



# PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT EMERGENCY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

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DATE: Thursday, April 16, 2009  
TIME: 10:00 a.m.  
PLACE: Regional District offices, Dawson Creek, BC

PRESENT: Director Karen Goodings, Electoral Area 'B' – Meeting Chair  
Director Wayne Hiebert, Electoral Area 'D'  
Director Tim Caton, Electoral Area 'E'  
Fred Banham, Chief Administrative Officer  
Ron Storie, Manager of Community Services  
Suzanne Garrett, Corporate Services Coordinator

1) Call to Order The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:10 p.m.

## ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA:

2) Adoption of the Agenda MOVED by Director Caton, SECONDED by Director Hiebert, that the Emergency Executive Committee agenda for the April 16, 2009 meeting including Additional Items for the Agenda, be adopted as amended.

CARRIED.

### Minutes:

M-1 Emergency Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2009

M-2 Emergency Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2009

### Reports:

R-1 March 12, 2009 report from Ron Storie, Manager of Community Services regarding the Community Wildfire Protection Plan (CWPP) for the communities of One Island Lake and Wonowon.

### New Business:

NB-1 Oil and Gas notification letter to parents of school children

NB-2 Moberly Lake Community Wildfire Protection Program

NB-3 9-1-1 Fire Dispatch – Dawson Creek Fire Department

### Items for Information:

I-1 Emergency Incident Register

## MINUTES:

3) M-1 Emergency Executive Committee Mtg Min of Jan. 15, 2009 MOVED by Director Hiebert, SECONDED by Fred Banham, that the Emergency Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of January 15, 2009 be adopted.

CARRIED.

4) M-2 Emergency Executive Committee Mtg Min of March 12, 2009 MOVED by Fred Banham, SECONDED by Director Caton, that the Emergency Executive Committee Meeting Minutes of March 12, 2009 be adopted.

CARRIED.

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## REPORTS:

5) R-1 re:  
Community Wildfire  
Protection Program

Mr. Storie advised members that since July 2008, Community Services has tendered, field confirmed and almost completed the contract administration on prescriptions at One Island Lake and Wonowon. The plan is to implement / develop a twenty (20) meter fuel modification strip around as much of the communities as possible. However, some discussions have taken place regarding whether the Regional District should be implementing fuel modification. It was felt that residents should be responsible for fire smarting their own properties. If the Regional District goes ahead with fuel modifications, what guarantee does the Regional District have that all residents would participate in fire smarting their property. How does the Regional District justify fuel modification around one property and not another. The second issue was discovered during prescription field confirmation where some people have encroached on crown land with a number of residences being right on the crown / private boundary as well as having trailers, outhouses, woodpiles, etc. on the crown side. It was also observed that for many of these encroachments, residents had started to modify the forest behind their residences on crown land. This issue prompted staff to recommend that no forest management occur in these areas because of the severe liability any contractor engaged would have in implementing targets. Overall, it appears that few people are actually firesmaring the forest around their private residences.

MOVED by Fred Banham, SECONDED by Director Hiebert, that the Regional District refocus the Community Wildfire Protection Program and develop a demonstration forest area for the One Island Lake and Wonowon areas consisting of a 1,000m x 750m strip to provide an educational opportunity to both communities and to evaluate if residents will implement firesmaring / fuel modification around private residences.

CARRIED.

Mr. Storie advised the Wonowon demonstration forest area could include a walking trail southeast from the school off the pipeline. Mr. Storie noted funding for the demonstration forest areas could be applied for under a Job Opportunity Program (JOP) application.

Mr. Storie advised that public meetings will be held in each of the communities. Director Goodings suggested that the video "Fire Smart" be shown at the public meetings.

## NEW BUSINESS:

6) NB-1 re: Moberly  
Lake Community  
Wildfire Program

Director Caton inquired on the status of the Community Wildfire Protection Program for the Moberly Lake area. It was suggested that the Regional District could partner with the Moberly Lake and Saulteau First Nations. It was noted that the First Nations have started a community wildfire protection plan for their jurisdiction.

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**NEW BUSINESS:** (continued)

6) NB-1 re: Moberly Lake CWPP                      MOVED by Director Caton, SECONDED by Director Hiebert, that, if funds are available, a demonstration forest area be developed for South Moberly, adjacent to Moberly Lake Provincial park and First Nations.

CARRIED.

7) NB-2 re: Oil and Gas activity in proximity to rural schools                      In June 2008 the Committee met with School District No. 59 and No. 60 representatives to discuss oil and gas activities in close proximity to rural schools. Those in attendance agreed that when a school is found to be within the Emergency Planning Zone (EPZ) an information package will be mailed to all parents of children attending that school. A joint "generic covering letter" from the Regional District, Oil and Gas Commission and School Districts was to be drafted to accompany an information package from the Oil and Gas Company proposing the work.

The joint "generic covering letter" has finally been approved by all stakeholders. Signatories include:

Alex Ferguson, Commissioner, Oil and Gas Commission  
Richard Powell, Chair, School District No. 59 – Peace River South  
Gordon Anderson, Chair, School District No. 60 – Peace River North  
Karen Goodings, Chair, Peace River Regional District

8) NB-3 re: 9-1-1 Fire dispatch, Dawson Creek                      Director Caton advised members that last week (April 7), the Chetwynd Fire Department could not reach the Dawson Creek Fire Department dispatch by telephone.

Mr. Banham advised that Glentel, the equipment provider, had been on site to check the equipment. It was discovered that the Dawson Creek Fire Department had purchased new equipment and unfortunately the second fire crew did not receive sufficient training. This has since been rectified.

9) I-1 re: Emergency Incident Register                      The Committee reviewed the Emergency Incident Register updated to March 31, 2009.

10) Adjournment                      MOVED by Fred Banham, SECONDED by Director Hiebert, that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 2:40 p.m.