

HEALTHY FORESTS-HEALTHY COMMUNITIES INITIATIVE

A CONVERSATION ON BC FORESTS

Coordinator's Update Report

October 4, 2012

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The following are the second quarter accomplishments related to the implementation of the 2012 HFHC Activities Plan:

Communications

- Updated key politicians, influencers, Government Ministry staffs, NGOs, local Governments and HFHC partners and sponsors through meetings, distribution of documents and information briefs
- Created and distributed articles that reflect community and expert input on priority issues regarding forest management, including:
 - Issues related to forest management
 - Forest health
 - Challenges to communities and professional foresters
 - Need for community forest visions
- Extended presentations informing interested parties of HFHC the 2011-2012 results, including:
 - An additional 7 presentations were given and offers extended to others
 - Two additional presentations are scheduled for October bringing the total presentations for 2012 to 19
- Updated HFHC website to meet the needs of communications relative to the 2012 Activities Plan, including:
 - Modifying the Dialogue section to address emerging issues (e.g., Mountain Pine Beetle mid-term timber supply, providing section to include opinions on forest management)
 - Positioning the website as a reference location for opinions, newspaper articles and professional articles related to BC forest management
- Updated the media on HFHC activities through reports, copies of letters to Ministers, opinion editorial articles, interviews, etc

Workshops

Expert and Community Workshops were developed to provide detail recommendations and actions relative to the 2011 identified priority issues. These were in response to the comments from politicians needing more detailed recommendations than those included in the 2011 Activities Update report.

- **Expert Workshop** model was modified from the original design to fit the specific needs and situation for each of the 2011 priority issues, resulting in:
 - Three Workshops (completed) using the original model
 - Community diversification
 - Monitoring and assessment
 - Integrated resource management
 - One Workshop on the topic of community input into local strategic forest management decisions using a survey of experts to obtain the information due to logistical problems of holding the face-to-face Workshop with preferred participants
 - One Workshop on the topic of private forest land management was cancelled due to lack of interest in participating by experts; input from the 2011 Community Dialogue Sessions will be used as a replacement
 - One Workshop on the topic of options for increasing forest management investment into Crown forest lands was replaced by the production of an expert paper on the issue, due mid-November
 - Modifications to the Expert Workshop format is not expected to reduce the input for consideration by participants in the Community Workshops or the development of strategic action recommendations
 - A short eight (8) minute video summarizing the recommendations from the Expert Workshops has been completed and will be posted on the HFHC website for those who prefer this mode of communication
- **Community Workshops** have been confirmed for 7 communities (Port McNeill, Campbell River, Port Alberni, Terrace, Clearwater, Revelstoke, Williams Lake)
 - Workshops are being organized for late October through November
 - Three opportunities are open for other communities, geographic preference being northern BC, Boundary-Similkameen and Shuswap; efforts are being made to find Workshop organizers in these priority locations
- Six expert papers were produced on topics not included in the workshops but important to receive expert views on 2011 issues and be included in the recommendations
 - Forest lands research management and stable funding options
 - Forest inventory management and stable funding option
 - Silviculture treatments strategy
 - Wildfire management strategy and funding
 - Pest management funding requirements

- Fish and wildlife habitat inventory, management and restoration strategy and stable funding options

Strategic Action Plan (SAP)

- A SAP was produced and distributed as a draft to coincide with the development of the 2013 election platforms of the major political parties
- The SAP includes a 10 year strategy with recommendations and “how to” actions on priority issues identified in the 2011 dialogue
- The SAP is considered a draft, since more information from the Expert and Community Workshops remains to come – final SAP will be produced in January-February 2013
- The SAP has been distributed to the four major political parties, media, HFHC supporters and other influencers and interested parties for their information; additional opinions on the recommendations are welcome as part of the dialogue
- Meetings with the political parties and an Independent MLA have been offered with one completed, one scheduled for late October, one declining due to available time but supportive of the SAP and HFHC is awaiting responses from the other two parties

Fund Raising

- Additional funding has been acquired in the second quarter
- Additional proposals have been submitted primarily to assist communities in delivery of the Community Workshops and communications with communities and interested parties
- Others potential sponsors are being investigated
- A contingency plan has been developed to ensure the 2012 Activities Plan objectives are met with available funding

Sponsors and Partners

- The number of sponsors (10) and partners (17) increased by 11 over 2011
- Sponsors and partners include academic institutions, NGOs, foundations, unions, forest sector companies and professional associations
- HFHC information has been distributed through the networks of supporting organizations, thereby, greatly extending communications opportunities

HFHC related issues

- HFHC continued to be very active in communicating the results from the 2011 Activities and commenting on the options presented by the Legislative Committee on Timber Supply, including:
 - Letters to the Ministers and Timber Supply Committee
 - Presentation to the Timber Supply Committee
 - OpEd articles and media interviews regarding options presented by the Committee and Government
- As issues related to HFHC initiative arise, a similar approach will be implemented

Collaboration

Collaboration has continued with organizations and initiatives with a common interest of HFHC in the future of BC forests

Next steps

- Finalize dates, times and locations for Community Workshops
- Encourage additional community organizers to confirm Workshops in priority geographic areas
- Update and distribute SAP based on results of last Expert Workshops, expert survey and papers are received
- Encourage meetings with decision-makers to discuss SAP
- Continue to communicate with communities and interested parties regarding HFHC results
- Encourage participation by supporters in the dialogue on BC forest management
- Continue to monitor BC forest management issues and respond according to the HFHC results provided by experts, communities and concerned citizens
- Continue to solicit funding to enhance the Community Workshops and community communications

If anyone has questions or comments on this update, please contact Bill Bourgeois, HFHC Coordinator (wwb@telus.net) directly or through the HFHC webmail (info@bcforestconversation.com)