

CLAYOQUOT BIOSPHERE TRUST

Community Development Committee

North Island College

March 26.07

6:00 – 9:00

Meeting Summary and Next Steps

Present: Norine Messer, Alex Nikolic, Kim Mack, Francine Frank, Tony Bennett

Staff: David Fraser, Rebecca Vines, Jean Wylie

1. Review and approve agenda and minutes

2. CBT Update

David briefly reviewed the newly approved business plan. The CBT Trust Fund is healthy and the investment committee is reviewing a number of strategic issues. The recent Board meeting focused on the Board appointment policy, along with a number of other policy issues. The CBT has recently sponsored two basketball teams and provided sponsorship funding to Ukee Days.

3. Discretionary Funding Requests

The committee took the time to discuss their decision making process for discretionary funding requests, which is a common issue being raised at the committee level. Norine suggested that perhaps the talent at the table could be better used if the group focused on identifying their own project such as hosting a workshop on volunteer board training. Tony has mixed feelings about the discretionary spending, as it can lead to favoritism without the necessary policies, while the Board is appointed by the communities and should have balanced representation. David noted that the CBT is in the business of providing funding to the communities, and that the funds were in part given to the committee for their development. It was suggested that the committee hold a funding call or request expressions of interest on a focused area. Norine sees value in the committees as a means of capacity building and community involvement. The CBT has not imposed a lot of structure on the committees and it is sounding like the committee would like to develop their own structure. The discussion on how this year's money will be spent will continue over the next months, while discussion of the overall discretionary spending policy will take place before next year's business plan is drafted. Norine would like to spend some time brainstorming ideas at the next meeting and staff will bring Alex's questions to the communities as food for thought.

The committee also briefly considered if the CBT should be granting project money to government organizations. David noted that there are two trains of thought. The first is to keep the funds grass roots, while others note that governments are fundamental parts of the communities and speak for the citizens of the communities. The CBT also does not want to be seen as making up for governments funding cuts. The committee also noted that they have made a practice of evaluating the proposal, rather than the proponent. Importantly, many of the First Nations communities do not have societies that can apply for funding. Their local government is often the only mechanism to administer funds. Tony noted that it was the governments that signed off on the Biosphere Reserve and suggested that the CBT make a distinction between funding government "core functions" and other areas of operation.

a. Ucluelet First Nations Holistic Celebration of Health -- The UFN has requested \$10,000 for their Celebration of Health event planned for this summer. Two other committees have contributed a total of \$4,000 to date. The committee agreed that this event is very much in line with their mandate and goals would like to support the project to a total of \$1,000. The committee would also like to recommend that consideration be given to arranging transportation from the outlying communities.

b. Youth Conference and Career Fair -- Norine presented a request for the Youth Conference and Career Fair being planned for April 20 & 21st in Tofino. This event is an opportunity for youth leadership training. The second day will be a career fair, in part focused on summer employment, as well as opportunity to talk with role models about their jobs. Tony would like to see a better coordinated event. For example, the ACRD has not been approached to have a booth. Has Parks Canada been approached? Has the CBT been approached? This is too important not to do well. Also, it would be great to see a letter of support from the school. This is not a detailed enough plan to support – who are the speakers? Who will be participating? This is so important; perhaps the committee could host this event annually.

c. Early Childhood Education – Norine summarized the current need for childcare on the Westcoast that are not being met. This is a crisis and priority because it acts as a barrier to employment for parents. Lack of facilities, lack of funds and lack of skilled staff are the three barriers. The Coalition has identified this need for trained workers and is targeting funds to fill that gap. Norine will continue to work on bringing training to the region, with support from David to source out other funds.

4. Measuring Community Health

Rebecca presented her recent work on the long term initiative to identify indicators of community health and sustainability for the Biosphere region. The Community Development committee will be hosting two workshops in late March in partnership with LIRN BC and committee members are strongly encouraged to attend. Rebecca also spoke to the need to use easily understandable language to discuss indicators, in order to encourage participation and interest. Rebecca will be working with the Youth Advisory Council in Ahousaht on a photo project, as a method of getting their input.

5. Celebration of the Biosphere

David acknowledged that the CBT has to do a better job of getting out to the remote communities. As we all know, transportation is a major issue on the West Coast. We will be hosting a week long Celebration of the Biosphere in Ahousaht. This will involve committee meetings, beach barbeques, trail maintenance and research presentations. Everyone is invited and we are hoping that people will take a day off work to participate on Tuesday, May 1st

6. Next meeting scheduled for May 1st in Ahousaht.