

To: Chair Wagner and Board

From: Joan Sorley

Subject: Meeting with Red Cross

At the request of our Chair, I met, together with Manager of Protective Services Stephanie Masun, with Red Cross on June 1. Present from Red Cross were Kimberley Nemrava, VP, BC & Yukon, Jon Jackson, Operations Manager, BC Wildfire Recovery, and Becky Row, Manager, Northern and Indigenous Engagement, BC & Yukon.

The meeting was initiated by Red Cross, to update us on the status of their grant programs, and to learn about our needs as we continue to recover from the wildfires.

- The Business/Not for Profit grant program finished at the end of May
- There are funds available for people who are still suffering financially from the effects of the fires.
- Red Cross is collaborating with other NGOs on mental health/ wellness programs. They have issued a Safety and Wellbeing pamphlet, and launched the Talk in Tough Times online support.
- Partnership Grants are still available.

We talked about the very successful Fire Expo put on by the City of Williams Lake, and the feasibility of holding similar events in rural communities. I suggested instead, that we put together a rural community calendar, and that Red Cross set up booths at events which are already scheduled. I subsequently sent a list of events (attached) of which I am aware, and suggest, if the Board agrees, that other Directors do the same. I apologize if anyone thinks I overstepped, but I included events in areas other than F. Kimberly has since let me know that they planned to set up a table at Wells 20th Anniversary.

Finally, I made a pitch for FireSmart funding for private individuals and community preparedness. We have many citizens who need and want to FireSmart their properties, but don't have the resources or physical capability to do so. The same applies to rural communities who want to put preparedness plans in place. Empowering people to be better prepared for future events will go a long way towards recovery.

We concluded with Stephanie and I thanking the Red Cross for their work, and they recognized the leadership of our Staff and Board through the events of the summer and continuing. It was a productive meeting, and I thank our Chair for the opportunity.

Respectfully submitted,

Joan Sorley

Director, Area F

2018 Rural Community Calendar

Horsefly

- Arts on the Fly – July 13, 14
- Horsefly Fall Fair – August 25
- Horsefly Salmon Festival – September 15, 16
- HVFD Father's Day Breakfast and Garage Sale

Likely

- Victoria Day Parade – Saturday of the May long weekend
- Likely Show & Shine – July 8
- Unlikely Paddlefest - third weekend in September

Miocene

- Father's Day Breakfast and Auction

Big Lake

- Big Lake Fish Derby – first weekend in June
- PAC auction – last Sunday in November or first Sunday in December

McLeese Lake

- Fort Mac Angels Thank you party – July 1 – hosted by MLVFD
- Farmers Market – Sundays through summer

Wells

- 20th Anniversary – June 8, 9, 10
- Arts Wells – August long weekend