



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

Strategic Plan and Profile of Invasive Plant Monitoring Committee Meeting Minutes

DATE: Tuesday, November 2, 2016

PLACE: Regional District offices, Dawson Creek, BC

PRESENT: Director Leonard Hiebert, Electoral Area 'D', Meeting Chair
Director Karen Goodings, Electoral Area 'B'
Director Brad Sperling, Electoral Area 'C'
Art Seidl, Peace River Regional Cattlemen's Association
Mike Pangman, MGP Contracting
Jackie Caldwell, Conuma Coal
Fernie May Garbitt, Sauleteau First Nations, 10:20 am
Lori Vickers, Ministry of Agriculture
Jennifer White, Saddle Hills County, Alberta
Elaine Armagost, Saddle Hills County, Alberta
Paul Hawkins, Louisiana Pacific
Sherri Connolly, BC Timber Sales
Ben Rauscher, BC Oil and Gas Commission
Glen Holmes, ARC Resources
Jim Chramosta, Shell
Brian Stratuliak, Peace River Regional Cattlemen's Association
Ella Head, District of Tumbler Ridge
Eric Weetman, Caribou Road Services
Raylene Otto, Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Scott Travis, City of Fort St. John
Chris Murphy, City of Fort St. John
Sheena Briggs, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources, 1:05 pm

By teleconference

Manny Mariotto, Ministry of Environment
Katharine Capot-Blanc, Northern Rockies IPC
Stacy Hammond
Mike D'Aloia, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources

Staff

Paulo Eichelberger, General Manager of Environmental Services
Kari Bondaroff, Manager of Invasive Plant Program
Suzanne Garrett, Corporate Services Coordinator

- 1) Call to Order: The meeting was called to order at 10:00 a.m.
- 2) Adoption of the Agenda: MOVED by Director Goodings, SECONDED by Art Seidl, that the Strategic Plan and Profile of Invasive Plant Monitoring Committee meeting agenda for the November 2, 2016 meeting, including additional items for the agenda, be adopted as amended:
- Notice of New Business:**
- Adoption of the Minutes:**
- M-1 Strategic Plan and Profile of Invasive Plants Monitoring Committee Meeting
Minutes of April 5, 2016
- Business Arising from the Minutes:**

2) Adoption of the
Agenda (cont'd)

Correspondence:

C-1 April 11, 2016 letter from the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations regarding invasive plant treatment activities and monitoring.

Reports:

R-1 2016 Contractor Report – Mike Pangman, Area Controller

R-2 2016 Field Season activities: Compliance and Enforcement; Education and Awareness; Invasive Plant bins; and provincial efficacy monitoring

R-3 Roundtable 2016 Agency Program reports:

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations – handout
BC Hydro; Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure; rancher program;
aboriginal groups; oil and gas sectors; other agencies

New Business:

NB-1 2016 Strategic Plan and Profile – any suggested changes for 2017

NB-2 2016 Profile of Invasive Plant Species within the PRRD – feedback

Items for Information

I-1 IPC Monitoring Committee Terms of Reference

Adjournment:

CARRIED.

ADOPTION OF MINUTES:

3) M-1 SPPIPMC
Mtg. Min. of Apr 5,
2016

MOVED by Director Sperling, SECONDED by Ben Rauscher,
that the Strategic Plan and Profile of Invasive Plant Monitoring Committee Meeting
minutes of April 5, 2016 be adopted.

CARRIED.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES:

4) BA-1 re: NB-3
Hawkweed

Members were advised that the hawkweed infestation along a 10 kilometre stretch
of the Alaska Highway right-of-way has been successfully addressed. Upon request
from the Department of Transportation the site will be monitored in 2017.

REPORTS:

5) R-1 re: 2016
Contractor report

Mr. Pangman, PRRD Area Controller

- Third and final year of contract
- Discovered two more species, Big Head Knapweed at the Hudson's Hope solid waste site and Chicory at the Chetwynd landfill, both sites treated
- Category A species treated included Russian Thistle, Common Tansy, Orange and Yellow Hawkweed, Burdock
- Category B species treated included Scentless Chamomile, Tall/Meadow Buttercup, Oxeye Daisy, Kochia, Canada Thistle and Common Toadflax
- Manual Treatments – Category A – Spotted Knapweed and Burdock; Category B – Oxeye Daisy, Tall/Meadow Buttercup, Canada Thistle, Scentless Chamomile.

6) R-2 re: 2016
RD Program

Kari Bondaroff, Manager of Invasive Plants

- 2016 was filled with upgrades to the program, improvements to outreach materials, increased participation in invasive plant disposal, coordination with PRRD staff and increased efficiencies for site monitoring and coordination between provincial government and the PRRD.

6) R-2 continued

- Introduction of Play-Clean-Go and free disposal of handpicked invasive plants increased education and outreach.
- 2016 work plan – 95% of priorities were accomplished
- New programs for 2017 include Healthy Lawn Tips, Character development – agriculture, youth, industry, residential, horticulture and recreationist – 52 playing cards and teaching materials
- Invasive plant material disposed of increased from 7,500 kg to 14,940 kg, bins at landfills opened up to commercial and residential users.

Discussion:

- Agriculture Advisory Committee recommended that bins be placed at all manned transfer stations.
- Concern was expressed with respect to the size of the PL6 bins, what happens when the bins are the full?
- Bin rental is \$100 per month; \$90 tipping fee paid for by the PRRD
- Another concern, bags could split or fall off the vehicle, could result in the spread of more weed seeds
- A report is being prepared taking into account costs and pros/cons of the program

7) R-3 Agency Program Reports

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations FLNRO (handout)

- 2016 was a challenging year – weather impacts
- FLNRO and Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure coordinated with the PRRD to determine a plan for survey and treatment of yellow and orange hawkweeds to prevent spread into agricultural areas
- Scentless chamomile and Canada Thistle were treated near agricultural areas
- Increased monitoring and data checking occurred to ensure quality work was completed
- FLNRO fund a rancher contract in the Sunset Prairie Community Pasture – this contract had the pasture treat FLNRO priority species and permitted the pasture to treat Canada Thistle at their own cost
- Contractors completed 1108 surveys on 583 sites and 649 treatments on 377 sites

A member inquired if the location of the bio-control sites had been GPS'd, to ensure they are not accidentally treated with chemicals. It was noted that most sites have been. The site in East Pine had to be moved as a result of public complaints. It was suggested that signage be erected indicating that bio-control is taking place at each of the sites for educational purposes.

Rancher Program

- Biggest challenge with the program is the amount of paper work and the time it takes to complete, not user friendly, has a negative effect. Have been advised that ministry is looking at streamlining the program for next year.
- Sunset Community Pasture engaged in their second year of the Rancher Contract program. To date, approximately 75 ha. of Bull and Creeping (Canada Thistle) have been treated within the pasture as a result of the contract.

Louisiana Pacific

- Burdock treated in Groundbirch.

7) R-3 Agency Program Reports (continued)

Saulteau First Nations

- Oil and gas engaged more this year, reviewed chemical treatment plan
- Picked bags of Scentless Chamomile, Canada Thistle will be sprayed next year

Ministry of Agriculture

- Rancher contracts – grazing leases
- Rancher Lone Prairie area has been successful in getting cows to eat other weeds
- Market Feasibility Study - weed free forage program, will have more information at next meeting

BC Oil and Gas Commission

- Revised OGC invasive plant list to target plants on the EDRR list
- Section 33 BCOGC identifies plants by order, however oil and gas operators decide which plants at sites are treated.
- list will be forwarded to the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers (CAPP), before year end, for approval.

Caribou Road Services

- Increasing awareness with respect to cleaning equipment

Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

- inventory not complete 95% accuracy
- 31 gravel pits surveyed or treated,
- floods hampered weed control
- Hawkweed, treated all rights-of-way

Clayhurst – spotted knapweed site, it was noted that due to the flooding this season the site could not be accessed for monitoring purposes.

City of Fort St. John

- dealing with established seed banks,
- public complaints/service requests are dealt with, but City has limited resources
- interested in bio-control

- 8) Recess The meeting recessed at 12:00 pm
9) Reconvene The meeting reconvened at 1:00 pm

10) R-3 Agency Program Reports (continued)

Saddle Hills County

- apply herbicide on 1/3 of the right-of-way, unless there is a “do not spray agreement”
- employ staff to inspect oil and gas, CNR, etc.
- sprayed 500 ha, 436 inspections were conducted,
- budget, \$1 million for all agricultural programs, covers Hwy 49 to north of Hwy 59 and north to Peace River
- County takes care of roads, grass on roadsides
- Monitors/inspects for crop diseases such as black leg and clubroot
- Developing a bylaw “all vehicles must be washed” to stop spread of weed seeds
- Have developed a good relationship with CNR, obtain permission to inspect track right-of-ways

NEW BUSINESS:

11) NB-1/NB-2 Plan and Profile Members were encouraged to review and forward comments and/or suggested changes to the “Strategic Plan and Profile” and the “Profile of Invasive Plant Species within the PRRD” Kari.Bondaroff@prrd.bc.ca by February 28, 2017. Revisions will be compiled into the document for Committee review at the spring meeting.

Documents can be found at: <http://prrd.bc.ca/services/invasive-plants/> under Important Links.

Discussion ensued regarding “Kochia” and should it be listed. It was noted that Kochia is on the Category B list. However it is not listed on the provincial list. It is treated when found, the site in Cecil Lake is being monitored.

12) NB-3 Next meeting – scheduled for 10:00 am, April 5, 2017

13) Adjournment MOVED by Art Seidl, SECONDED by Lori Vickers, that the meeting be adjourned.

CARRIED.

The meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm

original signed by

Leonard Hiebert
Chair

Original signed by

Suzanne Garrett
Corporate Services Coordinator