



SPECIAL MEETING REGARDING THE FUTURE OF THE ROUND TABLE

January 16, 2024 in the Arts Council Meeting Room

6:30pm

Present: Jill Sanford, Gerry Sanford, Judy Guichon, Bruno Mailloux, Al Mackay-Smith, Liis Jeffries, Patrick Farmer, Bruce Beech, Diana Grimshire, Diana Grimshire

Regrets: John Anderson: Kate Anderson

Call to order at 6:40 pm Al Mackay-Smith in the chair.

General discussion:

1. Report from Judy regarding the meeting with the Grasslands Conservation Council re: our future role at the LGMGIS in view of the upcoming need to renew our Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry.
 - Due to be signed in June 2024
 - GCC is strongly supportive of the NWCRT continuing to have a roll at the Grasslands Site
 - They would be able to help support us financially, but are also facing decreasing numbers of volunteers themselves so can't offer much support in manpower.
 - They also would prefer that we continue with the present area of coverage rather than reducing the area to only the area surrounding the kiosk.
2. Discussion:
 - Each member attending this meeting was asked for their opinion about our continued involvement with the Grasslands Site. The responses are summarized below.
 - Concern expressed about if the NWCRT is no longer involved with Grasslands education such as school outings and general education are we ready to let go of the legacy of Laurie Guichon about Interior Grasslands care and education.

- Much discussion about the diminishing capacity of the NWCRT to continue with our responsibilities and the minimal number of younger active members available to take over.
- There was recognition that the entire site structures could be removed once we walked away.
- Much discussion about the size of the parcel for which we would be responsible should we continue our involvement.
- The decision about the size of the parcel is probably less the question than whether we remain involved with the GIS at all.
- We need to make a decision based on our capacity to fulfil our obligations rather than continually postponing it. There has been sufficient discussion about this subject.
- The group agreed that the decision **MUST** be made at the next meeting by the group who is attending that meeting (***approximately February 19, 2024 - date to be confirmed by John***) no matter who is there.
 - There was a question about liability coverage for people over 70 - are we covered?
 - What would the consequences be of keeping the entire parcel for future potential projects between a group and the Ministry?

3. Forums

- There are some groups who would like to use the experience of NWCRT in organizing and “chairing” forums. Definite interest in us continuing to be involved with public forums by assisting with groups who want to engage the community.
- The group would need to be clear on the intent of the forum, be prepared to take a large role in the entire development of the public engagement. The role of the NWCRT would be advisory.

4. Use of the NVAC meeting space

- The group is grateful to the Nicola Valley Arts Council for donating space for our meetings. The NWCRT will make a \$75.00 donation to the NVAC. (Donation made immediately following the meeting.)

Meeting adjourned at 8:02 PM

Gillian Sanford
Secretary