



Board Meeting Summary Report

December 17th, 2010

Meeting Date: December 15th, 2010

The MIEDS board met in Port Clements for its final meeting of 2010.

The meeting began with a presentation from BC Timber Sales staff regarding the progress they are making on behalf of the Communities to develop the 25,000 m³ Forestry License to Cut offered by the Minister of Forests. There are several areas just south of Masset and in Tlell that are being considered for their economic opportunity under this license. The development and approval process is estimated to take up to three months, so the timeline to have the volume available for local contractors is slated for mid-2011.

The board also received requests from the Communities to fund up to \$10,000 for the legal work needed to create a development corporation. This entity will be necessary to hold the Community Forest License and enter into partnership opportunities with the Haida. This work will be completed early in the New Year.

The Board also approved the MIEDS 2010 NDI Funding Report and received updates and draft documents for the Agriculture Strategy, Trail Strategy, and Community Investment project. The draft documents will be available on the MIEDS website in the New Year.

The Agriculture Strategy has been moving forward very well. The first round of public meetings were completed from December 10th to 15th, with the clearest priority for participants being education of Islanders in the various aspects of local food production. A second round of meetings is planned for early January in Skidegate and Old Massett to engage both of those communities directly and to provide an opportunity to anyone that missed the first round. This will be followed up by a symposium-style public meeting in February to consider the final Agriculture Strategy document and develop an Implementation Plan that will set in motion the practical solutions that are identified by the public to address the recommendations coming out of the strategy.

The Trail Strategy is just getting underway. An expression of interest will be put out in the next couple weeks for interested local stakeholders to participate in the development process. The Trail Strategy seeks to bring together the work from past processes on this issue into a single document that speaks to sustainable development and use, common trail standards and signage, and an updated inventory of trails on Haida Gwaii. This process will work respectfully with the separate, yet linked, management planning process that is underway for the new Protected Areas on Haida Gwaii.

The Community Investment project seeks to provide tools for local investment. It has resulted in the creation of a Community Investment Profile for Haida Gwaii, a Freight Analysis for Haida Gwaii, and 4 Local Product Investment Profiles. The Product Investment Profiles will include: 2 dry products developed with local ingredients; a Conifer Oil profile, and a Wood Pellet Production Profile.

The next MIEDS board meeting will be in February, 2011. Please check out our website (www.mieds.ca) for other information and highlights.