



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE ALBERNI VALLEY EMERGENCY PLANNING LIAISON GROUP MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 8, 2018, 2:30 PM

Regional District Board Room, 3008 Fifth Avenue, Port Alberni, BC

PRESENT:

Penny Cote, Chair, EA "D" Dir.	Don Swerdfeger
Rick Geddes, SLVFD, BCAS	David Wiwchar, The Peak
Charlie Starratt, BCVFD	Chris Alameny, CPA
Jim Kraneveldt, Catalyst	Gina Pearson
Mike Ruttan, CPA	Wes Patterson, PAFD
Dave Boyce, RCMP	Stephanie Bruvall, VIHA
Dave Poulsen, S & R, BCAS	Vince Painchaud
Ian Arklie, RCMP, S & R	Wilf Taekema, CPA
Alicia Parayno, Island Health	Phil Atkinson, PA Transit
Kelly Gilday, PAFD	Ryan Anaka, Uchucklesaht FN
Al Winney, AARC	Tanya Kuc, VIHA
Alicia Puusepp, CPA	Ashley Oscienny, VIHA
Karen Freethy, CPA	Amelia Vos, HFN (via phone)

REGRETS:

Denis Sauve, Vice-Chair, City of Port Alberni
John McNabb, Electoral Area "E" Beaver Creek
Lucas Banton, Cherry Creek Volunteer Fire Department
Mike Carter, Port Alberni Port Authority

STAFF:

Douglas Holmes, Chief Administrative Officer
Janice Hill, Environmental Services Coordinator

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:31 pm.

The Chair recognized the meeting this afternoon is being held in the Tseshaht First Nation and the Hupacasath First Nation Traditional Territories.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

MOVED: C. Starratt

SECONDED: A. Winney

THAT the agenda of the AV Emergency Planning Liaison Group be approved.

CARRIED

3. MINUTES

MOVED: A. Winney

SECONDED: M. Ruttan

THAT the minutes of the AV Emergency Planning Liaison Group meeting held on June 22, 2017 be adopted.

CARRIED

4. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were conducted around the table.

5. REPORTS

a. AV EP Liaison Group Terms of Reference Review

MOVED: C. Starratt

SECONDED: M. Ruttan

The Group adopted terms of reference as presented.

CARRIED

b. Tsunami Evacuation Alert (January 23, 20-18) Debrief/Learnings (verbal)

Participants provided a debrief and learnings they experienced during the Tsunami evacuation alert.

The feedback included the following:

- The warning siren could not be heard by residents in some of the low lying areas of the city and some areas that were above the inundation zones.
- Communication with the residents needs improvement. Need to ensure residents have their grab and go bags ready.
- Need to ensure that communication via Twitter and Facebook is timely.
- An automated call out system is need for the EOC.
- EOC volunteers need some refresher training.
- Need a proper plan for our volunteer fire departments so they are marshalled and ready for deployment.
- Communication with outside sources needs to be improved. (ie. status, arrival and size of the possible wave).
- The City Works yard is located in the inundation zone. This needs to be addressed, as they did not have time to move all of the equipment out of the zone.

- Many citizens of the Tseshaht First Nation community did not know where to go when they were advised to evacuate. The siren could not be heard clearly, in that area as there was too much of an echo.
- There was concern about the siren battery dying. Notification system needs updating.
- Evacuation centers throughout the city need to be identified and communicated to residents.
- Communication with Search and Rescue needs improvement.
- Public Transit needs to be notified and could be put in service.
- Security needs to be improved at WCGH.
- Emergency vehicles need to remain fuelled up at times.
- Message board could be installed at the hump with evacuation notifications.
- Catalyst mill needs early notification of warnings in order to properly shut the mill down.
- Communication needs to be improved between EOC and ESS.
- Service agreements for ESS need to be developed with business in town.

MOVED: C. Starratt

SECONDED: M. Ruttan

The Committee received verbal reports i. to xii.

CARRIED

c. Protective Services Manager Update– D. Holmes

D. Holmes, CAO provided an update on the status of the Protective Services Manager position. The posting for the position will be advertised in the following weeks.

d. UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Emergency Social Services
K. Freethy reported that \$25000 in funding was awarded to purchase reception kits and training.

e. Strategic Wildfire Prevention Initiative - Community Wildfire Protection Plan Update

K. Gilday reported that a grant for \$69,000 has been awarded for the CWPP update. An RFP for the plan update will be advertised soon.

f. UBCM Community Emergency Preparedness Fund – Emergency Operations Centres & Training

D. Holmes reported that a grant application was submitted to the Community Emergency Preparedness Fund to fund an automated community mass call out system, cargo trailer for external storage, training, EOC office equipment, and large detailed mapping. He also mentioned that there is a need to find an alternate Emergency Operations Centre as a post seismic location, where a small

storage container can be kept to store supplies and equipment.

g. Round Table Reports

Al Winney, Arrowsmith Amateur Radio Club - reported that their mobile trailer has been upgraded with the installation of a portable repeater, heat and air conditioning. The repeater on Mt. Ozark will be replaced with a newer one. He also provided an update on the MESH system in the valley. The Radio Club submitted a Grant-in-Aid application to the ACRD for funding.

MOVED: C. Starratt

SECONDED: D. Boyce

The Group recommended that the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District Board of Directors support the Radio Club's grant-in-aid application.

CARRIED

Alicia Puusepp, City of Port Alberni – reminded the Group that the first week of May is Emergency Preparedness week and it will provide a good opportunity to get some emergency planning information out to the public.

6. ADJOURN

MOVED: M. Ruttan

SECONDED: C. Starratt

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 3:56 pm.

CARRIED