

Kingsclear Local Service District
Advisory Committee (AC) Meeting Minutes



July 29, 2014 – 7:30pm
Kingsclear Forest Nursery Board Room, Island View

Present: Patsy Kitchen, Debby Peck, Diane Reid. **Regrets:** Wayne Lenehan
Invited Guests: MLA Brian Macdonald, (regrets, MLA Carl Urquhart)
Others in Attendance: Local Services Manager Ivan Corbett, UKFD Chief Murray E. Crouse, Murray Crouse Jr.

1. Call to Order by Debby Peck at 7:33 pm.
2. Approval of Agenda (Patsy, Diane).
3. Approval of the Minutes of June 24, 2014 as circulated (Patsy, Diane).

It was agreed by all to proceed to **Item 6a (Impact of Post-Tropical Storm Arthur)**. Each meeting attendee was asked to describe the length and impact of storm related power outages, the lack of communication, and damage from the storm upon them personally, and as members/affiliates of local government.

- Most lost power early from Saturday morning (05JUL) to—at minimum—Thursday evening; some, until the evening of Saturday evening (12JUL). Residential digital service (telephone, Internet, cable TV) was restored later. Those without generators had no access to 911 emergency services, little or no drinking water, no hook-ups for their medical equipment. They were unable to flush their toilets, had difficulty charging their cell phones, and received little instruction from the Emergency Measures Organization or designated others as to where to seek assistance.
- The elderly, those living alone, those with health challenges, families with small children, and those out-of-town were deemed especially vulnerable: no priority “map” exists (word-of-mouth only). Communication from NB Power and the mainstream media was sporadic, unclear, or non-existent.
- Dependent on the Internet and/or telephone, those with home-based businesses were unable to provide service. Rogers compensated one AC member for down time.
- Many are facing huge bills (as well as other problems) because of roof damage, downed trees, skewered septic fields, and loss of perishable food. Insurance doesn’t cover everything.

- A few on old BellAliant wiring were said to have maintained land line connections, whereas digital communication lasted only as long as the service provider's battery back-up.
- Drinking water was available at the Upper Kingsclear Fire Department (UKFD), but not for a couple of days after the storm because the facility was on backup power only.
- Relying on Fredericton for bottled water/showers was viewed as inappropriate: emergency services are the responsibility of the region that receives our tax dollars.
- Initiation of the RSC service model has resulted in many challenges, notably a lack of formal emergency plans for LSDs. Comprehensive plans must not rely on social media, websites, or telephone service.
- Murray Crouse Jr., a Canada Post employee, advised that public notices cannot be posted on district mailboxes so notices about emergency planning meetings would not be allowed there. Lost cat notices, he said, are tolerated, but not for long.
- The UKFD, centrally located in the LSD, was felt to be a good place to post emergency related information. The facility had radio service and access to a few generators day of the storm, but *ad hoc* distribution of the generators (according to perceived or voiced demand) was the norm. The existence of the generators, and the receipt of potable water from the Local Government Department, was ineffectively communicated to all residents of the LSD. Only emergency responders (Fire, Police, and Ambulance) knew what was happening where. Given media warnings to stay put at home, signage at the Fire Hall was noticed by few.
- As is their responsibility, UKFD personnel surveyed Deerwood, Eaglewood, and other Hanwell neighbourhoods for safety hazards in addition to communities south of the roundabout (e.g. Yoho Lake, Newmarket and beyond). They helped clear obstructed roadways so that vehicles could pass.
- Kingsclear First Nation, quick to declare a State of Emergency, had water and power restored within hours. Its Seniors Complex has generator backup.
- Representative photos of residence damage were circulated.
- Brian Macdonald (MLA Fredericton-Silverwood) affirmed the importance of the AC question "How Do We Best Prepare for Emergencies and Communicate with KLSD Residents?" Power outage challenges, communications loss, and property damage can be minimized, he suggested, by developing community-driven and led emergency plans. Determine who can help, he said, and in what way. He suggested that the young, able-bodied FHS basketball team might come forward to assist in emergencies but this was met with skepticism: Liability issues and KLSD student numbers were cited.

General agreement was reached that better information must be gathered for emergency service providers at neighbourhood, community, and regional levels to improve resident safety and security—a difficult task, given differing school affiliations; overlapping provincial and federal political jurisdictions; and the New Brunswick Health Council's "My Community at a Glance" grouping of KLSD with Lincoln LSD (east of Fredericton) and the Village of New Maryland (which controls its own land use, taxation, and by-laws). Public education about New Brunswick local government, it was argued, is sorely needed. The KLSD AC will meet with EMO regional manager Jason Cooling in September to discuss the process of preparing an emergency plan for the KLSD.

The actions of Harvey High's 17-year-old Nicolai Allen from Upper Kingsclear, who transported grey water door-to-door, were commended.

When the Post-tropical storm Arthur discussion was complete, invited guests left the meeting and AC members returned to the balance of the meeting agenda.

Item 4: Old Business

- a. Communication with KLSD Residents (Listserv, Telephone Tree, Facebook, KLSD Mailing Address, Designated Telephone Number; Public Meeting): Discussion, begun last month, was deferred to the next meeting in favour of Emergency Planning (see above).
- b. Web Site Revision (Diane & Debby): Three firms have been contacted in addition to the site's domain host. No formal replies have been received to date. Another firm is to be consulted concerning the appropriateness of the budget allocated.

Item 5: New Business

- a. Recreation in the KLSD – Agreement was reached to defer discussion to the August and/or September meeting, when Ivan Corbett, who has assumed all responsibility for the UK Community Park, is expected to attend. The AC can only recommend; it cannot be involved in spending of funds. Recreation budget spending is meant to be associated with a community recreation council.
- b. A letter was received by the AC requesting use of the UK Community Centre for a private daycare and after-school program. AC members expressed doubt about the Centre's ability to meet child care standards (among them, adult contact provisions), and concern about interference with frequent, long-established government and recreation bookings. As well, it was noted that the Community Centre is a Fire Department facility so the AC has no authority over how it is used.

Item 6 Cont'd: Other Business

- b. The resignation of AC member Lee Crouse was announced. According to LSD rules, no one will replace him so the AC now has only four members.
- c. Former KLSD AC member Sue Knight has agreed to be the KLSD Archivist.

Item 7: Next Meeting – August 26, 2014 (7:30pm) – UK Community Centre

Invited Guests: Fire Chief Murray Crouse, Local Services Manager Ivan Corbett.

Adjournment: 9:40 p.m.

Action Items:

Debby & Diane – continue with web-site revision project

Patsy – respond to individual who inquired about using the Community Hall for a Daycare.