

Peachland Hwy 97 Task Force Society
Annual General Meeting
Thursday June 12, 2014 at the Peachland Community Centre
Quorum – 10 or 2/3 of membership whichever is less

Present:

Gus Richardson, Chair of AGM	Bruce Letendre, President
Bob Wells	Arne Roosen
Gordon Pope	Ted & Donna Cave
Marilyn & Jim Dodd	John & Gail Abernethy
Ken Kline	Peter Warner
Keith & Olive Fielding	Terry Condon
Dick Knorr/Dan Ashton	Jim & Julie Cole
David Matthew	Chris Reniers
Joe & Diana Murray	Sheila Price
Beverly Anderson	Wolfgang Muhs
Mark Tissing	Ron & Marg Iverson
Bill Goring	Brian McMorran
Carol Brown	Loraine MacKenzie
Gary Wilson	Peter Behnke
Ken Janes	Richard Vinnell
Pat & Robert Grieve	C. Goheen
Paul de Leeuan	

Regrets:

Bert Put, Terry Tanner, Mavis Richardson, Shirley Mae & Jim Jeffrey,
Midge Behnke, Dan & Gwyneth Neil

1. CALL TO ORDER

Having a quorum, the meeting was called to order by G. Richardson at 7:15 pm.
Mayor Keith Fielding, Counsellor Terry Condon, and Dick Knorr on behalf of
MLA Dan Ashton were welcomed.

2. Approval of Agenda

MOTION – M/S (M. Dodd/P. Behnke)

THAT the agenda be approved as circulated.

Carried

3. INTRODUCTION OF CURRENT BOARD

Bruce Letendre introduced the current Board: John Abernethy, Ken Janes, Burt Put, Ken Klein, Marilyn Dodd, Gordon Pope, Arne Roosen, Terry Tanner, Ted Cave, Peter Warner, Bob Wells, and Gus Richardson.

4. MINUTES OF LAST AGM

MOTION – M/S (J. Abernethy/D. Matthew)

THAT the Minutes be approved as circulated.

Carried

5. President's Report – B. Letendre

Good Evening Ladies and Gentlemen,

I am pleased to see such a good turn-out for this AGM.

Let me introduce some honored guests we have with us tonight.

Peachland Mayor Keith Fielding, West Kelowna Mayor Doug Findlater said he would be late, MP Dan Albas is on his way back from Ottawa. As a special benefit for Dan Albas' constituency residents, Dan also has been appointed as Parliamentary Secretary to President of the federal Treasury Board Minister Tony Clement. That is important to us here hoping for a By-Pass because federal money will also have to be relegated to our BC Province to complete our project, and it is nice to have our MP so close to the Federal Treasury in Ottawa. Next is Mr. Dick Knorr, Executive Assistant to our local MLA Dan Ashton who couldn't make our meeting tonight. Also another positive for constituency residents in that Dan Aston is also a member of the BC Treasury Board, another MLA close to the BC bank for by-pass money. Next is Mr. Wolfgang Muhs, a business consultant representing the Peachland Chamber of Commerce. And next Peachland Alderman with our Peachland Council. Mr. Terry Condon.

At last years AGM I mentioned I was going to volunteer to work on Christy Clark's campaign. Well I did, and it paid off handsomely as I got invited to four cocktail parties in West Kelowna. Those receptions yielded a treasure of leads for me as I got to meet all of the Government Cabinet Ministers, especially the ones I wanted to meet. Former Ministers of Transportation Shirley Bond and Mary Polak, and now Minister Todd Stone out of Kamloops. It opened the door for me to be able to contact any of them one-on-one for any future questions. Also meeting Norm Letnick and Steve Thompson other Valley MLA's.

Also at our 2013 AGM I made this comment, which is really the focus of our Hwy 97 Taskforce, "Highway 97 through Peachland is not just a ribbon of asphalt connecting Penticton and Kelowna,...it is the LIFELINE for all Peachland residents who rely daily on the highway to get to airports, bus depots, hospitals, clinic's Laboratories, shopping malls, and servicing and entertainment functions,"

We held 16 Board meetings last year having doubled up in some months for better Director development and training.

We also were able to make arrangements to rent part of this banquet room for our meetings.

We had a good year.

John Abernathy became the Chairman of the joint Peachland Council and Hwy 97 Taskforce Society Committee, which created a direct connection to the Peachland

Council for smooth interaction. They also held monthly meetings for exchange of ideas with Council.

Ted Cave with good wife Donna and another volunteer neighbor designed and single-handed built the Parade Float for the Canada Day Parade. That amazing craft won the Taskforce a Blue Ribbon.

Bert Put, our Peachland retired Environmental Professional Engineer, presently on a Rhine River cruise in Germany, structured a 40 volunteer team of Peachlanders and conducted a Traffic Count Survey to determine the increasing amount of traffic now using Hwy 97 through Peachland.. With teams of two positioned at three locations from Drought Hill to Antlers Beach Regional Park from 7 am to 7 pm, a twelve hour count determined that 22,000 vehicles passed thru Peachland everyday, not counting any nighttime traffic, We learned some M.O.T.I officials were surprised at the ten percent increase in traffic from a last count.

We also had been diligent in researching the experiences of communities where by-passes had already been constructed. We wanted to find out about these issues: where would a by-pass be built? What did the residents feel about a by-pass? What their business communities felt about any by-pass? Were there strong objections from either residents or local Chambers of Commerce? After any by-pass was built what was the town's reactions? And lastly what were the social impacts, if any, voiced by residents.

Starting with the Vancouver Island Highway by-passing Chemainus and Parksville and others, the Winfield by-pass on Hwy 97 north, the Calgary/Edmonton 110 k per hour speedway by-passing eleven towns including the 60,000 populated city of Red Deer, Alberta, the by-pass by Bend, Oregon, the unsuccessful by-pass attempt through San Bernardino, California, and the Interstate 10 speedway by-passing Palm Springs, California. where I was a snowbird for 15 years.

Our Board member Bob Wells, while visiting family in the Maritimes came across another treasure of research material completed by several American Consulting Groups of their researches of by-passes in the States of Texas, Kansas, Iowa, and Maine. Oklahoma, California, Florida and in the Maritimes.

The amazing thing we learned from all of their research studies that were ever made by all of these expensive consulting assignments revealed two simple statements!

- 1...There was short term pain, soon over-ridden by long term gain, and
- 2...All the by-passed communities flourished more so than before, and the residents immensely liked to be back in control of their own town, without excess road noise, air pollution and traffic congestion on local streets...

In closing we inform you that in an effort to keep our Hwy 97 Taskforce name on the minds of all residents, we have made a request to the local Peachland View weekly to permit us to have our message on the front cover of our annual telephone book.

We hope we will be successful.

6. History of Bypass Endeavours – M. Dodd (see attached document)

7. Treasurer’s Report

T. Cave provided a brief financial report.
Hwy 97 Task Force Treasurers report Year ending May 31 2014

	<u>May 31 2014</u>	<u>May31 2013</u>
Bank Chequing	491.47	43.49
Shares	28.14	27.32
Cash	100.00	90.54
Total	\$619.61	\$161.35

Income – Memberships and Donations 968.95

Expenses - AGM	94.50
Canada Day Float	100.00
Society Reg.	42.28
Meeting Rm	94.70
Website	179.21
Total	\$510.69

Operating Surplus **\$458.26**

Questions:

- Are we still doing 3 year memberships then renewals? *Yes we have not been actively soliciting renewals as everything has been quiet. When there is more activity we will “refresh” the membership but if you wish to make a donation please do so.*

Motion – M/S (A. Roosen/B. Wells)

THAT the Treasurer’s report be accepted as presented. Carried

8. Report of Committee of Council

J. Abernethy invited Mayor Keith Fielding to speak. He explained that this committee was formed by B. Sugden (former president of Hwy 97 Task Force Society) and himself in response to concerns regarding liability and insurance. The Society was going to dissolve but after further considerations decided to

continue as a Society. There is strong support from the current Minister of Transportation Todd Stone. There is a study currently underway examining the highway's impact on local businesses, land values, community health, outdoor recreation emergency access etc.

J. Abernethy stated that "This is the year of Hope and Progress. Hwy 97 has served for 50 years and now it is time for it to go somewhere else."

There have been numerous meetings with officials with little progress up to now. The Committee of Council has met with Mayor Findlater (West Kelowna) and he has expressed interest in working with us.

Question:

- Is this study being done by a third party? *Yes Davis Consulting...*
- What is the timeline of this study? *The study is to be completed by Oct. 31, 2014.*
- Can we have the "terms of reference"? *Yes they are public documents.*

9. Membership and Systems Report – Peter Warner

Our membership, excluding new members joining tonight, is at 641, an all time high. It is up by roughly 175 since the new board re-activated the Society several years ago.

Our member contact info is set up on our Hotmail account, but many email addresses are missing or out of date, some work is needed there.

We are discussing the best time and methods to conduct a membership drive. Possibly on the announcement of the Economic Impact Assessment coming out soon

Each director is encouraged to sell memberships in their daily travels and among friends, neighbours and family.

I have membership forms with me here. If you have run out of supply.

Ean Price our capable web page technician volunteer revamped our web site earlier in the year, and it is now up and running. Many thanks to Ean for his fine work.

Increasing membership numbers is critical to our mission, and high numbers translate into political clout. And demonstrate community support.

Points to consider:

- We were not aware of the web site. It needs more promotion.
- Are West Kelowna residents interested in joining our group?
- Many people are still not aware of this taskforce.
- We should consider another membership drive before the results of the "study" are known.

10. Constitutional Amendments

The constitution which governs the affairs of this society currently caps the number of members of the Board of Directors at 15. Given the fact that a high percentage of those who give of their time to the society are “snow birds” it is sometimes difficult to achieve adequate numbers of members attending meetings in the months between October and April.

One of the ways in which your current Board seeks to address this problem is by increasing the cap for Members of the Board of Directors to 20. Therefore:

MOTION: Be it resolved that the maximum number of members of the Board of Directors of the Highway97 Task Force Society be increased to 20 individuals.

M/S K. Klein/C. Brown

Carried

MOTION: Be it resolved that the number of members needed to be present to establish a quorum at a meeting of the Board of Directors be set at 5.

M/S M. Dodd/R. Grieve

Carried

11. Election of Officers

The slate of Officers recommended by the Board was read as follows:

John Abernethy, Ken Janes, Burt Put, Ken Klein, Marilyn Dodd, Gordon Pope, Arne Roosen, Terry Tanner, Bruce Letendre, Ted Cave, Peter Warner, Bob Wells. Gus Richardson

Nominations from the floor: Loraine MacKenzie, Wolfgang Muhs, Chris Reniers

Having no further nominations, nominations were closed and acclaimed.

12. OTHER BUSINESS

- T. Cave requested assistance with the parade float.
- B. Letendre explained that the officers unable to attend meetings keep up to date via email.
- A request was made from the floor if it was possible to publish M. Dodd’s report in the Peachland paper.
- It was explained that the proposed “route” of the bypass as seen on the web site is for demonstration purposes only. It was used to demonstrate to the MOTI that a bypass is feasible.

13. Adjournment

Having no other business the meeting was adjourned at 8:50 pm.

Chair – Gus Richardson

Recording Secretary – Donna Cave

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