

# CLAYOQUOT BIOSPHERE TRUST

## Terrestrial Committee

### Raincoast Interpretive Center

February 19, 2007

6:00 – 9:00

#### Meeting Summary and Next Steps

Present: Barb Beasley, Chrystal McMillan, Wendy Sommerfeld, Steve Lawson, Janet Webster, Husdon Webster, Liam, Bob

Staff: David Fraser, Rebecca Vines

1. Review and approve agenda
2. Summary of 2006 Committee Process and Funding Call

David reviewed the 2006 project funding – a total of 15 projects were funded. The wolf study is still being discussed with the hereditary chiefs and the money has not yet been distributed. We have had good feedback on the process, suggested improvements such as increased staff support and the creation of an application package. The committee has \$8,000 remaining from last year, with an additional \$10,000 allocated for 2007. Hudson asked how he would go about applying for funding to do some repair work on the Walk the Wildside Trail. David suggested that he get in touch with David and he can help him.

3. *Update from January 11<sup>th</sup>, January 18<sup>th</sup> and February 17<sup>th</sup> CBT Board 2007 – 2009 Business Plan Meetings*

The Board has approved another 100,000 for this years project funding, with 55,000 already allocated to multi-year funding. A part of the reason to delay the call to the fall is to have time to make the recommended adjustments and for the health of the trust fund. Bob asked if we have plans to share the project reports and suggested a one day poster session. That is a part of the vision for the Ahousaht week.

David introduced the newly approved business plan, which has seven focus areas. He spoke to the need for the CBT to define clear outcomes, which will be a focus of the coming year. David summarized the seven key priorities that including fund development, enhancing the committee process, promotion of the Biosphere Reserve, the Indicator Monitoring program, improving outreach (i.e the Call for Proposals and event sponsorship), recruiting a new Executive Director and national and international networking. The Business Plan is supported by the budget, which includes \$25,000 towards promotion of the Biosphere Reserve and a significant budget for research and indicator monitoring. For 2007 project funding, the Board has already committed some funds through the multi-year funding and will commit a further \$44,000 to the funding call this year. While the trust fund is very healthy, the Board is remaining conservative over the next year.

Barb suggested putting more resources into citizen science efforts, whether the committee hold workshops etc. How can community monitoring be integrated into our program? How can we raise the profile of this science. One of the suggestions was a bear sighting workshop in Ahousaht – or even broadening it out to all animals.

4. *Committee Recruitment Strategy*

*Hudson has been talking to people and has a few folks that are interested in committing to the group. Hudson asked about the possibility of people from the cities joining the committee. David recognized that the meetings are public and always open. He recognized that there is a cost factor involved and did not think that the Board would want to support the travel.*

#### 5. *Discretionary Funding requests*

There is a request from Tla-o-qui-aht First Nations and Friends of Clayoquot Sound to do repair work on the Meares Island Big Tree Trail. The Tofino Botanical Gardens has made a request for \$1600 Biosphere think tank event. This request is time sensitive. Barb asked if this is a public event? Chrystal spoke to the Bear Aware request for a bear proof dumpster at the Raven Lodge. The dumpster is about \$2,000 + 800 in shipping. Pacific Rim Bear Smart Society. They are focusing on the mechanics of the plan this year. Barb asked how this fits with the mandate of the CBT. Could this be a demonstration project, with signage to explain the bear proof characteristics. The committee would also like to see an education plan, strategy or an interpretive display to explain what makes these dumpsters different. What about the idea of a webcam to track the bear attempts. It was suggested that the group think more about the education component. They will rewrite their application and forward it to David. The committee will review the application via email.

Hudson raised the issue of bears in the community of Ahousaht. He shared stories of the bears traditional uses compared to the current experiences. Bears are shot when they come into the community to protect the children. They are attracted by the fish and the smokehouses. Chrystal suggested a bear hazard assessment to identify why bears are being attracted to the community. Bob explained that this assessment identifies the hotspots in a community and suggests means to stop the

The Ucl-uth First Annual Wholistic Celebration. The Culture committee has funded the celebration to a total of \$3,000 and would like to challenge the other committees. The terrestrial component includes passing on traditional teachings such as cedar bark weaving. The committee will commit \$1,000 to the project.

The Tofino Botanical Gardens has made a request for \$1,600 to host a think tank on the biosphere. What will be the action items or the products are. Is there any public involvement? David will ask these questions and get more information out to the committee.

Barb asked if the committee would like to continue to respond to these applications as they come or to instead push their own projects. Bob has run into a problem with the carnivore project. There is only one person available to do the scat analysis to understand the diet contents. Lots of labs do bear scat and other species, but not carnivore. It may be possible to train someone locally to do this work. It may be an area that is ideal for a joint project with the Parks and CBT funding.

#### 6. *CBT Research Agenda*

Rebecca introduced the new CBT Indicator Monitoring Initiative. The CBT sees an opportunity to facilitate the development of a comprehensive monitoring package to report on social, cultural, economic and environmental indicators for the Biosphere region. This is a key commitment for the 2007 – 2009 Business Plan and will be a long-term deliverable. The CBT will work with local organizations to lead the development of a comprehensive package that can be reported on to communities. Building on past and current monitoring in the region, the results will inform future priorities for the Biosphere and the CBT. Rebecca invited committee members to attend an evening talk by Steve Litke, Fraser Basin Council Sustainability Monitoring Program Manager on February 22, 2007. Kathleen noted that this information could be used by other non-profits, but identified a different need to conduct a

community values survey. Barb suggested making a link with the environmental monitoring staff at the National Park.

7. *Open discussion/other business*

*Bob also offered an update on the predator prey project. Bob has applied for funding for the third year. To date they have completed the physical work. This year they would like to focus on the local knowledge and traditional ecological knowledge. Nadine Crookes will be leading the traditional ecological knowledge component, which is very similar to what Steve Lawson has been looking at. Dani's cougar project is on hold. The wolf component will be focused on northern Barkley Sound.*

8. *Next meeting scheduled for in from pm, to be chaired by .*