

Steering Committee Meeting Minutes
Partnering for Sustainable Resource Management
CURA SC Meeting
-Web Summary-

October 14, 2005
10:00 AM - 2:00 PM
UNBC

Members Present:

Principal Investigator
Co-Investigator, IP Stream Leader
TI'azt'en CURA Coordinator, IP Stream Leader
UNBC CURA Coordinator, IP Stream Student
UNBC TEK Stream Leader
UNBC Education Stream Leader
TI'azt'en Education Stream Leader
UNBC Ecotourism Stream Leader
TI'azt'en Member-at-Large

Others Present:

UNBC IP Stream Partner
Research Assistant, UNBC Ecotourism Stream
Graduate Student

Absent:

TI'azt'en TEK Stream Leader
TI'azt'en Member-at-Large

1) Welcome and Opening Prayer

2) Adoption of Agenda

11) Other

3) Review, correction and adoption of August Meeting Minutes

No new changes

UNBC First Nations Studies program will be adding a link to CURA on their website.

4) Brief progress update from each stream

Education

Education focus groups with Elders will occur within the next few weeks. Invitation and consent is underway. Budget and contract details need to be completed for the Education Stream. A UNBC instructor will present the Chuntoh curriculum at a conference in California and will mention Education Stream work as well. Mention of an article in the Caledonia Courier that highlights the Chuntoh camps at Cinnabar.

Improving Partnerships

Graduate student will be conducting focus groups now that interviews are completed. Student will apply to a graduate student conference at Yale, "Cultural Intersections", (travel costs provided by conference organizers) and the "International Symposium on Society and Resource Management" (Vancouver, June '06), which UNBC Ecotourism leader will also attend. Student presented a poster (done with TI'azt'en Research Assistant), at the NRES Research Symposium on September 30th. Research Protocols analysis and summary has been turned over to the TI'azt'en Coordinator, with a deadline of early 2006 to complete. Grad student ad for Environmental Monitoring is posted on the web; looking for a student to start in September 2006. Potential TEK PhD student has decided not to pursue graduate studies at this time, and therefore still is in need of a student to fill this vacancy.

Ecotourism

Goals for the semester are to come up with a set of research questions, define method(s), and review local literature. Research Assistant looked at ecotourism information in the region and at methods. UNBC Stream Leader considering a broad research method called IPCOS. Ecotourism also presented a poster at NRES Research Symposium, and advertisement for Ecotourism graduate student has resulted in inquiries; but at present RA will continue. Economic Development Officer employment position is still vacant; therefore the TI'azt'en Eco-tourism Stream Leader is yet to be determined. TI'azt'en Member-at-Large and UNBC Ecotourism leader will discuss the tasks and responsibilities of the position and will draft an advertisement for community posting. Member at Large will still assist with defining broad research questions. TI'azt'en Coordinator welcomes another process of involving people, as she shares concerns about community participant burnout.

TEK

Final report completed on RA's summer research on gathering knowledge supporting the restoration and maintenance of culturally important plant gathering sites of paper birch; awaiting review by TI'azt'en TEK Stream Leader. Ethnobotany papers will be made available for reference in Tache. TI'azt'en SC member makes the point that the responsiveness to a study topic of concern to TI'azt'en elders, instead of original proposal, is an example of 'true' community-based research and applauds this. TEK Stream continues to look for a Master's student for the TEK project.

Old Business

5) Budget monitoring

UNBC Coordinator has provided stream spending reports to the UNBC stream leaders.

Computers

UNBC Coordinator explains on-going challenges in securing new computers for the UNBC CURA Office.

6) Extension

CURA Newsletter has been printed and distributed. The article submitted to *Cultural Survival Quarterly* is still under consideration. IP has a *Forestry* article in press. Member-at-Large mentions that the TI'azt'en students are using the CURA

website as a resource, and encourages continual updating. UNBC's *Aboriginal Geography* class visited JPRF in September.

New Business

7) Research Protocols / Intellectual Property

CURA Ethics/IPR workshop has been under discussion for some time. Some SC Members met to discuss and have decided that workshop would probably be held in Spring 2006. Discussion of TI'azt'en SC members possibly receiving academic credit for work they do as part of their CURA duties.

8) TEK/TI'azt'en Meetings

Separate TEK Stream and TI'azt'en SC members meetings need to be scheduled to discuss outstanding issues or concerns related to CURA research. Brief discussion that a more formalized research verification process needs to be implemented to ensure that TI'azt'en culture and language is reflected accurately. Reminder to CURA SC members to review and follow Guiding Principles/Conflict Management procedures implemented at the start of CURA project (available @ <http://cura.unbc.ca>). Note that all theses defenses (including those on CURA research) are open to the public.

10) Next SC Meeting Dates

Tentative dates proposed for December.