

COMMUNITY MEMBERS MEETING MINUTES

Date: March 25, 2024

Time: 11:30 am – 1:00 pm **Location:** [Zoom](#)

Chair: Carla Bullinger

Minutes: Liane Nunn

Present: Derek Godin, Shannon Thom, Larry Stranberg, Jean Oke, Lindsay Sidor, Pat Biblow, Amanda Schulz, Brianna van de Wijngaard, Hannah Diether, Sherry Yonkman, Wylie Bystedt, Carla Bullinger, Laurie Walters, Madi Rushton, Stacey Marsh

Land Acknowledgement

The Social Planning Council of Williams Lake and Area would like to acknowledge this meeting is taking place on the traditional unceded territory of the Secwepemc Nation and the T'exelcemc people.

Review & Approve Agenda for March 25, 2024

Motion Shannon Thom Seconded by Larry Stranberg Carried

Review & Approve Minutes for February 26, 2024

Motion Wylie Bystedt Seconded by Shannon Thom Carried

Member Introductions: Share your name and the organization you represent.

Guest Speaker(s): Oliver Berger, Cariboo Compost

- Hierarchy to reduce food waste – important not to jump to the solution of composting, but it's important to do source reduction out of the gate.
- Food not wasted program – connected food from restaurants to bring leftover food to the farms to feed the animals. Diverted over 20 tonnes of organics from the landfill per year feeding hungry animals.
- Provides workshops to children, elders, and community events anyone interested in learning.
- Potato House Project – Canada's only drive through composting program. Collect your food waste at home and drop it off at the potato house.
- Cariboo Compost – facilitates compost collection within the community of Williams Lake through a subscription service.
- Works within some offices in town. Doing a pilot in SD27's office building.
- Food waste is being composted locally to fuel local farms and food. Keeps it in the Cariboo – closing the organics loop.

Questions

Lindsay Sidor – locations outside of Williams Lake city limits – are you serving those areas?

- Currently, Cariboo Compost is going to the outside communities of Williams Lake.

Brianna van de Wijngaard – The work that Cariboo Compost is doing is a really important component to food security because inputs like compost in small scale agriculture is hard to find. Can you speak more to why you felt the need to fill this gap in our community?

- All the information is available at the website. Cariboo compost.com
- Started working at Potato House about 10 years ago. Became drawn to the compost aspect of gardening.

Jean Oke – What do you do with the compost after you pick it up? Do you bring it back to backyard gardeners?

- Potato House currently does the full circle process – selling back the finished compost program to raise funds for the Potato House.
- Currently, Cariboo Compost is still in the process of developing the full circle, right now, just putting it back to the gardens of the local farmers.

Lightning Round - Share an Organizational Update, a Challenge, or a Success

Jean Oke, Scout Island

- Just had the AGM – four new directors.
- Finished hiring students for the summer, but lots of volunteer opportunities.
- Scout Island website has an option to ask the naturalist any questions.

Dereck Godin and Eric Davidson, Boys and Girls Club

- 30th anniversary of WL Boys and Girls Club – Open House on May 24th for community members and partners to check out what the club is doing and to celebrate. The open house is during Noopa hours – 1pm – 7pm.
- Participating in this years Youth Week in the first week of May with different activities at the club and in the community.

Shannon Thom, Work BC

- Starting to see spring/summer job postings coming out.
- Seeing a high trend of youth with disabilities between the ages of 17-24 looking for employment.

Wylie Bystedt, TNG

- Introduction to Entrepreneurship event on April 10th. Email domenic@tsilhqotin.ca to reserve a spot.
- Following up with the program to develop a new business directory with Indigenous representation— a form is available for anyone who has a contact to add.

Sherry Yonkman, Downton Williams Lake BIA

- Public art grants deadline has been extended until April 15th.
- Art Walk is August 9 – September 4th. Applications open April 2nd.
- AGM is April 23rd, 6pm at Mr. Mikes - come for appies and conversation.
- Next morning coffee is April 10th – no location determined yet.
- Newsletter is going out next week – email Sherry for anything to share at info@downtownwl.com

Pat Biblow, TRU

- Update that the Needs Assessment is wrapping up and looking forward to working with the results.
- Bachelor's in Science in Nursing and Practical Nursing intake this September. Commencement ceremony will be May 31 at 2:00 pm.

Madi Rushton, CMHA

- WL Community Action Team – hosting an event at Botanio Park for community responders.
- April 12th, 11am -2pm. We are recognizing people in the community who have stepped up to help in the crisis surrounding toxic drug supply in Williams Lake.
- Opening it up to have a booth at the event if you are an organization supporting the supporters. If interested, get in touch with Madi. wl.cat@cmhacariboo.org
- Sexual Assault Center – having an event May 15th and 16th – expected to have prominent speakers coming to our area and lots of great training to learn more about sexual assault and what's happening in our community.

Amanda Schulz, Williams Lake First Nation

- Had a Welcome Baby ceremony for the first time to honour all the babies born since 2022 (Covid). Plan to do it every 6 months now. Celebrating babies with gifts and songs and prayer to lift up the new moms and dads in the community.
- New Counsellor at the Health Station to help those in need on the reserve.
- Gearing up for Summer with emergency services planning and training.
- A lot of the events at WLFN are open to everyone. Encourages everyone to have a look at the Facebook page.
- Father's Day powwow is coming up in June on Father's Day Weekend.

Brianna van de Wijngaard, Community Food Hub

- Coming into summer, projects and initiatives get a little quieter.
- One initiative through a partner organization/local farmers market– Nutrition Coupon Program. A province wide program that allocates a certain number of coupons to various markets. Distributed to partner organizations, in WL the partners are Women's Contact Society, Child Development Center, Pregnancy Outreach Program.
- Recently Food Hub cosponsored an event at TRU. A day long series of presentations for livestock producers. 50 or so people attended.

Lindsay Sidor, CIBC

- Lots of planning with clients for a financially sound future.
- In banking we are transitioning from investment season to mortgage season.
- Seeing a lot less borrowing over the past few years because it's been too expensive to do so. Lots of people transition to figure out how to better save, get emergency backup plans, and what the bank can do to support them. Trends in people being shy around markets and loss of funds.

Hannah Diether, Local Division of Family Practice

- Passing on this meeting's update because we will be presenting next month on those updates.

Stacey Miranda, Cariboo Memorial Recreation Complex

- Spring and Summer Active Living Guide has gone out to the community.
- Working on planning Youth Week in May.
- June's focus is Participaction, partnering with organizations in the Community.
- Childrens Festival is May 26th.
- Laurie – can you tell us about a new hockey team coming to town?
 - o No signed contracts, but in meetings and approval from the League to have a Kootney's International Junior A hockey team. Eager to be a part of the community.

Oliver Berger, Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society

- Potato House – current is the public cannot enter the Potato House building at this time.

- Cariboo Chilcotin Conservation Society – focusing on water wise education and healthy lawns.

Liane Nunn, Thrive Poverty Reduction Video

- Thrive video launch date anticipated end of April/Early May for SPC Members and those involved in the video.

Carla Bullinger, CCPL

- We do provide supports to adults with low literacy skills – financial, seniors help, ESL.
- Open 9:30 – 300.

NOTE: *Anyone can share feedback, possible connections, or thoughts to what they heard during their time or in the chat.*

Meeting Adjourned: 12:40

Motion Sherry Yonkman