

**ESSA Advisory Forum Conference Call**  
**Tuesday, August 25, 2009**  
**1900 hrs**

**Participants:** Carolyn Sinclair, Laurel Exner, Ruth Manning, Luana Kaleikini, Jeff Norburn, Elaine Balul, Audrey MacDonald, Janine Aussem  
**Regrets:** Deanna Selver and Joyce McLeod

**Housekeeping notes:**

- Janine informed the group that Joyce McLeod has resigned from the Advisory Forum due to personal reasons. She wishes everyone well and expressed her pleasure in meeting and working with such a great group of people.
- Janine has tried contacting Rita Meerdink-McBride, but so far no response. Janine will try telephoning her and if that is not successful, we will assume Rita no longer wishes to participate on the Advisory Forum.

**Review & Follow up on Action Items from May meeting**

**Toolkit:** Carolyn has gathered toolkit information and resources, if members link to their website take a look at the toolkit there and send comments/suggestions to Carolyn regarding the creation of an ESS toolkit. Password and related details to be sent separately. Provide feedback to Carolyn. Janine and Carolyn to meet and review during the first two weeks of September.

**Letter to ESSD's re: Exercise Design sharing:** Janine to draft letter this week to essd's re: posting of exercises on website. Laurel to provide feedback. Janine and Laurel to connect with Laurie Bean about utilizing the new ESSD list to distribute the letter.

**Summer ESS Response Discussion/Lessons Learned**

- The Peachland event began at 9:00pm with no power and no lights, however after a number of hours they located a working generator and worked until 1:00am with two lights strung on a post for light.
- Issues with lack of familiarity with form
- Inexperienced/convergent volunteers were appreciated but caused some issues, uncertainty of the role of MST & some troubling reactions to MST volunteers
- Surprised at the turnover of volunteers in some communities
- There are some issues around accepting help from outside
- Concern that local/regional experienced/trained volunteers from neighbouring communities were not utilized to assist with response, frustration that walk-in volunteers would be utilized or MST volunteers rather than neighbouring ESS Volunteers who would appreciate the experience/training
- Debriefs did not always include MST volunteers
- FNESS issues – band members told they would be accommodated and put up in a hotel-not the case.
- Good job having disaster psychosocial response in Kamloops and Vernon

- Some concerns were raised which indicated at some locations there was a limited management structure in place, which caused some uncertainty.
- Progress made in establishing a program agreement between the Cariboo Regional District and the City of Quesnel for ESS services including funds.

### **Where do we go from here regarding concerns with this summer's fire season?**

Review deployment protocols and create a plan to inform and educate the province's ESS Directors and others on the protocols. Develop the information so ESSD's can make it happen themselves.

### **Miscellaneous:**

Issue: Trainers are no longer to attend activations as it is no longer offered by the JIBC since PEP withdrew funding to the JIBC for training.

Possible Solutions: Can ESSA create a reserve fund to deploy JIBC instructors to activations?

Alternative: The toolkit could create all sorts of documentation and lists of volunteer resources & trainers, increase regionalization coordination. Regional Leadership, resource directory and more Educate – utilize the newsletter, website, toolkit, conference to share more information

### **ESS Training**

Janine noted that funds from PEP for the Red Cross, Salvation Army and child Disaster Care training have not been produced yet. If this continues to be the case, ESSA, PEP and others will need to make some changes to ensure the training provided by those organizations is continued.

### **Possible Advisory Forum contribution to ESSA Conference 2010 in Kelowna**

The Advisory Forum will facilitate a presentation, including small group discussions and handouts, to focus on issues brought to light this summer. Advisory Forum to begin discussions on a presentation by the Advisory Forum at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual ESSA conference in Kelowna on May 29, 2010.

### **ESSA Website**

Please forward any contributions to Janine

### **Other Business**

- **Newsletter article: Janine to initiate the inclusion of bios for all Advisory Forum members to be included in the next newsletter.**

### **Next Conference Call: Tuesday, September 22 2009 @ 1900hrs**

\* Please let Janine know if you would prefer our next in person meeting to be on Monday, November 23 or Friday, November 27. It is currently booked for November 27, but if there are many of you who would like it on the 23<sup>rd</sup>, Janine will check with Deanna to see if there is a room available at Richmond City Hall.