



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT *Board Newsletter*

Highlights from the Peace River Regional Hospital District Board and the Peace River Regional District Board Meetings, held March 26, 2009

Heritage Value of the Peace Valley

Mr. Larry Peterson, a forty-year resident of the Peace River valley, gave a well-researched PowerPoint presentation regarding the importance of the Peace River Valley to agriculture. He explained that Royal Roads Masters' Degree students, after reviewing information gathered from BC Hydro and local residents, came to the conclusion that the integrity of BC's food production capacity supersedes its capacity to produce power from the valley.

Some of the effects of BC Hydro building Site C such as the loss of a large number of prime productive acres, changes to the climate, soil sloughing and the loss of tourism in the valley were discussed.

Mr. Peterson recommended the Board watch the *Keeping the Peace* DVD produced by Karl Mattson. He also distributed copies of the book *Prophecy of the Swan - The Upper Peace River Fur Trade of 1794 - 1823* to each Director. The Board was challenged to support the residents in their efforts to save agricultural land and keep the valley for our future generations.

Fraser Basin Council

Ms. Joan Chess, Sustainability Facilitator, gave a PowerPoint presentation regarding a new program, Smart Planning for Communities. The program's mandate is to provide assistance to various levels of government to help them with integrated community sustainability planning, required under the 2004 Gas Tax Agreement. She stated that a sustainable community is prosperous, healthy and resilient. It meets current needs and prepares for the needs our children and grandchildren while providing a high quality of life by enhancing and balancing economic, social, cultural and environmental well-being.

They deliver the program across the province, providing advice, strategic support, education, training, and technical expertise. They also provide assistance through their website at www.fraserbasin.bc.ca.

Northern Dirt Riders

Mr. Sean Merrick, Vice President, Northern Dirt Riders advised the Directors that the association is proposing to establish a managed public recreation site on an existing trail system in the Gundy area.

The Board resolved to support the riders' application to the BC Government without prejudice, recognizing that additional tenure is necessary, and non-farm use permit and zoning amendment applications are still required. The Board is requesting a site development and operation plan to be submitted for any Crown tenure, outlining how impacts on watercourses will be mitigated, and that the association develop and adhere to a Code of Conduct Policy that addresses best practices to be a good neighbour prior to the commencement of any activities.

Other Highlights

- ★ The Board supports the West Moberly First Nations application to the Northern Development Initiative trust for a study on the Pine Pass Development Project.
- ★ The Board supported the recommendations in the report on the Working Roundtable on Forestry received from Minister Bell.
- ★ The Board supported in principle the Proposal to BC Bioenergy Network submitted by Bill Vanderland of EnerGreen Inc.
- ★ The Board supported the Paddle of the Peace Event on July 11, 2009.
- ★ The Board provided a grant toward the 5th Annual Hudson's Hope Music Festival on July 4 and 5, 2009.
- ★ The Board will sponsor the 2009 Northern Women's Symposium on May 5, 2009 in Taylor, BC.



Next Regional Board Meeting

The next regular meeting of the Regional Board will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2009 at 10 a.m. in the Boardroom of the Peace River Regional District office, at 1981 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC.



For additional information, please contact the Peace River Regional District at:

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