

MUTN Monthly Liaison Call Notes September 11, 2009

Present: Laurie Ringaert, Kary Fell (Williams Lake); Lori Slater (Fort St. John); Glenda Thompson (McBride); Daniel Pearce (Prince George).

Updates from Project Director:

- Laurie discussed that MUTN is undergoing a transition time now and will be holding strategic planning over the next few months. It is important that the Liaisons provide input on:
 - The On-line evaluation
 - The on-line community profile development
- Laurie also suggested that if they wish, communities could send letters of support for MUTN to Maxine Koppe, Executive Director, and NCLGA.
- Laurie also invited communities to sign up for MUTN one-hour Coaching sessions with Laurie. Contact Kory Heyland to make an appointment.
- Laurie invited the Liaisons to develop short articles for the NCLGA Monthly Newsletter. This will be a way to show off accomplishments. The following schedule was agreed upon: Glenda Thompson, McBride: November and Kary Fell, Williams Lake, December
- Laurie will be starting an educational series inviting communities to present a project on the web-ex. She asked communities to begin preparing a short PowerPoint of a project that we can show during our discussions

Updates from Communities

Fort St. John: Lori Slater (Community Liaison)

- During the summer provided design input on the new Enerplex parking area
- During the summer launched the Parking Placard campaign; took this to Council in August and unanimous support. Placards say: "Imagine being in my place. Please do not park in my space". Volunteers are placing them on parking violators in public parking areas (not private parking). Terrace has requested info on the placards. During the call, Daniel Pearce of Prince George also requested info so he can take back to his committee
- Lori will send the placard electronically to Laurie and it can be posted on the MUTN website
- Many of Lori's activities are curtailed due to illness
- Plan to work on the OCP this fall as priority

Prince George: Daniel Pearce (NCMA Liaison)

- Having been doing many sidewalk and curb cut upgrades. A list was developed by their Committee and forwarded to Public Works and they are working on them
- Prince George will be working on its OCP this year. They have hired a consultant who will meet with the Committee Oct 14
- Today installing an accessible transit shelter at AimHi location
- Many transit shelters are accessible but plan is to make all accessible

McBride: Glenda Thompson (NCMA Liaison)

- Completed the Village Park with many accessible features over the summer. This is a central park in the town and tourists have commented on its great features through a tourism survey which was completed. Grand opening will be end of September. Glenda will invite MUTN Representatives.
- Have not heard back yet on the Federal Enabling Accessibility Grant

Williams Lake: Kary Fell (Community Liaison)

- Held first meeting after summer break last week
- New curb cuts were installed downtown over the summer
- Plan is to install new curb cuts in the residential areas
- Kiwanis Park: work on this accessible park should soon be completed. This is a major park in Williams Lake. A great deal of funding was received. The cost for the park was \$300,000. Recycled rubber material is used for the foundation on the play structures. Will have a grand opening in the fall and invite MUTN representatives.
- Will be starting work on their OCP this fall
- Created an Accessibility Award for businesses and already awarded one business this year
- The Cariboo Regional District was looking to see if there was a National Award for Accessibility to show case their accessible trails feasibility study.

Tumbler Ridge: David Price (MUTN Coordinator) Unable to attend meeting but sent the following note:

- I won't be able to attend the teleconference today as I am covering the ambulance. However; one of the more interesting pieces of news is that a PhD student from UBC did a series of interviews (including yours truly) early in the summer on Community Health in mining towns. While the original focus was on what the issues were for mining families (up/down markets, regular moves, etc., etc.), she became very interested in my perspective of what it is like to live in a mining community if you are NOT a miner - particularly if you are an older citizen. She is coming back in early October (9th?) to hold a forum with managers of the mining companies, town council representatives, and

people such as myself and Dr. Charles Helm to discuss how the companies could contribute to Tumbler Ridge in a truly meaningful way and, since the infrastructure is already in place due to the earlier mines, the obvious place to help out is in community health issues - development of services, funding overnight beds or special facilities, etc. We would also be discussing issues like air quality. Could be a great opportunity to get the coal companies on side to make some big changes that would benefit the seniors and others with special needs.

Other

- Lori Slater wondered if the communities have designated grant writers to help them. McBride does. Laurie suggested the Northern Trust may have opportunities for grant money to apply toward a grant writer. They also have a new webinar on grant writing.

Next Liaison Call:

October 9 10:00 am PST

Closing:

Laurie congratulated and thanked everyone on all of the hard work they are doing and wished them all a great month.