



## STRATEGIC PLAN AND PROFILE OF INVASIVE PLANT MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

**December 2, 2024, 10:00 a.m.**  
**1981 Alaska Avenue, Dawson Creek, BC**

- Directors Present: Director Hiebert, Electoral Area 'D' – Committee Chair  
Alternate Director Graham, Electoral Area 'B' (via Zoom)  
Director Rose, Electoral Area 'E' – Committee Vice-Chair
- Committee Members Present: Mike Pangman, MGP Contracting, Area Controller (via Zoom)  
Tom Aird, Saulteau First Nations, Aboriginal Liaison (via Zoom)  
Brenna Schilds, Ministry of Agriculture (via Zoom)  
Eran Spence, McLeod Lake Indian Band (via Zoom)  
Brian Stratuliak, PR Regional Cattlemen's Association (via Zoom)  
Kristi Stucklschwaiger, Ovintiv Services (via Zoom)  
Graham Watson, Ministry of Transportation and Transit (via Zoom)  
Stephanie Killam, Muskwa-Kechika Management Area (via Zoom)  
Sherry Kenneway, CNRL (via Zoom)  
Bob Chrenek, Councillor, County of Grande Prairie  
Les Willms, North Pine Farmers Institute (via Zoom)  
Jim Little (via Zoom)  
Alexis Jorgensen, NEBC Wildlife Fund (via Zoom)  
Ana-James, NEBC Wildlife Fund (via Zoom)  
Steve Zimmerman, Councillor, County of Grande Prairie  
Mia Stauber, Spectrum Resource Group (via Zoom)
- Staff Present: Kari Bondaroff, GM of Environmental Services  
Daris Gillis, Environmental Services Manager  
Tyler Pare, Environmental Services Coordinator  
Suzanne Garrett, Corporate Services Coordinator, Recorder

### 1. CALL TO ORDER

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 am.

### 2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA

MOVED Director Rose

SECONDED Alternate Director Graham

That the Strategic Plan and Profile of Invasive Plant Monitoring Committee adopt the December 2, 2024, Meeting Agenda.

1. Call to Order
2. Adoption of Agenda
3. Gallery Comments or Questions

(continued next page)

**2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA (continued)****4. Adoption of Minutes**

4.1 Strategic Plan and Profile of Invasive Plant Monitoring Committee Meeting Draft Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2023

**5. Business Arising from the Minutes****6. Delegations****7. Correspondence****8. Reports**

8.1 Verbal – Round Table updates

8.2 Verbal Contractor Report – Mike Pangman, MGP Contracting

8.3 Draft 2025 Strategic Plan and Profile

8.4 2024 Invasive Plant Annual Report

**9. New Business****10. Item(s) for Information**

10.1 Terms of Reference

**11. Adjournment****CARRIED****3. GALLERY COMMENTS OR QUESTIONS****4. ADOPTION OF MINUTES****4.1 Strategic Plan and Profile of Invasive Plant Monitoring Committee Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2023**

MOVED Director Rose

SECONDED Alternate Director Graham

That the Strategic Plan and Profile of Invasive Plant Monitoring Committee adopt the Strategic Plan and Profile of Invasive Plant Monitoring Committee minutes of December 1, 2023.

**CARRIED****5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES**

In response to a question regarding follow-up on public weed complaint calls on private land staff advised that the PRRD is not notified on how these complaints to the ministries are handled. Invasive Plant complaints can be reported to:

- Report online at [www.reportaweedbc.ca](http://www.reportaweedbc.ca)
- Use the free Report-A-Weed smartphone app
- Report specific species directly to [www.reportinvasives.ca](http://www.reportinvasives.ca)
- Call 1-888-933-3722

Or call the Regional District 1-800-670-7773, it may just be a matter of educating the private landowner.

**6. DELEGATIONS****7. CORRESPONDENCE****8. REPORTS****8.1 Roundtable Updates**

Brian Statuliak, Peace River Cattlemen's Association/SP Stockmans and Sunset Community Pasture

- Rancher contract for the Sunset Prairie Community Pasture with Ministry of Transportation – controls for Canada Thistle; 2 sites Scentsless Chamomile; Orange and Yellow Hawkweed.

## 8.1 Roundtable Updates (continued)

### Tom Aird, Saulneau First Nations

- Polaris Navigation is a good tool for obtaining a snapshot of a site with invasive plants.
- Greenhouses very busy, reclamation of indigenous seeds.
- Continue building relationships with neighbours.
- Open invitation to come and look.

### Derek Hogan, Ministry of Forests

- The MOF IP Program did not receive sufficient budget to treat as much as we would have liked in 2024.
- We were able to provide funds to the MOTI treatment contractor to focus on a few high-priority species primarily including common tansy, orange hawkweed, spotted knapweed, and yellow hawkweed in areas overlapping with MOTI work.
- We also had our own contract to manage marsh plume thistle, a Regional EDRR species, in the Groundbirch area.
- Biocontrol program is exploring gaps in the area for biocontrol species and possible options to help control species like Canada thistle and scentless chamomile. Fieldwork was performed in 2024 to explore the status of biocontrol agents previously released as well as determine potential suitable sites for future releases.
- Staffing - two new IP Specialists recently hired, Ashleigh Gilbert – new specialist who will be focused on invasive plants in aquatic and riparian environments and will be based in Surrey. Ashton Poier – new specialist focused on terrestrial invasive plants. Ashton has been working on IP management across northern BC for the past five years and is based in Kamloops.
- Two other full-time positions – the EDRR/IMISWG Coordinator and the Biocontrol Technician – hoping to have these positions filled early in the new year. Once that is complete, our program will be fully staffed.
- Currently in the early stages of replacing our Northern BC Pest Management Plan that expires next year.
- Our small but dedicated developer team are hard at work on the mobile InvasivesBC application, and our staff have been testing various features of the app to help work out any bugs. Our goal is to have the app released in 2025 ahead of the field season.

### Graham Watson, Ministry of Transportation and Transit

- Contracts and funding remained consistent year to year
- Management in the Peace region was on common species, such as Common Tansy, Yellow and Orange Hawkweed, Canada Thistle.
- In early stages of replacing our Pest Management Plan (PMP). PMP is the policy that dictates the options for control of invasive plants on provincial public land, and includes prevention strategies, manual/mechanical treatment methods, biological and cultural control methods, and chemical control methods.

In response to a question Mr. Watson noted that his Ministry has a line item for invasive plants, the Ministry of Forests works on leftover funding at the end of the fiscal year.

In response to a concern regarding Scentless Chamomile on the 219 Road that has not been addressed Mr. Watson advised that he would check into the issue. Mr. Watson can be contacted directly if there is a problem or concern with invasive plant control along highways and roads.

### 8.1 Roundtable Updates (continued)

#### Kristi Stucklschwaiger, Ovintiv Services

- 900 ha. were treated in 2024.
- Yellow Hawkweed is creeping into reclaimed areas which we are monitoring.

#### Steve Zimmerman and Bob Chrenek, Councillors, County of Grande Prairie

- We are experiencing the same things your region is.
- Implementing a weed management program on agricultural lands. If landowner does not follow there will be discussions.
- Weed control in ditches, 3 year turnaround using the chemical call Navius– spot treatment, not toxic to animals.
- Concern regarding “spot treatments” weed seeds can still get transferred via animals, wind, water, etc.

### 8.2 Contractor Report

Mike Pangman, MGP Contracting PRRD Area Controller reported on the 2024 invasive plant program:

- Overview of PRRD properties/sites, types of properties/sites managed, invasive plant species and categories, and treatment progress.
- Contract covers properties held by the PRRD including landfills, transfer sites, closed landfills, parks, tank loaders, lagoons, fire halls, and community centers.
- Invasive Plant Program = 20.8% spent on education and awareness; Category B Species 76% of treatments; and Category B Species 3.2% of treatments.
- Total hectares treated = 13.57.

In response to a question, Mr. Pangman suggested implementing a rancher contract to address the Burdock situation in the Groundbirch community pasture. Funding may be available through a rancher contract with the Ministry of Agriculture. Hand-pulling the weed may not be feasible if the infestation is large, Mike suggested using a chemical with a good residual. Treatment results should be seen within 3 to 4 years.

Mr. Pangman also noted that Yellow Hawkweed is present from Mile 83 to Fort Nelson and there is a gap in the treatment corridor.

### 8.3 Review of Draft 2025 Strategic Plan and Profile

- The Eye on Hawkweed campaign will be renewed in 2025.
- Reminder that in 2025 there will be an in-depth review of the regional plant prioritization list.
- Please submit any comments/suggestions/feedback to the Regional District by December 20<sup>th</sup>.

In response to a question, staff noted that the Regional District cannot recommend what types of chemicals can be used on invasive plants. The Ministry of Environment controls where chemicals can be applied.

Concern was expressed that Foxtail Barley is a challenge for control.

Staff noted that the Peace River Forage Association has the same concerns. The PRRD will provide some information for the next PRFA newsletter.



**8.4 2024 Invasive Plant Annual Report**

**9. NEW BUSINESS**

**10. ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

10.1 Terms of Reference

**12. ADJOURNMENT**

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

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Director Hiebert, Committee Chair

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Suzanne Garrett, Corporate Services  
Coordinator - Recorder