



Maximize Cross-Border Opportunities in Support of Voyage Forward

A Voyage Forward Destiny Driver Committee

Notes on Meeting June 20, 2016 - Backus Boardroom

Present: Myrna Meadows, Shawn Mason, Jim Yount, Travis Glowasky

Planned absences: Ariana Daniel, Annely Armstrong-Thorstad, Greg Thorstad

- I. Report on the Thunderbird June 16th meeting on border crossings: It was standing room only: roughly 50 members of the public attended. US Border Protection allowed those present to start the I-68 process on-sight and actually offered them for free that day. Kevin Bechin represented the CBSA and Brian King represented the US CBP.
 - A. Border Protection can only enforce the rules, not change them.
 - B. Shawn wants this to be an annual thing: Border protection officials agreed to have two sessions per spring in conjunction with the Falls Chamber of Commerce. Possibly one each snowmobile season.
 - C. Chamber budget for this was about \$500 for both sessions.
 - D. Mason and Glowasky will explore options for involving Fort Frances as well in the future.
- II. TTP Office: The Trusted Traveler Program Office, where Nexus interviews are conducted, will be moving to the US Border Protection office in IFalls in 60 to 90 days (by the end of September).
- III. Remote reporting stations: Bohman's Landing site was established primarily with snowmobilers in mind. Irv Anderson was the congressman at the time.
 - A. \$5,000 fine for failing to report.
 - B. The 4 of us present at the 6/20 XBorder meeting are in favor of pursuing options for a new or additional location.
 1. Glowasky will mention this at the VF Tourism meeting on June 28th, 5:30pm, Chamber.
 2. Yount will explore whether the VNP Rainy Lake Visitor's Center is a possible option to pursue.
- IV. International Tug of War / Peace Pull: Mason will propose that the IFalls Chamber take this on. City of IFalls used to run it, but it didn't happen last year and won't this year.
 - A. This is the only international tug of war that we know of.
 - B. Robin Bjorquist was involved in the first such tug in 2005 and is interested in helping revive it.
 - C. Canada's 150th birthday is in 2017. There's CA funding up to \$50,000 for events related to the birthday which could potentially be tapped into.

- D. This will be pursued by Mason and Glowasky.
- E. Possible theatrical performance with Borealis Bards? (Yount)
- F. Possible tie-in with Dragon Boat Festival.
- V. Discussed the possibility of meeting regularly on the 3rd Monday of each month. That can be a target for now, but with flexibility.
- VI. Monday, July 25th for next meeting because neither co-chair could attend on the 3rd Monday.
- VII. Myrna Meadows would like to work with Annaly on assembling information for cross-border business.
- VIII. Meadows has started a list of other sources of funding of various amounts for VF efforts.