

CRD HERITAGE STEERING COMMITTEE

September 16, 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, Brent Rutherford

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

Regrets: Rocky Nenka (Regional Indigenous Tourism Specialist)

1. Meeting called to order: 10:10 AM by J. Massier, Chair acknowledged the meeting is being held on the traditional lands of the Secwepemc people.
2. Adoption of agenda: Moved: G. Atamanenko; Seconded: G. Atherton; Carried
3. Approval of meeting minutes from June 17, 2025. Moved: B. Rutherford; Seconded: M. Buyar; Carried.
4. Big Lake SoS
 - a. N. Whitehead advised he accidentally did not submit the final form to the Heritage Branch will send information once received.
5. Regional Heritage Network Planning
 - a. E. Hunter submitted a final funding report for the Heritage Tourism Network expenses. Planning an event in October 2025, still have \$2,500 to spend
 - b. K. Vilkas advised the Heritage Brochure Calendar project is a go, she will get the calendar completed and forward to E. Hunter for inclusion on the Explore Cariboo website.
 - c. Committee discussed what events to include in the calendar.
 - d. E. Hunter asked for suggestion for a topic; ask Rocky as involved in Indigenous culture tourism
 - e. J. Massier suggested Barkerville, will speak to some managers and try to set them on board
 - f. J. Massier provided an updated on the Barkerville Red Roof sign project
 - g. E. Hunter advised tentative dates will then be October 29th or 30th
6. Annual Heritage Tour
 - a. N. Whitehead had a discussion with kukpi7 Hank Adams J. and will reach out in early October; back up tour possibly Quesnel Forks and Likely.
 - b. E. Hunter suggest to contact the Likely Museum
 - c. N. Whitehead will send out an email about potential date when he has more details
7. 2025 Business Plan Review and Discussion for 2026
 - a. N. Whitehead provided an overview of 2025 Business Plan goals completed to date.
 - b. J. Massier suggested to add the Red Roof project to the driving brochure
 - c. J. Massier asked where we are at with signage and /or plaques; N. Whitehead advised it is still being investigated
 - d. N. Whitehead discussed membership; B. Rutherford advised when committee was started the CRD directors where more involved; suggest we ask directors if they know of anyone who may be interested in membership; J. Massier will mention to the Directors and will add to Directors Roundtable putting out the call.
8. Action Tracking Update
 - a. Committee reviewed and updated action tracking table.

- b. Committee agreed to review list of potential heritage sites which do not need to wait on landowners' availability.

9. Roundtable

- a. B. Rutherford reported on his attendance on the annual Heritage BC Conference. The sessions were beyond his capacity as a volunteer committee member, but the tours and speakers were very valuable and impactful.
- b. C. Atherton wanted to know if ranching and forestry heritage is something the committee has investigated;
- c. N. Whitehead reported that Regional District of Bulkley Nechako are looking into designating their portion of the Telegraph Trail
- d. J. Masser advised he went to Barkerville several times throughout the summer and was advised their attendance numbers are up from last year; toured the areas burned in the 2024 fires, checking sites to see if anything was lost.
- e. G. Atamanenko advised there is a Black Press article on the Court House at 150 Mile House regarding the wood being reused;
- f. K. Vilkas provided an update on Heritage Driving Brochure distribution, the Heritage Tourism Calendar, and Heritage Plaques research.
- g. B. Anderson talked about the current fire situation and doesn't believe they are affecting any heritage sites; had a tour of the Alexis Creek nursing station; Ministry of Health needs to understand the historic significance and values of the old nursing station.
- h. E. Hunter asked to nominate the City of Quesnel for the heritage interpretation for the signage project

Motion: That the Heritage Steering Committee recommend the CRD Board of Directors to support the nomination of the City of Quesnel for a Heritage BC Award in the category of Education, Communications and Awareness for their project to install interpretive signs on the Riverfront Trail and archival photomurals in downtown Quesnel.

Moved: E. Hunter; Seconded: M. Buyar; Carried

- i. E. Hunter advised Quesnel Mayor Ron Paul removed the logbooks from the historical cabins in the Itcha Ilgachuz Provincial Park. The cabins were subsequently burned by wildfire. The books have been given to E. Hunter to digitize.
- j. M. Buyar discussed her attendance & sessions she attended at the BC Historical Federation conference. It was a very valuable conference.

10. Next Meeting – November 18, 2025 – 10:00 AM

11. Adjournment: 12:10 PM

Action Tracking		
Member	Meeting	Action
J. Massier	Jun 20/23	Contact Chief Sellars re: Committee representation
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
B. Rutherford	Feb 25/25	Research posthumous nomination for Robin Sharpe

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