REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN

NOTES of a meeting of the Shuswap River Watershed Sustainability Plan INTERAGENCY RELATIONS, ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES WORKING GROUP held in the Board Room at the Regional District Office on May 9, 2012, 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm.

Members: Henry Bremer
Herman Halvorson
Kelly Wozniak
Laura Jameson
Pricilla Judd
~~Ray Nadaeu~~
Sandy Thon
~~Shirley Fowler~~
Melanie Staker
Rick Fairbairn

Observers:

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 welcomed all attendees, a round table introduction followed.

PART 4 – ADOPTION OF MINUTES

No concerns were raised with the April 11th, 2012 meeting minutes. The minutes were adopted as presented and will be posted on the RDNO SRWSP website.

PART 5 – BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

PART 6 – NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 General Review of other Watershed Plan examples

Laura provided a brief overview of other watershed plan examples:

- **Kiskatinaw River Watershed Management plan** is very much focused on Drinking Water Quality as the river is the sole source of community water for the City of Dawson Creek. The plan revolves around how to best manage activities within the watershed to ensure water quality is not compromised.
    - Watershed activities that were focused on include:
        - Land ownership
        - Timber harvesting
        - Crop production
        - Cattle grazing
        - Oil and gas
        - Recreation
    - The plan has some good examples of tables which break out the specific issues, responsible agency, policies, and actions.
    - Section 4.3 Action and Implementation Plan outlines the action/goal statements, identifies the objective and strategies and presents tasks that need to be undertaken.

- **Nicola Water Use Management Plan**
    - **Section 6** outlines a total of 37 policies which fall into five categories:
        - Water quantity
        - Water quality
        - Environment
        - Learning
        - Management

    Look here to find a number of good examples of specific strategies and actions.

- **Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable**
    - Information on this site is focused on the process. It outlines the Vision, Values and Mission of the group. Under Library (Reports and Documents) Click on the Phase III- Governance Strategy and Development document for a full review of where they are at within the process.
    - To date they have established the following Vision "A healthy watershed supported and enjoyed by the community in a manner that respects our common values through:
        - Partnerships and Collaboration;
        - Education, Stewardship, and monitoring;
        - Conservation and green economics; and
        - Responsible decision-making.

    In perpetuity."

    - Their values for the watershed were developed in Phases II (Community Engagement and Visioning) and include:

- Spiritual qualities;
- Ecosystem integrity;
- Natural beauty;
- Native bio-diversity;
- Natural resources;
- Public access;
- Home/Heritage/Culture;
- Responsibility to protect;
- Recreation;
- Protected areas; and
- Sustainability.

- **Shuswap Lakes Integrated Planning Process**
  - Provides a number of good overarching goal examples. Some examples include: "development that respects the environment, as well as economic and social interests"; "water quality that supports public and environmental health"; and "Desirable recreational experiences that are safe and sustainable".
  - The remainder of the document outlines specific strategies and actions.

- **Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan**
  - Long Range Plan with a Vision looking towards 2055.
  - It outlines goals for 2030 and works back with objectives and actions that are to be achieved by 2020, 2015 & 2010.

- **Fraser Basin Council Rethinking Our Waterways**
  - **Section 4** "Who Does What in Water?" provides a good background and breakdown on the different areas of jurisdiction and which ministries and levels of government are responsible for what.

6.2 Review of Current Initiatives underway within the Watershed

Anna provided an up-date on the current initiatives underway within the watershed which were listed at the end of the April 11th meeting minutes. The following additional initiatives were mentioned:

- Splatsin - Filtration process on old landfill site??
- Lumby Liquid Waste Management Plan underway
- Rivers End / Crystal Sands Brochure (Responsible Actions in waterways) Herman provided us with a copy previously.
- No wake flotilla – *see 7.4 for event information*

6.3 Review Interagency Relations, Roles and Responsibilities

General Discussion:

- Noted we should provide direct links to other plan examples on the website
  - Some Working Group members found the documents on the website to be hard to navigate, better to have live links rather than links embedded in pdf documents.
- Document Format
  - Live Document (user friendly)
  - On-line links to videos of areas within the watershed.
  - Flexible to change eg. Climate Change and new information as it emerges.
- Group is finding it hard to grasp what it is that they are needing to accomplish, need to establish a goal for the working group.
  - Noted that this group is the most challenging in regards to creating recommendations as watershed governance is extremely complex, it will take some time for us all to understand the existing roles and responsibilities of different agencies and levels of government.

Discussion on Interagency Relations, Roles and Responsibilities:

- In general it was noted that often people do not know who to call when something happens within the watershed (riparian area destruction, pollution, mud boggers, etc.)
  - Seems to be a huge gap in jurisdiction
  - Lack of enforcement of current legislation
  - Who do you call with specific issues?
- Needs to be monitoring of complaints to different ministries (are they being followed up on and has the issue been resolved?)
- How do we have a coordinated effort on specific issues (eg Dock applications)
  - There is the permitting aspect (new development of docks or applications to alter the Riparian Area).
  - There is also the enforcement piece (existing non-conforming structures and alterations)
- Ideal if there was a single point of entry
  - Track what happened
  - Not get lost in the maze
- Needs to be better access to information
  - Simplify and coordinate the process
  - Single point of information and distribution
- Noted that the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations recently met at a Water Allocation meeting to discuss how to improve upon current practices and improve efficiencies. They now have one point of entry within the Ministry.
- Potential Objective- Relay the need for better communication with the MFLNRO in regards to flow and distribution of information.
- It would be nice if there was a lead agency when it comes to watershed issues (follow through with the one window approach).
- Education on the existing legislation is needed so the general public is aware of what they can and can't do within the watershed.
  - Look at creating video clips for what is and isn't permitted within the watershed, potential resource to further education (eg. Okanagan Basin Water Board, OBWB messaging)
  - Provide information at the Chamber of Commerce and information kiosks to get the message out
- Potential Objective- Simplify the process when reporting an issue / infraction within the watershed.

- Simplify the process to apply for permits; the average person should be able to follow what is required of them
- Need to look at applications and actions within the watershed from a cumulative impacts perspective
    - Needs to be general oversight, does this currently exist?
- Need for public input into legislation and regulatory process
- Should identify agency opportunities for improvements coordination
- Start monitoring at boat launches
    - Take pictures of issues within the watershed and submit them to the appropriate agency to follow up on (this is useful for reporting)
- Need a list of Agency Roles & Responsibilities with contact information
    - Inquiry BC #1-800-663-7867
    - Regulations and legislation
    - Safe Communities "one on many" contacts
- There is frustration over things that repeatedly happen - this group is well positioned to identify common issues and identify the path for response to these concerns / educate the public on what to do in specific incidents
    - eg. fill out this form and have one point of contact
- This group can develop a process / flow diagram to use to solve problems, or know who to notify.
- Group can pull together information that already exists
- This group can bring forward common issues to the Technical Advisory Committee and they can provide information of what is needed for action to be taken
- Discussion regarding Christina Lake- they have employed a conservation officer for two months out of the year (summer months); it is funded by the Regional District but has proven to work really well as issues are dealt with in a timely manner. This is something the RDNO could look into doing / could be a recommendation of the plan.
    - Could utilize / partner with a university student
    - Noted that a peace officer or someone with the ability to write tickets and enforce legislation would be required.
- Common Issues / Concerns to take forward
    - Erosion of banks
    - Changes from Grindrod bridge to Mara bridge in water quality (what could be influencing this change).
        - How can we follow up on determining the cause of concerns eg Cherryville trailer park failing septic systems?
    - Pollutants entering the river
        - septic (dumping of sewage)
        - dumping (garbage)
    - Activities in riparian areas
        - mud bogging
        - driving in riparian areas
        - clearing of vegetation
    - Unsafe recreational activities / safety on the river is of concern
        - reporting a dangerous boater
    - Habitat destruction associated with recreation
    - Enforcement- lack there of, system is complaint driven and not very effective. Who is going to follow up on these complaints?
        - Patrick Tobin (Compliance & Enforcement could come in to discuss the existing system).

- o Proliferation of buoys
    - e.g. lack of jurisdiction- Transport Canada (TC) has a lack of resources- no budget for enforcement.
- Next meeting need clear agenda on what trying to achieve

6.4 & 6.5 Review of the SRWSP Goal Formulation Document & Development of Recommendations for IRRR Goals, Objective and Strategies

- Goal Statements are to speak to collaboration, coordination, simplicity, improvements & efficiencies, clarity.
- General Goal Statements
    - o Think about seven generations
    - o "We want our watershed to be as good or better in seven generations"
    - o Address existing deficiencies in compliance and enforcement
    - o Simple, co-ordinated process for interagency relations
    - o Multiple entry points
        - Permits / Development
        - Complaints / Enforcement
        - Opportunities for interagency co-operations
        - Monitoring & oversight
        - Plan review processes
        - Cumulative impacts
    - o Public opportunities for involvement / comments on agency activities
    - o Distribution of information
        - Chamber of Commerce
        - Info centre
        - Kiosks
    - o Education- video's e.g. OBWB Inquisitive Clips

6.6 Discussion on Proposed Field Trips

- Try and have news media on field trip

PART 7 – WORKING GROUP MATTERS

7.1 Membership/Appointments

Robert Krause & Eryca Willinger are no longer able to participate in the Working Group

7.2 Mileage Reimbursement

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

7.3 Future Meeting Dates and Locations

Next meeting will be June 13th, 2012, 6:30 – 9:30 pm at the RDNO offices.

7.4 Upcoming Community Events

Kingfisher Interpretive Centre – Month of May on weekdays, open for public to observe programs with school groups.

Cherryville Days and 150th celebration of Monashee Park, June 2nd, 2012

No Wake Flotilla (Lower Shuswap) – July 29th, 2012

Heritage Tea & Duck Race (Mara) 12:00 – 4:00 pm July 22nd, 2012

PART 8 - ADJOURNMENT