

# MINUTES OF SIFCo PLANNING COMMITTEE MEETING

October 15, 2009 Thursday, 4 p.m.

SIFCo Office, Winlaw

**Members Present:** Bruce Charlton, Stephan Martineau, Lisa Farr, Phil Larstone, & Tom Bradley

**Guests:** Suzanne Schroyen

## Proposed Agenda:

1. **Bannock Point**
2. **Firewood**
3. **Access Policy**
4. **Planning Process**

### 1. Bannock Point

MoFR protection branch has instructed MoH to install a gate on the Bannock Point access road close to the highway. This seems to be a response to a perceived risk of open pit fires.

Stephan will discuss this with Dan Rieben of Ministry of Tourism.

### 2. Firewood

Tom presented an overview. (See attached report.) There is a lack of clarity around the issuance of free use permits on PCFA's. Clarity is needed on this question.

Discussion was held around the challenges of finding solutions that balance the needs of the public, the environment, and SIFCo. Discussion explored strategies to include the public and interest groups in a process of education and conversation. Ideas included smaller meetings with interest groups; i.e. firewood providers and water-user groups, sharing an overview of the challenges through an ad in the Valley Voice, and a possible public meeting.

Tom will draft a letter of inquiry to be sent to Ron Greschner (Victoria) and Phil Medley (Kamloops). Stephan will vet the letter.

Tom will follow through with contacting other CFA's with regards to how they handle firewood.

### 3. Access Policy

Tom presented an overview. (See attached report.) The report clarifies that the roads on our landbase belong to MoFR. Any SIFCo access policy that restricts access must be okayed by our District Manager. Discussion was held around including access and possible access restriction options in the same public process as in the Firewood discussion.

Lisa, Phil & Suzanne will meet to round out a list of dilemmas and options. They will include a framework statement that provides SIFCo's larger perspective. The results may provide the basis for the public process.

The results will be circulated to the Planning Committee members.

### 4. Planning Process

#### a) **Red Mountain Block**

Today was the last day in the consultation process, for First Nations to respond. We have had only 1 reply so far, no responses that require action. Phil & Suzanne clarified that Marilyn James is the appropriate contact person for the Sinixt.

Bruce indicated that RMRA is satisfied with the plans at this time.

The block is ready to go, we just need a cutting permit. The market for cedar poles has deteriorated. Three out of four buyers of cedar poles are not interested at this time. Tom and Stephan will explore the possibility of leaving the poles decked temporarily for a later sale.

#### b) **Planning Process**

This will be top priority at our next Planning Committee meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.