

**STRATHCONA PARK PUBLIC ADVISORY COMMITTEE
FINAL MINUTES FOR October 4, 2013 MEETING – Filberg Centre, Courtenay BC**

SPPAC MEMBERS: Tawney Lem (Chair), Philip Stone, Mick Taylor, Hardolph Wasteneys, Peggy Carswell, David Campbell, Allison Mewett, Nick Page

Regrets: Erik Holbek, Darren Saare

BC Parks: Andy Smith, Aaron Miller

Recorder: John Milne

Member of the Public: Karl Stevenson, Bob St. John, Carol Hunter, Ken Vandeburgt, Peter Hehl (park ranger), Garth Bourgeon, Chris Barner and several more.

1. Introductions - members

Aaron Miller, new Section Head (Ron Quilter's replacement). Aaron has been in the position for 5 months, transferring from a Section Head position in the lower mainland. (South Coast Region of BC Parks). Aaron plans on attending SPPAC regularly.

2. Approve agenda

The minutes of the SPPAC meeting have been accepted by email and posted on BC Parks website.

3. Crest Crags - Chris Barner

Heathens video presentation - A video approximately 15 minutes long on the Heathens' trail building activities at Crest Crags was shown. Chris answered questions from SPPAC members. A huge number of volunteer hours have been put into this area and the quality of the work is good. The total planned trail work since the beginning of the project is estimated to be about \$800,000 worth at \$15 per hour plus travel expenses. The Heathens believe that their quality of trail work has resulted in low maintenance. These trails have stood up well to winter weather. Chris and Paul of the Heathens were certified by BC Parks in the past to use chainsaws on their project. The Heathens use a lot of youth as volunteers to get them inspired early so they will become lifelong volunteers. The Crags area appears to be adequately developed and BC Parks has not authorized any new trail development or official climbing areas. The Heathens have been authorized to camp behind the Crest Creek Day-use area, once per year over a two week period (usually July) to provide work-party volunteers a convenient and accessible area to camp. Heathens have been advised that due to BC Park's new enhanced Volunteer Program, a new Volunteer Agreement is required to update and confirm authorization/roles and responsibilities and make the agreement consistent with all other volunteer agreements within the Province.

4. Rangers Cabin – Alpine Club of Canada (ACC) Proposal to Operate and Maintain Cabin for Public Use

This topic has been continued from the last SPPAC meeting, where a recommendation was made to place newspaper ads seeking public input on the concept of opening the cabin for public use.

Currently the account required for placing the newspaper ad soliciting public input is temporarily frozen by the government. The Public Affairs Bureau is responsible for advertising decisions, not ministry staff. Various categories of ads have been frozen, but not all and is consistent throughout the Province in all ministries. As a result, BC Parks supported the solicitation of public input through social media/networks.

Group distribution of ad - Comments have been received through alternate means such as Facebook and email lists. The full majority of comments support the management of the cabin being undertaken by a non-profit organization such as the ACC, while some support the concept with conditions. There have also been a few comments opposed to BC Parks relinquishing some of its control over the cabin (meaning full time accessibility/use by staff – not authority over use). 40 comments have been received to date, 27 in support, 9 in support with conditions and 4 opposed. The sources of the feedback received have been tracked, but were not disclosed at the meeting. The exception was comments provided by FOSP, which the group publically published. Most of the conditions suggested by FOSP are similar to those that SPPAC discussed at the previous meeting.

If there is support for the proposal, BC Parks has the option of either advertising a Request For Proposals to ensure fairness, or if supportive of the ACC, to advertise the intent of issuing a permit to the ACC to ensure there is no objection from anyone else who may have similar interest. There appears to be agreement that a condition of any proposal would be the requirement of the cabin operating as a non-profit facility. Only the ACC seems to be interested so far. They have the money set aside to fund cabin enhancements/upgrades and have a good record of operating similar huts elsewhere.

Next steps and timing - Oct 15th was the deadline for comments. Andy will send the responses he receives out to SPPAC members (completed October 22nd).

If support is confirmed, a Level 2 assessment will likely be required with all concerns addressed and the details of operation and upgrades to be worked out. There may be some showstoppers, but this remains unknown at this time.

It was suggested a detailed plan be submitted before the L2 Assessment is conducted. The ACC may have people who could do a L2 Assessment, but this could be perceived as a conflict of interest. Also, doing a proper water management and waste management study could cost a bit. The Level 2 assessment, which is the responsibility of a permittee, should only be conducted after a proponent is selected. At this stage, it was suggested that SPPAC send the ACC a list of concerns that need to be more fully addressed in a proposal.

Andy mentioned that the Friends of Strathcona Park had implied that BC Parks may be considering projects like this as a way to source funds from private groups to repair park facilities. Andy confirmed that this is definitely not the case and that the ACC approached BC Parks and was only being considered due to the current minimal use of the cabin and the potential public benefits. Should this become controversial, Andy has no desire to consider this proposal any further. There needs to be a discussion to deal with the optics of this and the issue in general.

A member of the public commented that if government finds money to reintroduce back country rangers, and the ACC has the use of the Ranger Cabin, then the possibility of having it available for the use of rangers is gone. Andy advised that a condition of the permit can give priority beds to Ranger staff if booked in advance. Public concern is that the pattern arising seems to suggest that as park facilities deteriorate, then other groups take them over, repair them and use them. This becomes a de facto policy.

If there are going to be these types of projects happening, then it would be useful to have a policy in place.

SPPAC could host a process to come up with criteria on this topic. Other groups should be included in this process. An alternate perspective was voiced suggesting this could be a waste of time since there is little infrastructure in the park that could be taken over by public entities. Therefore, issues should be dealt with on a case-by-case basis instead.

There could be other sources of funding available from groups such as Rotary Clubs who have funds with no strings attached. Criteria could be useful to encourage projects and to identify alternate sources of funding.

The discussion ranged over the use of volunteers, the lack of government funding, the optics of seeking alternate sources of funding, and prioritizing work that needs doing. Volunteers often know areas of the park intimately and what needs doing there.

Projects can be identified and prioritized by combining knowledge from park staff with that from volunteer groups. Andy would like to blend volunteer priorities into his annual management plan development. Volunteer groups need to be aware of the planning cycle used by staff.

New volunteer information is on the Parks website <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/bcparks/volunteers>. The process shouldn't become too onerous thus discouraging volunteers. The liability issue always looms large.

This discussion is to be continued at a later date.

5. Donations and Funds

Nyrstar Donation - project priorities –

Nyrstar donated \$25,000 to Strathcona Park last year. While it was originally thought these funds could be used to focus on trail work close to the mine site, e.g., Arnica Lake; Bedwell Lakes; Tennant Lake; Upper Myra, BC Parks has the flexibility to use it where it is most useful. As a courtesy, BC Parks committed to discussing all potential projects with Nyrstar in hope of finding a mutually agreeable project(s). Potential projects will be proposed and discussed with Nyrstar over the winter. This is a one-time donation, but there could be future donations dependant on the mines resources in any given year. The staff of the mine are also good about in-kind donations, i.e. equipment use, materials, etc.

This donation could be leveraged with matching grants. Andy will share potential project suggestions with SPPAC and is also open to other suggestions. It was suggested that new interpretive signs in the Buttle Lake corridor would be a good idea. B.C. Hydro may also be a source for funding new interpretive signage regarding water in the Park.

Andy's vision is to share the ideas with SPPAC and with their input hopefully find the best use of the donated funds. Peggy explained Rotary's available funding model, which could be a source of matching funds. By accessing the district level of Rotary this can add up to even more funding. However, this generally takes a fair amount of time and needs someone to champion any proposal.

A question was asked: "Does the use of these funds have to be for physical things, or could they be used for a volunteer co-coordinator?" Andy advised that the funds can be used at BC Parks' discretion, but wants to make sure that whatever it's used is the best value.

It was suggested that Nyrstar may have a corporate responsibility fund which could be accessed in addition to the donated funds. This happens frequently elsewhere with other large corporations.

Tree Removal Funds - conservation project priorities -

Money generated from clearing trees off the clean fill site at the mine site went into the Park Enhancement Fund account for Strathcona. This amounted to \$125,000 and it is hoped it can be used in Strathcona Park. However, if high priority projects are identified elsewhere, these funds may be "clawed back" for use in other parks. Andy thinks that priority may be given to conservation type projects rather than recreation oriented projects. Park headquarters controls this money and it may not come to Strathcona in the end as it could be siphoned off elsewhere.

Plans for using this money need to be formulated quickly before someone else gets them. Andy has been working towards this end already.

Centennial Legacy Fund - setting priorities.

While the funds are held within BC Parks' Strathcona "Park Enhancement Fund" (PEF) account, it is recognized that the funds are controlled by SPPAC. However, SPPAC still needs to come up with criteria for accessing these funds. There is about \$8,800 left in this fund. Andy thinks this money would best serve to support existing volunteer groups, i.e. SWI. This could also be used as seed money to grow it to a larger amount. Nyrstar and BC Hydro could be asked to contribute to this fund, although, much of the funds originated from Nyrstar originally. SPPAC could approach these companies instead of Parks as this would improve the optics.

It would be better for volunteer groups to approach potential donors to leverage additional funds. Groups such as Rotary Clubs or businesses, etc. may be reluctant to give money directly to government or parks. Andy did advise that any donated money can be "tagged" for specific use and therefore not be available for use by the government elsewhere. Specifically for the Legacy funds, the Comox Valley Community Foundation might be another option for holding the funds. Peggy will find out if they can be used. Do they only operate within the Comox Valley or can the Foundation expand its area of interest to cover the whole Park? Would this be worth doing for the current limited funds, rather than the current "tagged" accounting in the PEF?

The \$125,000 would best be used for this as the other funds are specific to Strathcona Park and this one is at risk of being used elsewhere. Andy advised that it is not probable that the Province would agree to move any of this money into a third party account.

Volunteer groups look at conditions attached to funding and consider how restrictive they are. The culture of these groups needs to be considered.

Parks should meet with stakeholders and discuss possible projects.

Carol Hunter believes volunteers don't need a lot of money. She also supports a potential volunteer coordinator position that perhaps could take care of much of the paperwork and details. This could take some pressure off park staff and facilitate the process. She doesn't want to make more work for staff. Andy advised that while he supports this concept as well, and in fact may fit the long term provincial volunteer strategy, his only concern is the extra work associated with supervising/guiding the Coordinator.

Andy is optimistic that the new volunteer strategy and agreements coming out will help streamline the process and enable groups to do authorized work over a long term period without the need to seek separate approvals for everything.

Aaron explained it is BC Parks goal to have all new volunteer agreements in place by the Spring of 2014. After joint development and sign-off of the agreements, volunteer groups will have more flexibility to work unsupervised.

Andy will need to work with volunteer groups to develop the new agreements. (SWI, CDMC, Heathens, FOSP, etc.) Andy will send the template out to these groups. The template won't contain details, but will give groups an idea of the form of the agreement and what they want in these agreements.

A question was asked about how much flexibility there would be in a volunteer agreement. While the overall format of each agreement needs to be the same, the details will be specific to individual projects. Not all project(s) details need to be worked out right away within the agreements as this could be done if/when a specific project gets planned and ready to go. The agreements can be as detailed or general as the parties need. It would be good to see examples

of other new agreements to get an idea of what is expected. Andy will contact BC Parks headquarters office to try and find an example to send out.

Philip suggested transferring \$25,000 from the larger "tree removal funds" to be placed in the existing PEF - Centennial Expedition Legacy account to increase the available funds from \$8,000 to \$23,000. This would increase the amount SPPAC manages for the Park. Andy will discuss this with the PEF Managers and Regional Director, however, the Province may not want to relinquish control of these funds to a third party.

There was a question as to whether or not the "tree-removal funds" could be used to hire a volunteer coordinator. Andy and Aaron advised that there are rules to consider regarding various categories of funds and what they can be used for and will try to get some clarity.

Peggy made a motion to create a SPPAC subcommittee to look at project priorities and what should be done first. She proposes using a map of the park and sticky notes to identify needs, resources, volunteers, etc. This would create a visual aid. Mick and Peggy will begin this process. Several members of the public showed interest.

Alison suggests getting agreement and using the whole \$125,000 tree-removal fund ASAP before it's used elsewhere.

Hardolph suggested looking at the infrastructure that needs work and focusing on that as a priority.

There was discussion about whether or not four SPPAC meetings a year were enough to properly address issues. Maybe there are other non-cost ways of meeting, for example the off line meeting at Gary Schaan's cabin a few years ago to discuss an important issue of the day.

Online Facebook discussions also have been very useful in getting SPPAC's profile up and getting input.

6. FOSP Court Challenge update

Andy reviewed the June 24, 2012 decision Justice Sigurdson concluded that "the Minister's decision was reasonable and should not be set aside and the Friends of Strathcona Park petition must be dismissed." CWR is beginning its planning process now and will develop the required working plans as per permit conditions.

7. Activities of concern - e.g. trail cutting, flagging, fires, etc.

There are problems in the Park with fire pits, unnecessary flagging, illegal trails, dogs off leash in large numbers and their droppings, and garbage. This needs discussion. While this is widespread throughout the park, Philip suggested that in the Della Falls area some infractions are from international visitors. Philip pointed out the Master Plan for Strathcona sets direction for these issues. Philip advised that there are people or their representative groups at this meeting who are not complying with regulations and that this issue needs to be led by example.

There was a suggestion about publishing a column in local papers to educate the public on these issues. SWI works on this as well. Some parks allow fires in backcountry which confuses the public. Carol has spoken to Andy and Erika about a volunteer host program (like we had in the past) to help educate the public. Mick suggests this could be an issue where some of the PEF could be used to address. PEF is currently supporting Carol's (FOSP) new "No Fires" sign initiative, which will hopefully see the development of better ethics signage rather than the traditional regulatory signs. Carol is seeking input from youth in schools to both educate young people as well as get their creative ideas.

Andy said quite a lot of park resources goes into dealing with illegal trails, flagging tape, and fire rings.

Trails, flagging and minimizing impacts were discussed. When is it a trail or a route? If there are five trails in one area, how do you minimize impacts by confining traffic to one? This needs further discussion. It also needs to be put on SPPAC's Facebook page for feedback and discussion. Increased visitor use is part of the reason for this. Leave No Trace ethics need to be promoted. Maybe cleaning up and simplifying routes in some areas would be a job for a volunteer group.

Andy wants people to get permission to put in a trail. It is not impossible to receive permission to do so, but does need to be authorized through a controlled process. Andy requested that SPPAC and all groups represented at the meeting confirm their compliance and acknowledge support and practice of LNT ethics while using their networks to assist in getting compliance from the general public.

It was suggested that more discussion take place prior to this as it was a complex issue. Andy countered that while the process for getting something approved may be complex, the Park Act and regulations are very clear and agreeing to support LNT ethics is pretty straightforward.

This topic is to be referred to the next SPPAC meeting agenda. SPPAC will communicate between themselves on this in the meantime.

8. Price Creek trail - condition and signage

This topic is deferred until more time can be allocated for discussion.

9. Strathcona Update

This is attached below and will be posted online, and was circulated prior to the meeting via email.

10. Mount Washington Resort new local area plan.

This will be on the agenda for the next meeting.

11. Open Discussion and Additional Public Questions

Chris Barner of the Heathens expressed his thanks for being able to present to SPPAC.

Ken Vandeburgt circulated a handout regarding changing the Park Act. He asked SPPAC to follow up and give him feedback on his proposal. This will also be on the next meeting's agenda.

12. Next meeting time and closing comments

The next SPPAC meeting will be on December 13, 2013. The location will be announced.

Strathcona Update for SPPAC
October 4, 2013 (Courtenay/Filberg – Evergreen Lounge Meeting)

Strathcona Staffing – Jeff Hoy, Strathcona Ranger who started his term on May 21st finished his term on August 24th. Peter Hehl, Senior Ranger, who returned to work on April 29th will complete his term on November 8th.

Section Head – New Section Head, Aaron Miller, started at the beginning of April and is fortunately staying with us.

Jerry McArthur, Windy Park Operations, who is our current Backcountry Park Facility Operator, will be finished his 2013 season on October 30th. While it was originally planned to rebid this contract as well as the Front-country bundle contracts this year, delays in finalizing new contract formats and clauses, has resulted in all of these current contracts to be extended for an additional year. Jerry has accepted the same terms for an additional year which will end on October 30, 2014.

1) NVI/Breakwater

- See written update from Ivor McWilliams of Nyrstar
- Core Rack Area Borrow site project (CRAB – Clean Fill) – After a shut down during the 2012/13 winter, Nyrstar resumed work removing clean fill from this site and covering the berm of the old Tailings Dam Facility. This work was completed in August. While there is remaining clean fill at this site, it won't be used until Nyrstar is ready to do the final covering of the TDF surface. Completion of TDF is targeted for 2017.
- Tailings Dam Facility Closure Plan – BC Parks has not heard back from the Ministry of Energy and Mines regarding the finalization of this plan since sending in our comments on the draft plan.
- Jim Mitchell Lake Spillway Project – This project is scheduled to commence in October once final approvals are received from Dam Safety. This is a two year project with the dam modification being done first in 2013 then the installation of the new spillway gate in 2014.
- Nyrstar has postponed mining the Price ore body until the 2nd half of 2014.

2) Capital Projects

The only 2013 capital project this year for Strathcona, is the upgrade of the trail between Battleship Lake and Kwai Lake. "Great Installations" won the bid (valued at approximately \$100K) and commenced work on September 9th. The project was divided into 3 sections but limited funds will only cover two sections in 2013 (Battleship end and Kwai end), leaving the middle portion to hopefully be completed in 2014. Work in 2013 includes damaged bridge removal and new crossing at Murray Meadows, erosion control work, new boardwalk sections and repair/replacement of old boardwalk sections. The 2013 work is expected to be completed by mid to late October.

3) Heber Diversion Penstock Decommissioning

The planting of the old Heber Penstock corridor within the park (approximately 2 ha) which was completed in May is being monitored and assessed by BC Hydro. The reports from their consultants show very good survival of planted stock as well as good natural regen to date. Monitoring will continue over the next few years and should the growth be inadequate, more planting may take place to the satisfaction of BC Parks.

4) Crest Creek Dredging Project

While BC Hydro had advised BC Parks earlier in the year that there weren't adequate funds to dredge Crest Creek (quite full of rock and gravel from various events over the last several years), they surprised us in early August that they did find some funds to proceed. As a result, Uplands

Excavating were hired and the project commenced on August 16th. One excavator was used along with two articulated dump trucks to remove material from the creek-bed, repair existing berms on both side of creek and to extend one berm to the lake to provide a much needed stable staging area for accessing the local climbing walls along the creek. The Heathens were invited to provide input into the project and appreciated getting this work done.

5) CWR Park Use Permit – Judicial review took place between February 4th to 8th) and the ruling was delivered June 24, 2013. Justice Sigurdson conclude that the Minister’s decision was reasonable and should not be set aside and the Friends of Strathcona Park petition must be dismissed.

CWR has been advised of the decision and will now start planning as per their proposal and the authorized Park Use Permit. Their required Management Plan and other planning documents will be developed for submission by Fall of 2014.

6) Backcountry

Plateau Ranger Cabin – This is being discussed further at this SPPAC meeting. As recommended at the last SPPAC meeting in May 2013, a Request for Public Input was developed and supported by SPPAC for distribution through email, websites and group networking (Newspaper advertising was not possible at this time due to a temporary government freeze). Responses are to be sent to Andy Smith, Area Supervisor, by October 15, 2013. A summary of responses will be shared with SPPAC (any or all responses will be available should SPPAC wish to view) and then discussed prior to SPPAC making a recommendation about this proposal to the Regional Director.

Bedwell Lakes Trail Upgrades – The 2012 project to repair/replace the long section of boardwalk that skirts the Baby Bedwell lake shore was completed in July.

Elk River Trail Upgrades – While an assessment was done in the Fall of 2012, no capital work was started in 2013 as the Plateau trail enhancement project took priority (the failure of the Murray Meadow Bridge over the winter forced a change in trail priorities). Upgrades will be considered for 2014 should there be adequate funds, but the priority will be to finish the Kwai/Battleship trail first.

Arnica Lake – The human waste issue has been resolved – at least for the time being. Rangers were asked to revisit the area and do a more detailed search for a new appropriate “Z-Best” toilet site. After prodding and digging over a two day period, a site was found and a new pit dug. This pit should be adequate for approximately 3 years, but will provide more time to find another pit site (good possibility there is location nearby the new one). NOTE – Sept 30th update – just got a note from a hiker who said they found the new z-best toilet floating in water. Issue is now ongoing again!

Repairs to some of the tent pads and a bridge replacement is still required. We will continue to look for adequate PRV (maintenance) budget to address these issues.

Gold Lake Access – The logging road leading to the eastern access trail to Gold Lake is getting very rough and needing 4x4 or at least trucks. Most vehicles will not be able to access the last 1.5 km. Trail itself has many blow-downs and some so large it requires detouring around. It is still possible to hike the trail, but there is work that needs to be done. With what appears to be low use, the question is how much of budget are we wishing to allocate to the maintenance of this trail?

Oshinow/Toy/Junior/June Lakes – while main logging access road is in good shape from Great Central Lake, the road into Oshinow, is slowly getting overgrown. The road surface is still OK. Campsite is being utilized at lake and as usual fire rings are being consistently built. No official pit toilet has been established but an unofficial one has been placed in the bush.

Croteau Lake Group Site – Nothing new to report at this time due to other work priorities. While SPPAC has already supported the concept of this site, to move this project ahead will require the completion of a Level 1 impact assessment and if required a Level 2 assessment. Once assessments are complete and can confirm appropriateness a detailed site plan needs to be developed, costs/budget identified, funds procured and finally the plan implemented.

Plateau Km Signage – approximately 25 new km signs were installed on the plateau this year replacing those that were delaminating. A new “diamond” technology is being tried which imbeds the lettering into the sign so there can be no delaminating or fading and also due to an anti-graffiti coating, lexan covers are not required. While double the cost (\$60 vs \$30) this could eliminate the need to replace these signs approximately every 4 years. We plan on replacing more signs in 2014.

Upper Myra Falls Trail Boardwalk – Damage boardwalk due to windfall required a partial rebuild and was completed in late June.

Della Falls Trailhead – The Port Alberni Search and Rescue, lead by our own SPPAC member Darren Saare donated their time and expertise to complete some trailhead maintenance over a two day period in July. Work included, windfall removal, brushing, painting and removal of rotten facilities. Their efforts were greatly appreciated and they have indicated that they would be interested in potentially helping out again in 2014.

As windfalls need to be cleared on the Love Lake trail and some brush and bridge work elsewhere, there is a tentative trip planned in October for our Rangers to tackle this.

Donner/Kunlin Lakes – We accessed both lakes in July by ATV as the old roads are quite bad and narrowing with Alders. While there is still signs of use at Kunlin, it is low. There has been a slide which now blocks the old road/trail up to the Ucona Falls and rather than walk, people have cut an unauthorized ATV trail through the forest to get around. As usual there were several fire rings which were cleaned up.

The road to Donner is in real rough shape (personally I wouldn't want to drive anything in there other than an ATV). At the lake a small row boat and an old canoe has been stored. While this could be considered abandoned, a decision was made to leave them at this time due to logistics in removal. The canoe however did provide an opportunity to paddle some of the lake in an initial reconnaissance for potential lakeside campsites (as per Master Plan). One very potential site was found within a km of the launch site. At some point in the future the entire lake will need to be explored to identify other potential sites at which time more discussion can take place to reconfirm the Master Plan direction. Part of this discussion must involve whether to re-establish road access into these lakes.

7) Strathcona Park Wilderness Centre water damage

The cause of the basement flooding was due to water entering the Telus junction box adjacent to the parking lot and thereby allowing water to access the conduit leading into the basement of the building. The water coming into the junction box came from an abandoned line coming from outside the park, which must have been damaged in some unknown location. As it was not possible to block water entering the junction box, the best solution was to modify the conduit leading to the building to provide both, a drain to the forest beyond the building, as well as a “Y” and a dry safe path (angled up) into the building. The pipe now entering the building has also been plugged as a secondary precaution. The damage to the building included extensive water damage to dry-wall to a height of 4 feet around almost the entire inside perimeter. Door jams were also damaged by water. Staff and SWI volunteers removed the damaged dry-wall and BC Parks rented fans and dehumidifiers for a 3 week period to dry the basement. A contractor has been hired to restore the basement to original condition starting the week of September 23rd. The work will be completed by mid October.

8) Park Enhancement Funds (PEF) – SWI was granted \$3300 to support their program. Their season was successful servicing visitors 7 days/week utilizing volunteers to operate huts. A recognition evening is scheduled for mid October.

Friends of Strathcona were granted \$2500 in support of the new “No Fire” sign initiative. Carol Hunter is leading this project and has met with Andy Smith and Erica McClaren (Conservation Specialist) to strategize. Carol will be presenting and discussing this project with various school and youth groups to hopefully come up with some new sign concepts for us to consider. The project is ongoing but must be finished by March 2014.

NYRSTAR MINE – OPERATIONAL UPDATE – OCTOBER 2013

The Jim Mitchell project – weather permitting, this project is still scheduled to start this Fall with the hauling of the borrow materials required for the dam raise. There have been some changes in personnel in the Dam Safety Branch which has added further delays to the final approval process. NOTE: Jim Mitchell project has been considered a 2-year project by Nyrstar for some time now, working on the dam in one year and installing the gate in the next year – this, as I understand it, was in consideration of managing our capital spending needs for the operation as a whole.

The TDF seismic upgrade project was completed in August following the addition of the final 71,000 m³ of clean fill. NOTE: Nyrstar has removed 58,000 and 71,000 m³ in 2012 and 2013 respectively. We estimate the CRAB to contain 300,000+m³ so there should be 170,000 to 200,000m³ left which we will resume removing when the final cover for reclamation is placed on the TDF probably in 2015/2016 – the TDF must be reclaimed by the end of 2017.

The Lynx tailings facility berm was raised by the addition of 53,500 m³ of materials, sufficient to provide tailings storage capacity until Dec 2014 – a further raise of the berm will be completed in 2014. NOTE: Nyrstar is likely to raise the berm each year to provide for tailings capacity sufficient for the upcoming year – in total the Lynx berm requires the haulage and construction of some 1.6 million m³ of material and is good for about the next 10 years. Tailings storage after the Lynx TDF is full, well we don't have any other permitted storage so we are currently looking at enhancing the ways of getting more tailings underground.

Mining of the Price ore body, scheduled to begin before the end of 2013 has been re-scheduled until the second half of 2014.

Nyrstar Myra Falls has retained Robertson GeoConsultants Inc. to assist with site-wide closure planning – an additional 25 groundwater monitoring wells have been installed across the site and work continues on understanding the groundwater flow regimes and the site wide water and chemical load balances.