



Summary - Understanding Community Resiliency Workshop

Date: May 11th, 2022

Time: 5 pm – 8 pm

Format: Southside Fire Hall

Overview

On Wednesday, May 11th, 2022, participants from the HRVA Committee for Electoral Area 'E' came together at the Southside Fire Hall to review and discuss community vulnerabilities. This document provides a summary of what was discussed throughout the first in person session. Thank you to everyone who took the time out of their week to contribute to this session.

The Understanding Community Resiliency workshop objectives were as follows:

- Review list of selected hazards.
- Review and identify additional vulnerabilities in Area 'E': Social, Economic, Environmental, Physical, and underlying risk drivers.
- Discuss the likelihood and consequence scoring of hazards.

Participants

| Organization | Name |
|--|--|
| Area E Director, RDBN | Clint Lambert |
| Southside Fire Chief | Evan Plesko |
| Southside Fire | Axel |
| Cheslatta Carrier Nation, Implementation Coordinator | Jim D'Andrea |
| BC Ambulance Service, Southside Unit Chief | Cynthia Rassveld |
| Chinook Emergency Response Society | Scott Zayac |
| RDBN | Deborah Jones-Middleton, Director of Protective Services |
| RDBN | Christopher Walker, Emergency Program Coordinator |
| RDBN | Liliana Dragowska, HRVA Coordinator |

Welcome and Review of Selected Hazards

The session began with a round table of introductions asking participants to share what they feel is a strength in their community or neighbourhood that will assist them during an emergency event or recover from an emergency event. This was followed by a short presentation from Liliana reviewing the objectives of the meetings, overview of the HRVA committee process, and reviewing the 38-hazard selected at the February 3rd, 2022, HRVA Hazard Identification workshop.

The notes below summarize the discussion and reflections on the hazards selected to date:

- Shows diversity of the area.
- Good to plan for the unlikely – longer term ferry shut down. There is no written long-term plan.

Discussion on Vulnerabilities in Area 'F'

In this section the participants discussed the Community Vulnerabilities backgrounder paper and began to explore the four grouping of vulnerabilities that may be considered in this project. The information presented in the background document and discussed is a starting point in the collection of known vulnerabilities within the region. The intention is that the HRVA process will help to strengthen our collective community knowledge of our vulnerabilities to enable future conversations that will focus on resiliency strategies. Both vulnerability and resiliency are important, and closely related, concepts for evaluating a community's ability to cope with the impacts of a hazard event. It is important to differentiate between the two:

- Vulnerability looks at the factors that increase a community's susceptibility to damage from a hazard;
- Resiliency is a measure of a community's ability to resist or recover from damage (SOPAC, 2002).

Participants were asked if there is any missing information or insight members might have on specific factors that they perceive have the potential to contribute to vulnerabilities within Electoral Area 'E'. The notes below summarize the discussion and additions under each topic presented and will ultimately assist HRVA committee members in subjectively scoring the likelihood and consequence of each hazard in our area.

Area 'E' Response Agencies:

- BC Ambulance has been working to designating helicopter pick up spots in the case of isolation. One at Grassy Plain field; second at the Alcan Heli pad near the spill way, third by Takysie possibility to partner with BC wildfire service and the base. Request to share this with the fire department.
- Challenge with communication on wisteria side of the region, transmission goes through Houston. Opportunity to collaborate and have one radio station for all southside first responders
- Chinook fire crews do not have first aid, is less liability, this is the same for the fire department, then they are covered under the Good Samaritans Acts rather than a need for increased liabilities.
- Interest in developing fire suppression infrastructure on southside, i.e. dry hydrants, Cheslatta mentioned additional water source and hydrants for fire fighting?

Social Factors

- Self-sustaining residents and culture, different mindset.
- Many seniors, no interested in leaving if there are evacuations.
- No transportation for seniors and First Nations, with 30-40% with no transportation.
- Nee-Tahi Buhn and Skin Tyee have challenges with transportation during evacuations.
 - Idea for diversified buses with school district with designations to and from south side each day.
 - Rumour that a three nations bus services is starting up.
- New residents and families without skills or know what it means to live rurally. They haven't been adopted into the community; people may not know to help them.
 - Clint and others have been advocating for s100 courses for residents. However, there are challenges as youth under 18 are not permitted to assist and stay in evacuation situations.
- Low-income families are dependant on Takysie Grocery Store, Takysi cost of food is high.
- People are charging to take people to burns lake to get groceries
- The LINK "better at home program" (southside Uber!) is working to bring volunteers in the community to provided services like taking people grocery shopping and paying them for gas.
- Neighbourhood pods - Chinook Emergency Response Society
- Cheslatta Incident Command Structure - puts names to responses and is a part of the conversation during events.
- IDEA? Pump and fire hose incentives for property owners rather than compost incentives.
- Food security ties. Disconnect with government policy on hunting and the tie to local food sources. The hunting season closing early affects locals and their ability to sustain themselves in a changing economy.
- Only 93 growing days on the southside, fish, moose, deer all seasonal.
- School program for gardening.
- Active 4H community
- Cheslatta has a food box program.
- Used to be a bulk buying and delivery group on the south side, but no longer exists.
- LINK has a prenatal nutrition program
- Correction: LINK Food bank is every second Wednesday.
- Need support for communities and initiatives where the people are at.

Economic Factors

- Price of diesel, effecting farms, travel to and from work, and loggers.
- Industry can pass the gas price on, but agriculture and people will have a harder time adapting.
- Single phased power, and there is no opportunity currently for charging stations.
- Vessels in the reservoir are a big economic driver, but also dependency on fuel.
- Cheslatta employee more people than Babine Forest products.
- Zoning for small business on the southside is a challenge, very restrictive for small or home-based businesses.
- Opportunity for farmers to have a slaughterhouse or a coop.
- Potential to learn from other jurisdictions: Cattle to control fuel around Wildland Urban Interface areas. examples from the US.
- Tourism during the holidays is a vulnerability. Weekend traffic and populations increase and demand rescue services.

- Outsiders/ tourists causing disasters, i.e. forest fires, boating accidents in the industrial reservoir (opportunity to educate tourists coming to the region with signage on hazards).

Environmental Factors

- No fire protection at Bald hill and Tchesinkut.
- Chinook Trailers – 2 at North Side, 2 on west end of Colleymount.
- Industrial reservoir.
- Cheslatta Carrier Nation has several projects:
 - Fire ecologist and restoration work;
 - Berry restoration projects;
 - Tree seeding by drone;
 - Carbon sequestering programs;
 - Cariboo Road restoration;
 - Stabilizing grave sites;
 - Rehabilitating the Cheslatta system;
 - Working with guide outfitters to collect wildlife data – apps for tracking (Opportunity to share this with the BC ambulance service so that their attendants can report on wildlife spotting – Cindy expressed interest).

Physical Critical infrastructure

- Ambulance community paramedics cover 250 patients over 450 km.
- Vulnerability for the region is data on people and money in the region.
- Communication channels and first responders, opportunity to coordinate for emergencies.
- 3 nations bus just back up, at the health centre.
- LINK took over the rambler, looking to expand services to the southside, need to work with northern health to explore servicing FN and seniors in the southside.
- People homes create challenges for fire fighting
- Fire hall is applying for gas tax dollars to install a back up generator.
- Health centre has backup power generation.
- Ambulance does not have backup power generation
- Church community has resources and infrastructure
- Netca Lake has a gravity feed water system that services 6-12 people, funded and supported by Alcan. (Need to add this to the list and look up community water systems in background document)

Wrap Up and Next Steps

To wrap up the session committee members had a brief overview of the likelihood and consequence scoring excel spread sheets that will be sent out to committee member for completion by June 3rd. This was followed by some final remarks and reminders of next steps in the process:

- Liliana to send a summary of this meeting along with a request for committee member to reflect and respond to Liliana if they feel there is a need for additional information before embarking on likelihood and consequence scoring of hazards?
- Liliana to draft and send out Hazard Likelihood and Consequence Scoring instructions, followed by committee members completing the Likelihood and Consequence Scoring surveys.