

**Clinton and Area Community Wildfire Preparedness Roundtable  
Draft Meeting Summary as of Jan 31, 2023**

**Meeting date:** January 23, 2023, 9:00AM to 11:45AM

**Location:** In Person at Clinton Memorial Hall and online

**Present:**

Bonaparte Indian Band – Brenda Antoine, Roy Serisoa  
Bonaparte Watershed Stewardship Society – Al Midgley  
BC Parks – Terri Worthen  
BC Timber Sales – Jeff O’Hara  
BC Wildfire Service – Rob Barnett, Peter Holub, Matt Lees, Jason Ward  
Clinton Communities in Bloom – Susan Swan  
Clinton Community Forest – Steve Law  
Ministry of Emergency Management and Climate Readiness – Steve Mulholland  
First Nations Emergency Services Society – Darrick Andrews  
Forsite Consultants – Hailey Sigalet  
Kelly Lake Wildfire Prep Team – Norene Parke  
Ministry of Forests 100 Mile House District – Johnna Wandler, Catherine Cautley-Davis  
South Green Lake Volunteer Fire Department – Fire Chief Roger Graham, Assistant Chief Bob Bell  
Stswecem’c Xget’tem First Nation – Judah Melton  
Thompson-Nicola Regional District – Kevin Skrepnek, Jeremy Denny, Mike Knauff, Director Jim Smith  
Village of Clinton – Mayor Roland Stanke, Murray Daly, Wayne Walch, Councillor Darrell Schapansky  
West Fraser – Rob Ballinger  
Whispering Pines Indian Band and contractors – Tanner LeBourdais, Dallas Ingverson, Kia Mattice  
Consultant (Fraser Basin Council) – Mike Simpson

**1. Introductions, Meeting Objectives, Agenda**

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone and Susan Swan acknowledged unceded territory of High Bar, Whispering Pines and Secwepemc nation. A round of introductions took place. The agenda was approved as presented.

**2. Previous meeting summary**

The previous meeting summary from October 24, 2022 was approved. 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. Clinton & Area Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan**

Hailey Sigalet, RPF, Fuel Management Specialist with Forsite Consultants Ltd. presented the the Clinton & Area Community Wildfire Resiliency Plan (CWRP). The CWRP and associated maps were circulated to roundtable participants on January 16, 2023 to enable people to review the material. Her presentation slides can be found [here](#).

Comments and edits on the CWRP were noted as follows:

- Terri Worthen noted that since the area of interest of the CWRP overlaps three provincial parks, to mention the Parks Act in list of legislation, list all three parks, and specify that any activities in the parks are the responsibility of BC Parks

The Clinton and Area Community Wildfire Roundtable endorsed the CWRP, with the comments noted above. (Endorsement was described as supporting what was in the plan/not objecting to anything in it, not being individually financially responsible for its implementation, and providing a signal to Village of Clinton council and Thompson-Nicola Regional District board of directors that the roundtable which initiated the plan is content with what was developed).

Next steps are as follows:

- Adoption by Village of Clinton council, TNRD Board of Directors – February or March 2023
- Posting of CWRP and associated maps on [website](#)
- Village of Clinton and TNRD can apply for [Community Resiliency Investment funds](#)

#### 4. Information Sharing

##### Bonaparte Indian Band

- Brenda inquired about which [UBCM funding sources in Community Emergency Preparedness Fund](#) address water; no one knew for sure, it was suggested she follow up directly with UBCM staff Rebecca Bishop [cepf@ubcm.ca](mailto:cepf@ubcm.ca)
- Roy is new in an economic development position.

##### Ministry of Forests 100 Mile House

- Catherine noted that there are lots of fuel management initiatives in 100 Mile District, they are looking to get more happening in the southern part next year, including prescriptions in 70 Mile area, an east-west landscape break near 70 Mile, and other landscape breaks near Big Bar and Meadow Lake. There are also many plans for prescribed burning of treatment areas.
- Catherine noted that MOF is initiating an access management plan to determine what roads can be deactivated, balancing need for access for range, wildfire suppression against other values such as wildlife, hunting and recreation.
- Johnna added that there are several small hand-treatment projects underway this winter
- **ACTION** – Judah requested to keep SXFN engaged as they have an interim treaty area
- **ACTION** – reach out to Norene Parke about including cattle grazing as a treatment option

##### BC Parks

- Terri noted that they are budgeting for next fiscal year to do fuel management treatments at Boyd Bay campground of Green Lake park, and Big Bar Lake park.
- Roger asked about the status of fuel treatments at Sunset View campground of Green Lake Provincial Park, he thinks there is still work to be done. **ACTION** – Terri reach out to Roger Graham [chief@southgreenlakevfd.ca](mailto:chief@southgreenlakevfd.ca)

##### BC Wildfire Service

- Rob noted that they have a number of prescribed burns planned for next year.
- Rob noted they are hiring one more full time position in 100 Mile House Fire Zone
- Rob will be reaching out to Indigenous governments in the coming weeks before fire season about preparedness and wildfire response in 2023
- Matt advised that updated maps will be shared with Mike soon to put on the [website](#) and they will consider doing updates from this past year's activities by spring
- Matt noted that unofficially they are targeting \$1M in fuel management works throughout the Cariboo Fire Centre in 2023/24.
- Matt reminded folks that the next big CRI intake is October, but applications can be submitted anytime

- Jason reported that each of the 6 BC Wildfire Service Fire Centres or regions (i.e., Cariboo, Kamloops) got an additional staff person to liaison with volunteer fire departments
- Peter reminded folks that he's in a specialist position doing prescribed burning, working with MOF district staff and BC Wildfire Service zone staff (i.e., Rob Barnett) and there are one of each of his position in each Fire Centre.
- Peter is also looking to support Indigenous governments on advancing cultural burning

#### **Thompson-Nicola Regional District – Kevin Skrepnek**

- Kevin reiterated from the October meeting that TNRD has done some staff restructuring:
  - Kevin is now Manager, Community and Emergency Services
  - Jeremy Denny has been hired to coordinate training for VFDs and look after FireSmart, with the goal of securing funding and hiring seasonal staff
  - Mike Knauff has been hired as Emergency Program Coordinator
- Kevin noted that TNRD is renovating their downtown Kamloops office to have a dedicated emergency operations centre (EOC) that could also accommodate municipalities that have to relocate their EOCs as happened in 2021
- Kevin noted that TNRD applied for funding to purchase personal protective equipment, for a emergency services training session and conference in Kamloops this fall, and also for EOC training for their staff and some member municipalities
- Jeremy noted that TNRD has a request for proposals out for 10 CWRPs one for each of their electoral areas, so that they can access [CRI funding](#) – the goal is to have the CWRPs completed by December 2023, but well enough underway to apply for funds in October.
- Jeremy noted there are now 9 TNRD volunteer fire departments, newest one in Monte Creek
- Mike Knauff stated that his focus will be on communications with the unincorporated rural areas of the TNRD, and they are considering a concept of neighbourhood preparedness
- Director Smith advised that he is the local boots on the ground to support TNRD staff and the community

#### **Clinton Communities in Bloom**

- Susan noted that the Communities in Bloom group includes urban forestry
- They are hosting “seedy Sunday” in Clinton on April 30 and would like to have someone present FireSmart material. **ACTION** – Jeremy to coordinate with Susan about this request.

#### **Clinton Community Forest**

- Steve reported that progress is being made on the shaded landscape fuel break west of Clinton and shared a [drone video](#) of the works to date. 30 ha of the 167 ha area has been treated, working from north to south, aiming for completion in March. Funded by Forest Enhancement Society of BC and MOF's Wildfire Risk Reduction program.
- Steve reminded people that the Clinton Community Forests can conduct free home assessments for FireSmart and they coordinate removal of chipping debris once a year

#### **Bonaparte Watershed Stewardship Society**

- Al noted that the annual general meeting will be coming up on February 23 at 11AM at the Bonaparte Indian Band hall. Email Al [cariboal@gmail.com](mailto:cariboal@gmail.com) to confirm your attendance.
- Al encouraged everyone to open pathways of communication with ranchers in the area

#### **Village of Clinton – Murray/Mayor Swan**

- Mayor Stanke and Councillor Shapansky noted that they appreciate the complexity of wildfire preparedness through attending these meetings.
- Fire Chief Wayne Walch said they are gearing up for spring grass fire season
- Murray reported that their staff are doing EOC training online through the Justice Institute

of BC but are also looking forward to tabletop exercises with TNRD.

- Murray said they are in early discussions with TNRD, Cache Creek and Ashcroft about sharing a FireSmart staff position

#### Fraser Basin Council

- Mike (contractor to Fraser Basin Council) said that he and Alex de Chantal, Regional Manager, have had discussions with BC Wildfire Service staff about additional funding and growing the community wildfire roundtable program beyond the current 4 (Clinton, Clearwater, Williams Lake, Lillooet)

#### 5. Next Steps

##### Wildfire Resiliency and Training Summit – Vancouver, May 10-14, 2023

- See info and how to register [here](#)

**Next meeting May 16, 2023** – Afternoon field trip with Alan Westhaver, then public evening FireSmart session.

- Steve Law will help identify a fuel management site to look at
- Darrell Shapansky offered his house and property in Clinton, 1200 Cariboo Ave across from school – it’s over an acre, he’s done some FireSmart but not everything
- **ACTION** – Murray to book the Clinton Memorial Hall for evening May 16

Task or activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
Bring <b>Alan Westhaver</b> to present to the community, and field tour to look at fuel treatments and FireSmart risks of homes and structures. Find locations to visit, book community hall, arrange logistics.	Mike Simpson, Steve Law, Murray Daly, Darrell Shapansky	May 16, 2023
Share updated <b>maps</b> that show past fuel management treatments and future proposed treatments.	Matt	Ongoing
Questions about proposed fuel management projects, ribbon they see in the forest next to private property, contact Johnna Wandler at <a href="mailto:johnna.wandler@gov.bc.ca">johnna.wandler@gov.bc.ca</a>	Everyone	Ongoing
<b>Training opportunities</b> for Volunteer Fire Departments reach out to Jason Ward ( <a href="mailto:Jason.Ward@gov.bc.ca">Jason.Ward@gov.bc.ca</a> ) examples: SWPP 115 – structural, Engine boss course and Wildfire fighter 1 – equivalent to S100.	Everyone	Ongoing
Advise Rob Barnett if they see problems of <b>excessive fuel buildup</b> and fire risk on private land <a href="mailto:rob.barnett@gov.bc.ca">rob.barnett@gov.bc.ca</a>	Everyone	Ongoing
Contact Rob Barnett if First Nations communities want to do training <a href="mailto:rob.barnett@gov.bc.ca">rob.barnett@gov.bc.ca</a>	First Nations	Ongoing
Contact Rob Barnett or Reg Trapp about <b>ideas for proposed prescribed burns</b>	Everyone	Ongoing
Close the <b>communication</b> gaps – update or provide new contacts for key sectors missing on the contact list, in particular ranching	Everyone	Before next meeting
Specific short-term actions – look for the word <b>ACTION</b> in throughout the summary	Everyone	ASAP