

Received DC Office December 15, 2020

Hi Shawn,

I hope you are having a great start to the week. I would like to extend an invitation to the Peace River Regional District to become a part of the Northeast Climate Resilience Network.

The Northeast Climate Resilience Network is a peer-mentoring climate change preparedness network formed of the City of Fort St. John, City of Dawson Creek, District of Chetwynd, District of Tumbler Ridge, Northern Rockies Regional Municipality and Northern Health. The NECRN initiative has been successful in strengthening collaboration and building relationships between local government staff in the Northeast B.C. region.

You can read about the initial work of the Northeast Climate Resilience Network from 2018-2020 [here](#) (note that the name has changed from "Risk Network" to "Resilience Network" since then). The project has provided valuable climate projection information for the Northeast B.C. region and has supported municipalities to identify their climate change vulnerabilities and outline a plan to address their priority risks. In the next few years, Fraser Basin Council wants to work with the Network to create an implementation strategy for adaptation. We also recently applied to the Climate Action and Awareness Fund, which if successful would allow us to undertake a number of on-the-ground climate resilience projects. We think that the Regional District is crucial to these conversations on regional and municipal resilience.

I have attached the overview of work we will be doing until June, 2021. This document includes the list of current members and their affiliated municipalities and organizations. All members are paying a minimal amount to support the coordination and facilitation of the Network, and we would request a contribution from the PRRD that can be discussed if you have interest in joining the Network.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

All the best,

Cait Murphy (she/her/hers)
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We are grateful at the Fraser Basin Council Vancouver Office to work on the unceded, ancestral territories of the xʷməθkʷəjəm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh (Squamish) and səliłwətaʔt (Tsleil Waututh) Nations.

Northeast Climate Resilience Network

June 2020 to June 2021

Updated: July 16 2020

1. BACKGROUND

The Northeast Climate Risk Network (NECRN) began in 2018 and was a 2-year project that aimed to support the Northeast B.C. local government partners in preparing for a changing climate and understanding the associated risks and vulnerabilities, collaboratively addressing climate risks at a regional and community scale through a peer network, as well as increasing community, public and private sector awareness of climate change impacts. This initiative was supported by the Federation of Canadian Municipalities, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy, Ministry of Municipal Affairs and Housing, and the 6 municipal partners. Participating municipalities included the City of Fort St. John, City of Dawson Creek, District of Tumbler Ridge, District of Chetwynd, Village of Pouce Coupe and Northern Rockies Regional Municipality.

Over the 2 years, the NECRN co-developed a regional climate projections report, which provided Northeast B.C. regional information on general climate projections, precipitation indicators, and temperature indicators. The Network also produced community-based scoping reports and vulnerability assessments. The scoping reports identified priority climate change impacts for each municipality, outlined climate change adaptation work done to date, and highlighted priority gaps in adaptation planning and implementation. The vulnerability assessments enumerated impacts that could be expected from a changing climate, identified impacts that municipalities were most vulnerable to and impacts that posed the highest risk, and proposed initial action ideas.

2. PROJECT NEED

The NECRN initiative has been successful in strengthening collaboration and building relationships between local government staff in the Northeast B.C. region. The Network developed a cohort of Northeast adaptation champions and we want to continue to bolster working relationships between municipalities moving forward. We heard, during a Fraser Basin Council workshop in Fort St. John back in March 2017, that communities were working on adaptation in silos and practitioners were unaware of what others were doing. The NECRN initiative has transformed that dynamic. It is important to continue this momentum and sustain the peer learning and mentoring.

At our last in-person meeting with the NECRN, members agreed that they wanted the Network to continue as the renamed “Northeast Climate Resilience Network” and also wanted the Fraser Basin Council to stay as an interim secretariat. The Network identified the most important next steps to be: 1) Reflect on the information gained through the project and determine their next priorities, 2) Incorporate the climate information developed from the project into ongoing planning processes, 3) Convene remote conference meetings for partners to discuss and share knowledge on priority adaptation issues, 4) Explore funding opportunities to strengthen the work of the Network, and 5) Hold another meeting in a year’s time to brainstorm about concrete projects to take the Network forward and opportunities to expand its membership, such as the invitation of First Nations communities and smaller non-First Nations communities in the region.

The past project has provided valuable climate projections information for the Northeast B.C. region and has supported municipalities to identify their climate change vulnerabilities and outline a plan to address their priority risks. In the next few years, Fraser Basin Council wants to work with the Network to create an implementation strategy for adaptation.

3. PROJECT DESCRIPTION

We propose to support the continuation of the Northeast Climate Resilience Network with the purpose of:

- 1) Strengthening collaboration and peer learning on climate change adaptation in Northeast B.C.,
- 2) Facilitating mentorship to offer guidance to Network members as they implement adaptation actions based on the climate information provided in Phase 1 of the NECRN.
- 3) Increasing community, public and private sector awareness of the impacts of climate change and priority adaptation actions in the Northeast B.C. region,

Fraser Basin Council will be the Network secretariat and participating organizations will include the City of Fort St. John, City of Dawson Creek, District of Tumbler Ridge, District of Chetwynd, Northern Rockies Regional Municipality and Northern Health (see “Project partners” for more details). Each partner is responsible for inviting key staff working on the adaptation file to join the Network.

3.a. Project deliverables:

Deliverable	Description
4 remote NECRN conference calls	Quarterly conference meetings will be facilitated by FBC to provide an opportunity for Network members to update each other on their adaptation projects and get feedback/guidance from their peers. FBC can also bring in expert speakers to present on a priority adaptation topic of choice. Meeting minutes and presentation slides will be provided.

Summary report of funding opportunities	FBC will conduct research into funding opportunities that the Network can apply to in order to expand their scope in implementing adaptation actions.
Virtual workshop	One virtual NECRN workshop will be hosted. The workshop will allow Network members to explore future priorities for the NECRN, opportunities for future projects and funding resources, and how to expand its membership.
Virtual community webinar	FBC will organize a webinar to engage Northeast BC community residents on climate adaptation. This is an opportunity for further community outreach and education, which has been identified as a priority by the Network.

This project timeline is for one year, running from June 2020 to June 2021. At the conclusion of the year, Fraser Basin Council will help the Network to pursue funding to broaden its membership and implementation activities.

3.b. Project timeline:

June 2020	Project launch
June 2020	NECRN conference call – member updates and knowledge sharing
Sept 2020	NECRN conference call – member updates and knowledge sharing
Dec 2020	Summary report of funding opportunities
Jan 2021	Virtual NECRN workshop Community webinar
Feb 2021	NECRN conference call – member updates and knowledge sharing
April 2021	NECRN conference call – member updates and knowledge sharing
June 2021	Project wrap-up

4. PROJECT PARTNERS

District of Tumbler Ridge

- Doug Beale, Director of Operations and Infrastructure
- Dustin Curry, Fire Chief

District of Chetwynd

- Carol Newsom, Chief Administrative Officer
- Deanne Ennis, Deputy Director of Corporate Administration

City of Fort St. John

- Victor Shopland, General Manager of Integrated Services
- Jeremy Garner, Director of Public Works and Utilities

City of Dawson Creek

- Chelsea Mottishaw, Watershed Coordinator
- Catherine Henry, Watershed Coordinator

- Nick Copes, City Planner

Northern Rockies Regional Municipality

- Krista Vandersteen, Sustainable Community Development Coordinator

Northern Health

- Laurel Burton, Healthy Settings Advisor

1. PROJECT TEAM

The project management team will include the following Fraser Basin Council staff:

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