



REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN

NOTES of a meeting of the Shuswap River Watershed Sustainability Plan RECREATION WORKING GROUP held in the Board Room at the Regional District Office on June 8th, 2012
9:00 am – 12:00 pm

Members: Cathy MacPherson
Dale Fennell
Herman Bruns
Janice Lacko
Jean Clark
Jim Crichley
Judy Stewart
Madison Giesbrecht
Rick Smith
Shelley Verlaan
Terri Deuling
Debbie Smilar

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.

PART 4 – ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes for May 11, 2012 were approved as presented.

PART 5 – BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

PART 6 – NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Photos of the Watershed

Dale provided a range of photos of recreational activities in the Shuswap River Watershed. Some photos showed the impacts of mud bogging and irresponsible recreation use – his observation is that there is more and more damage each year. Photos also included dumping of garbage along logging roads. In one instance Dale provided names and vehicle registrations of campers associated with garbage to compliance and enforcement but no action was taken.

Herman provided photos and video of the impacts of wave action on river banks in the Mara area. In the lowest reaches of the Shuswap River the substrate of the river banks is predominantly sandy, few rocks. The banks are being undercut, runnels. In the Mara area it is unlikely that high flows/flooding are a major cause of erosion due to the flow being so slow. The flow is further reduced at high water as Mara Lake backs up into the river. The major factor of erosion in this area is a result of wakes.

Other photos also showed beach creation, removal of all riparian vegetation – what enforcement is happening?

Herman also showed a number of photos of the very large dock that has been installed on the river in Mara. The dock is permitted and legal, probably one of the few on the river that is. However aesthetically many people do not like it, not appropriate, based on a lake model. Herman feels that the approving agencies need to take another look at the design that resulted from the approval process and adapt their requirements so they result in more appropriate designs. Refer to Interagency Relations, Roles and Responsibilities working group and Technical Advisory Committee.

6.2 Discussion on Transport Canada response to buoys at Mabel Lake (Kingfisher)

The working group discussed the email correspondence between Anna Page (RDNO) and Roberta Dight (Transport Canada) regarding the illegal buoys at Mabel Lake which was circulated to the working group prior to the meeting. Discussion involved whether the Recreation Working Group wanted to make a recommendation to the RDNO Board of Directors that they request Transport Canada to have the illegal buoys removed, ahead of the outcome of the SRWSP planning process.

A number of committee members want the boyos pulled out. If signage and information was sent out prior to the removal of the boys that may help in educating the public as to what is legally permitted.

Anna Page informed the working group that she was meeting with Jackie Parease, Area F Director the following week to discuss this issue further. Some members of the working group felt that it was better that community members and landowners approach the Area F Director to request she take steps on this issue. It was discussed the buoys are an example of poor planning at Mabel Lake and the problem has increased as the resort has developed. If the buoys were removed there would need to be another solution put in place to deal with moorage. It was also felt that if the buoys were to be removed there should be signage ahead of time with contact information for people to make inquiries. Anna said she would convey the concerns and suggestions the working group had raised with respect to the buoys at the meeting.

The Recreation Working Group did not reach consensus on whether they should make a recommendation to the Board of Directors that they request Transport Canada to have the

illegal buoys removed at this point in the planning process. Some members did not feel that the Working Group had the mandate to do this.

6.3 Studies on Impacts of Boating on Rivers and Riparian areas

Jean provided a number of studies she has on the various impacts and disturbance motorised boats have on rivers and riparian areas. The reports were distributed by email to the working group members on the afternoon of June 8th 2012.

6.4 Review & Discuss City of Enderby & Area F Joint Services Referral

The referral from the City of Enderby & Area F Joint Services regarding the boat launch site in Enderby was reviewed by the group; a portion of the referral letter was read out to the group to ensure they are aware of the discussions regarding consideration of changes to the Kildonan Boat Launch.

6.5 Discussion on Recreation Goal (is there need for another goal?)

6.6 Development of Objectives and Strategies / Actions

At this point the working group members split into two smaller focus groups and worksheets were handed out outlining the existing goals and objectives that have been developed. Groups began to draft additional objectives which have been up-dated in the revised "Recreation Work Sheet" which is attached to these notes.

At the end of the meeting it was decided that the working group members would continue to update the worksheet at home and email suggestions back to the group. Staff would compile the comments received, add further content, refine and re-send out.

PART 7 – WORKING GROUP MATTERS

7.1 Membership/Appointments

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 at the meeting and members will be paid at the end of the meeting period.

7.3 Future Meeting Dates and Locations

It was decided that the working group would work further on the goals, objectives and strategies via email and take a break from meetings.

Next meeting will be Sept 7th, 2012 9:00am to 12:00pm at the RDNO offices.

7.4 Upcoming Community Events

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

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

7.5 Working Group "Homework"

- Provide input via email on the goals, objectives and strategies worksheet over Jun, Jul and August.

PART 8 – ADJOURNMENT