

Mayor's Report
February 25 - March 11

February 28

NWSAR

- NWSAR members had a webinar presentation about Alberta's and Canada's 17% protection targets of terrestrial lands and inland waters, by 2020.
- Areas that could qualify towards the targets include:
 - Municipal protected areas
 - Land trusts (Ducks Unlimited, Nature Conservancy Canada)
 - Undeveloped road allowances
 - Forestry Management Area non-harvested areas
 - Military lands
 - Grazing leases
- Hayley provided a short presentation on the Environmental Damages Fund and the site map for camera/ARU locations.
- That Terry Batt has been appointed as the official liaison for the Alberta Trappers Association on the NWSAR Committee.
- NWSAR and ABMI will share a Trade Show Booth at RMA
- Hayley is looking for Tradeshows in our area that NWSAR members can attend and let the people of our region know what our group has been doing.

Proposed Project

- NWSAR's is collaborating with ABMI in a project that involves spatial and qualitative data collection.
- To better plan for caribou recovery, additional data is required. This and our project aims to collect data on multiple species over an 18-month period, and ground-truth the ABMI's human footprint layer and natural disturbances.

Project Goals

1. Confirming current habitat disturbance footprint (spatial accuracy);
 2. New vegetation inventories (height/species type of vegetation regrowth);
 3. Estimating ungulate and predator populations (X # of species per X Km²
 4. Identifying the best areas for habitat restoration (after local land user data collection – accounting for required access); and
 5. Milestone and final reporting.
- ABMI is responsible for all the scientific components and written reporting.
 - NWSAR is responsible for coordinating the local component, involvement of volunteers and other stakeholder roles/in-kind contributions.

NWSAR-ABMI Environmental Damages Fund Application

- NWSAR has received Municipal letters of support:
 - County of Grande Prairie
 - Northern Sunrise County
 - Town of High Prairie
 - County of Northern Lights
 - Rainbow Lake
- Tolko has committed data (existing aerial imagery, existing LiDAR and use of lease roads)
- West Fraser has committed (existing data, use of lease roads, and \$50,000 FRIAA FRIP funds)
- Zavisha is looking to provide financial contribution (FRIAA FRIP funds)
- Delta helicopters has also committed some in-kind contribution
- Paramount Resources committed:
 - access to Zama landing strip,
 - access and use of Paramount lease roads and
 - a \$7,000 financial contribution.
- Volunteer commitments: in
 - Chinchaga: 13 trappers/outfitters
 - Caribou Mountains: 7 trappers/outfitters
- NWSAR has committed \$80,000
- NWSAR is applying for \$250K federal funds and Hayley has just recently submitted the application.
- We will update everyone once we receive a decision from ECCC on our application.

February 28

Boreal Housing

- Management has been reviewing the different types of locks for Mackenzie House.
- They have finalized the Card Lock system for the exterior and area separation doors. All other doors will have keys.
- They are currently checking into having buzzer systems installed for the independent living wings.
- The walls are starting to come up, the contractor was putting up the rafters on the southeast wing on February 15/19.
- The site tour was postponed due to the heavy lifts currently going on.
- There is one unit in High Level that will be rebuilt by the government due to the Fire.
- The only vacancies we have are at White Spruce Village.
- The following is a community housing waiting list:
 - 6 approved applicants requiring 2-bedroom units,
 - 4 approved applicants requiring 3-bedroom units,
 - 2 approved applicants requiring 4-bedroom units,
 - 1 approved seniors application

- Administration has been working with the tenants and have set up payment plans to bring arrears down.

March 1

CEDI

- Chief Ahnassay stated that his regional office required a letter that would confirm that the Town of High Level has received the Government of Alberta grant to support the water main to Bushe River.
- Josh requested to have standing monthly WG Meetings move half-hour earlier on the standing first Monday of the month meeting; all agreed. Meetings will now run 9:30am – 11:00am.
- Town of High Level will draft letter of support for water line and send to Chief Ahnassay for review.
- Areas of High Priority for councils are
 - Water/Wastewater
 - Tourism
 - Commercial/ Industrial Development / Recreation Development (combined)
- Low Priority areas include
 - Land Remediation/reclamation
 - Transportation
 - Housing
- Areas currently being explored by REDI:
 - Agriculture (hemp, peas, etc.)
- Renewable Energy

March 6

Tri-Council

Blanket Exercise

- High Level's application to AUMA and RMA's Blanket Exercise Initiative is approved!
- They have partnered with a social justice program called KAIROS, to provide trained facilitators to deliver the KAIROS Blanket Exercise here.
- AUMA is working through some remaining administrative details. Once these are finalized, a representative from AUMA or RMA is supposed to contact us to begin scheduling the exercise. In the meantime, you may contact me per the details below.

