



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN

NOTES of a meeting of the Shuswap River Watershed Sustainability Plan LAND USE AND NATURAL ENVIRONMENT WORKING GROUP held in the Board Room at the Regional District Office on March 6, 2012, 4:00 pm – 7:00 pm.

Members: Aline Piche
Bob Whitley
Dale Kerr
Doug Clark
Erika Davidson
Jim Davidson
Giles Shearing
Herman Gerrits
~~Neil Brooks~~
~~Ralph van Dalfsen~~
Susan Everatt
Tom Minor

Staff: Anna Page Sustainability Coordinator
Laura Frank Sustainability Coordinator and Planning

PART 1 – CALL MEETING TO ORDER

1.1 Welcome by RDNO staff, Anna Page and Laura Frank

PART 2 – APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved as presented.

PART 3 – INTRODUCTIONS

3.1 Brief introduction by all participants.

Anna Page and Laura Frank introduced themselves and welcomed all attendees to the first meeting of the Land Use and Natural Environment Working Group. A round table introduction followed.

PART 4 – ADOPTION OF MINUTES

PART 5 – BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

PART 6 – NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.2 Review of the Working Groups Terms of Reference

Anna Page went over some of the key components of the Working Group Terms of Reference including the purpose of the working groups, participant conduct, decision making process and media interaction.

6.3 Overview of Shuswap River Watershed Sustainability Plan Development Process

Laura Frank went over the purpose of the SRWSP process, the draft vision statement, guiding principles, planning framework and communication flow diagram.

6.4 Technical Assessments

A brief overview was provided of the Technical Assessment of the Shuswap River and the Lower Shuswap and Mabel Lake Inventory, Mapping and Aquatic Habitat Index and specifically how they relate to Land Use and the Natural Environment.

Discussion as a result of the overviews focused on the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC).

- Request was made to have a least one face to face meeting/discussion with the TAC regarding the goals, objectives and strategies that will be brought forward out of the working group.
- Discussed the need of continuity within the TAC ideally we would like the same representatives present throughout the process.
- There was concern with the lack of capacity within the Ministries to have greater involvement in the planning process, this might inhibit implementation down the road.
- The TAC members are as follows;

Conrad Pryce – FLNRO

Neil Goeller – FLNRO

Mike Sokal – MOE

Bob Harding – DFO

Shayla Lawrence – ONAFD, or alternate

Pat Hickerson - City of Armstrong

Ed Forslund – Township of Spallumcheen

Stuart Lee – Splitsin, or alternate

Rob Birtles - IHA

Roberta Dight – Transport Canada

Greg Tegart - Ministry of Agriculture

Tom Kadla - Village of Lumby

Tate Bengtson - City of Enderby

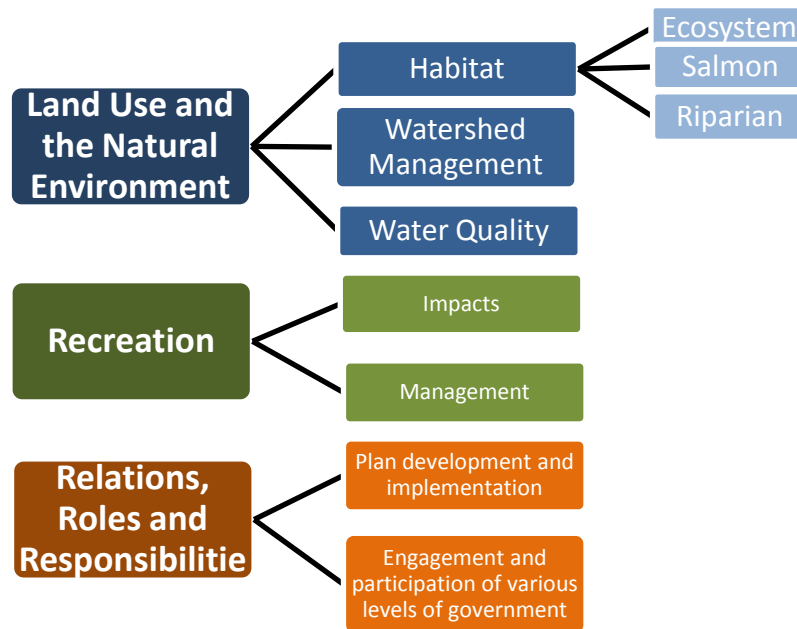
Discussion also included a request for other Watershed Plan examples and some are provided below;

- Kiskatinaw River Watershed Management Plan
<http://www.dawsoncreek.ca/wordpress/wp-content/uploads/2011/10/WatershedManagementPlan.pdf>
- Nicola Water Use Management Plan http://www.nwcr.org/wump_overview.htm
- Process - Coquitlam Watershed www.coquitlamriverwatershed.ca
- Shuswap Lake Integrated Planning Process
http://slippbc.com/images/pdf/SLIPP_Strategic_Plan_for_Shuswap_and_Mara_Lake_s.pdf
- Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan <http://nisquallyriver.org/who-we-are/the-nisqually-river-management-plan/>

- Rethinking Our Water Ways, Fraser Basin Council, www.rethinkingwater.ca of particular relevance Chapter 7: Integrating Water, Land and Watersheds.

6.5 Discussion of Phase I Issue Identification

An overview was provided of the comments received during the issue identification phase from the workshops and survey. The comments were organised into three themes as shown in the diagram below.



The Land Use and Natural Environment themes can be organised further into the following;

- Habitat
 - Maintenance prioritization of ecosystem health
 - Significance of Shuswap River Salmon fishery
 - Protection and restoration of riparian areas
- Watershed Management
 - General comments identifying watershed wide concerns, environmental impacts of land uses, lack of appropriate management and controls and identifying the Shuswap River as the “ecological heart” of the region
- Water Quality
 - Need to protect water quality in general as well as identifying particular activities and point sources of concern

6.6 Development of Land Use and Natural Environment Recommendations for Goals, Objectives and Strategies

In advance of developing goals, objective and strategies the group began working through the comments received during Phase I of the planning process to gain a common understanding of the issues raised and to identify if anything was missing. The discussion that came from this part of the meeting resulted in the following points.

- Climate Change adaptation is not mentioned at all throughout the comments brought forward in Phase I.
 - Climate Change will have an impact on spawning (warmer water temperatures)
 - Rivers with dams might be in a better position to adapt to Climate Change than those without as there is an ability to regulate flows and ensure flows for salmon spawning.
 - Can also provide cold refuge downstream (greater volumes of water in reserve can maintain cooler temps)
 - Sport fishing numbers might be too high on an already stressed fish population in a climate change situation.
 - Without cold water refuge Salmon expend a lot of energy trying to find that refuge.

Spawning/Salmon

- Salmon can be used as the canary of the watershed (indicates the health of the watershed).
- Identify preferential spawning habitat and develop objectives and strategies to protect them specifically.
- Sport fishing is a concern
- Tributaries in worse shape; Bessette Creek has different sub species not enough water for them to make it up-stream.
 - Climate change concerns.
 - Trinity Valley Creek of concern.
 - Some work being carried out on Bessette with what water is available but the water is already over allocated.
 - Beaver dams get wiped out on Bessette with the freshet.
 - Duteau not the same (flows are regulated) dams don't get wiped out, dropping rainbow numbers on Duteau.
- Potential objective for Salmon/all fish – Provide extra protection to critical spawning habitat and preferential sites.
- Need to protect and ensure the sustainability of the watershed so salmon can return.
- Questions were raised as to the number of sports fisherman within the watershed. Not very good record keeping these days.
- Questions as to whether the First Nations are over fishing some members felt this way and others did not think so.
- Discussion around the fish passage committee- general agreement that the SRWSP and specifically the Land Use and Natural Environment Working Group does not need to place an effort on this issue with the Wilsey Dam Fish Passage Committee in place, but that it will be referenced within the plan.
- Nutrient Management Planning (Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Environment working on this
 - Regulations or BMP's? At this point the intent is regulations
- Nutrient management and impacts that a reduction in nutrients might have on aquatic life, better nutrient management may actually result in a decrease in aquatic life.

- Need for enforcement and education around all regulations and BMP's affecting the watershed.
- Need to ensure policy is developed regarding agricultural practices that are specific to the Shuswap Watershed.
- Maintain water quality

Ecosystem Discussion

- Questions as to the impacts of boats. House boats do come up the lower stretch of the river stopped at Mara bridge.
- Noted there are opportunities at the local government level to protect species at risk.
- Desire to ensure a future for Salmon and aquatic species and their habitats and extend this to include all aquatic and terrestrial species.
- Suggested wording: Preserve and Protect the various ecosystems and their species that depend on the watershed:
 - Salmon
 - Terrestrial Species
 - Migratory Birds etc.
- We should look to natural systems (have not be significantly altered) for what “works in nature”
- Continue to inventory Sensitive Ecosystem Inventories, Sensitive Habitat Inventory Mapping, Foreshore Inventory and Mapping.
 - Important to identify sensitive ecosystems within the watershed.
- Could almost start all of the goal statements with Identify, Preserve and Protect...(whatever the goal may be)
- Concerns were raised with livestock in the waterway.

Process Discussion

- How should Goals be formulated? Around causes - agriculture, development, logging, urban impacts (storm water management), hydro, recreation, or around consequences? It was noted that the comments from the community gravitated towards consequences and to be reflective of this the formulation of goals, objectives and strategies should address consequences.
- When should a cost benefit analysis of recommendations occur – at what level? Goals, objectives and strategies – when should the group be “practical” about what to include? It was suggested should be at a strategy level, goals should be aspirational.
- Staff were asked to provide a list of on-going programs within the watershed e.g. Env Farm Plans – see list at end of notes

PART 7 – WORKING GROUP MATTERS

7.1 Membership/Appointments

- Land Use and the Natural Environment Working Group Member & Contact Listing – updated February 2012

7.2 Mileage Reimbursement

Working group members will be reimbursed for mileage to meetings at \$0.52 per km. A mileage record sheet will be circulated at each meeting and members will be paid at the end of the meeting period.

7.3 Future Meeting Dates and Locations

Next meeting will be April 3rd, 2012, 4:00 – 7:00 pm at the RDNO offices.

PART 8 - ADJOURNMENT

Existing initiatives and programs in the Watershed

- Cherryville Water Stewards – water quality monitoring on Cherry Creek, Ferry Creek, Reiter Creek and the Shuswap main stem in the Cherryville area as well as riparian restoration projects on Cherry Creek
- Lower Shuswap Stewardship Society – Water quality monitoring on the Lower Shuswap from Mabel Lake to Mara Lake. Riparian restoration project on Blurton creek.
- Ministry for Environment water quality monitoring on Sugar and Mabel Lakes
- RDNO tests raw water for a limited suite of parameters at the water treatment facilities at both Grindrod and Mabel Lake.
- City of Enderby monitors Shuswap River water at the water treatment plant intake and they also monitor effluent quality.
- River Watch Program that spans the entire river from the Lower Shuswap to Sugar Lake. This initiative falls within the Safe Communities Program with the local RCMP. This program works on the basis that when citizens see a reckless boater they can copy down the vessels registration number and report the incident to the RCMP who will follow up on the complaint.
- Okanagan Conservation Collaboration Partnership – Mid Shuswap Sensitive Ecosystem Inventory – Sugar Lake to Wilsey Dam
- Modified sensitive habitat inventory and mapping has been completed on the Lower Shuswap and foreshore inventory and mapping has been carried out on Mabel Lake.
- River Ambassadors Program is run by the Enderby and District Chamber of Commerce on the Lower Shuswap River which entails educating recreational users on how to be respectful within the waterways.
- Environmental Farm Plans <http://www.agf.gov.bc.ca/resmgmt/EnviroFarmPlanning/index.htm>
- Whitevalley Community Resource Centre has undertaken a number of projects on tributaries of the Shuswap River as listed below.

Ireland Side Channel	1999
Ireland Side Channel 2	2000
Smolt Pond	2001
Ireland Channel Planting	2002

Procter Channel	2002
Huwer Groundwater Channel Feasibility Study	2004
Wilsey Dam Fishway Feasibility Study	2004
Creighton Creek Stream Flow Recovery	2004
Creighton Creek Stream Flow Recovery 2	2005
Huwer Groundwater Complex	2005
Smolt Count	2005
Middle Shuswap SHIM and Preliminary SEI	2006
Bessette/Shuswap Riparian Planting & Protection	2006
Huwer Bank Stabilization	2006
Ruechel Weir	2007
Creighton Creek Pool Creation	2009
Bessette Creek Pool Creation, Phase 1	2010
Bessette Creek Pool Creation, Phase 2	2011
Bessette Creek Pool Creation, Phase 3	2012

- Salmon Safe
- Wilsey Dam Fish Passage Committee
- Coho Enhancement Projects on the Lower Shuswap River – Forest Renewal BC program
- Shuswap River Water Use Plan - BC Hydro (2005)
- Water Survey of Canada sites - www.wateroffice.ec.gc.ca
- Shuswap River Salmon Hatchery
- School District 83 riparian planting program – collaborative project with SD 83, Kingfisher Interpretive Centre, DFO – collection and planting of trees/shrubs for riparian planting projects on private land. Funded through RBC Blue Water Project.