

**Clinton and Area Community Wildfire Roundtable
Approved Meeting Summary as of April 29, 2025**

Meeting date: October 29, 2024 1:00PM to 3:30PM

Location: In Person at Clinton Memorial Hall and online

Present (for at least a portion of the meeting):

Bonaparte Watershed Stewardship Society – Al Midgley
BC Wildfire Service (BCWS) – Russell Murphy, Peter Holub, Ally Keir
Cariboo Regional District – Eric de Vries
Forest Enhancement Society of BC – Travis Emsland
Fraser Basin Council – Mike Simpson (contractor)
High Bar First Nation – Ty Hughes, Kaden Hook
Ministry of Forests 100 Mile House District – Catherine Cautley-Davis, Johnna Wandler
South Green Lake Volunteer Fire Department – Roger Graham, Bob Bell
Thompson-Nicola Regional District – Kim McMillan, Daniel Funk, Kevin Skrepnek
Village of Clinton – Mayor Roland Stanke, Brian Doddridge, Tara Folstrom, Karl Hansen
Whispering Pines Clinton Indian Band – Chad Frizzi

1. Introductions, Meeting Objectives, Agenda

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone and unceded territory of High Bar, Whispering Pines and Secwepemc nation was acknowledged. Village of Clinton was acknowledged for providing the meeting space. A round of introductions took place. The agenda was approved as presented.

2. Previous Meeting Summary

The meeting summary from March 11, 2024 was approved and will be posted on the [website](#) soon. Action Items were reviewed, and either addressed during the rest of the meeting or removed if they were complete. See updated table at end of this summary.

3. What's Underway, Who's Doing What for Wildfire Preparedness

Village of Clinton – Brian introduced Tara Folstrom as the Village's FireSmart coordinator, she has been hired with [Union of BC Municipalities Community Resiliency Investment](#) program funds as a result of the Village's community wildfire resiliency plan. Brian noted that Tara will be developing a focussed Clinton FireSmart Committee if anyone is interested and will be leading education initiatives. The Village is also looking into the rebate program, funding for fuel management treatments, and the Volunteer Fire Department is seeking to create a structure protection unit (will take up to 4 years). Brian noted that emergency planning is in limbo until new regulations under the Emergency and Disaster Management Act (EDMA) are created.

Thompson-Nicola Regional District – Kim noted that she is program lead, Dan is field lead on doing education and home assessments. Since their official launch in March 2024 they've done 25 education events (including one in Venables Valley the evening of the evacuation order) and assessed 528 structures on 320 properties. They trialled a "chipper day" at Paul Lake and collected 6000 pounds of material, and will do another in Lac le Jeune on November 12. They are doing FireSmart assessments on critical infrastructure starting with TNRD fire halls then moving to water systems. Their GIS person Nicole Jung has created an in-house application to enable FireSmart home assessments to be spatially linked and securely maintain data.

Kevin noted that TNRD are updating 18 emergency plans covering their area, 5 were done last year including 70 Mile/Big Bar with the goal to finish the rest this year. He noted the key challenge is working with Ministry of Forests (MOF) and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) during emergencies as the evacuation routes are their jurisdiction, not TNRD's.

Kevin noted that TNRD has budget for training, reach out to Mike Knauff mknauff@tnrd.ca with any specific requests that VFDs or others would like to see.

The website for various TNRD resources related to FireSmart, including links to the CWRPs for each of 10 electoral areas is [here](#).

MOF 100 Mile House District – Kate Cautley-Davis noted that landscape level planning for wildfire risk reduction has been initiated for the entire 100 Mile House Forest District, which will identify sub-areas and inform tactical (now called wildland urban interface wildfire risk reduction or WUI WRR) plans. Clinton area will be one of the sub-areas; these will be done by March 2025 and can be presented at the next meeting. Identification of egress routes will be part of the analysis.

Kate noted that fuel breaks are being considered for Meadow Lake and Pressy Lake areas, and that a road rehabilitation project is proceeding (consultation was done) to remove roads (they are not egress routes).

Johnna noted that they have \$1.3M for operational work this fiscal year, currently have 22 of 33 contracts operational doing work on 280 ha of treatments. They have 9 contractors doing pile burning, catching up on the backlog of piles (backlogged due to drought conditions, limited number of good venting days). They are trying grinding on site, as well as chipping and spreading on site (instead of burning) according to new BCWS guidelines for mastication. Reach out to Johnna if you need to know locations of treatments, and she will get Mike an updated map for the website.

High Bar First Nation – Troy noted that they are encouraged to hear about “concurrent residual harvesting program” noted at the last 100 Mile Timber Supply Area meeting; this enables forest licensees and tenure holders to be incentivized to use chips through reduction in residual billing. Troy noted that their crews are winding down the archaeological field season, shifting attention to reconnaissance and post-harvest assessments as well as salvage of Twin Creek fire near Chasm and working with BCWS on planning prescribed burns. They are also working with BC Parks on wildfire risk reduction (WRR) in Big Bar and Edge Hills parks.

BC Wildfire Service – Peter noted that Colleen Ross, a fire ecologist did a Fire Effects monitoring project with them that looked at areas of Clinton Community Forest. A burn plan has been created as a partnership for an area within Clinton (partnership with CCF, Village, HBFN, WPCIB, MOF and BCWS) and consultation is underway, the hope would be to do the burn in spring 2025. Ally noted that there is 1 ha that they want to do with community involvement, and 80 ha that can be training for volunteer fire departments (VFDs).

Ally is reviewing several burn plans that were previously developed, she and Russell hope to get a lot more prescribed burning done locally. Peter is working with several other organizations (SXFN, Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation, Big Horn Sheep Society) on several other planned prescribed burns in the South Cariboo, Churn Creek and down to Lillooet.

Ally noted that the 2024 wildfire season in 100 Mile House Zone had 86 incidents which resulted in 70 wildfires (53 lightning caused, rest human or unknown), 9 of which were > 1 ha with the largest wildfire being 290 ha NW of 100 Mile House. Initial attack was 86% successful.

Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) – Travis reminded folks that they have 3 years of BC government funding to address wildfire risk and utilization of low value fibre to address carbon and climate change. He noted that their funding is mostly fully allocated to March 2025, but the following two years through March 2027 have lots of funding available. See more on their website [here](#) and email Travis with any questions or for assistance temsland@fesbc.ca. It was also noted that they store FireSmart brochures at their office in Kamloops, but large orders now come through Victoria.

Bonaparte Watershed Stewardship Society – Al noted that they are working on water storage including creation of beaver dam analogues (BDA), Kayla Feenstra had secured \$150 000 to build 10 BDAs and they are looking for feedback on where to locate them. Email Al caribooal@gmail.com

Cariboo Regional District – Eric noted that he's interested in how this roundtable works, as the adjacent electoral area to the north. He noted he knows of a contractor in Bridge Lake with a chipper that would be interested in bidding on projects. He advocated for use of chips and low-value fibre.

BC Parks – no staff were able to attend, Mike shared the following that was received in advance:

Big Bar

- Update provided by Brita Pedersson
- project is currently undergoing First Nations consultation based on the amended prescription that includes updated specifications for wildlife values and mechanical treatment
- once consultation is complete, it is anticipated that a treatment contractor will be secured in early winter for 11.9 ha of treatment

Green Lake

- update provided by Sean Owens
- BC Parks reviewed the status of current treatment on site and determined that further treatment was required to complete the prescription, including 1) pile burning of previously piled material and 2) remaining treatment
- piles currently on site include a very high number of large diameter wood, a significant amount of which is firewood quality
- to relieve the pressure of pile burning, BC Parks acquired authorization for firewood. More information to come as plans develop
- any machinery access requires dry ground, so this work is aimed to take place next year when the ground is dry
- any hand treatment can occur this year
- project is currently undergoing First Nations consultation
- once consultation is complete, a contract for treatment will be pursued

Whispering Pines Clinton Indian Band – Chad Frizzi noted their crews are busy doing chipping and thinning work on WRR projects and want to expand to have ground crews as well.

4. Next Steps

It was noted that the [BC Wildfire Resiliency and Training Conference](#) is April 12-16, 2025 in Penticton and that funding can be available through UBCM or FNESS for people to attend. Al Midgley noted the BWSS annual general meeting is usually held in February, he'll share info in due course.

Next meeting – late winter/early spring 2025, exact timing to be determined and dependent on duration of wildfire season. Mike will seek an exact date via scheduling poll at least a month in advance. Topics: MOF landscape level planning results (Kate); possible field tour.

Task or activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
Share updated maps that show past fuel management treatments and future proposed treatments.	BCWS, MOF	Ongoing
Questions about proposed fuel management projects, ribbon they see in the forest next to private property, contact Johnna Wandler at johnna.wandler@gov.bc.ca	Everyone	Ongoing
Training opportunities for Volunteer Fire Departments reach out to Kayla Topping (kayla.topping@gov.bc.ca) examples: SWPP 115 – structural, Engine boss course and Wildfire fighter 1 – equivalent to S100.	Everyone	Ongoing
Advise Ally Keir if they see problems of excessive fuel buildup and fire risk on private land alexandra.keir@gov.bc.ca	Everyone	Ongoing
Contact Ally Keir if First Nations communities want to do training alexandra.keir@gov.bc.ca	First Nations	Ongoing
Contact Ally Keir or Reg Trapp about ideas for proposed prescribed burns	Everyone	Ongoing
Reach out to Mike Knauff mknauuff@tnrd.ca at TNRD about requests for training related to emergency management	Everyone	Ongoing
Collaborate on egress route planning	TNRD, MOF	Ongoing