



Making a difference...together

Minutes of a Meeting of the Special Task Force on First Nations Engagement
Held Tuesday, November 17, 2015, at 5:30 p.m.
Room 387, 625 Fisgard Street, Victoria, BC

PRESENT: Directors: M. Alto (Chair), R. Windsor, N. Jensen (Board Chair, ex-Officio)
Staff: S. Hallatt, E. Nahser-Ringer (Recorder)
Regrets: M. Tait

The meeting was called to order at 5:30pm

1. Approval of Agenda

The Agenda was approved by consensus.

2. Approval of April Minutes, August Mtg Notes and October Minutes

Meeting minutes were approved and signed by Director Alto.

3. Chair's Remarks

There are no remarks at this time.

4. Interactions with First Nations

- a. Oak Bay is undertaking Community 2 Community forums with Esquimalt and Songhees. There is a pole raising at Oak Bay High School this Sunday at 2pm.
- b. Central Saanich is undertaking joint community to community forum with Tsawout and Tsartlip.
- c. Chiefs of Songhees and Esquimalt met with Victoria Mayor and Director Alto on mutual interests. City of Victoria has directed staff to report back on how the City can respond to the 5 Truth and Reconciliation actions that relate to Municipal government.

5. Debriefing on meetings with Tseycum and Esquimalt

Marianne to close loop on MFA with Chief Thomas, formal letter to be sent as well to follow up. Staff to discuss watershed access for Esquimalt Nation with Ted Robbins.

Staff to organize follow-up CRD presentation for Tseycum in the New Year. Presentation would focus on the peninsula. Staff to follow up on question about whether water restrictions apply on First Nations reserves or not.

Staff directed to prepare report for the Task Force about the Saanich Peninsula Water and Wastewater Commission that lays out actual and potential First Nations representation on those commissions including barriers to participation.

6. Correspondence with the Province

Staff to write a follow-up letter to Minister Fassbender asking to meet with the Minister and senior staff. The letter shall include again the requests from the CRD on the subject of First Nations representation at the CRD Board table. Director Alto to send notes on the first meeting with the Premier at UBCM.

7. Upcoming meeting with Songhees Nation

Task Force to meet ahead of the meeting at 5pm at Varsha's to discuss meeting with Songhees.

8. Governance Committee report

9. Plan for the New Year

Arrange for follow-up meetings with First Nations to talk about the CRD. Explore the idea of an invitation to a larger table where governance options could be discussed. Explore the idea of a First Nations themed larger Forum of Councils with that could have some cultural training, sharing of information, and speaker series from leaders in the region etc.

10. Cultural Training for CRD Board

Director Alto suggested staff look at the UBCM cultural training program that is being offered to communities.

Staff to also look at possibility of the cultural training program with Michelle Staples. An introductory session to this training could be arranged for a forum of councils.

11. New Business

12. Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 6:40pm

The next meeting is scheduled for Dec 15 at 5:30pm

CHAIR

COMMITTEE CLERK