

# Appendix

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**Appendix 7  
Summary of Organizations and Individuals Consulted**

Date	Organization	Individual(s)	Comments
December 2, 2004 And other dates	Natural Resources Canada Northern Forestry Centre	Bill de Groot, Research Scientist, Fire Research	Telephone discussions and email correspondence regarding Fuel Types in the Canadian Forest Fire Behaviour Prediction System
December 7, 2004	Public Meeting	Mayor Townsend; Councillors Dammann Roe (for a portion of the meeting), Nordli, and Tchir, D.B. Fleming, Chief Administrative Officer, Judy Bosh, Deputy Administrator (for a portion of the meeting) and 24 members of the General Public	Overview of Project
December 8, 2004 and February 16, 2005	BC Ministry of Small Business and Tourism and Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management	Gordon Borgstrom, Regional Manager; and Beryl Nesbit, Habitat Planner	Provided overview of project and discussed opportunities for input
December 9, 2004	BC Ministry of Small Business and Tourism, Land and Water BC Inc., Provincial Emergency Program and Regional District of Fraser Fort George	Gordon Borgstrom, Regional Manager, Dennis Butchart, Section Head, Land and Water Allocation; Bob Kelly, Regional Manager; Gordon Simmons, Development Services, Planning Department	Provided overview of project and discussed opportunities for input
December 10, 2004	Terracana Resort / Valemount and Area Recreation Association (VARDA)	Lisa Levasseur, General Manager (Terracana) / President (VARDA)	Overview of Project and discussed opportunities for input

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December 21, 2004	Simpw First Nation	Band Manager John Sargent and Wildlife Technician Duane Eustache	Overview of project and review of experiences of Simpwc First Nation as a result of Barriere Fire
December 22, 2004	Terra Nova Developments	Geoff Higgs	Meeting in Vancouver regarding overview of project and Valemount Springs Resort wildfire protection strategies
December 23, 2004 and other dates	City of Langford	Rob Buchan, Director of Planning	Meeting in Victoria to discuss programs implemented in Langford, examples of bylaws, development permits, landscaping guidelines and assessments; telephone and email communication
January 4, 2005	B.A. Blackwell and Associates Ltd.	Bruce Blackwell	Telephone discussion regarding Wildfire Threat Rating System for the Valemount to Tete Jaune Corridor completed by his company
January 5, 2005	Valemount Elementary School	Principle Genny Redman and teaching staff	Overview of project and opportunities for teaching students FireSmart principles

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Date	Organization	Individuals	Comments
January 18, 2005	Valemount and Area Recreation Association	Meeting with executive	Overview of Project and request for input
Various	Valemount Springs Resort	Dave Wilkinson, Planning Consultant	Telephone Discussions and email correspondence
January 24, 2005	BC Timber Sales (BCTS)	Emile Begin, Practices Forester	Discussion regarding BCTS operations and strategies to reduce fire risks
January 24, 2005	McBride Forest Industries	Mikel Jackman, Planning Forester; and Craig Pryor, Silviculture Forester	Discussion regarding forest management strategies to reduce fire risks
January 25, 2005 / Various	BC Ministry of Forests Protection Branch / Union of BC Municipalities	Chris Duffy, Superintendent of Fuel Management; and Susan Clark, Executive Coordinator, Provincial Programs (Wildfire Planning Meeting)	Wildfire Threat Analysis mapping information and discussion of opportunities for pilot projects
Various	City of Kamloops	Dave Carlson, Approving Officer / Planning; and Ron Sharp, Park Operations Supervisor – Planning	City of Kamloops zoning, bylaws, assessments and development permit examples
Various	Environment Canada	Dick Boak, and Ross Klock, Climate Services;	Valemount weather information
February 14, 2005	Mayor and Council, Village of Valemount	Jeanette Townsend, Mayor; Councillors Les Dammann, Rita Tchir, Bobbie Roe and Joan Nordli, Doug Fleming, Chief Administrative Officer, Judy Bosh, Deputy Administrator	Review of Executive Summary and Draft Recommendations

**Appendix 7**  
**December 7, 2004 Public Meeting Minutes**

**Village of Valemount**  
**Wildfire Planning Community Meeting**

Date: December 7, 2004

Time: 7:00 pm

Place: Council Chambers

**Present:**

Mayor Townsend  
Councillor Dammann  
Councillor Roe (for a portion of the meeting)  
Councillor Nordli  
Councillor Tchir  
D.B. Fleming, Chief Administrative Officer  
Judy Bosh, Deputy Administrator (for a portion of the meeting)  
Consultant Rick Publicover  
General Public - 24

**1. Call to order**

Rick Publicover called the meeting to order at 7:05 pm

**2. Fire Management Planning**

Mr. Publicover overviewed the Village's Wildfire Planning project, through the delivery of a power point presentation (copy on file)

Mr. Publicover reviewed; The Study Area involved

Reasons for wildfire planning

Identification of Fire risks

~~Overview of plan contents (including  
development of an action plan)~~

Mr. Publicover went on to outline some basic wildfire preparedness actions and requested input with regard to impacts perceived from forest fire. Members of the general audience provided several different impact scenarios in relation to wildfire.

Mr. Publicover advised that preplanning will help to reduce the risk of loss to life, personal property, economic and social well being.

At this time Mr. Publicover requested input from those present in identifying sources of ignition of wildfire, and undertook an exercise to identify fire risks.

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## Residents identify strategies to reduce wildfire risk

By Rashmi Narayan

Twenty six members of the public came to the Wildfire Management planning meeting last Tuesday to seek input on risks and provide information to owners for protecting their properties.

Coordinator Rick Publicover based the meeting at the Valemount village office. The village got a grant from the Ministry of Forests to develop a plan to reduce wildfire risks in the area.

The plan extends from the base of Caribou Mountain to Tete Jaune.

The meeting was held to identify fire risks around the community as well as strategies to overcome those risks.

Publicover had maps to show the risks for the region and what is the different values at risk.

Publicover is in discussions with various government agencies to incorporate all the information into the plan.

The public came up with a list of how wildfires could affect the area. Input ranged from parks, loss of life and property, timber loss, loss of work or seasonal impact.

Sources of ignition were identified. These included lightning, human causes like cigarettes, land clearing, logging equipment, fires to a prescribed burn in the summer going out of control.

The risks were then identified. The pine trees, forest fuels - slash and needles, firewood located next to homes, weeds, open areas, construction materials were some of the general risks people mentioned. Specific risks that were brought up included the swamp, fallen trees on Main Street and at South Creek, Old dump, stands of trees on 17<sup>th</sup> Ave, and timber around town.

Then the zone was opened for strategies to remedy some of the problems.

Les Dannemann suggested getting rid of mature pine trees, infected with mistletoe.

Judy Holman asked if council could help if people can't afford to remove dead trees.

Mayor Jeannette Townsend suggested that it could be an entrepreneurial venture. She said Casfire could buy toxic trees and village trucks might be able to help with branch removal.

Fire Protection Officer Bob Gony suggested that individual property owners could thin out trees on their property.

Another suggestion was to plant other species around town that are not as much a fire hazard as pine.

Publicover said that firebreaks have been created in many communities but they also need to be maintained.

Dennis Nordl pointed to natural firebreaks like the road going up to two mile and the McLennan Forest Service road. The swamp,

the old highway and highway 3 are other fire breaks.

Publicover said that people living outside town especially on slopes need to have strategies to reduce the wildfire risk.

"We've got to be cautious," responded Townsend. "I hate to say outsiders. Sometimes we have to take a drastic measure even if it's not popular."

Andre McCracken asked if there would be any logging to create fire breaks. Publicover said that the Defined Forest Area Management plan was targeting 70 - 80% of the pine to get rid of the mountain pine beetle. He also pointed out that a lot of property was private.

Other suggestions included looking into a low voltage radio broadcast system for communication since most cars had radios.

Gary Poutanen suggested that the airport could also be a monitoring point.

After the meeting, Publicover said that he was happy at the turnout and heard a few new ideas.

Publicover hopes to drive around the village with

fire chief Rick Lalande, Building Inspector Al Smith and public works superintendent Murray Capstick to identify specific risks.

One of the central ideas of his plan is public awareness. Publicover is looking to introduce FireSmart measures in the elementary school.

Publicover would like to see something along the lines of a Black Parent program to champion FireSmart in the community. "It will only be successful if everyone buys in," he said.

The timeline for the Wildfire Management plan looks at completing risk mapping by December 31, community consultation by January 15, public review by January 21 and a final report to council by January 21, 2005. The tight timeline is so that some of the strategies can be implemented before next fire season.

Publicover does not expect that his report would be one that will sit on the shelf. "I want strategies that will be realistic and implementable," he said.

**Appendix 7  
February 21, 2005 Public Meeting Minutes**

**Village of Valemount  
Wild Fire Risk Analysis and Protection/Prevention Planning Meeting**

**PUBLIC MEETING**

**Date:** February 21, 2005

**Time:** 7:00pm

**Place:** Council Chambers

**Those Present:**

Councillor Dammann	Clarence Baggett, C Bagget Logging
Councillor Roe	Dennis Goddard
D.B. Fleming, Chief Administrative Officer	Milly Goddard
Rick Publicover, Consultant	Judy Holmin
Rick Lalonde, Fire Chief	Gary Basaraba
Bob Gray, Ministry of Forest Protection Branch	Donovan Gee, Valemount Fire Dept.
Brian Bobke	Claudia Pajunen
Dennis Nordli	Curtis Pajunen
Mike Franklin, Sentinel	Rashmi Narayan, Robson Valley Times

**1. Call to Order**

Rick Publicover called the meeting to order at 7:08 pm and began the presentation with a video relating to Wildfire Hazards and Prevention Strategies.

Mr. Publicover provided an overview of the Community Wildfire Planning project and addressed issues of:

- strategic (existing) fire breaks;
- fire history within the valley;
- fire hazard areas relative to Valemount

He referred to a provincial disaster guide entitle "Three Minutes to Emergency Evacuation, Are You Ready?"

Mr. Publicover noted that the conditions in the forest have been allowed to build up over the last 75 years, and that remediation of fire hazards would not be completed overnight, but would be a longer term process. He noted that through previous fire prevention practices mankind has in fact allowed the forest to become a greater fuel source and fire hazard and that a long term approach to resolving these issues was needed.

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**February 21, 2005 Public Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Publicover reviewed Regional District activities and recommendations for further fire protection planning. He also outlined the role of the Provincial Emergency Program and Provincial Government with regard to fire prevention planning in the area.

Mr. Publicover gave an overview of the status of mapping for the Fire Protection planning study. He noted that eventually it is hoped that the provincial government will have a web site up and running which allow property owners access to a web site to determine fire hazard on their own individual properties. Maps being prepared for this planning report will include reference to fire probability, slope class and fire risk/hazards.

There were general discussions and questions regarding the fire planning project, it was noted that the most important part of the planning process would be the planning implementation stage, and in this regard the importance of forming an Interface Committee was reviewed.

At this time Mr. Publicover thanked the members for attending the meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 pm

Recorded by D.B. Fleming, Chief Administrative Officer

## Valemount's wildfire protection strategy moves forward

BY MIKE FRANKLIN  
Rick Publicover, Valemount's wildlife protection consultant, held a meeting on Monday night to discuss possible ways in which the village could protect itself. He cited methods that Jasper Park and Barriere are using to protect themselves and said that Valemount could adopt some parts of each plan. "We are a wild-land urban interface—we have forest coming right up to the edge of the town both from the north and the south," Publicover said.

There are a number of key fire risks to Valemount:

- the accumulated grass in Cranberry Marsh
- strong southern winds that come through the Valemount-Tete Jaune Corridor
- extensive populations of lodge pole pine throughout the valley
- forest health issues like mountain pine beetle and mistletoe
- woodpiles on private land that are stack close to the houses
- lack of weed and grass control along transportation routes
- dry wood left from previous harvesting at Main Street and Swift Creek Road
- debris around the old dumpsite
- open campfires on private property
- combustible construction material used for homes and buildings
- access issues regarding fire suppression and

evacuation

- increased recreational use of forests by tourists
  - trees falling on hydro lines
  - sparks from chimneys
  - timbered areas along 17th Avenue and other areas around the village
- "Look at the trees throughout [the village]. That's why we live here. We enjoy trees throughout—those are also 'wicks' for spotting fires through the community," he said.

Publicover said that there are a number of ideas the village could implement in order to defend against wildfires. "A wildland urban fire can either start in the forest and moves into a populated area or it could be somebody barbecuing in the backyard and it goes the other way."

Some of the ideas he suggested included establishing a program to assist in removing trees from private property whose residents don't have access to equipment or financial resources. Develop, maintain, and strengthen firebreaks around the community, and provide public information, education and awareness programs for the general public. "[We have to determine] what kinds of ignition sources do we have out there and how do we minimize the risk of having a fire," Publicover said.

Valemount is using a good amount of input from other jurisdictions

for wildfire prevention strategies including Jasper, who has been working at plans for over five years. "They have to deal with international standards in terms of the types of things they do.... They've spent about \$750,000 to date in terms of the projects they've done so far and they're selling the timber and they've got about an 80% cost recovery on that," Publicover said.

Publicover also identified a number of demonstration projects that the village could undertake in order to promote the FireSmart program. Examples of such areas are private properties on Dogwood and 13th, the south side of 9th Ave. around Highway 5, and south of 14th Ave. between Ash and Dogwood. Publicover also suggested that the Valemount high school and the Ministry of Forest Protection staff should work together and provide demonstration projects as part of the curriculum for grade ten and eleven students. This way, the students would be educated in fire risks associated with ladder fuels and the value of spacing trees.

Publicover stressed the importance of public information at Monday's meeting. "[It should be a] working as a neighbourhood approach—you may have fire safe home, but your neighbour may not."