

Community Update on Bridge Replacement

The ACRD was invited to a meeting with the Barkley Community Forest Board, June 22nd, to discuss the progress of the Wendy Creek Bridge rebuild.

All confirmed and potential contributions were discussed. Ministry of Forests have agreed to provide an environmental monitor during the re-build, Salmon Beach is willing to contribute up to \$10,000 pending final approval from the ACRD board of directors on July 27th, and the Barkley Community Forest Board is investigating how to proceed with the remaining requirements.

Currently two options are being looked at, either finding a steel bridge for sale or building a wood bridge. Both involve significantly more money than currently provided. The market value of the standing timber identified as suitable for the bridge is upwards of \$50,000, there would be additional labour and machine time required to remove these trees. A steel bridge might be of a similar value to a wood bridge with everything factored in, with an added advantage of being more permanent.

Timeline is another consideration, the hope was to have the bridge completed this year, however, there is a "fish" window that needs to be worked within that closes September 15th. There may be a small possibility to work around this. Another consideration for the Barkley Community Forest is the fact they will not be generating any income until they are able to start logging.

Regardless of whether the bridge is rebuilt in time or not, the Barkley Community Forest intends on starting logging operations in the fall of 2016. They have stated that log sorts exist on either side of the bridge, and not much, if any transport will be required to go through the community of Salmon Beach.

The ultimate intention is to have the bridge rebuilt as soon as reasonable considering the factors involved. The contribution from Salmon Beach is appreciated, yet it needs to be understood that there is still a significant amount remaining. Thank you for your understanding and we will keep you posted.