

**Weed Free Forage Working Group
Meeting Minutes
Peace River Regional District Offices 1981 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC
December 7, 2011 5:00- 6:30 pm (Mountain Time)**

Present:	Phone In:	
Sonja Leverkus	Daryl Nolan	Amy Farella
Ally Kennedy	Raylene Otto	
Kieth Carroll	Cat	
Bob Drinkwater	Pam Jorgenson	
Elaine Armagost	Denise McLean	

1. Welcome and introduction
2. Tasks from last meeting

TASK	PERSON	Status
Send copies of example palletted and wrapped bales to Amy to distribute to group.	Sonja	In process
Let Amy know where any signs have been posted or where you plan to post signs and how you plan on having the signs hung (a photo or two of hung signs would be great!)	Elaine, Sonja and Marc	Done for 2011, need to update when more signs are posted in 2012.
Summarise notes from NAWMA training and talk to Adrienne about the process of joining NAWMA.	Elaine and Andrea	In process
Look at using a food grade dye to mark bales	Denise	In process
Post current digital copy of NWIPC invasive plant binder on NWIPC FTP site.	Amy	Done
Send Amy a copy of previous WFF presentation (as well as an other documentation Sonja has inherited from Shelly Kirk).	Sonja	Done
Amy is available to deliver WFF presentations (presenting at NEIPC &NWIPC meetings) send potential meetings/venues to Amy.	Everyone	Have info about January forum – no other presentations planed.
Please send any and all comments, successes, challenges and lessons learned about the program to Amy.	Everyone	None received so far
Send upcoming horse related event info to Amy – we want have WFF information at backcountry horsemen booth.	Garth	Done
Summary of conversation with David Borth about the creation of regulation and legislation that would benefit the WFF	Sonja	In process

program – present at the next conference call.		
Transit letter system development	Standards sub-committee (Bob Drinkwater (chair), Sonja Leverkus, Denise McLean, Keith Carroll, Freddy Schneider and Marvin Zandberg)	Not many sub-committee members on last call – sub committee will work on over winter
Talk to Ken Siemens to find out how much WFF was produced and sold.	Amy	Done

3. Overview of the project
 - a. Product produced: # bales produced, what kinds, what has been sold
 - i. 464 acres inspected, 442.5 certified (difference 21.5 acres)
 - ii. Hay – 562 round
 - iii. Straw – 1482 square, 462 round
 - iv. Oats
 - v. Contact Ken Siemens
 - b. Out reach and promotion: material made: signs, tags
 - i. 50 trailhead awareness signs made and distributed to Peace and Skeena area (backcountry trails) – get a complete list of where posted (with some pictures) in spring 2012
 - ii. Certified bale tags 2,000 produced
 - c. What needs to be done: technical handouts, presentation, poster, producer recognition signs, transit letters
 - i. Ken Siemens mentioned need for handout for prospective buyers – to inform their managers – technical – how weed free reclamation products prevent weed introductions. Any best practices or standards documents suggesting weed free products – Amy will produce and circulate.
 - d. Final report
 - i. IASPP (Environment Canada) funding agreement ends Dec 30. Final report and invoice due Jan 30. Amy will write and circulate to group for comments. No other reporting requested.
4. Producer thoughts – no producers on call. Extend personal invitations (call) producers before next weed free meeting.
 - a. Recommendations: From Ken S., Fern M. Change program name to Noxious and Invasive Plant Free Forage – weed free misleading. Can transport “weeds” that weren’t inspected for. Comment from invasive plant coordinators and contractors – don’t change name. Current name uses

recognized branding and builds on marketing done by NAWMA. Could clarify “weed free” in project marketing.

5. Weed people thoughts

- a. Successes: Produced weed free hay, straw, oats and promotional material of signage and poster.
 - i. Amy had conversation with Crystal Wheeler, MOTI Roadside Development Manager – willing to add the requirement for weed free products in development contracts in Daryl Nolan’s operating area – Northern Region.
 - ii. Comments from Daryl Nolan and Raylene Otto – straw considered a lower risk product (vs. hay) during re-vegetation planning – less likely to introduce undesired species (invasive species and agronomics). Products and their producers used in development projects are listed by MOTI – Master Standing Offers. Would like to see weed free straw listed on this list, easy to refer contractors to this list when they are looking for products. Concerned that weed free products have only been produced by one producer so far – my not be enough product for all projects.
 - iii. Comments from group – we need a provincial body to host a list of weed free producers and products ex. IPCBC or a Provincial Ministry.

6. Future for the Northern WFF/S program and funding

- a. NAWMA certification
 - i. Seeking it. A memorandum of understanding would need to be signed between the Province of BC and NAWMA. Weed free program needs the support of a Ministry. Elaine is working on this through the Ministry of Forests.
- b. Is the program moving towards the anticipated Provincial pilot for 2012 or will NEIPC/NWIPC run a regional 2012 Program?
 - i. The original intention was to turn the pilot project over to the Province to run for the 2012 year. Handing over the pilot has met some difficulties since the responsibilities for invasive plant management changed Ministries in 2011. If NEIPC/NWIPC choose to operate a regional program again more funding will need to be found. The deadline for IASPP funding for 2012 has already passed.
 - ii. Suggestion: Build on Elaine's current hand-off ground work. If the Ministry does not take up the project – don't run a regional program in 2012 to put further pressure on the Ministry to fund a provincial program.
 - iii. Suggestion look at options for funding a regional program in 2012 at next meeting.

7. Other Business

- a. IPCBC January 24-26 Forum
 - i. Weed free forage and straw presentation has been added to the agenda. Julie Robinson will be presenting.
- b. Terms of reference for WFF Working Group – deferred to January 17 meeting.
- c. Ally Kennedy, Keefer Ecological Services (Cranbrook)- Native plant nursery program is being expanded to include a northern green house with the goal of providing genetically diverse native plant seed for the north. The nursery is being developed in association with the Saulteau and West Moberly First Nations near Moberly Lake.

Next meeting by conference call January 17, 4:00 pm Pacific Standard time.

Meeting end 5:39.

Tasks from this meeting

TASK	PERSON	Date Due
Send copies of example palletted and wrapped bales to Amy to distribute to group.	Sonja	By January 17
Summarize notes from NAWMA training and talk to Adrienne about the process of joining NAWMA.	Elaine and Andrea	In process
Look at using a food grade dye to mark bales	Denise	By January 17
Please send any and all comments, successes, challenges and lessons learned about the program to Amy.	Everyone	By January 17
Summary of conversation with David Borth about the creation of regulation and legislation that would benefit the WFF program – present at the next conference call.	Sonja	Will update next meeting
Transit letter system development	Standards sub-committee (Bob Drinkwater (chair), Sonja Leverkus, Denise McLean, Keith Carroll, Freddy Schneider and Marvin Zandberg)	Sub committee will work on over winter
Weed free oats produced are they green or grain?	Amy F.	By January 17
Send comments about improving Weed free poster to Amy	Everyone	By January 17
Send pictures of development projects using straw mulch or project requiring the use of	Everyone. Amy will email out separate request.	By January 17

straw mulch or weed free hay to Amy for use in promotional material		
Produce technical handout for prospective buyers highlighting relevant legislation and best management techniques	Amy F.	By January 17
Produce power point presentation describing the weed free forage and straw pilot for Julie R. to use at the January IPCBC forum	Sonja L, Elaine A. and Denise M.	By January 24
Develop potential signage to recognize weed free producers	Elaine A. and Denise M.	By January 17
Write weed free forage and straw pilot project final report to IASPP (Environment Canada). Send to group for comments using track changes	Amy F.	By January 17. Due by January 30.
Send confirmation back to IASPP for payment.	Denise M.	By January 17.
Call producers to invite to next weed free meeting.	Amy F.	By January 10.
Get producers on board early in year to allow for efficient scheduling inspections. Place producer recruitment ads.	Amy F.	By January 30.
Check on hosting list of weed free producers and products on IPCBC website.	Pam J.	By January 17.