



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE ALBERNI VALLEY EMERGENCY PLANNING LIAISON GROUP MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2017, 1:30 PM

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

PRESENT: Penny Cote, Chair, Electoral Area "D" Director
Denis Sauve, Vice-Chair, City of Port Alberni
John McNabb, Electoral Area "E" Beaver Creek
Dan Holder, ACRD Emergency Coordinator
John Rick Geddes, Sproat Lake Volunteer Fire Department
Charlie Starratt, Beaver Creek Volunteer Fire Department
Lucas Banton, Cherry Creek Volunteer Fire Department
Jim Kraneveldt, Catalyst Paper
Mike Ruttan, City of Port Alberni
Bruce Patterson, BC Ambulance
Dave Paddock, RCMP
Ian Arklie, RCMP, Search & Rescue
Alicia Parayno, Island Health
Stephanie Bruvall, Island Health
Mike Carter, Port Alberni Port Authority
Kelly Gilday, Port Alberni Fire Department
Al Winney, Arrowsmith Amateur Radio Club
Sheena Falconer, West Coast Aquatic
Karen Freethy, City of Port Alberni

STAFF: Wendy Thomson, Acting Chief Administrative Officer
Dan Holder, Emergency/Fire Service Coordinator Contractor
Shelli Lyle, Administrative Assistant

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1:33 pm.

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

2. **MINUTES**

MOVED: M. Ruttan

SECONDED: L. Banton

THAT the minutes of the AV Emergency Planning Liaison Group meeting held on March 23, 2017 be adopted.

CARRIED

3. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were conducted around the table.

4. REPORTS

Fall Table Top Exercise - D. Holder

D. Holder explained a table top exercise will be held in the fall, this exercise will be a half day exercise where a senior care facility will be evacuated, more details to follow in the next month.

West Coast Emergency Coordination Services – W. Thomson

The acting CAO provided an update from the West Coast Emergency Coordination Services meeting held on June 8 on the West Coast explaining there were discussions on creating an interim WC Coordinator position to build a business case and investigate funding opportunities. Currently the working group is looking at how to fund this position.

Flood Fish Flow Committee Update - S. Falconer

S. Falconer provided an update on the meetings held for the Flood Fish Flow committee. The committee is working on getting a hydrology study for Somass, Stamp and Sproat River and North West Hydraulics would be commissioned; preparing grant applications thru the National Mitigation Fund ensuring everyone's needs are met and working on the call for expressions of interest and information to the Coastal Restoration Fund working with Catalyst.

Wildfire Mitigation Grant – K. Gilday

K. Gilday, Port Alberni Fire Chief provided an update regarding the \$30,000 Wildfire Mitigation Grant received. Training materials were received two weeks ago next step is to put together a process identifying fire smart training in the Valley to educate private land owners on how cleaning up properties reduces the risk on how fires can spread, provide a clean up process for those that can't get their materials to the landfill. All dollars are provincial there are no matching funds for this grant. The Wildfire plan is outdated; Ministry of Forests would support our application to have the plan updated, which could cost around \$60,000. There are other grants however the first one is matching funds and the plan must be updated before an application to the other two can be submitted.

ESS Level 2 and 3 – K. Freethy

K. Freethy explained she will be updating and reaffirming supplier agreements, looking at preparing a list of facilities that could be utilized in an ESS Level 2 and 3 situation(s)

which will most likely utilize many of the City of Port Alberni's facilities.

Alberni Valley Hazard Risk Analysis – D. Holder

D. Holder explained an update is needed to the Hazard Risk Analysis. Flooding and fires are on the increase and in the current document rated low, need to bump them up in importance. This fall should meet with organizations and representatives from industry first responders, local governments to prepare a matrix (risk vs. destruction). Bruce Patterson, BC Ambulance mentioned they review their Hazard Risk Analysis every year, need to incorporate the expansion of the airport and the operation of seaplanes.

Sheena Falconer, WCA mentioned the National Disaster Mitigation Fund requires a risk assessment as a first step in the application process.

D. Holder spoke with the MOT engineer regarding bridges; the message is it is very hard to predict seismic activity to bridges and will follow up with details they can provide.

a. Round Table Reports

Denis Sauve – Cowichan Valley Regional District is undertaking a seismic upgrade of one of their key bridges. Dan Holder will investigate. Continuing care facilities have evacuation plans contact them prior to the exercise.

John McNabb– There were recently earthquakes in 4.0 Gold River (4.0) and Guatemala (6.8) need to be as well prepared as we can be.

Rick Geddes – The first Automatic Mutual Aid Training session meeting was held with all four departments.

Dan Holder - Fire Chiefs meeting was held today, the Oceanside Fire Chief was in attendance, concerns were raised regarding wildfires and how we support each other.

Penny Cote – There is \$5000 in the 2017 budget for the Sproat Lake community to prepare information for areas that would be cutoff in an emergency, will need the Fire Coordinator and the Fire Departments assistance.

Wendy Thomson – If any organizations would like to add topics to the agenda please contact Shelli Lyle slyle@acrd.bc.ca.

Al Winney – A new repeater is now in operation, it is a low level repeater for use in the valley and connected thru the island trunk system, can communicate with Victoria, only a one party line. Working on a Mesh Communication System in conjunction with BCVFD. There are blank spots from the Alberni Valley to the West Coast.

Bruce Patterson, BC Ambulance – Fentanyl and Carfentanyl are in the community, reiterate first responders need to ensure they wear their protective gear if they have

any sense there could be a concern. Currently working on a defibrillator spreadsheet that identifies where they are located in the Alberni Valley. Bruce will send the defibrillator list to Shelli for distribution.

Mayor Ruttan – Investigating a neighborhood to neighborhood program that identifies the risks and responses, could incorporate into the Block Watch program.

Lucas Banton – An emergency planning committee is investigating how Cherry Creek Hall could function as a muster station.

Sheena Falconer – Working with the City on the sewage lagoon decommission, grant application for diking and the next phase of the Roger Creek Trail. Culverts are a concern there are several that are not up to standard, in the event of an emergency those rural culverts could cave and cause transportation issues, may want to do a culvert assessment.

Jim Kraneveldt – Catalyst held their annual evacuation drill on June 6, 6 new speakers were added, the muster and account for 116 employees took nineteen minutes, a question arising from this drill is “Where do those 116 people go if they need to get offsite”. Mutual aid discussions are needed in the community. Catalyst site could have issues that will affect the entire Alberni Valley.

Hydro Hill Incident – Fuel Tanker Spill

Ministry of Highways had flag people at Sproat Lake Landing advising the public. The Peak was giving radio updates every 15 minutes. ACRD Website was updated and Twitter feeds were posted.

5. **NEXT MEETING**

The next meeting of the Alberni Valley Emergency Planning Liaison Group is Thursday, September 21, 2017, 1:30 pm in the Regional District Board Room.

6. **ADJOURN**

MOVED: M. Ruttan

SECONDED: D. Sauve

THAT the meeting be adjourned at 2:32 pm.

CARRIED