



NOTES OF THE WEST COAST EMERGENCY COORDINATION MEETING
HELD ON THURSDAY, JUNE 8, 2017 10:00 AM
Ucluelet Community Center, 5251 Matterson, Ucluelet, BC

PRESENT:

- Josie Osborne, Mayor, District of Tofino
- Tony Bennett, Director, Electoral Area "C" (Long Beach)
- Karla Robison, District of Ucluelet
- Peter Clarkson, Parks Canada
- Renee Wissink, Parks Canada
- Juliet Van Vliet, Toquaht Nation
- Don Schaffer, District of Ucluelet
- Keith Orchiston, District of Tofino
- Celena Cook, Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government
- Lisa Morgan, Toquaht Nation
- Hugh Braker, Tseshaht First Nation
- Dan Holder, Emergency Coordinator
- Mark Fortune, Airport Superintendent
- Shelli Lyle, ACRD Administrative Assistant

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting started at 10:03 am.

The ACRD Administrative Assistant recognized the meeting this afternoon is being held in the Yuułuʔiłʔatḥ Government Traditional Territories.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were conducted around the table.

3. COMMUNITY UPDATES

ACRD

Dan Holder reviewed the Coastal Exercise Final Report, explaining the recommendations that came out of the exercise, lessons learned. Next steps build Level 2 and 3 Emergency Social Services (ESS) with the City of Port Alberni.

Toquaht Nation

Issues with communication between Ucluelet and Macoa if cell signal is lost, VHF maybe an alternative, support around communication plan is top priority. An Emergency drill will be conducted this Sunday there are two per year. The Muster Station is at the water treatment plant. Priorities for the year are medical supplies, neighborhood emergency preparedness groups find champions take on EP role.

District of Tofino

Public engagements have been conducted throughout the year. The Mayor spearheaded the April 9th High Ground Hike and Family Preparedness day engaging the community highlighting high grounds and evacuation routes. Installing third outdoor warning siren this year.

Communicate to beach users the hazards. On May 3rd the District of Ucluelet and the District of Tofino participated in *Exercise Sweeper* – a communication exercise in conjunction with the Canadian Armed Forces (CAF), neighboring communities, and Emergency Management British Columbia (EMBC). The exercise provided numerous Vancouver Island community Emergency Operation Centers (EOC) the opportunity to send formatted voice messages to each other, as well as, to EMBC headquarters. Policies and procedures are being reviewed using EMBC templates.

Mayor Osborne thanked everyone for their work and sees an absolute need for a person to assist the Nations, Districts, and Organizations in building community resiliency, its more than having supplies it's about being neighbors and taking care of each other, we can't do it without resources, it's the regional resources that can tie things together.

District of Ucluelet

Attended Mass Care workshop identified proper protocols and procedures when dealing with massive amounts of people, sheltering components to ESS, reconnected with family etc. Need a mass medical emergency plan as Ucluelet has no medical center and we are on our own for medical aid. An annual Tsunami evacuation drill was held during Emergency Preparedness week, in the future the drill will be held bi-annually and have all West Coast communities participate. A brochure was prepared - Earthquake & Tsunami Evacuation Guide and distributed during EP week. The brochure outlines where the five safe zone kiosks are located and communicates the Tsunami Alert levels and how visitors can sign on to Ucluelet's Emergency Notification system. If the ground is shaking for 3-5 minutes the public needs to get to high ground within 20 minutes. Ucluelet is now using Connect Rocket which provides two features; internal messaging and mass notifications, it is a Canadian Company and the servers are located in Canada. During Exercise Sweeper learned about High Frequency capabilities, Paul Peters is contacting the Coast Guard to see if access can be gained to the repeater, this could assist Bamfield in attaining information and antennas for Tofino and Ucluelet.

Electoral Area "C" Long Beach

No central community, no infrastructure, could use the airport to muster, northern communities may need Tofino to agree to use their emergency evacuation center, Salmon Beach recreational community is self-sufficient although access could be limited, and they are currently reviewing constructing an administration building. Communication is problematic expectation creates stress, everyone needs to be self-sufficient for at least 72 hours, could be longer than that. Fire is the immediate danger, access to water and the ability to fight a fire. Agreements are needed.

Parks Canada

Need to improve the coordination between the Nations, Districts and the Parks, what one does we all do. Pull sirens at the same time, try not to create chaos, need a coordinated

effort through the region to execute evacuations. Parks also participated in the Exercise Coastal Response and came to the same conclusion; communications is always the weak point. Radio communications are great but towers will be ineffective, cell towers. Pete will be working with Telus to consult on what role they can play.

Yuutu?if?ath Government

Currently have six to eight trained EOC personnel, are conducting an evaluation of every home in Itatcu to ensure they have grab and go bags and who would need a ride in case of emergency. We need sirens for our own side cannot hear the Districts. There have been discussion about using the fire truck.

Tseshah First Nation

Broken Group Islands has several reserves, three cabins, two docks and six fulltime employees several 100's of TFN members will go there through the summer. More emergency signage in tourist areas – campsite, docks. Need discussions with Parks there is not enough time to send someone from Ucluelet to the Broken Group and have that person return, it is going to have to be a local evacuation, issues of getting to high ground, as there is dense jungle and no trail. If a siren was to be installed it would need to be remote controlled - solar powered or wind powered. EMBC will provide \$10 million in training to all First Nations who apply or require.

Long Beach Airport

Will be looking at the WERA system which predicts storm surge forecasting for the West Coast that would assist in being able to determine when to shutdown beaches. The WERA system (WavE Radar) is a shore based remote sensing system using the over the horizon radar technology to monitor ocean surface currents, waves and wind direction. This long range, high resolution monitoring system operates with radio frequencies between 4 and 50 MHz. A vertical polarized electromagnetic wave is coupled to the conductive ocean surface and follows the curvature of the earth. Currently in the process of accessing the site with Telus fibre optic capability anticipating Telus connection to be complete mid-July.

4. REPORTS

a. November 28, 2016 WC Emergency Services Workshop Session Report

b. WC Emergency Services Coordination

There were initial discussions regarding the West Coast Coordinator position duties to include reviewing all evacuation plans and finding the commonalties, gaps etc. focusing on communications, sirens, and grants. Identify regional opportunities and an action list of the WC Coordinator duties.

c. Emergency Services Google Drive Memorandum

The Emergency Services google drive is being used to house documents for the region – meeting minutes, evacuation plans, recovery plans etc. Send these documents to Shelli Lyle for posting slyle@acrd.bc.ca.

d. Questionnaire Survey Results – D. Holder

e. Other Reports

5. NEXT STEPS

Send request letter to remaining contributors. Regional District to prepare a job description, contract and framework for the West Coast Coordinator contract position and send out for review by this working group.

6. The meeting be adjourned at 12:30 pm.