



Official Community Plan for Green/Watch Lakes and 70 Mile House Area - Open House Summary

On April 25, 2009, from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m., the first open house for this project was held at the Seventy Mile Access Centre (SMAC). The open house format was chosen to ensure that as many people as possible had an opportunity to participate in discussions and posting of comments. There was a good turn-out with over 100 people attending.

Joint organizers were Rick Brundrige from the Cariboo Regional District (CRD), Bob Finley from the Thompson-Nicola Regional District (TNRD), and Danielle Lukovich from the Ministry of Community Development, all of whom were in attendance. The consultants, Catherine Berris Associates Inc., provided a series of panels outlining the Official Community Plan (OCP) process, preliminary background information on the area, and some initial mapping.

The project will be guided by an Advisory Group (AG), with broad representation from the community. The role of the AG will be to provide input into the OCP content in a more direct and informal way than that achieved in public sessions, to provide input into the plans for public consultation, and to serve as a constructive communication link between the planning process and the community, in both directions, when applicable.

The primary purposes of the open house were to introduce the OCP process, to identify more people willing to serve on the AG, and to engage participants in discussions about the OCP, encouraging them to post their community planning concerns and ideas on topic boards. The comments reflect a passion for this area and its many values, as well as healthy differences of opinion about the relative importance of environmental protection and economic growth. People were also encouraged to fill out a comment form.

There was very good discussion and feedback on the first task of identifying the OCP boundary. As a result of that feedback, the boundary will be extended to the west to include the 83 Mile Creek watershed, and it will be reduced in the north to respect a watershed flowing north. The southern boundary will be determined in consultation with the AG.

Only 16 comment sheets have been submitted to date. We encourage the community to send us more of these prior to the end of May.

Please watch for information about the next public session, to be held in the summer. The project organizers, consultants and AG hope to see you there.

The project panels and the comment form are available on the regional district Web sites: www.tnrd.bc.ca or www.cariboord.bc.ca

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