



CENTRAL COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

DATE: September 28, 2017

ATTENTION

Board Meeting
OCT 12 2017
CCRD ITEM (d)(i)
late item

The EDAC minutes are draft and subject to amendment. Final approval and adoption by the EDAC will follow a resolution to receive the minutes by the CCRD Board of Directors, at their next scheduled meeting.

**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE (EDAC)
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES – September 28, 2017**

In Attendance:

Wilma Hallam – Member at Large
Keith Hamilton – Nuxalk Development Corporation Representative
Rodney Krimmer – Member at Large (Chair)

Regrets:

Ana Santos – Denny Island Representative
Sharron Cartier – Ocean Falls Community Member

Absent:

Robert Duncan – Member at Large/Wuikinuxv Tribal Manager
Garrett Newkirk – Bella Coola Harbour Authority
Director Sam Schooner CCRD Director, Electoral Area E

Vacancies:

Ocean Falls Representative
Heiltsuk Economic Development Corporation Representative
1 Member at Large

1. Call to Order

The CEDO called the meeting to order at 7:01pm

2. Election of Chair

Rodney Krimmer was acclaimed as Chair of EDAC.
Wilma Hallam was nominated as Vice Chair and declined. Keith Hamilton was nominated as Vice Chair and declined. The position of Vice Chair remains open for the time being.

There was discussion that, as the Chair is from the Bella Coola Valley, it may be beneficial to have the Vice-Chair be an EDAC member from the the outer coast.

3. Adoption of Agenda

EDAC 17-05-01 K Hamilton/W Hallam that the EDAC agenda be adopted.

CARRIED

4. Adoption of May 25 Meeting Minutes

EDAC 17-05-01 K Hamilton/W Hallam that the EDAC meeting minutes, dated May 25th be adopted.

Discussion of business arising from previous meeting:

Review of the motions around the grant writer to be discussed later on the agenda. Follow up and clarification that, at this time, businesses are not eligible for the CCRD grant writer support program.

Identification that the conversation around micro-loan funds has not happened. Keith Hamilton is still interested to discuss the micro-loan fund idea and to share experience on micro-loans if there is interest in having an exploratory conversation. Wilma Hallam was interested in knowing if the micro-loan idea could to be funded as a pilot project by NDIT.

At 7:15 pm there was still only one person attending the meeting via the conference line. CEDO closed the line and called directly.

5. Economic Impacts of Wildfire and Recovery

(a) Preliminary Survey Results

CEDO shared the preliminary results from the survey. A total of 40 businesses responded to the BC Wildfire Business Impact Survey for the Central Coast. The survey looked at factors impacting businesses, the anticipated impact on revenue, the level of impact that disruption to communications infrastructure would have on operations, the number of businesses with business disaster plans and/or business interruption insurance.

It was noted that individuals also incurred additional expenses, as a result of the wildfires and subsequent road closures, which in turn also affects the local economy.

(b) Recovery Manager

CEDO shared the Recovery Manager model that the CCRD is considering for feedback from EDAC. Through Emergency Management BC there is a possibility of funding for a Recovery Manager for 6 month positions. The Provincial approach is to support local governments and communities in their own recovery through four pillars: Economic, Social, Infrastructure, and Environmental. As the economic pillar has been the most impacted in the region, the focus of the CCRD Recovery Manager would be related to economic recovery and would involve working with community coordinators to ensure that the recovery needs specific to each community in the CCRD were identified.

EDAC members felt this was a valuable approach and discussion followed around: coordinating with Nuxalk Nation in recovery efforts; the status of overall emergency planning in the region; as well as the vulnerability to, and potential impacts resulting from loss of communications. It was identified that loss of/damage to communications infrastructure would have a large impact on modern health care delivery as well as to the people, businesses, and organizations in the region.

EDAC members identified avenues to further the discussion around connectivity including through MLA Jennifer Rice in her position as Parliamentary Secretary of Emergency Preparedness and by pursuing funding for connectivity.

The CEDO shared that the CCRD's current Emergency Management Plan is in the process of being reviewed and updated.

(c) Resources for Economic Recovery

A document outlining resources available for businesses, community organizations, and non-profits impacted by the Wildfires was shared. The resources included the Red Cross Grant for

Businesses, tourism re-building and marketing, agri-recovery, compensation for property owners who have property impacted, and loans programs.

(d) BC Wildfire Survey for Businesses

A copy of the BC Wildfire Business Impact Survey for the Central Coast was provided for reference. EDAC members were asked if they had any suggestions for questions to add in the case of future surveys. No suggestions were brought forward.

6. EDAC Terms of Reference (ToR)

CEDO shared correspondence from the CAO identifying that the CAO has committed to review the ToR for all CCRD committees. EDAC committee members are invited to share comments and perspectives on the current ToR with the CAO. Further discussion of the ToR has been postponed to allow for the CAO and a Board member to be in attendance.

EDAC members expressed interest in having both the Board and CAO listen to feedback from the EDAC about suggested changes to the ToR and process. EDAC members would like to provide input prior to the development of a new ToR and expressed interest in discussing this further amongst themselves prior to providing feedback to the CAO.

7. Information/Updates

(a) Update on BC Ferries 2018 Service to Central Coast

BC ferries has named the new vessel, that will travel from Port Hardy to Bella Coola, Northern Sea Wolf. Fraser River Pile and Dredge have been awarded the BC ferries contract to undertake berth modifications at Bella Coola from mid-January 2018 to the end of February. Ocean Falls will have their berth replaced. This work will be from the end of February to the end of April. There is a hope that this will generate opportunities for local employment.

EDAC members expressed excitement for the increased ferry traffic especially in relation to the reduced number of tourists this season.

(b) Grant Writer Program

The CEDO shared the projects that have been supported through the program to date. In reviewing the program, there was a re-evaluation of the role of EDAC in the process. It was identified that EDAC members may bring forward feedback about the program but are not part of the decision-making process.

(c) Community Reports

K.Hamilton provided an update on NDC projects noting that there was a delay in the river rafting program caused by the Wildfires. This project is now moving forward and training has occurred. NDC will be providing guided cultural tours on the Atnarko and Bella Coola rivers, complete with a Nuxalk traditional feast. NDC now has a communications employee and has increased their communications and online presence. There is a plan for signage at the Petroglyphs site to communicate the protocols.

R. Krimmer provided an update on the Bella Coola Community Forest identifying that the Community Forest currently has an electronic and hardcopy public opinion survey open until September 30th and is encouraging community feedback. They will be compiling the information and then publishing the results and responses to feedback. Hot weather during the fire season shut the Community Forest down for a short period of time.

8. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:17pm