

MINUTES of an Emergency Operations Committee meeting held in the Fire Hall, Fort Nelson BC, Thursday, February 21, 2002 at 10:00 AM.

THOSE PRESENT

Walt Lutsiak	- Chair, MEP Coordinator
Lorne Scott	- Deputy Coordinator
Bryan Reid	- RCMP
Alvina Berggren	- ESS Director
Brian McLaren	- Northwestel
Cliff Ashdown	- BC Gas
Hank Schut	- DOP, School District #81
Ralph Kermer	- Forestry
Maria Badall	- Recreation Program Manager
Sylvia Hayes	- Recording Secretary

ABSENT MEMBERS

Rod McCartney	- BCAS
Grace Bumstead	- Town Council
Bryan Redford	- Hospital Administrator
Peter Martin	- SAR
Jim Ogilvie	- Airport Manager
Joe Szidlik	- Westcoast Energy
Kevin Swaille	- Westcoast Energy

1. Call to Order A quorum being present, Chair Lutsiak called the meeting to order at 10:01 AM.
2. Adoption of Agenda **MOVED** by Bryan Reid, **SECONDED** by Ralph Kermer that the agenda for the February 21, 2002 Emergency Operations Committee be adopted for implementation as presented.

CARRIED

3. Emergency Operations Committee January 17, 2002 Minutes **MOVED** by Bryan Reid, **SECONDED** by Ralph Kermer that the minutes from the Emergency Operations Committee meeting held January 17, 2002 be adopted as distributed and read, there being no errors or omissions.

CARRIED

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BUSINESS ARISING

4. Forestry Office

It was noted that the Fort Nelson Forestry office was not closed because of "Black Thursday"; however, there may be fewer staff members working there than there was previously.

Cliff Ashdown entered the meeting at 10:05 AM.

Chair Lutsiak advised those present that he would be attending a Symposium in Penticton on Wildland Interface Fires from March 11 - 15 2002.

Alvina Berggren and Hank Schut entered the meeting at 10:07 AM.

STATUS REPORTS

5. Forestry

Ralph Kermer advised that the Core Review conducted by the BC Government deemed forestry a top priority. He noted that there would be changes implemented in the Fort Nelson Forestry office, but those changes would not be implemented this summer. He advised that government had deemed unharvested timber on public land a priority, especially in respect to forest fire fighting. Ralph Kermer advised that if a fire starts on private land and spreads to government land, forestry department fire fighters would charge the land owner for the cost of fighting the fire, even if the fire was caused by a lightning strike.

He noted that the same fire crew that fought fires during the summer of 2001 would be back for the 2002 summer season, with the exception of one member. Ralph Kermer advised that Forestry's main focus would be compliance and enforcement.

6. RCMP

Staff Sergeant Reid announced that Mr. Ian Godber and Mr. Kris Haugen would be the new coroners for Fort Nelson and would be appointed in March 2002.

7. ESS/Red Cross

Alvina Berggren advised that she had been training the ESS team in Prince George. She noted that she had performed various presentations around the province.

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7. Continued

She advised that in April, she would be doing training with the Fort Nelson ESS team.

Alvina Berggren advised that ESS office in Victoria was not closed on "Black Thursday."

8. BC Gas

Cliff Ashdown advised that all rural addresses have now been inputted into a portable computer and that a BC Gas representative would be identifying where gas meters are located on the map and also would do an inventory of all the correct address signs in rural areas at the same time.

It was suggested that summer students working for the Town or Regional District could assist with the installation of rural address signs.

Discussion ensued regarding 911 service with the following being noted:

- ~ Fort Nelson 911 service is dependant on Northwestel's technology
- ~ the 911 service centre would receive copies of a map for the Fort Nelson area showing all rural and residential addresses. The correct address would be "attached" to residents phone numbers so when a resident called 911 in the Fort Nelson area, the residents address would show up on the 911 computer screen when dispatch answered the call
- ~ Cell phones are still an issue where addresses are concerned
- ~ Fort St. John and Dawson Creek use the RCMP dispatchers in Dawson Creek for their 911 service operators
- ~ if policing is regionalized Fort St. John and Dawson Creek RCMP calls would be routed to Prince George after hours
- ~ when 911 service was started in the Peace River area it was too costly to "connect" into the 911 service centre in Prince George

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8. Continued

~ Fort Nelson would like to contract the 911 service out to Dawson Creek; however, BCTel and Northwestel would have to have compatible telephone technology for this to be successful

9. Schools

DOP Hank Schut advised that the elevator at the High School is not working and he is working with the engineers who designed the elevator to rectify the problem.

NEW BUSINESS

10. Emergency Plan

Chair Lutsiak advised that the Emergency Plan and Evacuation Plan for the Town and Regional District were completed and there would be copies available at the Town Office.

He noted that in the evacuation plan the Town and Regional District were sectioned into zones and each zone is marked on a map with a corresponding area to make evacuation easier.

Alvina Berggren noted that a mock disaster with an evacuation involved would test the evacuation plan.

It was noted that the evacuation plans for the J. S. Clarke and G. W. Carlson schools and an updated plan for the Airport, were needed to complete the emergency plan.

11. EOC Centre

Chair Lutsiak advised that the EOC Centre was located in the Fire Hall with the alternate centre being in Town Square; however, if an event occurred both the Town Square and the Fire Hall were located in the same area.

He advised that an agreement had once been started with the Fort Nelson First Nations to use the Band Office, but the agreement had not been finalized.

Brian McLaren from Northwestel suggested that the Northwestel building could be used as an alternative EOC Centre as it is set up similar to the Fire Hall with various antennas on the roof and a generator back up system.

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11. Next Meeting Date The next meeting of the Emergency Operations Committee would be held March 21, 2002.
12. Adjournment **MOVED** by Cliff Ashdown, **SECONDED** by Bryan Reid that the Emergency Operations Committee meeting held February 21, 2002 be adjourned at 10:40 AM.

CARRIED

CERTIFIED a true and correct copy of the minutes of an Emergency Operations Committee meeting held on February 21, 2002.

Walt Lutsiak, Chair/MEP Coordinator

Sylvia Hayes, Recording Secretary