



OMINECA BEETLE ACTION COALITION (OBAC)

News Release

OBAC Interim Executive Have First Meeting Since Funding Announced

October 7, 2005

For Immediate Release

Vanderhoof – The OBAC Interim Executive had their first meeting yesterday since the Forest Minister, Rich Coleman and MLA John Rustad announced the Province's first installment of \$800,000 on September 16, 2005.

"We have a lot of work ahead of us, and this first meeting was to set out the next steps and priorities over the next three or four months", said Interim OBAC Chair Len Fox. "We need to work with the communities and the 2 Regional Districts through a process to formally establish OBAC as a society with a Board of Directors and an Advisory Committee", he said.

One of the timing factors that OBAC will need to deal with are the municipal elections in November, so it will design its schedule of meetings and formal establishment process to take that into account. Until that happens, the OBAC will continue to operate through its interim executive. Formal establishment is expected some time in this winter.

Joining Mayor Fox in this Interim Executive Committee, are Mayors Colin Kinsley, Jim Togyi, James Davidson, Bernice Magee, Sharon Smith, and Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako Chair, Rosanne Murray. Three additional seats are held by non-elected people: Brian Fuhr with a land use background; Keith Playfair with an industry background, and; Glenda Ferris with an environmental background.

"The McGregor Model Forest has been providing support to the OBAC executive committee to build the proposal and get up and running, but now that we have secured funding, we will be hiring a full-time interim manager for OBAC", said Prince George Mayor Colin Kinsley.

The executive committee is currently compiling names of potential candidates and OBAC is looking for experienced people with excellent organizational skills. The position will be an "Interim Manager" under contract for about a four to five month period until the OBAC becomes formally established and is in the position of hiring a full-time manager. "This Interim Manager will work for the executive committee to formalize the OBAC structure including the preparation of policies and procedures. If anyone is interested in more information about the position and putting their name forward for consideration, they are asked to contact the McGregor Model Forest at (250) 612-5840", said Len Fox.

"Yesterday's meeting also provided an opportunity to establish executive direction for certain interim policies, a schedule for key priorities, decisions on a couple of initial projects and good discussion about the various roles that OBAC will play over the years ahead", said Rosanne Murray, Interim Vice-Chair of OBAC.

Another key priority of OBAC, working towards formalizing its structure, will be to invite key stakeholders to a round-table meeting sometime in January. "This meeting will be key to engaging with other community leaders and stakeholders that can contribute in a meaningful way to supporting OBAC's work", said Mayor Len Fox.

For more information contact:

Mayor Len Fox, Vanderhoof
Interim Chair, Omineca Beetle Action Coalition
Phone: (250) 567-2111
Email: lenfox@avison.bc.ca