

# **VF Cross-Border Minutes : 2016-05-12**

at Coffee Landing (5:30PM - 6:30PM)

## **Attendees**

Jim Yount, Travis Glowasky, Annely Armstrong-Thorstad, Greg Thorstad, Brenda Sucker, Ariana Daniel, Myrna Meadows

## **1: Explanation of Committees Goals**

- Become a major resource for helping organizations promoting Cross-Border Events & Projects.
- Make border crossing easier through clarification, paperwork facilitators, and addressing misunderstandings of what is entailed in crossing the border.
- Who else should be a stakeholder?
  - I'Falls & FF Chamber of Commerces.
  - Educational Institutions.
  - Have committee members ask others to join the group.

## **2: Introductions of Group Members**

## **3: Reviewed VF survey results on Cross-Border “economic and community development efforts”**

## **4: Discussion on how to better communicate with group members**

- Google Groups for shared information.
- Google Docs for sending and editing documents.
- Doodle.com for scheduling meetings.
- Look at other locations to hold meetings regularly (Backus, RRCC, Good Sams).

## **5: Reviewed current & possible Cross-Border Events & Projects**

- Healthcare
  - Talk to Cynthia Jackson on status / efforts of Medical NAFTA.
- Funding Opportunities / Grant Seeking

- Bremer Foundation.
- North East Entrepreneur Funds.
- Business
  - Development of Cross-Border “Business Guide”.
- Tourism
  - Development of Cross-Border Community Calendar either Web, Print or both (Peaceful Border Days Poster?). Something that can be handed out at events or at CVBs.
- Education
  - Course information sharing (Keep students local).
  - Can something be established with both Rainy River Community College, Confederation College, 7 Generations Education for doing a shared credits program. Use to happen in the 90’s and early 2000’s.
  - Youth Cross-Border Mentorship Program.
- Events & Entertainment
  - Tug-of-War (Unsure if happening this year, need to talk to the Chambers).
  - Dragon Boat.
  - Hockey Tournaments.
  - Further discussion needed on what other types events / entertainment could be promoted Cross-Border.
  - Bird Watching.

## **6: Border Crossing Information / Nexus**

- Find ways on how to make crossing the border easier and friendlier.
- What can and can not come across the border? (Produce, Goods).
- What are the regulations for Cross-Border business (Artists, Selling Goods / Services).
- Information on DUI expunction at Canadian Customs?
- Look at setting up Nexus International Card Information Session.
  - Could be our first action.
  - Invite Border Customs officials to give presentation in I’Falls.
  - How / Where to get Nexus Card.
  - Setup system to get “pre-submitted” questions for officials to answer.

- Bring forms to allow people to start the process.

### **7: Border Crossing Beautification**

- The giant mural facing Canada-bound bridge traffic is faded and unattractive, but nothing can be done at this moment due to Resolute being in bankruptcy.

### **8: Homework**

- Look at other Events, Projects, Entertainment, Activities we as a group should be participating in.
- Ask others to come and join our group.