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2011 SPRING & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Meeting Minutes

DATE: April 12, 2011

TIME: 10:00 a.m. – 4:05 p.m.

PLACE: Pioneer Activity Centre, Smithers, BC

PRESENT: Denise McLean, Ministry of Agriculture, Prince George, Chair
Marc Schuffert, Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations, Smithers, NWIPC Director
Claire Watkins, City of Prince George, NWIPC Director, Vice-Chair
Paul Glover, Northwest BC Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides, Smithers, NWIPC Director
John Davidson, Skeena Valley Regional Cattlemen Association, Smithers
Trevor Tapp, Nechako Valley Regional Cattlemen Association, Fraser Lake, NWIPC Director
Lester Boulton, District "C" Farmers Institute, McBride, NWIPC Director
Lynne Wilson, Member at large & District "C" Farmers Institute, NWIPC Director
Erik Swanson, BC Hydro, Prince George, NWIPC Director
Lila Delury, Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations, Houston
Chris Johnstone, Graeme's Agricultural Services, Smithers
Bob Fowler, Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations, Burns Lake
Christine Friedrichsmeier Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations, Vanderhoof
Bob Drinkwater, Drinkwater Environmental Services, Abbotsford
Darrell Hill, Roots and Shoots Environmental Services, Burns Lake
Peter Mohammed, Spectrum Resources Group, Prince George
Eric Nijboer Spectrum, Prince George
Matt Harder, TJ Forestry, Vanderhoof
Doug Corrin, DC Forestry, Prince George
Shirley Hamblin, Nadina Agri-Tech Services, Houston
Andrea Eastham, NWIPC Program Manager, Prince George
Wendy Siemens, NWIPC Western Program Assistant, Houston
Merci Hillis, Gitxsan-Midskeena Watershed, Kispiox, NWIPC First Nation Program Assistant
Amy Farella, NWIPC Eastern Program Assistant, Prince George
Kathy Barendregt, Backcountry Horsemen, Houston
Ed Butler, Williams Lake
Wade Daye, Tahltan First Nation, Telegraph Creek
Johnny Bob, Tahltan First Nation, Telegraph Creek
Colleen Ettinger, District of Houston
Ben Haizimsque, New Aiyansh, Nisga'a Lisms Forest Resources Ltd Partnership
Manny Mariotto, Ministry of Environment, Prince George
Daryl Nolan, MOTI, Prince George
Rosamund Pojar, Smithers
Wayne Tofsrud, Bulkley Valley Cattlemen's Association, Invasive Plant Council of BC, director
Louise VanBaal, Town of Smithers
Darren Filler, Ministry of Environment Parks, Smithers
Barry Gibbs, Invasive Plant Council of BC, Vice-Chair
Kristy Palmantier, Invasive Plant Council of BC, Chair

Minutes prepared by: Amy Farella, NWIPC Eastern Program Assistant

Thirty-nine members attended the 2011 spring AGM taking advantage of the good spring weather conditions. Thanks to all who made their way great distances to attend the meeting.

1. Around the room introductions.
2. Additions to agenda:
 - Other: report from CCCIPC
 - After lunch thank you presentation
3. Review minutes from November 16th, 2010 fall meeting, minutes accepted.
4. Reviewed Action Items from November meeting, see following table:

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 issue, politicians' perception that it was only a "northern" issue. A new letter is being put forward from a southern invasive plant committee.
Need to look at alternative to corrections crew for large manual weed crews in Prince George IPMA	Claire Watkins	Still Ongoing, will update before 2011 field season. Suggestion of naturalist clubs. Bring other ideas to IPMA contractor or NWIPC staff.
Send a letter to IMISWG and IPCBC requesting support for risk assessments – Technical staff or \$\$	Andrea Eastham	IPC conducted survey of offered services – Andrea supported Technical assistance. IPC following up for \$\$ for 2011. Andrea on development committee for risk assessment evaluation.
Use ranking tool to prioritize risk assessments	NWIPC contract staff	Not done, no funding. New provincial ranking tool online. Luke W. completed risk assessment for Him bal posted on NWIPC website
Design changes to IPMA contractor tracking & reporting to capture MOTI requirements discussed at contractor forum	Andrea, Daryl Nolan and Raylene Otto	In development.
Increase invasive plant identification & reporting via "Spotters Network" presentations	Members; contact NWIPC for assistance	Matthew Braun use tool from IPCBC web site an presented in 2010 to a REAPS mtg. in Prince George. Andrea delivered "Aquatics" to BoD. Wendy to give presentation to Bulkley Valley naturalists next month. IPCBC is looking for more ways to market these presentations to increase participation. Rosamund looking to present one late spring.

ACTION ITEM	WHO	STATUS
		Can be challenging to download presentations from IPC website, contact IPC first then NWIPC for copies on disk.
Containment polygon letter to IMISWG to support NEIPC and ask for FS changes	Marc Schuffert, Andrea Eastham, Denise McLean	Not complete, no NEIPC coordinator. NWIPC will write letter of support when NEIPC ready.
Enquire about saving historical data in IAPP for containment polygon changes	Andrea	Requested information, will follow up.
Request to IPCBC & IMISWG for provincial strategy as a model for plants that transition into bio-control	Andrea	Ongoing, Shared border Southern IP committee has different SK strategies, biocontrol vs. eradication. NWIPC did biocontrol release near shared border. Looking for provincial strategy leadership on how to transition between the different strategies.
Get map of what was BCR track to facilitate cooperation from CN	Andrea	Done
Acknowledge work done by MFR that allowed us to develop FN partnerships for IP management; issue is change in ministries	Andrea and NWIPC directors	Ongoing, thank you letter written to David Borth. New letter should be written to ensure the new Minister is aware of the situation.

Report on 2010 Accomplishments:

5. 2010 Budget Review

- MAL – 2010 money dispersed through IPCBC. HST is removed from total (\$ 70 000 – HST). Agreement in force for 2011, no commitment for post 2011.
- Various 2010 projects weren't completed because of cash flow problems that arose late in the year.
- NWIPC policy commits 15% of funds raised for on the ground for NWIPC administration an overhead of contracts; almost 25% of the NWIPC budget is used for administration, contract staff, projects, education and awareness. Previously this difference was made up from the MAL grant (because there were no stipulations on how it could be spent). Suggestion: the NWIPC Board of Directors should discuss this topic because MAL and other government funding is becoming more and more limited.
- FYI all MAL IP staff moved to new Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations

6. Balance sheet

- Reserve or "Carry over", NWIPC has been criticized by government or when discussing non-profit status, for having this reserve but without it cash flow is a problem during the summer. The reserve was started from leftover start up funds not used because of late start up time. Bob D. has canvassed other committees and found that they have a 10% reserve to cover lag time between operational expenses and funding contributions. NWIPC reserve is no longer very large. To avoid cash flow problems during the field season: Possible solution is to have partners to pay funding up front. Long-term partners like the City of Prince George have a high level of comfort with NWIPC and have started

to pay funds up front. Other local governments grant funding may not be available in spring, city taxes not collected yet...own cash flow problems. Also starting to collect HST rebates quarterly.

- Question: Why is CN logo on NWIPC display, when they are not listed as a contributing partner in the budget? Response: CN is still considered a partner but with some unresolved issues.
7. Report on First Nations crews and partnerships: Merci Hillis
 - Started 2011 communications with First Nation partners.
 - Haisla similar to last year.
 - Saik'uz - supporting moving program forward with complete IPM program instead of just cutting/mowing.
 8. Report on 2010 IPCBC outreach report: Wendy Siemens
 - Presentations in schools – have reached almost 700 students. Comment: Bob F. would like to be involved in school programs in his area.
 - Contact was made with School District 54 and there will be a training session with Smithers teachers in May. Those teachers will then have the tools to head back into the classroom and deliver it to their students.
 - Contact was made with Amanda Tisseur from Exploration Place (Prince George) who attended a demo classroom session. Amanda would like to train the staff at Exploration Place to deliver this information. Dates for training not set yet.
 - Communities Pulling Together 3 completed in 2010, and more planned for 2011.
 - ATV Club in jamboree in Prince George, August 2011. NWIPC partnering with Spectra Energy to build an ATV wash station.
 9. Update on IPCBC and 2010 Hot Spot and SWAT crews: Barry Gibbs, IPCBC Vice Chair.
 - IPCBC Board of Directors represents 17 perspectives and works by consensus. Working to build stronger partnerships with all the committees.
 - NWIPC members who are also IPCBC directors: Claire Watkins, Peter Mohammed, Trish Stevens, and Wayne Tofsrud.
 - Project underway rewriting current IP strategy into an invasive species strategy. Focuses on vectors of transport. While managing the specific vector, work on all organisms spread by that vector.
 - Question: What is being done about mining and forestry industry vehicles in the backcountry? Provincially, we are working to identify the behaviors that transport invasive species and to develop specific strategies for those industries and behaviors. Comment from Peter M: We should measure successes in small steps; we have gained in the areas of training and reporting especially at the local level. Increased engagement.
 - Question: YISC putting together guidelines for mining operations, is IPCBC doing something similar? NWIPC offers local training for forestry workers (contractors). Recently IP training has been provided for mine inspectors by the Southern Interior Weed Management Committee's Outreach program, and relationships are formed between local contractors and mining companies on a site by site basis.
 10. Update on IPCBC Aboriginal Working Group: Kristy Palmantier, IPCBC Chair
 - Mandate: to increase aboriginal involvement in invasive plant management across BC. Developed an Aboriginal toolkit for IP mgt (report). The report details why communities should get involved, planning and decision-making working with Pest Management Plans, sample band council resolutions etc.

- Sugar cane band IP management history: Reserve lands surrounded by the city of Williams Lake and 3 large ranches as well as BC rail and Hwy 97 corridors running through the reserve lands. Various councils had different attitudes towards IP treatments. No federal financial support for IP management on reserve lands since mid-1980s. Now collaboratively working with ranchers and city to mgt IPs, work collaboratively with IPCBC and CCCIPC. General issue, lack of capacity, band management working on bigger issues. Currently working to keep invasive plants contained to hwy corridor and out of hay fields. Continuous education is needed for land users (ATVers etc). Have secured funding for various band members for inventory and treatment projects. Working with IPCBC to manage dalmatian toadflax, spotted knapweed, sulphur cinquefoil and burdock.

11. Northwest Transmission Line Project Update: Erick Swanson.

- The Northwest Transmission Line (NTL) Project received its Environmental Assessment Certification last month. The Environmental Assessment office of BC has detailed information on plans to mitigate environmental impacts of development (http://a100.gov.bc.ca/appsdata/epic/html/deploy/epic_project_home_299.html) - all projects have a section on IP prevention. The official comment period has closed but comments can still be sent.
- Project summary: BC Hydro proposes to install 344 km of electricity transmission lines along highway 37 from Terrace to Bob Quinn Lake. A new substation will be installed at Bob Quinn Lake along with upgrades to the Skeena substation. This will get rid of some of the diesel generation stations and link communities and some mining projects. Completion date: operational Dec. 2013. Work will require clearing some new sections of land. Anticipate a lot of contractor involvement. There will be language in their contracts around invasive species (i.e. new equipment brought into jobsite will be washed). Currently language is very broad. Re-vegetation guidelines include harvesting local plants.

Lunch 12:20. - 1:20.

12. Award To Darryl Person, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, BCTS, Skeena, for help with the 2009, 2010 Terrace Hot spot crews.

- Assisted Ministry Invasive Plant Specialist and NWIPC IPMA contractor with community awareness around knotweed and Himalayan balsam.
- Darryl arranged for the crews to park trucks, store equipment, and marshal each morning at BCTS compound, as well as helping with local knowledge of sites and roads.

13. Committee Reports

- Containment Polygons: Marc S. Spotted knapweed containment polygon not developed because knapweed infestation crosses into other weed committee areas with differences in management strategies. Development ongoing. Any issues from the membership bring info to Marc.
- Pesticide issues: Manny M. No new issues to report. Committee will meet before field season.
- Education and Awareness: Denise M. New magnetized note pads and more t-shirts. Shirts will not be handed out as freely as past years. Limited to contractors and volunteers. Looking at soft plastic key chains for ATVer's, discussing the potential of stickers and pencils. NWIPC attended Seedy Saturdays in Prince George and Terrace. Weeds and the Works slated for May 28 in Houston. This one-day workshop covers many aspects of invasive plant management from identification, control, herbicide application/ sprayer calibration and safety. Further details will be posted on the website.

- List of current scheduled events will be posted on the website ASAP. Any ideas for new events please talk to Wendy. Advertising, we need to increase awareness that NWIPC exists and what we do! We are going to advertise in free publications and in the hunting synopsis. Any other suggestions please submit them to Wendy.

14. List of Directors for 2011

Perspective	Director	Affiliation	Phone
Environmental, Conservation & Naturalist Groups	Paul Glover	Northwest BC Coalition for Alternatives to Pesticides	250-847-5575
First Nations	Myrtle Muldoe	Gitksan First Nation – Mid- Skeena Watershed	250-842-5432
Forest Industry	Bruce Middleton	BC Timber Sales	250-567-6312
Livestock and Guide Outfitters Associations	Graeme Johnstone	Graeme's Agricultural Service's	250-847-3453
Livestock and Guide Outfitters Associations	Trevor Tapp	Nechako Valley Regional Cattlemen's Association	250-699-6466
Local farmers and the Robson Valley area	Lester Blouin	District "C" Farmers Institute	250-968-4487
Local government	Claire Watkins	City of Prince George, Parks Dept.	250-614-7818
Local Government	Janine Dougall	Regional District of Bulkley Nechako	250-692-3195
Member at Large, Prince George	Lynne Wilson	Member at large & District "C" Farmers Institute	250-967-4645
Member at Large, Terrace area	Ian Hayes	Cambria Gordon Ltd.	250-635-0226
Provincial Government	Denise McLean, Chair	Ministry of Agriculture	250-565-7201
Provincial Government	Marc Schuffert	Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations	250-847-6329
Transportation and Utility Companies	Erik Swanson	BC Hydro	250-561-4863

- Retired: Bob D., Ron A. at fall meeting, Geoff H.
- Additions: Graeme J., Erik S. (replacing Geoff H.), Lynne W.
- Retiring: John Davidson
- Membership approved the director list.

15. Strategic plan and plant profiles

- Draft posted 1 mo. prior to meeting on website.
- The treatment strategy has evolved since matrices were developed; some people find that it's not clear. The original intention was, category 1 species are not necessarily high priority species. This is because the opportunity for control also has to be factored into its control priority. Bob D. last fall added clarification around Early Detection Rapid Response (EDRR). EDRR treatment level will contain all provincially listed EDRR species. The next treatment level defines containment species (i.e. tansy, spotted

knapweed etc.). Containment species change across the operating area. The lowest priority species and sites are "Rehabilitation" category. The anticipated form of treatment on these sites would be biocontrol.

- Suggestion: form a subcommittee to develop a graphic to clearly convey strategy to the general public. Experienced on the ground operators should review the final document to ensure that it fits the exceptional situations that arise. Committee formed with Andrea, Bob D., Rosamund, and Lila.

16. Strategic Plan and Plant Profiles Changes

- Proposed: Add purple foxglove - *Digitalis purpurea*, becoming problematic on Haida Gwaii.
 - Rosamund - this is a widespread species, long established. For small areas, it may be feasible to eradicate but not feasible for all of Haida Gwaii. Localized concern.
 - Discussion: the Plant Profile is where NWIPC tracks information about introductions, population cycling etc. It is used to inform future management decisions. Good idea to add to profile so that kind of information will be tracked.
 - Approved to Add to strategy as a category 3.
- Add common hops - *Humulus lupulus*. Becoming a problem in the Smithers/Telkwa area.
 - Add to strategy as category 2. Risk assessment needed and containment needs to be determined.
- Change of category move hound's tongue from category 2 to 4.
 - Based the change of category on the presence of an effective biocontrol.
 - Membership unsure if biocontrol would really work in the north. Don't wait for potential biocontrol to work, control plants when found.
 - No change, left as category 2.
- Evening primrose proposed to increase risk category from category 4
 - Comment: leave it as a lower priority for risk assessment
 - No change of category, contractors report observations for the season to Andrea.
- Add Mossy stone crop – *Sedum acre*. Perennial mat forming herb. Currently listed as invasive on E-flora and is included on some invasive plant committees' lists.
 - Add as category 2.
 - Need more information on control methods including herbicide. As well as how to distinguish from native stone crops - get ID info from Bob D.
- Add European mountain ash, honeysuckle, *Eleagnus* family.
 - Discussion around *Eleagnus* native vs. ornamental varieties.
 - All species need more investigation.
 - *Lonicera*, Andrea to investigate sighting.
- Plan approved.

17. IPMA contracts: Denise

- 5 up for renewal. Nechako and Lakes approved with the same contractors as 2010.
- 2 up for bid, Haida Gwaii recommendation committee has asked for an extension. Drinkwater Environmental has been selected as the contractor for the Stikine Skeena IPMA.
- Discussion around making the work plans publicly available. Result, won't post plans online but will be available to those who ask through the program manager.

18. Report on Board of Directors Focus Session: Denise

- Reviewed successes and challenges of the board. The results of this session are that NWIPC will focus on new weeds, and how they are introduced and how can people introducing those weeds be reached.

- NWIPC will focus on classroom, recreational groups, and professional development. Increase awareness in specific focus groups through paper adds. The ATV jamboree is a big focus for 2011.

19. Budget 2011.

- Andrea to send another letter to new Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations Minister.
- Added second program management assistant, Amy Farella to more effectively deliver NWIPC operations east of Vanderhoof.
- Discussion around MOE and past budget contributions.
- Bob D. Peter M. suggest order more herbicide application signs; Daryl Nolan commented he received cheaper quotes for signs by posting on BC Bid instead using standard of Bag-O-Signs rates.
- Using of reserve funds: discussion around if this practice is acceptable to the membership. If not acceptable what areas to cut?
 - The municipalities that aren't contributing are they contacted? Response: At least twice a year since 2005.
 - The regional district of Bulkley Nechako receives a grant of \$30,000 they receive from the province that they turn over to NWIPC. This is an historical grant that was used to support regional weed management programs.
 - Suggestions to reduce the amount of reserve funds used: move money from the various 50/50 programs, remove some from First Nation partnerships. Don't cut anything from the education budget.
 - Final decision leave budget as is, recruit more money.

20. Other Business

- IPCBC update – meetings and programs for 2011: Kristy Palmantier
 - 7 day training attempting to do it on cost recovery basis
 - Reworking spotters network based on feedback
 - Communities Pulling Together no funding as of yet
 - Applying for funding to augment on the ground funding not necessarily historical Hot Spots program.
 - Looking for suggestions for a provincial "Invasive Species Day" date in June.
 - IPC trying to get weed coordinators on a regular radio show.
 - IPCBC has knotweed trials in Bella Coola, using "cut and poor" methods.
- Peter M. Try to make more impact on your local politicians to remember the invasive plant issue when budget talks happen.
- Trailhead signs – send ideas and comments to awareness committee

ACTION ITEM	WHO	WHEN
Milestone use within the PFZ: CC Peter M. on all related correspondence. Peter would like to know when letter to the province would be prepared.	Andrea Eastham	May
Milestone use within the PFZ: Follow up Marty Hafke (EKIP) the lead on the latest letter.	Andrea Eastham	May
Weeds in the classroom 2011 projects, involve Bob F. when projects are in his local area.	Wendy Siemens	Make initial arrangements before field season.
Post list of events NWIPC is scheduled to attend on website.	Amy Farella	ASAP

ACTION ITEM	WHO	WHEN
Update Strategic Plan and Plant Profiles with new/changed plants	Andrea Eastham	Before contractor's training.
Research more control and identification information for mossy stone crop.	Andrea Eastham	Before contractor's training.
Investigate invasive <i>Lonicera</i> sighting.	Andrea Eastham	May
Send letter to new Ministry of Forests, Lands & Natural Resource Operations Minister. To thank for past contributions from that ministry.	Andrea Eastham	April
New Operational strategy committee, discuss the development of a graphic to clearly convey strategy to the general public	Andrea Eastham, Bob Drinkwater, Rosamund Pojar, Lila Delury.	Make initial contact before field season.