

CLAYOQUOT BIOSPHERE TRUST

Education Committee

March 5, 2007
6:00 – 9:00 pm
North Island College

Meeting Summary and Next Steps

Present: Sally Mole, Carol Sedgewick, Norine Messer, Barb Britton, Sheila Ie, Cam Pinkerton, Bill Morrison, Darcy Dobbell

Staff: Stan Boychuk, David Fraser, Rebecca Vines

1. Dinner (6:00 – 6:30)
2. Agenda approved – The group began the meeting with a round of introductions.
3. CBT update – David updated the group on the business of the February Board meeting. This meeting focused on implementing the Business Plan and focused on community outreach and lots of open discussion.
4. CBT Scholarship discussion

Since the last committee meeting, the Board has acted on the committee's recommendation to provide a scholarship to the Hooksum School. Stan briefed the group on the history of the CBT scholarship program, which began in the early days of the CBT through discussion with the local high school. At that time there was a need to promote academic excellence. The CBT has partnered with GENUS Investment Management to provide two scholarships to the highest academic achievers for \$3,000/yr for the duration of their program. The program has been very successful – all of the students that have been awarded have continued on in their degree program. One of these scholarships is specifically for First Nations students, which has not been used to the same degree. Stan suggested that the Committee consider if they want to continue on this course.

It has been difficult to encourage students to apply for the funds, although great lengths have been taken to communicate the program. There is a lot of funding already available for First Nations students who are high achievers. NTC is currently reviewing their funding program in hopes of shifting some of the academic funding towards trades training. This course also has complications, as every trade has different criteria for admission and needs support through the apprenticeship program. Norine suggested targeting the drop out rate for younger students by finding a means of encouraging them to continue on. There are already a number of programs targeting that route, although none of the programs reward academic improvement. Carol indicated that there is an interest at the high school to find more work experience programs, which has been spawned by the kayaking program. Carol spoke to the need to get the students out of the region just to see what a university campus looks and feels like. Darcy suggested that the committee also think about what outcomes they would like to see and tailor the program to meet those goals. Stan suggested inviting Lynn Barbosa to attend a meeting to share her perspective from NTC. He suggested that this conversation continue and that the committee gather more information. This item will continue as a standing agenda item and staff will make an effort to invite key NTC people to be a part of this discussion.

5. Discretionary Funding requests

The committee has 11.3K remaining in their discretionary budget. The committee has received three requests for discretionary funding.

Stan described the application from the Rainforest Network to compile a coffee table book on temperate rainforests around the world. The written material will be provided by local people, with photos as well. Copies of the book would be made available to the communities to be used for fundraising, so we are essentially purchasing advanced copies. The committee felt that this is not in line with their mandate as a committee. This project is difficult to support because the proponent could be eligible for national and international funding and there is not enough local benefit.

The committee again discussed the purchase of the West Coast Activity Book for the schools and hospital, as requested by the AMB. The committee has found that there are unused copies at the schools and daycare, although they do not know about the hospital. The group is not supportive of this project and would have liked to see letters of request from the schools.

The UFN summer event is in line with the committees goals and is generally supported by the group. The committee will review the proposal more closely via email and aim to have a response back to them in advance of the next meeting so that they can continue planning.

The Biosphere Conversation request from the Tofino Botanical Gardens aims to create a scholarly community but does it fit with the mandate of the committee. The committee would like to recommend that the community development committee consider the proposal. Darcy asked what the group would like to see in order to make this of interest. Stan noted that the current business plan identifies a need to be responsible for the biosphere reserve. While committee members are supportive of this goal, they do not see that it should happen at this table, but rather the Board table. This request will also be considered by the Executive Committee of the Board.

6. Whale Festival

Sheila gave a brief overview of what is in the works for the this years whale festival, as well as the tile project that is now up and running in the two elementary schools. Sheila asked that the CBT staff focus their presentation on "What does it mean to live in a Biosphere Reserve?"

7. Celebration of the Biosphere

David has been hearing more and more about the need for communities to get out and make the biosphere reserve real in the outlying communities. We will be taking our show on the road to Ahousaht for a week in May and committee members are asked to keep that in mind when looking at their schedules. There will be a number of events planned for that week, one of which will be a committee meeting of some sort in Ahousaht.

8. Wickaninnish Redesign update

Barb summarized recent work on the Wickaninnish Interpretive Centre redesign. Laura is setting up an on-line and telephone survey to solicit information from the communities. She is planning to host the grade 5/6 kids to participate in the re-design through a participatory event. The project is set to be completed in late 2009. Laura has offered to host the next committee meeting at the Centre.

9. Westcoast ECE Course

Norine briefed the group on the possibility of offering an early childhood education course locally to help respond to the current childcare crisis in the region. The Coastal Family Resource Coalition has received \$20,000 which they would like to use as seed money to offer the program. They will also be approaching NTC as a potential partner. The qualified staff can work in daycares, early development programs and school aids. It is hoped that if the program is offered locally we will be able to retain those skilled workers. Norine was here tonight to share the idea with the committee and will keep them informed as she moves forward.

10. Next meeting scheduled for April 17th at the Wickaninnish Centre at 6pm.