

# Ocean Falls Community Revitalization Committee Meeting #1 Highlights

Meeting #1 Date: April 11, 2022

Meeting #1 Time: 9:00 AM – 12:00 PM

## 1. Committee Member Attendees

Committee Member	Representatives	Roles
Heiltsuk Nation	Carrie Humchitt	COO, Heiltsuk Nation Economic Development Corp; and, Member, Heiltsuk Tribal Council
	Reg Moody	Member, Heiltsuk Nation Band; and Elected Tribal Councillor
Nuxalk Nation	Terry Webber	Nuxalk Nation Elected Councillor
	Iris Siwallace	Nuxalk Nation Emergency Management; Nuxalk Nation Council Representative; Community Leader
Central Coast Regional District (CCRD)	Daniel Bertrand	Director, Electoral Area "A"
Ocean Falls Improvement District (OFID)	Dylan Coburn	Member, Board of Trustees
Ocean Falls Business Sector	Kevin Day	CTO, Ocean Falls Blockchain Corp.
Province of BC	Jennifer Rice	MLA, North Coast

## 2. Working Group Member Attendees and Facilitators

Agency	Name	Title
Ministry of Municipal Affairs	Brent Mueller	Director, Governance Relations
	Catherine Lee	Senior Program Analyst, Government Relations, Governance and Structure Branch
Central Coast Regional District (CCRD)	Curtis Slingerland	CAO, CCRD
MNP	Bill Reid	Partner, Advisory Services
	Liz Fenje	Senior Consultant, Advisory Services

3. Meeting Highlights

Time	Topic	Highlights
9:00 AM	Opening of the Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Heiltsuk Nation and the Nuxalk Nation would both like to explore opportunities for revitalizing Ocean Falls, with there being an extensive, shared history and connection with the land along with what it and the surrounding waters (including the falls) offer.</li> <li>- The CCRD has been, and is looking to continue to be, proactive in exploring opportunities for revitalizing Ocean Falls.</li> <li>- The OFID wants to see increased services for the community, meaningful public spaces, and opportunities for revitalizing the town.</li> <li>- There are business ventures, both in place today and that could be pursued going forward, which pose opportunities for revitalizing Ocean Falls.</li> </ul>
9:15 AM	Sharing Histories and Connections to Ocean Falls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Heiltsuk Nation:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Had a thriving community in Ocean Falls before they were forcibly removed, and a 1982 comprehensive claims map includes Ocean Falls as an original village site.</li> <li>o Discussed how much expansion can take place in Bella Bella before growth and demand exceed the water supply; they have considered Ocean Falls as a possible satellite community, in addition to Namu.</li> <li>o Has explored possible business opportunities such as the bottling of water at Link Lake.</li> </ul> </li> <li>- Ocean Falls is part of Nuxalk Nation’s shared territories with the Heiltsuk Nation, and there was co-location of members of both Nations with a shared traditional language.</li> <li>- "Ocean Falls" is a translation of the Heiltsuk name for what is now called Cousins Inlet. According to the late Heiltsuk Elder and historian Gordon Reid Sr., 'Tuxvnaq' means "big sea, out in the ocean".</li> <li>- The Ocean Falls Improvement District Board of Trustees is seeking improvements in water quality, drainage and sewer infrastructure, which in many ways would not pass today’s standards. The Improvement District is currently working with an environmental engineering firm (Urban Systems) to identify the infrastructure that needs to be repaired or replaced, recognizing there have been numerous repairs to-date.</li> <li>- There are around twelve (12) derelict buildings in Martin Valley, and Ocean Falls has eleven (11) derelict buildings.</li> <li>- There are conflicting views on the development of Ocean Falls</li> </ul>

		<p>among current residents, even though the closure of fish farming will lead to unemployment.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- There is potential to expand the current bitcoin mining operation, and the programming aspect of the business could employ even more people than the mining. Other business opportunities could be a micro-brewery as well as the leveraging of the hydroelectric dam (the hydroelectric dam in Ocean Falls is operating at half-capacity; the abundance of power presents a significant opportunity).</li> <li>- While Ocean Falls is remote, it can be accessed relatively easily from Vancouver.</li> <li>- Housing is a major constraint, and much of the town's private property is currently owned by one individual who hasn't been to Ocean Falls in 30+ years; this could be a barrier to real development.</li> </ul>
10:10 AM	Framing the Committee's Role and Approach	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Committee members reviewed the committee's draft Terms of Reference, with the objectives and mandate statements as well as sections on roles and responsibilities, and deliverables, receiving little in the way of comments.</li> <li>- The reference to "appointee" under the section on composition should be changed to "appointees" to allow for delegates including from the Nations.</li> <li>- A Federal Government representative for this committee has not yet been confirmed.</li> <li>- On the report(s) resulting from the work of this committee, the Nations would like to share the documents with Council members.</li> <li>- The work of this committee should be guided by principles of openness and transparency.</li> <li>- Planning should commence for one of the meetings to occur in-person at Ocean Falls, and if possible, a health and safety assessment should be conducted by the provincial government during the same in-person meeting. A boat could be chartered for transportation.</li> <li>- The Improvement District can provide the Working Group with support.</li> </ul>
11:00 AM	Planning for the Second Committee Meeting	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A draft community backgrounder (research document) will be shared to support the next meeting's discussions.</li> <li>- The agenda should also allow for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Opening and closing traditional acknowledgments and prayer from the Heiltsuk Nation and Nuxalk Nation committee members.</li> <li>o Historical presentations from both Nations.</li> <li>o Presentations from the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, the</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

		<p>Regional District, and the Improvement District, on what is known about the current state, and drawing on the backgrounder.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ A roundtable dialogue on the opportunities to be focused on by the committee, with the consideration of related challenges (e.g., derelict buildings).</li> <li>○ Timing of subsequent meetings and related topics.</li> </ul>
11:20 AM	Closing of the Session	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Consensus was expressed among committee members to explore opportunities for revitalizing Ocean Falls.</li> <li>- Future updates from this committee could be posted on a public notice board in Ocean Falls as well as the CCRD's website.</li> </ul>

## 4. Decision Log

Detail	Decisions	Status
Framing the Committee's Role and Approach (Review of the Draft Terms of Reference)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 3: Composition               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Update "appointee" to "appointees".</li> <li>○ Update phrasing of the first line in this section.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Approved
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Section 8: Working Group               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Reference how the "OFID" can provide support (e.g., local logistics).</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Approved

## 5. Action Register

Date Action Initiated	Actions	Responsible	Status
April 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Send committee members a Doodle Poll to determine the best date and time for the second meeting, either the morning of May 16 or 18.</li> </ul>	MNP	In Progress
April 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Update the committee draft Terms of Reference.</li> </ul>	MNP	Completed
April 11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Prepare the agenda and distribute along with the discussion draft of the backgrounder to committee members once a second meeting date and time has been confirmed.</li> </ul>	MNP	In Progress