



Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District

MINUTES OF THE ALBERNI VALLEY EMERGENCY PLANNING LIAISON GROUP MEETING

HELD ON THURSDAY, JULY 26, 2018, 1:30 PM

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

- PRESENT:** Penny Cote, ACRD Director, Electoral Area "D" (Sproat Lake)
Rick Geddes, Sproat Lake Volunteer Fire Department
Charlie Starratt, Beaver Creek Volunteer Fire Department
Mike Kobus, Beaver Creek Volunteer Fire Department
Lucas Banton, Cherry Creek Volunteer Fire Department
Phil Atkinson, BC Transit
Wes Patterson, Port Alberni Fire Department
Mike Carter, Port Alberni Port Authority
Al Winney, Arrowsmith Amateur Radio Club
Alicia Puusepp, City of Port Alberni
Karen Freethy, City of Port Alberni/Emergency Social Services
Nick Seredick, AV Rescue Squad
Don Sweredfeger, BC Ambulance
Bruce Patterson, BC Ambulance
Linda Myers, Bamfield Community Emergency Coordinator (teleconference)
- STAFF:** Wendy Thomson, Manager of Administrative Services
Kelly Gilday, Protective Services Manager

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

Director Cote chaired the meeting and called it to order at 1:31 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: M. Kobus

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

CARRIED

3. **MINUTES**

MOVED: M. Kobus

SECONDED: R. Geddes

THAT the minutes of the AV Emergency Planning Liaison Group meeting held on February 8, 2018 be adopted.

CARRIED

4. INTRODUCTIONS

Introductions were conducted around the table.

5. REPORTS

a. Protective Services Manager Update – Kelly Gilday

The Manager provided an update on current initiatives and priorities for the Alberni Valley Emergency Planning program.

b. Public Engagement – Social Media – Alicia Puusepp, City of Port Alberni

Ms. Puusepp reported on the City of Port Alberni's communication plans, part of which include emergency planning. She provided an overview of several communication tools the City utilizes including their website, twitter and "lets connect". Ms. Puusepp will work with the Manager of Protective services on a social media program for emergency planning in the Alberni Valley.

c. Tsunami Warning System – Wes Patterson

The Acting Fire Chief for the City of Port Alberni discussed the challenges which were identified with the Tsunami Warning System during the Tsunami warning event in January 2018. They are working to rectify the problems identified.

d. Emergency Social Services (ESS) - Karen Freethy, City of Port Alberni

Ms. Freethy reported on activities over the past few months. They participated in various events including; Steps to Wellness, Emergency Preparedness Week and Our Town. They are looking at the gaps recognized from the Tsunami warning in January 2018 and working on addressing those gaps.

e. Round Table Reports

Port Alberni Port Authority – They are working on various projects. The Western Canada Marine Response warehouse project is going ahead.

Port Alberni Fire Department – They have been busy with just under 900 calls to date this year. This fall they will be working with the Manager of Protective Services on the wildfire initiatives and supporting the Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District where we can with that project.

Emergency Social Services (ESS) – Volunteers participating in training in May to learn how to conduct walk-ins at reception centres. They are working with Red Cross on a pilot project where ESS can be done electronically. Port Alberni has been chosen as one of the places to undertake this pilot project.

Bamfield Emergency Planning – They are continuing with their neighbourhood preparedness plan “Know your neighbours and support each other in an emergency”

Cherry Creek Volunteer Fire Department – They continue to conduct education around fire smart. They have a Committee that will be working on various initiatives including conducting an inventory of emergency equipment at their facilities.

City of Port Alberni, Communications - Ryan Reynolds from UBC, School of Community Planning is conducting research in the Alberni Valley inundation zone. He has been conducting door to door visits in the inundation zone identifying gaps and areas of improvement. They have had an overwhelming number of responses (online and door to door) and are very pleased with the data collected. The final findings will be released in September. The City will put out a press release and will share the results with ACRD.

Beaver Creek Volunteer Fire Department – The Department has been very busy. They have had a couple of quad rescues recently that were behind locked gates. M. Kobus is working with the forestry companies to get keys to gates.

Sproat Lake Volunteer Fire Department – The Department is hosting an Open House/Public Education & Information Session on Saturday, July 28th, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm, everyone welcome.

BC Ambulance – Reported on the ambulance which is being donated to Bamfield and the first responder training they conducted in Bamfield and Anacla. BC Ambulance will continue to train first responders in the area when the vehicle arrives in Bamfield. The critical response trailer has been turned over to the Alberni Value Rescue Squad. BC Ambulance will continue to stock the unit with soft supplies and provide volunteers as required.

Arrowsmith Amateur Radio Club – They have been testing of their telephone system. They are having some issues getting into some of the fire departments due to foliage and trees. They continue to work to resolve this issue. The Alberni Valley Landfill site is up and running and covering the majority of the Alberni Valley. The telephone system will be similar to a party line and will be very fast.

BC Transit – Following the Tsunami warning event in January 2018, transit drivers have come up with good suggestions on how they could help out in the event of a disaster. P. Atkinson, BC Transit will get in touch with the Manager of Protective Services in this regard.

Sproat Lake Electoral Area – P. Cote reported on the brush fire last Saturday at Sproat Lake. The Sproat Lake Volunteer Fire Department responded and started to put out the fire. The Coastal Fire Centre responded and put the fire out quite quickly.

Manager of Protective Services – Will be coming back to the Committee with recommended changes to the Committee structure. The Liaison Committee is more of a reporting group. He recommends the formation of a smaller working group to work on the emergency plan. He will come back to this Committee with some options.

6. ADJOURN

The meeting be adjourned at 2:19 pm.