
Change First Nation Partnership Agreements to 3-year renewable contracts contingent on available funding	Merci Hillis	Done
Become familiar with new Multi-agency PMP	NWIPC Contractors	Done
Submit suggestions to the Program Manager on deal with the lack of a corrections crew.	Members	Claire Watkins, NWIPC Director and Integrated Pest Management Coordinator with the City of Prince George, Parks Department will look into alternates and report at 20111 AGM
Add Hairy bittercrest and <i>Lamium galeobdolon</i> to garden center information packages and send out packages	Wendy Siemens	Done
Add Eyebright to Category 2	Andrea Eastham	Done
Add "containment" to Hoary alyssum	Andrea Eastham	Done
Send a letter to IMISWG and IPCBC requesting support for risk assessments – Technical staff or \$\$	Andrea Eastham	Not done; survey was conducted among all regional weed coordinators and Andrea gave her support; will still write letter to convey NWIPC needs in support from IPCBC
Use ranking tool to prioritize risk assessments	Wendy Siemens	Not done; need money to have more ranking and risk assessments done.

## **NWIPC 2010 preliminary report based on WorkPlan:**

- Andrea used the NWIPC 2010 Business Plan (<http://nwipc.org/downloads.php>) to summarize the year's accomplishments:
  - Partners to the pooled funds changed but total number remained the same
  - Program manager gave presentations to three councils and to the Provincial Government Standing Committee on Finance and Services
  - Seven IPMA contractors and seven First Nations Crews were on the ground
  - Presentation to Haida Nation and support for Moricetown Band to attend fall meeting
  - Contractor training was conducted in two locations, Terrace and Prince George
  - One Invasive Plant Council of BC Hot Spot Crew and one SWAT Team on the ground in Terrace and Prince George, respectively
  - Worked on changes to containment lines and their incorporation into IAPP
  - Continued improvement of the IAPP data quality by NWIPC contractors
  - Conducted three Community Weed Pulls
  - Funded six successful on-the-ground projects between Haida Gwaii and McBride
  - NWIPC display and educational materials at numerous events across the area
  - Operated the Weed Reporting Hotline and promoted Report-A-Weed
  - One Spotters Network Presentation by a volunteer
  - Successful Invasive Plant Council of BC (IPCBC) Outreach Program through Wendy Siemens
  - Designed and delivered "Weed and the Works" in three farming communities
- Details available in the 2010 Annual Report due out in February 2011-02-20

## **NWIPC Committee reports**

Pesticide issues committee: Jerry Daoust, committee chairperson not able to attend, so Bob Drinkwater summarized the following:

- The committee had not met since the 2010 Spring Meeting
- Development of the Pest Management Plan (PMP) new in the 2011 field season
- The committee is an 11-member team and always looking for new members; Darrell Hill volunteered to be on the committee
- Milestone issue: ongoing; had representatives of Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, North East Invasive Plant Committee (NEIPC), NWIPC, and City of Prince George in the field last spring so increase the governments understanding of our challenges and problems; regional weed coordinators also working on making the issue a high priority and province-wide as opposed to regional.
- Bob is working on new products being in IAPP for data entry and some were added this year

Education and Awareness: Claire Watkins, Committee Chairperson

- Committee supported NWIPC presence at several tradeshow and events
- T-shirts, hats, etc. not ordered but may replenish supplies over winter as funds become available
- Matthew Braun, P.Ag., Ministry of Forests and Range (MFR) did the IPCBC Spotters Network Presentation (our first volunteer!!!); contact Wendy Siemens ([projects@nwipc.org](mailto:projects@nwipc.org)) for assistance to do one to your group

Containment Lines: Marc Schuffert, Committee Chairperson

- Oxeye daisy and hawkweeds: Discussed the NEIPC's proposed containment polygons for oxeye daisy & hawkweeds; do we support their proposal?; we need to write a letter to Inter-Ministry Invasive Species Working Group (IMISWG) and show our support; Bob Drinkwater recommended we write letter of support because 1) the line thru Pine Pass will not effect our work load (historically did extra work there when we had money) and 2) first multi-committee line and so would demonstrate that it can be done; Marc and members agreed with support, but added that NWIPC needs to work on line for these same species in the Cassiar area (northwest corner of NWIPC area); the NEIPC fall meeting is on Dec. 1, 2010 and we should indicate by letter that we support.
- Field scabious: accept changes to containment lines in the Vanderhoof IPMA; that is, 1) delete Telegraph Road as was approved last year; 2) discussion of Saik'uz Reserve and whether to split the containment are or keep as was proposed last year and keep it one polygon that includes the private; later was agreed to by membership.
- Need to ask Laura Kristiansen, IAPP data keeper with MFR, Nanaimo, if they keep historical containment line changes?
- Field scabious in Buck Flats area near Houston was tabled until next meeting.
- Spotted knapweed: Marc proposed polygon to cover south half of province; could not get all committees to agree as per protocol; need a provincial strategy; put request to IPCBC and IMISWG for provincial strategy as a model for plants that transition into bio-control.; accepted

**Invasive Plant Management Area Reports:**

- IPMA contractors each gave a short report summarizing their accomplishments and challenges over the season; either in person or submission by written reports read by Andrea and Wendy.
- Graeme Johnstone, retiring Stikine-Skeena IPMA contractor, gave an eloquent and inspiring report spanning his forty-plus years trying to eradicate spotted knapweed and other invasive species from the far west area of NWIPC region.
- CN's lack of involvement at any level was raised as a common issue; NWIPC will continue to pursue through any all means; Andrea to get map of what was BCR as it has been reported that they cooperate better with Ministry of Transportation staff when roads cross old-BCR rail compared to CN rail.

- Andrea described the history behind the change by NWIPC directors to the names of three of our IPMAs starting in 2011. The old names made folks associate the IPMA with the single town and not an area. The changes are:
  - Houston → Bulkley IPMA
  - Burns Lake → Lakes District IPMA
  - Vanderhoof → Nechako IPMA
- Annual contractor awards for a job well done were presented by Wendy Siemens and Andrea Eastham:



Eric Nijboer, Spectrum Resources Group and Prince George IPMA contractor, accepting his award for outstanding service as the famous "Invisible Contractor" (you just had to be there!)



Matt Harder, Vanderhoof IPMA contractor, accepting his award as the most organized and productive contractor.



Darrell Hill, Roots and Shoots Environmental Services and Burns Lake IPMA contractor, accepting his award for rookie of the year: an 'I Spy' book to practice his weed spotting skills for the coming year.

## **A Model for Developing First Nations Invasive Plant Programs: Bob Drinkwater**

Bob Drinkwater, Ministry of Forest and Range Invasive Plant Specialist, addressed the membership emphasizing the role that the ministry has played in developing invasive plant awareness within First Nations. The NWIPC has had great success in partnering with First Nation bands across our area and this is largely due to the financial support from the ministry. Our thanks to David Borth, MFR, Director of Range Branch, for providing the funds and allowing us to use the ministry money to build the First Nations program. Merci Hillis represents NWIPC to the IPCBC Aboriginal Working Group; Bob used the Gitga'at in Hartley Bay as a model of a band taking on the control of invasive species with seed money from NIWPC; we provide treatment and data support while they provide more than twice our funding in labour, equipment, and supplies.

Bob encouraged the NWIPC and District C directors to acknowledge the work that has been done in allowing us to use Ministry of Forest and Range funding through letters; the difficulty with that at the moment is who to address letters to with the current changes in ministries, ministers, and staff; This item should go to the NWIPC board for consideration and execution.

Myrtle Muldoe, Gitksan and NWIPC director acknowledged the Saik'uz First Nations band and welcomed us all to their territory. She thanked each band present (see list of attendees) and went on to say that when she first started with the NWIPC in 2005 there were no First Nations at the table. Myrtle expressed her gratitude to NWIPC, and especially Bob Drinkwater, Merci Hillis, Andrea Eastham and Wendy Siemens for bringing them to the table and getting them involved.

### **First Nation Crews Reports: Facilitator, Merci Hillis**

The session was introduced by Merci followed by presentations in person, or by submitted report from each of the seven crews that worked on the ground in 2010. Not all data entry is complete, so detailed report will appear in 2010 Annual Report.

- Gitga'at by submitted report: they continue to eradicate Yellow Flag Iris by manual digging and treat both Japanese and Himalayan knotweed; they keep trying new techniques in order to maximize effectiveness of the salt-water treatments, monitoring and reporting of treatment results has been excellent and useful to NWIPC in treating in other areas.
- Gitksan verbal report by Merci Hillis: all existing IP sites inventoried, treated, and monitored and all data in IAPP.
- Nisga'a, verbal report by Ben Haizimsque, Lisms Forest Resources: this is the third year that we have partnered but there was a new crew for 2010 so needed training; Lisms is BCWorksafe certified so safety training is emphasized; also crew members were given a GPS course; training is their in-kind contribution to the invasive plant program; the NWIPC IP reference guide was used to train crew; crew re-visited 45 old sites; found new sites; limited by funding to cover all the area; IAPP data entry still to be done; used NWIPC information display at Special Assembly; good for awareness and community understanding and participation is still needed; 75% of partnership budget was spent on treatment and inventory;

they are getting more inquiries from local politicians; the Nisga'a crew worked mainly work on transportation corridors; we will be getting four letters, one from each village.

- Tahltan, verbal report by Bob Drinkwater: Muddy Lake road is a 168 km of rough going on an ATV; difficult terrain; when MFR were out in the area, staff ran into half a dozen Tahltans, and wondered what the heck they were doing this for when the Tahltans live and work right there?; so MFR staff started working with a Tahltan crew 2009; in 2010, Marc Schuffert, MFR, Smithers, and Bob did the training; still development needed to have the crew work independently; will have to use herbicides and the chiefs are agreeable to this, especially after understanding what they will lose if Canada thistle and other IPs infest their land; it is absolutely necessary for them to management this area; someone from Smithers can't go and do three passes per year; they live and work there.
- Saik'uz, verbal report by Renee Robinson: Renee is brand new to the project but had noticed the work being done over the years and the reduction in field scabious; but also observed that it had moved to the other side of the reserve; remarked that it is very pretty; she hopes to re-visit targeted grazing as a potential tool for controlling the field scabious; manual mowing of the field scabious on historical sites was completed in 2010 despite the major changes in band leadership and staff.
- McLeod Lake Indian Band: Lionel Chingee attended the meeting; first year for MLIB partnering with NWIPC to manually control critical spotted knapweed sites in their geographic area and we look forward to further developing the partnership.
- Moricetown Band: NIWPC thanked representatives, Avril Lewis and Roger Michell, for coming to the Fall Meeting; travel expenses were funded by NWIPC; first participation by the Moricetown Band, but next year we will see their crews on the ground treating critical spotted knapweed and common tansy infestations in the camp grounds in cooperation with NWIPC's Stikine-Skeena IPMA contractor.
- Haisla, Kitamaat Village: PowerPoint presentation by Elliot Duncan; Elliot and Chris Stewart were the IP crew for this first year partnering with NIWPC; despite a late season start they inventoried and treated bull thistle, Himalayan balsam, common tansy and Japanese knotweed; crew inventoried 80% of property except Alcan land; found IPs in all the areas and treated; community awareness work included articles in three issues of local newsletter, workshops/meetings, distribution of IP sheets on eight species; all data were entered into IAPP; 20 new sites in District of K; 14 new sites for Kitamaat; dumping in remote sites especially in plans for next year include intensified treatment, developing partnerships with Rio Tinto Alcan, the District of Kitimat, work with RAP (report polluters and poachers).

Ron Anthony, NWIPC retiring-director, ended the First Nations session by expressing the need for the directors to continue to pursue and develop partnerships across the northwest as a critical component of our future success in managing invasive plant species.

## Report on IPCBC Outreach Program:

- Wendy Siemens was IPCBC's Outreach Worker in the NWIPC area from January to March and again from mid-August to mid-December 2010
- School curricula and horticulture industry were a both a major push
- Wendy successfully delivered the school program from Kitimat to Houston and enjoyed it, especially because she got to be a bully!
- Kids learned about IP spread, negative impacts and understand that they are responsible
- Program used games and activities
- Outreach Program in NWIPC area also include: "Project Agriculture" in Vanderhoof area (thanks Denise!); tailgate sessions with Prince George ATV Riders at Norman Lake; weed control at Northern Root Community Garden; BC Rivers Days with 107 folks stopping to learn at our booth; three Communities Pulling Together events; updates to the NWIPC brochure and rack card and securing outside funding from District C Farmer's Institute and IPCBC; she reached 678 Youth, and 208 others, for total of 978 people.

## New Business:

### Report on status of Northwest Transmission Line Project: Eric Swanson, BCHydro

- Eric was unfortunately unable to join us; remains in contact with NWIPC regarding environmental plans and construction of transmission line. See more at: <http://transmission.bchydro.com/projects/ntl/>

### NWIPC Strategic Plan & Profile: Facilitator, Bob Drinkwater

- Discussion of proposed changes to NWIPC IP profile for 2011; all information will go into the draft 2011 Strategic Plan and Plant Profiles.
  - ***Humulus lupulus*** (common hops): Reported as a problem in the Smithers area by Sybille Haeussler; Paul Glover, NWIPC director and Smithers resident agreed with her report
  - ***Cynoglossum officinale*** (houndstongue): recommendation to move from a category 2 to a category 4 due to successful bio-control
  - ***Oenothera biennis*** (evening primrose): issue is that the populations cycle up and down; province won't put in on any list because it is native or naturalized
  - ***Sedum acre***: Reported by the City of PG staff, Burns Lake IPMA contractor, and ministry range staff during a CCCIPC tour in a recreational remote area and it was all over creek; put into 2011 draft plan with all reporting sent to date; not currently in IAPP so have to go through process to get it added.
  - ***Sorbus aucuparia*** (European mountain ash), ***Lonicera tartara*** and its cultivars (Honeysuckle), ***Eleagnus*** family (Russian and autumn olive)
  - Suggesting categorize plants by our management instead of invasiveness
  - New Weed Control Act being worked on by provincial government (changes in ministry responsibility for Act may change)

**Weed Free Forage Pilot:** Facilitator, Bob Drinkwater:

- Discussion and approval of a proposal for NEIPC and NWIPC to pilot this program
- Draft proposal distributed; no program in BC so no weed-free hay; taking feed into back country
- Suggests that we take the North American Weed Management Association (NAWMA) and adapt their standards
- Put in play in 2011 for producing weed-free hay; to northern committees to pilot; inspection by trained individuals; available to customers; tagged bales; promotion and compliance
- Bob outlined steps to do this
- Advantages: improve extension and awareness, improve credibility as facilitators of an effective prevention, reduced management, expand membership
- Self-sufficient: Shelley Kirk 250-787-3241 or [Shelley.Kirk@gov.bc.ca](mailto:Shelley.Kirk@gov.bc.ca)
- Proposal and request for acceptance and financial support go to each board of NWIPC and NEIPC
- None opposed

**NWIPC SPRING AND ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2011  
SMITHERS**

**SEE YOU ALL THERE!!!!!!!!!!**

### ACTION ITEMS FROM NOVEMBER 16<sup>TH</sup> 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	Still Ongoing
Need to look at alternative to corrections crew for large manual weed crews in Prince George IPMA	Claire Watkins	2011 Field Season
Send a letter to IMISWG and IPCBC requesting support for risk assessments – Technical staff or \$\$	Andrea Eastham	ASAP
Use ranking tool to prioritize risk assessments	NWIPC contract staff	Prior to spring agm and discussion of strategic plan & plant profiles
Design changes to IPMA contractor tracking & reporting to capture MOTI requirements discussed at contractor forum	Andrea, Daryl Nolan and Raylene Otto	April 15 <sup>th</sup>
Increase invasive plant identification & reporting via “Spotters Network” presentations	Members; contact NWIPC for assistance	Ongoing
Containment polygon letter to IMISWG to support NEIPC and ask for FS changes	Marc Schuffert, Andrea Eastham, Denise McLean	April
Enquire about saving historical data in IAPP for containment polygon changes	Andrea	February
Request to IPCBC & IMISWG for provincial strategy as a model for plants that transition into bio-control	Andrea	March
Get map of what was BCR track to facilitate cooperation from CN	Andrea	March
Acknowledge work done by MFR that allowed us to develop FN partnerships for IP management; issue is change in ministries	Andrea and NWIPC directors	March