

CURA Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Partnering for Sustainable Resource Management

WEB SUMMARY (DRAFT)

December 13, 2005, 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM, Band Office, Tache

Members Present:

Principal Investigator
Co-Investigator, Improved Partnership Leader
TI'azt'en CURA Coordinator, Improved Partnership Stream Leader
UNBC CURA Coordinator, IP Stream Student
UNBC Education Stream Leader
TI'azt'en Education Stream Leader
UNBC Ecotourism Stream Leader
TI'azt'en TEK Stream Leader

Others Present:

TI'azt'en Treaty Office, Research Assistant
Education Grad Student
Geography Undergrad Student
Biology Undergrad Student
Geography Grad Student (non-CURA)
RRT Undergrad Student

Absent:

UNBC TEK Stream Leader
TI'azt'en Member-at-Large (1, 2)

- 1) Welcome and Opening Prayer
- 2) Adoption of Agenda
- 3) Review, correction and adoption of October 2005 Meeting Minutes
- 4) Brief progress update from each stream (All)

Education Stream Completed focus groups with 5 community groups; met with 87 community members. Currently processing data, but many similarities between groups was noted. TI'azt'en coordinator notes that the focus group method was very useful in helping to capture TI'azt'en philosophy around Education and what is important at the community level. Need to finalize budget contracts for 2005 and 2006. Need to define analysis process.

TEK Stream Treaty Office/TEK spent time, effort and resources (financial/personnel) into collection and organizing TEK information into a reference library and database system. This project expanded and began the process of categorizing data in collaboration with the Education Stream. Much of the information gathered is being streamlined for Education curriculum purposes. At present staff have been reduced at the Treaty office, but those still employed have done a great job of continuing the work. TI'azt'en TEK leader prepared a memo regarding TEK grad student verification process for Place Names Research to clarify next research steps.

TI'azt'en Education leader is undertaking the verification of thesis with Carrier Linguistic Society sub-committee, as student is working from a distance; assistance in the field component could have been helpful with verification. Student hopes to defend thesis in early 2006, and make a community presentation. Discussion of community experts sitting on future defense committees. Carrier Sekani Tribal Council (CSTC) is currently drafting a Letter of Interest with UNBC, which defines participatory research and a research protocol with CSTC member bands (8 - includes TI'azt'en Nation), CSTC is also proposing a new research branch. UNBC student in attendance as potential graduate student. TEK stream researchers met November 2nd to discuss place names verification and PhD project.

Improved Partnership Stream Grad student has completed her data collection for her research with a focus group in November. She had drafted a list of measures for success in cultural revitalization for the JPRF. This list will be reviewed by her committee, then with selected community members. She hopes to defend her thesis in the spring.

Ecotourism Stream Progress is gradual, as TI'azt'en Stream leader has not yet been selected, and grad students not starting until fall 2006. Summer RA did a literature review and gap analysis. Two students have expressed interest (one is present today). Member-at-Large(1) presented to Chief and Council about the need for an TI'azt'en Ecotourism leader; next step is to define monies to secure this position, possibly for a Aboriginal Community Economic Development (ACED) student on a part time basis. Possible research topic areas: Aboriginal cultural tourism and impact of tourism on Aboriginal communities, which correlates with C&I research; feasibility study for tourism in the area, (how much participation in tourism does TI'azt'en Nation want, and how much of their TEK are they willing to share). There are many facets to

tourism including mainstream tourism, ecotourism, and indigenous tourism. Some initial work has been done here, but there are a lot of areas that need to be further explored including Indigenous or Aboriginal tourism where First Nations people own and operate tourism initiatives with a strong cultural component to the theme (e.g., fishing charters which share traditional components of fishing or use of fish). Identifying market would also be important.

Old Business

5) **Contracts - Education and All Streams** Contracts need to be completed between TI'azt'en and UNBC for all Streams (2006). Budget meeting January 27th in Tache. Coordinators to collect external money committed to CURA.

6) **TI'azt'en Ecotourism Stream Leader** - (discussed in Ecotourism Stream Report above)

7) **Extension - Newsletter, etc.** IP stream publication in *Forestry* has received interest from other countries (including India, Sri Lanka and Bolivia) and from Lorraine Reikmans from NAFA (National Aboriginal Forestry Association) who has requested partnership in the on-going research on C&I. The community update will be prepared for distribution to the community in January. PI prepared a poster presentation on C&I methodology for an Arctic conference in Denmark. Future conferences to attend include the International Symposium of Society and Resource Management (ISSRM) to be held in Vancouver in June. Co-I will present C&I research to the Southern Interior Silviculture Committee in Penticton, BC. A UNBC faculty member will bring the CURA project as an example of collaborative research to the National Aboriginal Tourism Association.

8) **Research Protocols and Intellectual Property** Under IP Stream, TI'azt'en Coordinator is analyzing literature to update current "TI'azt'en Nation Guidelines for Research in TI'azt'en Territory". Potential for a workshop in April or May. Funding not yet identified. TI'azt'en TEK leader has also been writing on this topic.

New Business

9) **New JPRF Office #162**, 250 Stuart Drive east is the new office location, with telephone and fax connections not set to be in place until late December.

10) **Potential funding for training and extension** PI considering submitting an LOI for SSHRC's new program called Knowledge Impact in Society. The program would compliment CURA; objective would be to facilitate research training and coordinate research with First Nations. However, matching funds are needed: \$100,000/year for 3 years. PI will prepare draft, and ask for TI'azt'en review, although may not go through full application process.

11) **Students and funding** Currently, there is one student on each of the four streams. We will need 1 student for Improved Partnership, 2 students for TEK (1 masters and 1 PhD) and 1 student for Ecotourism research. Because CURA funding cannot go to international students, a number of PhD applications had to be turned down, and current IP grad student cannot receive funding. TI'azt'en TEK leader recommends a list of contacts for finding potential PhD student.

12) **Potential UNBC visit for TI'azt'en youth** UNBC coordinator offers to organize a visit to UNBC for interested TI'azt'en youth. Will coordinate with TI'azt'en Education leader.

13) **Paying Honoraria** Education stream had challenges paying honoraria through UNBC. Recommendation to do this through TI'azt'en Education department, and billing through contracts.

14) **CURA Midterm Review** Gail informs SC that SSHRC will be doing Mid Term review; instructions on how review will take place in January.

15) **TI'azt'en Member-at-Large** One TI'azt'en Member-at-Large (2) may step down. If so, TI'azt'en will need to identify replacement.

Future Meetings: Budget meeting JAN 27TH, TACHE; CURA SC meeting FEB 9TH, UNBC

Meeting adjourned at 2:15 PM