

Clinton and Area Community Wildfire Roundtable

Meeting Summary as at May 10, 2021

Meeting date: May 4, 2021 1:00PM to 4:00PM

Location: online

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

BC Timber Sales – Chantelle Davis
BC Wildfire Service – Mike Gash, Jason Ward, Reg Trapp, Matt Lees
Bonaparte Watershed Stewardship Society – Al Midgley
Clinton Community Forest – Steve Law, Robin Fennell
Emergency Management BC – Mike Knauff
ForestWise Environmental Consulting Ltd. – Alan Westhaver
Fraser Basin Council – Mike Simpson, Tom Welfare
High Bar First Nation – Kukpi7 Roy Fletcher, Tasha Townsend, Judah Vickers
MFLNRORD* - Kane Copley
Thompson-Nicola Regional District – Kevin Skrepnek
Village of Clinton – Mayor Susan Swan, Murray Daly, Karl Hansen
West Fraser – Rob Ballinger
**Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development*

1. Introductions, Agenda, Objectives

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone and acknowledged. Introductions were made. The agenda was approved as presented to update on the 3 hours session.

2. Presentation Alan Westhaver – Wildland/urban fire, FireSmart and its Effectiveness

Mike Simpson introduced Alan Westhaver, one of the originators of FireSmart with over 30 years of experience in the field. Most recently Alan has been consulting on fire smart issues providing support with the wildland-urban interface and investigating recent wildfires. Mike noted that he is going to record this session to post online; no objection was noted.

Alan's narrated presentation can be found on Fraser Basin Council's YouTube channel, there is a link to it [here](#). Alan's key points were as follows:

- Partnership is key to all aspects of wildfire preparedness
- With respect to disasters, we don't have a forest fire problem, we have a home ignition problem. If homes don't burn, disaster is averted
- Reducing fuels in the home ignition zone works
- Alan suggests the [FireSmart Neighbourhood Recognition Program](#) is key to finding local champions and protecting neighbourhoods

Questions and discussion raised the following:

- Robin and Steve noted that they did a lot of FireSmart promotion in the decade before 2017 fires, there were programs for chipping in the community and hauling chipped material away for free
- Challenges are an aging population in the Clinton and South Cariboo area

- Communications were noted as key
- It was suggested to do a mailout of the FireSmart brochure
- TNRD did some FireSmart education and outreach in 2019, there was minimal uptake
- Interested to learn who are the local FireSmart representatives (LFR) in the area

3. Previous Meeting Summary and Finalizing Geographic Area

The meeting summary from January 21, 2021 was approved. Action items were reviewed.

The revised draft map of the geographic area of this roundtable was viewed on screen, and comments were sought. Three suggested edits were made and agreed to:

- Align the boundary near Loon Lake with the VFD service boundary, if that service boundary extends beyond the roundtable boundary [TNRD confirmed after the meeting that it does not]
- Expand along the south side of Kelly Lake Road to include private properties and a buffer
- Expand to include Doherty properties near Hwy 97 and a buffer

The maps will be finalized and posted on the [website](#).

4. Information Sharing – What’s Underway

MFLNRORD - 100 Mile House

- Kane Copley explained they have a 2-year plan for risk reduction treatments. This year we have been focused on landscape fuel breaks and have finished up along the South Green Lake Road protecting the trees by putting up aggregate pheromone packets and trap to keep fur beetle away from the trees.
- Currently working on the egress route also off the South Green Lake Road it’s a complicated project which needs a bridge to be installed to connect over to the North Green Lake Road, this will include a graveling project which will go ahead in July.
- Working on 70 Mile Fuel break South of Green Lake we are doing reconnaissance surveys on timbers sites to see what our licensees can do for harvesting on those. MFLNRORD will come in after and do the Postharvest cleanup
- Next year we will be focusing on fuel treatments including Watch Lake and Nolan Creek, both of these are around 70 Mile. Prescriptions have been written and applying for funding. Kane explains that he is creating a plan together for prescriptions project at Moon Lake

BC Wildfire Service - Cariboo

- Matt Lees explained his role as a prevention officer as a specialist for any of the fuel management treatments the District is managing, he provides technical advice on the projects.
- The stage we are at right now is the internal allocation letter has been sent out, just not been made external yet. Matt Explains we have asked for just short of \$2.9M and is pretty confident they are going to get most of that.
- When we have our next meeting the projects should be up and running so we can update you all on that at our meeting in the Fall.
- There are lots of operational treatments going on in the hundred-mile area which Matt is happy with - quite a lot of treatments going on in the north part of the district this year.

- CRI program intake - no one from the group applied for any money through this fund. Matt mentions that for the CRI fund Fire smart education is the biggest driver of the program so that's the direction we are genuinely going. Matt makes the point to focus on Municipal or private land for this fund.
- That's coming up in October so it would be great to start planning for this now
- Matt stated there's been a good uptake on Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC) projects - a total of \$3.5 million invested in projects he is hoping that all projects will be wrapped up by next March.

Clinton Community Forest

- Steve Law mentioned there have been some strategic fuel breaks on the south side of Clinton, currently at the raking stage and have contractors in there at the moment. Steve mentioned we are going to plant aspen there in the spring of 2022, that's 60 hectares from Sawmill Road to Stenton Road.
- They are also working on a 300-meter wide primary fuel break tube alongside the Northside of the transmission line which is 100 meters wide. The original intent was to go down to Kelly Lake and stop at the Gold Rush trail. The prescriptions are in place and now at the assessment stage - Consulting with the public and First Nations. This was funded through MFLNRORD and the Forest Employment Program, are next steps are assessments.

Clinton VFD

- Karl Hansen stated that they had a burn just north of town. They had a week and a half of steady fire action with 7 calls in 7 days. A lot of roadside fires, four fires within hours of each other on one day. Karl mentioned that they started with 1 human cause, 2 unknown, 1 goose hitting powerline.
- Are full department is now fully trained up in the structural wildfire course - 19 members trained up
- No one will be attending the Engine Boss training going ahead this weekend. Looking to get some crew members attending this training over the coming months.

West Fraser

- Rob Ballinger stated he is putting their summer volume plan together. Their operation, emergency preparedness and emergency response plans are completed and approved for this season - structural change positions and new contacts updated.
- Rob mentioned they are involved in a fuel treatment program in the 100 Mile House District which they are working at the end of May.
- Doing more collaborative work with BCTS in the entire timber supply area

Emergency Management BC

- Mike Knauff stated that their current focus is on freshet, waiting to see the water stop flowing until we look at wildfires
- We held our Regional Season workshops that are held twice a year in the spring and the fall we focused on freshet. We had another session planned but it conflicted with some Firesmart training so we cancelled and are looking for a new date.
- Still holding our regular freshet calls every Wednesday.
- As the season progresses we will transition over to wildfire information calls.

BC Timber Sales

- Chantelle noted that they are working on the tail end of the Elephant Hill wildfire salvage, should be all wrapped up this year.

- Chantelle mentioned they are doing some joint planning with West Fraser primary fuel break stuff that Kane provided - seeing what we can action there.
- Timber sale licence (TSL) by Big Bar Road, they plan to talk to Kane Copley about funding having a hard time with a Forest Stewardship Plans related items to make it a viable sale.

Thompson-Nicola Regional District

- Kevin Skrepnek said they are looking to do spring and fall training session with village staff - looking at June for first-round - but going to reach out with Mayor Swan and Murray Daly for dates.
- The [Voyent Alert system](#) is now up and running and that is accessible for the public, it has been tried and tested last month. It is a subscription-based service. We are going to do a mail-out about the alerting system and add some FireSmart resources.

5. Next Steps

Next Community Wildfire Roundtable to be in fall 2021, Mike will seek a date at least a few weeks in advance.

An updated contact list will be circulated with this summary.

Action Items

Task or activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
Mike Simpson to Share link of the CRI program to attendees	Mike Simpson	Complete
Robin Fennell to map out areas of concern within the MOTI zone near highway 97 and the rail line north of town for potential prescribed burning. Robin Fennell to send that information to Matt Lees	Robin Fennell Matt Lees	ASAP
Rob Ballinger to send new staff recruited by West Fraser to Mike Simpson to add to Roundtable contact list	Rob Ballinger Mike Simpson	ASAP
Chantelle Davis to talk with Kane Copley about funding in regards to funding works on the Big Bar TSL	Chantelle Davis Kane Copley	May
Kevin Skrepnek to reach out to Mayor Swan and Murray Daly about spring and fall training sessions for village staff - Looking at June for the first round.	Kevin Skrepnek Mayor Swan Murray Daly	ASAP
Consider Alan Westhaver presentation to the community, and field tour	Mike Simpson	Fall 2021 or spring 2022
Utilize the Cariboo Region mapping website (Forsite) to upload fuel management polygons (past and present)	Kane, everyone	Before next meeting
Questions about proposed fuel management projects, ribbon they see in the forest next to private property, contact matt.lees@gov.bc.ca	Everyone	Ongoing
Initiate planning for a community wildfire resilience plan funding application to UBCM	Matt, Murray, Mayor Swan, Mike Simpson	Well before October