



PEACE RIVER REGIONAL DISTRICT

STRATEGIC PLAN AND PROFILE OF INVASIVE PLANT MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, APRIL 13, 2021

LOCATION Peace River Regional District Office, Dawson Creek, BC

ATTENDANCE

Directors (via Zoom)

Director Hiebert, Electoral Area 'D' – Committee Chair
Director Goodings, Electoral Area 'B'

Staff

Paulo Eichelberger, GM of Environmental Services
Kari Bondaroff, Environmental Services Manager
Suzanne Garrett, Recorder

Committee Members (via Zoom)

Denise McLean, Ministry FLNRORD
Eric Nijboer, Spectrum Resource Group
Mae Whyte, Blueberry River First Nation
Robin Routledge, BC Hydro
Satish Prasad, Ministry of Transportation
Charity Schmidt, Shell Canada
Peter Smith – Oil and Gas
Brian Stratuliak, PR Regional Cattlemen's Association

Ella Head, District of Tumbler Ridge
Glen Holmes, ARC Resources
Mike Pangman, MGP Contracting
Paul Hawkins, Louisiana Pacific
Shelley Fulmes, Argo Roads
Dan Tisseur, Enbridge
Jim Little, local producer
Aviva Jones, Blueberry River First Nation

1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:30 am.

The draft 2021 Strategic Plan and Profile of the Invasive Plants was shared via email to members. Included in that email was a partner and stakeholder survey requesting feedback from members regarding 2020 invasive plant activities, strategies, newly reported invaders and successes as well as recommendations for 2021 activities.

The purpose of today's meeting is to check in with members to provide updates on their 2020 year and invasive plant management plans for 2021.

Committee members were asked to report on:

1. 2020 invasive plant successes
2. invasive plant management plans for 2021
3. identify support that the Regional District could provide

Argo Roads

2. continue to monitor roads and ditches for invasive species
3. ongoing staff training, how can ARGO support Regional District's efforts

PR Regional Cattlemen's
Association

1. Ranchers contracts – 5 years good success
2. Ranchers treated 7 sites (26.2 ha.), Ministry Forests and Lands treated 11 sites
3. continue with the Ranchers contracts

Shell Canada

1. Continue monitoring Canada Thistle one pipeline right-of-ways and community pastures. Treat areas if requested by landowners.
2. Continue with monitoring and re-seeding of areas



Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. treating highest priority areas within the North, South and West Peace areas2. Continue with Regional EDRR for Marsh Plume Thistle3. Province wide there will be no joint contracts for public lands this year. <p>The Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure has funds and will be doing their contracts as usual.</p>
Jim Little	<p>Beatton/Doig Pasture – large problem with Canada Thistle – no weed control takes place. North Peace Farmer's Institute has concerns. The Ministry of Transportation should consider mowing ditches earlier to alleviate some of the spread of weed seeds. Another issue is control of water in ditches, Chamomile likes to grow in damp areas, need a solution. Biological control worked last time.</p>
BC Hydro	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Continue to manage construction site and off site projects, highway realignment and power lines. Spring inventory of 3,000 ha. – found 44.8 ha with invasive species. Fall inventory found 5.9 ha. significant reduction. Monitoring trend for last three years. Three year biocontrol project on Dalmatian toadflax, resulted in big impact on site.2. Currently gearing up for the season.3. Ditch lines on regional roads getting worse. Finding invasive species we have not seen in 10 years. Need to refocus on that, coordinate work with Regional District.
ARC Resources	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. 3 different local spray contractors, successful year. Increased Orange Hawkweed in Tower Lake areas, starting to spread. Looking at better ways to control foxtail barley. Did more mowing.2. Tendering work. Working with landowners in the Rolla area. Monitoring residual effects.3. Road control and increased mowing. Enforcement issue, local oil and gas company not spraying – poor approach.
Northern Rockies Invasive Plant Committee	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Contract, industrial part of Fort Nelson, intense assessment and control took place in the second half of summer2. NRRD Invasive Plant Committee – leftover funding from the pooled funding model. Trying to determine best use of funds. Have invasive plant site list for possible treatment. Also need to focus on education.
MGP Contracting	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Area Controller for the Regional District. Slow and steady, lots of spraying2. Continue with monitoring and treatment3. Continued support from staff. Operational questions answered within the hour.
Enbridge	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. maintaining program for ground disturbance, large expansion going on – increased risk of invasive migration.2. 2021 starting up survey, and survey response in the Pine Pass area.
Spectra Resource Group	<ol style="list-style-type: none">1. continue working with numerous stakeholders, IP Management, local government and others2. continue to support PRRD IAPP
Ministry of Transportation	<ol style="list-style-type: none">2. continue providing support



- Louisiana Pacific
1. continue working with industrial users, monitoring roads, seeding, cut blocks
 2. Awareness program – pre-works program, training for reporting and using IAPP, treated 3 sites. Logging training, post harvest assessments.
 3. Regional District has great resources.
- Blueberry First Nations
2. Invasives not a number 1 priority currently. Continue with outreach and engagement
 3. Share materials that could be posted to our website.
- Regional District
- Reporting:
- Report a Weed App
 - Call office – Regional District has a Compliance and Enforcement Officer
 - Roadside or industrial – report directly to the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure or the BC Oil and Gas Commission
- Wash stations
- Concern was expressed that vehicles from industrial sites are not being adequately washed to stop the transference of weed seeds, needs to be addressed.
- It was noted that there is a full rinse station located at Old Fort - all vehicles coming in or going out – have seen a dramatic decrease in the spread of seeds. BC Hydro continues to work with contractors on “off site” locations – points of inspection prior to exiting onto highway or shared roads. Well received at BC Hydro, increase education to prevent the spread of weeds by wheel.
- Funding for invasive plant program
- Concern was expressed that the Province is not recognizing the economic contribution agriculture makes to the province. It was recognized that cancellation of treatment work on public lands by the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operation and Resource Development (FLNRORD) could result in the spread of invasive plants on FLNRORD lands going unchecked and affecting neighbouring agricultural lands. There was consensus that a letter be forwarded to the Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operation and Resource Development (FLNRORD); Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy (BC Parks and Conservation divisions) emphasizing the economic benefits agriculture provides versus the detrimental costs of cancelling treatments of invasive plants on FLNRORD lands.
- Fall Meeting
- Members were asked to forward any topics or issues to the Regional District for the fall meeting. Or call if anyone has any pressing issues.

ADJOURNMENT

The Chair adjourned the Meeting at 11:30 am.