

Partnering for Sustainable Resource Management CURA Steering Committee Meeting Minutes

October 30, 2006
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM

Room 1069, UNBC Administration Building

SC Members Present:

Principal Investigator, Co-Investigator/IP Stream Leader (by phone), UNBC Coordinator/IP Grad Student, Tl'azt'en Coordinator/Education Stream Leader, UNBC Education Stream Leader, UNBC TEK Stream Leader, UNBC Ecotourism Stream Leader, Tl'azt'en Ecotourism Stream Leader, Tl'azt'en Member-at-Large

Others Present:

IP Associate Partner (2), TEK Associate Partner, Tl'azt'en TEK RA, TEK Grad Student, Ecotourism Grad Students (3), IP Grad Student

- 1) **Welcome and Opening Prayer**
Welcome to UNBC, opening prayer.
- 2) **Adoption of Agenda**
10. Mid-term Review
- 3) **Correction and adoption of August 21st meeting minutes and web summary**
No corrections, adopted as presented. Web summary will be distributed to SC.

Old Business

- 4) **Newsletter**
Thank you to Ecotourism Stream students who put together the fall Newsletter. Community Update will be prepared in January; SC must submit articles by December 15.
- 5) **Chief and Council Updates**
The updates are a generic report to Chief and Council that outline Tl'azt'en and UNBC participants in the CURA Project and benefits of CURA to Tl'azt'en Nation. PI will prepare next quarterly update due to be submitted to Chief and Council.
- 6) **Stream Updates & Student Presentations**

Improved Partnership Stream - IP has prepared 3 draft manuscripts currently being edited by PI for submission to various journals. 2 articles on C&I and research process have already been published. IP Associate Partner introduced the Environmental Monitoring project to be done by IP Grad Student. A poster outlining research objectives was prepared and presented at a NRES poster session. While there was a general topic at the beginning, a meeting further defined the topic. Also built into the research, to be implemented later in the project, is an

evaluative tool to determine if environmental monitoring systems being used are effective. The meeting was very productive in assisting to define a topic with community members and JPRF staff involved, and link to other on-going initiatives and research methodology. This is a good model for other Streams to follow. Copy of the poster she prepared that outlines her research project was presented. Project includes defining 5 community-based environmental monitoring projects? Initiatives? [Missing word here] for hunting, trapping, fishing, berry picking and medical plants. A forest team will be used to initiate a list through doing forest walks and an elder group, at a retreat at Cinnabar, would finalize the list. The list of top 5 environmental monitoring the community believes is important to focus on will be put into a monitoring framework, then an evaluation process will be complete to determine and ensure that it is a good environmental measures tool from the Tl'azt'en perspective. There is article potential on the process of identifying projects and methodologies. IP Grad student has completed draft 1 of thesis, and hopes to have final draft ready for defense in early January, with commitment to do a community presentation on the outcomes of research.

TEK Stream - Place-names research thesis is at its final stages of being complete, with a target of mid-December or early 2007 for defense, as well as a community presentation on research outcomes. TEK grad student is doing 2 courses this semester, as well as being a TA. Student had 3 meetings with Tl'azt'en TEK Leader and other community members to define her topic on medicinal plant gathering sites. Discussion is to incorporate classification of these sites for potential restoration purposes. Student scheduled to begin community involvement in spring 2007. Student has been looking through archival and TUS binders, and developed a preliminary list of potential interviewees. For a community product is considering a teaching manual for Eugene Joseph Elementary School on plant ecology and uses that could compliment other traditional activities at the school. TEK PhD student is working on defining her topic on traditional land management processes and their use for managing wildlife habitat and berry picking areas. Specific discussion was on the use of fire used in the past to manage the forest. Another component to research includes natural disturbance and the growth of trees using tree ring analysis. Requirements as a PhD student include taking 4 courses, doing a seminar, and doing a set of qualifying exams, therefore community activities would not begin immediately.

Education Stream - Data analysis has not been completed, but work has started to assist Education/Ecotourism student to define a realistic topic involving curriculum development. Student has been talking with Education professionals on how they have developed curriculum for Aboriginal learners. Place-names chapter on curriculum development is being reviewed and a process for curriculum potential is being defined. Tl'azt'en Education Stream Lead will do a Rabbit Snaring module for youth that will be holistic and include snaring, gutting, cooking rabbit soup and stretching the fur. CURA could fund this project as it could be used as a model to incorporate into biology, and possibly the whole process of rabbit snaring can get documented and recorded on video for others to use.

Eco-tourism Stream - has 3 students, an overnight planning and touring of Cinnabar was a great opportunity for the students to see first hand the area, the community and tour potential sites for eco-tourism development. Student 1 is close to completing a research plan focusing on marketing, and has submitted an independent SSHRC application to support research. Student 2 is interested in the economic diversification potential for tourism focused on the Fort St James area that could be applied to Tl'azt'en Nation and other FN communities. Another UNBC Professor has become involved in assisting the student with topic based on small community dynamics. Trying to define the link between Education and Eco-tourism has been challenging, as many of the end products would mainly focus on eco-tourism. Another potential link is working with Fort St James, which was awarded 2010 funding; they are advertising to award a contract for the development of a community tourism plan.

Lunch and CURA group photo :o)

7) Staff Changes

2 UNBC folks are no longer employed by CURA but will continue as IP Research Associate and IP Grad student. Options for a UNBC Coordinator were discussed and options are full time post-doctoral or 2 part- time positions with options for current CURA students to apply if interested. Job Descriptions are being prepared.

8) Regular meeting for CURA Graduate student group

PI will coordinate regular grad student meetings for them to discuss their topic, methodology, and to define research.

9) Update to TN-UNBC CURA Protocol for Researchers

SC to review proposed changes made to the Protocol for Researchers based on discussion at the August Annual, and comments forwarded to PI.

10) Mid-term Review

SSHRC should be contacting PI in November to inform if the CURA funding will be continued for the remaining 2 years.

Next Meeting - Proposed for 2nd week in January.