

Clinton and Area Community Wildfire Roundtable

Meeting Summary as at February 1, 2021

Meeting date: January 21, 2021 1:00PM to 2:45PM

Location: online

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

BC Timber Sales (BCTS) - David Lishman, Chantelle Davis

BC Wildfire Service (BCWS), Cariboo Fire Centre - Mike Gash, Rob Barnett, Shelly Harnden, Matt Lees

BC Wildfire Service, provincial - Jamie Jeffreys

Bonaparte Watershed Stewardship Society - Al Midgley

Clinton Community Forest - Steve Law, Robin Fennell

Clinton Fire Department - Wayne Walch, Karl Hansen

Village of Clinton - Mayor Susan Swan, Murray Daly

Emergency Management BC - Sylvia Chow

Fraser Basin Council - Mike Simpson (facilitator, recorder)

MFLNRORD* (100 Mile House District) - Kane Copley, Sarah Szatmari

MFLNRORD* (Cariboo Region) - Christine Ungly

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure (MOTI) - Pete Prendergast

South Green Lake VFD - Peter McKie, Roger Graham

Thompson-Nicola Regional District - Director Sally Watson, Kevin Skrepnek

West Fraser - Rob Ballinger

**Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development*

1. Introductions, Agenda, Objectives

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone and acknowledged Secwepemc territory. Introductions were made. The agenda was approved as presented.

2. Information Sharing - What's Underway

TNRD - Kevin noted that the public alert app is in place, it's subscription-based, see [here](#) for information and to subscribe. A tabletop emergency training exercise will be done online this spring that will include the Clinton area. New laptops, printers, and accessories have been provided to the TNRD ESS team in Clinton with UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund funding. Monitoring changes on emergency program from the province that will be coming soon.

MOTI - Pete reported that MOTI has implemented various things to address catastrophic events, including but not limited to electronic signboards, disaster routes, and a network of cameras on highways. Partnerships and plans have been established in relation to mass evacuations, logistics and supply chain, critical routes, evacuation routes and more.

BC Timber Sales (BCTS) - David and Chantelle reported that BC Timber Sales is finishing up timber salvage from the Elephant Hill wildfire. They are planning a fuel management treatment in the Chasm area of approximately 300 ha, to clean up dead pine and reduce wildfire risk. Planning is in the early stages, input from this roundtable would be welcome.

BC Wildfire Service (Cariboo Fire Centre) - Mike Gash confirmed that the 100 Mile Fire Zone office consists of three full time staff, two seasonal auxilliary staff, and a 20 person unit crew. They are currently fragmented with the unit crew at 99 Mile and the other staff at the MFLNRORD office in town. Cariboo Fire Centre is seeking appropriate land (central to highway access, good communication infrastructure, near an airport) to build a new fire base to house all operations. Cariboo Fire Centre is focused on wildfire risk reduction work, and in wanting to implement more prescribed burns.

Matt Lees reported that fuel management treatments are progressing at 70 Mile House, Interlakes and South Green Lake with prescriptions complete (see details below). Steve Richburg is developing burn plans for some sites, including maintenance of past treatments. Matt noted that past fuel management treatments will be mapped as part of a tactical plan for wildfire response; this will also be useful as a record for planning of what's been treated in the past. He will make it available when complete. Matt noted that if anyone has any questions about proposed fuel management projects, ribbon they see in the forest next to private property, contact him matt.lees@gov.bc.ca

Shelley Harnden noted that they will do the annual burn just north of Clinton ideally in mid-March, she will be in contact with the Clinton VFD to be part of it. The 100 Mile Fire Zone office will follow up with all VFDs about training as part of their annual cycle of engagement in early spring.

MFLNRORD (100 Mile House District) - Kane and Sarah reported that good progress has been made on implementation of the fuel management prescriptions at South Green Lake, along the main road and improving the egress route. They will install pheromone baits to repel Douglas-fir bark beetle from the area this spring. Planned work at 70 Mile House was delayed due to consultations, but plans are for it to proceed in 2021. BC Parks did some fuel management work at Big Bar Park and Green Lake Park. Crews will be cleaning up right of way wood decked during the Elephant Hill Fire along the North Bonaparte Road.

Peter McKie asked about work between access 14 and the Buffalo Ranch in the South Green Lake area; Kane noted that it was a partnership with Norbord initially, and their closure last year means there's nowhere for the fibre to go. They are working towards a solution to allow the work to proceed.

Al Midgley asked about other areas, such as Loon Lake, Pressy Lake, Eagan Lake - these are all on the list to be looked at according to Kane; top priority areas have been done first.

MFLNRORD (Cariboo Region) - Christine reported that in her role as Integrated Investment Specialist, she works with BCWS to help identify and coordinate funding for regional priorities.

Clinton Community Forest (CCF) - Steve and Robin reported that about 60 ha above town has had fuel management work proceeding this year, it's mostly skidded now. Funded by Forest Enhancement Society of BC (FESBC). Funds are in place to do a landscape level fuel break of about 700 ha on the other side of the highway; first steps are reconnaissance and prescription. Many people commented that they appreciate the work the Community Forest has done.

South Green Lake VFD - Peter expressed his thanks to all for doing fuel management work in the area. He noted that there are now 8 dry hydrants in the lake for anyone to use, there is now good access to water if needed.

Clinton Fire Department - Wayne noted that they've obtained more equipment such as sprinklers, pumps, hoses. They look forward to working with BCWS on the burn north of town.

West Fraser - Rob noted that they are at the tail end of timber salvage in the Elephant Hill wildfire. They are implementing fuel management treatments in other areas of the 100 Mile House district, but not the Clinton area. They are updating their emergency preparedness plans for the upcoming wildfire season.

3. Previous Meeting Summary, Terms of Reference, Geographic Area

The [meeting summary](#) from the inaugural meeting, held February 18, 2020 was approved.

The draft [terms of reference](#) that were circulated in advance of the meeting were approved.

The geographic area of the roundtable was discussed. Mike advised everyone that it was challenging to draw a boundary of long, linear tentacles focused on roads and private land. The following was agreed to, building on the input from Feb 18, 2020 meeting:

- Stay within the TNRD to the north, and south to the TNRD Electoral Area E boundary, roughly at the junction of Loon Lake Road with Hwy 97
- West to include areas out to Meadow Lake, Jesmond, Kelly Lake, Big Bar
- East to include North Bonaparte Road area
- Draw a big polygon circling these areas, but note that the the primary focus of efforts is on private property; utilize existing BCWS wildland-urban interface (WUI) polygons

4. Next Steps

Community Wildfire Protection Plan - Mayor Swan and Matt Lees both noted that the Clinton plan is old and out of date, and agreed that we should work towards a funding application to secure funds to create a new plan (now called a community wildfire resilience plan). Funding window generally closes in October and applications are to the Union of BC Municipalities. The plan area could be the geographic area of this roundtable. Matt can help out, as can Mike.

Forest Employment Program - Sarah noted that there is up to \$3M available for employment opportunities, such as wildfire risk reduction work. Contact her to express interest (or share with anyone you know interested) at sarah.szatmari@gov.bc.ca

Forsite Mapping Tool - steps to use it:

- Go to https://maps.forsite.ca/cariboo_infoshare/
- Zoom into your area of interest
- Click on Layers > Other Treatments >
- Click on the feature on the map for information about it

Next meeting - half day at most, late April or May 2021. Mike will seek a date that works for the majority at least a few weeks in advance.

Future meeting topics

- Information sharing - what's underway, who's doing what
- Opportunities for collaboration
- Wildfire season 2021 preparation

The following ACTION items were agreed to:

Task or activity	Responsibility	Timeframe
Update map boundaries for this area based on input heard	Mike Simpson, BCWS GIS staff	Before next meeting
Confirm that the funders of the Cariboo Region mapping website (Forsite tool) support sharing of wildfire risk reduction information and polygons	Rob Ballinger	Before next meeting
Utilize the Cariboo Region mapping website (Forsite) to upload fuel management polygons (past and present)	Kane, everyone	Before next meeting
Share BCTS proposed Chasm fuel management plans	Chantelle, David	ASAP
Tactical map of past treatments, share when available	Matt Lees	Ongoing
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	By early October
Share contact info for this Roundtable	Mike Simpson	With this meeting summary
Send contact info for any blank cells	Everyone	Ongoing
Connect with those present today, build on the opportunities identified	Everyone	Ongoing