



HEALTHIER COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE NORTH CARIBOO

Promoting healthy eating & local food security

2861 Nazko Road, Quesnel, British Columbia, V2J 7E5

Phone: 250.249.5329

Fax: 250.249.5359

Email: GNC@farmed.ca

<http://growingnorthcariboosociety.farmed.ca/>

MINUTES

January 11, 2016

Community Futures 1:00 – 3:00 pm

North Cariboo P4HC Working Group

Name	Position	Organization
Robin Sharpe	Co-chair	CRD-Northern Representative
Lynnette Winsor	Co-chair	NH - Public Health Protection
Heloise Dixon Warren		Growing North Cariboo Society Kersley Farmers Institute
Lynda Atkinson		Growing North Cariboo Society Quesnel Ag & Exhibition Association
Lori Fogarty	Secretary	FARMED
Wylie Bystedt		Quesnel Farmers' Market
Colleen Gatenby		Quesnel Community Gardens
Susan MacNeill		Seniors Advocacy Service
Laurey-Anne Roodenburg		City of Quesnel
Margaret Inoue		Wells Community Association

In Attendance: Lynda Atkinson, Heloise Dixon-Warren, Colleen Gatenby, Laurey-Anne Roodenburg, Lori Fogarty, Wilma Watkin, Janet Knopp, Margaret Inoue (phone), Susan MacNeill (phone)

Regrets: Robin Sharpe, Lynnette Winsor, Wylie Bystedt

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Old Business
 - a. Review of Actions from November 2, 2015 meeting:
 - **ACTION:** Heloise will follow up with Northern Health to ensure Lynette Winsor is the representative. *Lynette will continue to work on the committee as co-chair.*
 - **ACTION:** Lori will compose letters requesting local government representation and send to corresponding government bodies. *Response from Wells – Margaret Inoue will continue to*

represent the District of Wells; Robin Sharpe has been designated as the CRD representative (email confirmation to Heloise on January 2, 2016); Laurey-Anne will unofficially work as the City of Quesnel representative.

- **ACTION:** Lori will draft a letter to representative organizations with information and a request to identify their status in regards to their commitment to the P4HC committee. *Revisions to the 2016 working group have been made according to the response of this email request.*
- **ACTION:** Newspaper article – to be determined
- **ACTION:** Wylie will keep the committee informed of proposed initiatives generated by agricultural groups in the region. *Ongoing.*
- **ACTION:** The committee will create a list of potential new organizations who might be invited to be involved – Susan will work on this. *List will be created at this meeting. (see 3b)*
- **ACTION:** Colleen will approach a few people in schools and groups to see if there is interest in applicable projects. Bouchie Lake / Karen Fyles; Wells / Margaret Inoue; Nazko / Melanie Dydynski. *Colleen made contact with Lita Conlin from Kersley. She has also invited a number of elementary schools to Seedy Saturday.*
- **ACTION:** Heloise will contact Christine Piltz at Parkland and Bouchie Lake Community Hall to see if there are workshops or seminars that would be helpful. *The Parkland Community Association is waiting for a decision in regards to school closures. Bouchie Lake Community Hall is in the process of completing upgrades.*
- **ACTION:** Colleen will create a list of experts in the area who will be able to provide workshops. *Colleen has created a list of topics with potential local speakers / workshop leaders.*
- **ACTION:** Colleen would like to investigate the best way to share information with the various groups in the community interested in similar goals related to local food production and food security. She will check out Facebook and other media options (i.e. website or blog). *Ongoing*

3. New Business:

- a. Ag Centre Advisory Group – Lynda Atkinson as a member of the Ag Centre Advisory Group reported on the progress to date. Darrell Toma, PAg, CMC, Toma & Bouma Management Consultants has been retained to conduct an Agriculture Centre Feasibility Study. He has had a chance to tour the area and interview several producers in the region. There will be 3 public input sessions taking place on Jan. 21 and 22.
- b. 2016 Plan
 - Farmer’s Kitchen Table – Heloise reported there was a need and interest for information on food production, which is demonstrated by the success of the Farmer’s Kitchen Table sessions being held in the Bouchie Lake area. On January 10 over 45 people attended the session at Bouchie Lake Hall to network, share and learn about Lasagne gardening and Soils. The mandate of these sessions are to bring together people at a community level. The next session will be held in February and cover Seed Starting and Swapping Seeds. Heloise feels this may be a good format to use in other rural communities.
 - Northern Health has not yet announced the 2016 funding opportunities but the committee decided to proceed with plans for an application. Potential ideas include:
 - Inventory of local experts
 - Support for rural areas to meet their needs i.e. Farmer’s Kitchen Table, Community Gardens. Gather input from the rural areas

- Workshops pertinent to all rural areas (travel to various communities) Topic ideas include:
 - First Nations – Wild Harvesting (Sharon Primeau)
 - Cost of a dozen eggs – Jillian at Beyond the Market in PG
 - Preventing Food Waste
 - Small fruit and berries – pruning, growing tips; Jean Atkinson at Richbar Nursery
 - Introduction to setting up as a vendor at a Farmer’s Market
 - Soil; Lasagne garden and Hugelkultur – Colleen Gatenby / Heloise Dixon-Warren
 - Willow fencing
 - Root Cellaring
 - Food Preservation; Cold storage and other methods, uses for tasteless apples, harvest time, Bear Aware, Group buying of fresh produce for economical preservation (check out Farm Bound-food distributors)
 - P4HC committee – potential members:
 - Long Name Society - Heloise
 - Christine Piltz - Heloise
 - Bouchie Lake Community Association - Heloise
 - Santana Grant - Heloise
 - Sharon Primeau - Wilma
 - Lita Conlin – Colleen
 - Melinda Zambon (Bowron Lake) – Margaret
 - Nazko – Laurey-Anne suggests to check out Northern Health
 - Terms of Reference – Lori will update for 2016
- c. Seedy Saturday – Colleen reported the event is sponsored by Q-Town Collective and will be held on Saturday, April 23 from 10 am to 3 pm (possible to extend to 4 pm). Committee members include Melanie Dydynski, Debbie Scallion, Maureen Trotter and Colleen Gatenby. The list of workshops being organized will be distributed by Colleen and there will also be 15-20 displays. Support is needed to advertise the event. The committee suggested adding a tagline to the event name to indicate the breadth of topics to be included are not just gardening related.
- d. Wells update – Margaret reported the area hopes to expand around the greenhouse built for the school to add gardening beds. They are hoping to hold a Farmers’ Market every Sunday during July and August and need to increase the participation in the Farmers’ Market (vendors and customers). They could use funding and will put together a proposal for this committee. They are planning to hire a labourer for the community garden and will partner with the trails system group.
4. Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 from 11 am – 1 pm (lunch provided). Location TBA (Community Futures Board Room is not available).