

CRD HERITAGE STEERING COMMITTEE

November 18, 2025

Members Present: Committee Chair John Massier (CRD Director Area C), Committee Vice-Chair Betty Anderson (CRD Director Area K), George Atamanenko, Greg Atherton, Marilyn Buyar, Elizabeth Hunter - via Teams & joined late, Brent Rutherford, Rocky Nenka (Regional Indigenous Tourism Specialist) – via Teams

CRD Staff: Nigel Whitehead (Manager of Planning Services; Committee Staff Liaison), Kathie Vilkas (Regional Economic Development Officer); Stephanie Masun (Manager of Intergovernmental Relations)

Regrets: None!

1. Meeting called to order: 10:06 AM by J. Massier, Chair acknowledged the meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Secwepemc people.
2. Adoption of agenda: Moved: B. Anderson; Seconded: B. Rutherford; Carried
3. Approval of meeting minutes from September 16, 2025. Moved: G. Atamanenko; Seconded: B. Rutherford; Carried.
4. Regional Heritage Network Planning – Recap & Next Steps
 - a. E. Hunter provided a verbal summary of the meeting held on October 30, 2025. Minutes are ready to be distributed. She is planning to invite the Emergency Conservation Network for the spring meeting for a presentation and/or workshop. She has finalized financials for the meetings and \$400 remains from the original Heritage BC grant. Approximate meeting costs are \$1,200 - \$1,500 per meeting. She will plan for a Spring date in late March or April.
 - b. J. Massier confirmed the CRD committee will continue to support Heritage Network meetings.
 - c. Reminder to submit heritage event materials to K. Vilkas will be sent out.
 - d. B. Rutherford and Committee thanked E. Hunter for her efforts on this group and related support work.
 - e. J. Massier discussed Friends of Barkerville membership was reinvigorated by attending the Heritage Network meeting.
5. Heritage Tour – Spring 2026
 - a. N. Whitehead provided an update on heritage tour planning. Capacity was not available to plan a Fall 2025 tour. Will continue with the idea of a SXFN tour. Will discuss with Kukpi7 Adams when possible.
6. Discussion – 2026 Priorities
 - a. Committee extensively discussed the importance of continued First Nation relationship building. Noted the current enthusiasm with Indigenous tourism sector. Committee is looking for more educational resources about Indigenous peoples and territories within the CRD. CRD staff will provide some online resources to the committee and look into cultural training options.
 - b. Committee agreed to continue moving forward with at least one SoS per year.
 - c. Committee discussed future work for the Heritage Driving Guide. 2026 will include the pilot Heritage Events Calendar. Committee will work on developing content updates for 2027 version.
 - d. N. Whitehead discussed need to continue membership drive. Based on current committee membership, a focus will be on central Cariboo recruits.
7. Action Tracking Update

- a. J. Massier proposed updating his first task to an ongoing task of discussing the heritage committee with local Indigenous leaders as the opportunities arise.
- b. Six Mile Corner Roadhouse. E. Hunter and M. Buyar visited the site to get some physical details of structure. They are making a plan for next steps. Agreed that there is a physical structure & elements that can be developed into an SoS.
- c. Alice Stapleton House. Willowford school move to the Lone Butte site is complete. Hope to combine the SoS research with the Willowford school. Lone Butte historical society should be prepared to support following completion of Willowford school placement and roof.

8. Roundtable

- a. J. Massier attended Friends of Barkerville social event. Good mix of membership with continued enthusiasm.
- b. G. Atamanenko, re: 150 Court house demolition. Reviewed history of structure & move to current location and lack of access. Has been working with D. Campbell at CRD trying to resolve access. Oliver at OT Timber Frames is willing to demo, but need to sort out timing and access issue with the neighbour(s). Has spoken with 150 Fire Department regarding burning demo, not an option.
- c. B. Rutherford is very thankful & encouraged by the most recent Heritage Tourism Network meeting.
- d. M. Buyar – Lac La Hache Historical Society AGM next Sunday; received grant from CRD for information boards at Felker House, hopeful for completion in June.
- e. G. Atherton is working to research historical sites on Hwy 24 for the Heritage Driving brochure update; discussed Soda Creek townsite & HBC Trails.
- f. N. Whitehead attended the Association of Regional District Planning Managers conference; visited Victoria Land Title Office, which contains many interesting historical documents.
- g. R. Nenka, provided an update on his work with Indigenous Tourism BC. He has been very busy with many on-road meetings throughout the region and has engaged with estimated 500 people. He discussed a community desire for a Northern Cariboo Indigenous Culture Centre.
- h. E. Hunter is beginning preliminary preparations for the City of Quesnel 100th Anniversary in 2028. She will be working with Quesnel Rodeo Committee for a 2026 oral history project, and is preparing for a Christmas event at the Museum on Dec 5th & 6th.
- i. B. Anderson agreed with importance of Soda Creek townsite.
- j. K. Vilkas has received all of Barkerville's activities for the 2026 Heritage Events Calendar. She will send a reminder email to the Heritage Tourism Network for calendar submissions.
- k. S. Masun will look at training opportunities for the committee.

9. Next Meeting – January 13, 2026 – 10:00 AM

10. Adjournment: 11:43 AM

Action Tracking		
Member	Meeting	Action
J. Massier	Jun 20/23	Contact Chief Sellars re: Committee representation
J. Massier	Ongoing	Engage with local Indigenous leaders regarding heritage committee as opportunities arise.
N. Whitehead	Jun 20/23	Contact Xat'sull First Nation and Sugarcane Archeology re: Committee presentation
N. Whitehead	April 8/25	Operating Surplus Workshop TBC

E. Hunter & M. Buyar	Feb 25/25	Six Mile Corner Roadhouse SoS drafting and photos of character defining elements.
M. Buyar & B. Rutherford	April 8/25	Alice Stapleton House SoS research and drafting