

MAYORS REPORT APRIL 20, 2009.

BUDGET MEETINGS

Finalizing the budget took several meetings with council and staff as we looked to keep taxes down yet put aside monies for roads and water services.

OCP

This is a long process. We are in the midst of ongoing discussion with our staff and councilor Olson who was our delegate to the Advisory Planning Committee. This internal process is not yet completed. Meetings are scheduled with the APC to ensure we understand the goals of the document before the draft OCP is taken to an open house. After further input from the community, the OCP will be reviewed for its legal language, formatted, circulated to governments (CHN, MoT, MoCommunities) and brought back to the public for formal readings.

SQCRD

A strategic planning session was held in Port Clements to set goals and attach dates to them. The landfill and recycling centre was a primary goal. The Friday night meeting dealt with a letter of support for the BC Bottle Depot Assoc to the Min of Environment in favour of creating a governing agency to manage the monies generated by stewardship plans. Director Nobels reported on Pacific North Coast Integrated Management Plans (PNCIMA). There were 300 participants at the meeting including a contingent of 15 from the islands and 70 by video link, the CHN was represented. In California a similar process 2/3rd complete cost \$19 million. The DFO is committed to adequate resourcing for participation but no community representation. A large amount of funding for the process is from the Moore foundation and some RD directors were concerned that a large American donor could then control what happens in our waters. Director Nobels suggested we lobby for a parallel process for communities to feed into the Secretariat and as well ask VP Arinie Bellis to come speak to us for his perspective of the process. We tabled the first motion for more information. If we are not involved, we have no voice. If involved we give the process which has excluded us credence and we are faced with no funding for travel, research or education. This is a multiyear process and neither the communities nor the SQCRD has the human or financial resources. We need to know why the province has chosen to observe rather than engage and how we can be effective.

We also took the NCMA resolution passed by the NWRHD to lobby for a maximum 4 year time from initial approval of hospital replacement to actual construction.

And finally Prince Rupert has asked that we (each community) write Northern Health on their behalf to keep Acropolis Manor. Though no longer within standards for a critical care facility it may very well serve for a much needed Drug and Alcohol centre and Men's Shelter. **Motion to write such letter**

MIEDS AGM

MIEDS elections returned the chair Cory Delves and VC myself with B Pages as Sec/Treasurer. We reported that the \$500K start up fund was virtually intact; operations had been funded through our NDI economic development monies. This year we budgeted for an office at the QC Bevin Building and have begun the interview process for a new executive director. Anneli Rostenski will remain working under contract and will return for BC Tourism foundation meetings. Monies were leveraged for ArtRoute, Jobs Opportunity Fund (still open for other applications for out of work loggers), and Coast Sustainability Trust (to develop a regional economic development plan).

We held the AGM in Port as it is one of the most economically affected areas and the attendance emphasized their concern. It is hard to see how anxious people are to have either immediate change or a return to past wealth. MIEDS can help set the stage for entrepreneurs but there are no quick fixes nor will this change in forestry or fisheries suddenly disappear.

We had tried to operate somewhat differently – direct contact with individuals and business rather than open houses and a mobile office. After mixed reviews and an exhausted executive director we have as I said above, opened an office in QC and will consider other open houses. Meantime there are now 4 committees – community forest via the executive, tourism through BC Tourism and all the continuing tourism groups (new people always welcomed), value added – chaired by Chris Marrs and Rollie Tompson and Human Resources – if interested in business retention, employee skills and education let us know. Committee meetings welcome public input and participation. Contact MIEDS to put your name forward.

COMMUNITY CLUB AGM

I attended the first 20 minutes before coming to our council meeting. Basically to offer our best wishes and support for the coming year.

And of course much thanks to our staff and Eunice Ludlow as well as Fran Fowler, the Jug Band and our very own bag piper in kilts for putting together our good bye to the Queen of the North. It was an observance of the passing of a great lady who served us well.