



## **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 July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2012, 6:30 pm – 9:30 pm.

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

**Observers:** Mike Macnabb

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

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### **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.

### **PART 4 – ADOPTION OF MINUTES**

The minutes of the June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2012 meeting 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 Watershed Groups

- The meeting started with a review of, and presentation on “Examples of Watershed Groups” within the Province and elsewhere. Each Board, Council or Roundtable group discussed has a focus on preserving, protecting or improving the health and sustainability of their unique watershed. Each group / example had a different composition; some were mainly comprised of political or technical reps while others had more diverse representation. This document and the review of watershed groups provided a basis upon which a similar referral body/monitoring group could be formulated for the Shuswap River Watershed Sustainability Plan.
- For additional information on the “Examples of Watershed Groups” the document is attached as **Appendix 1**.
- Following the above noted presentation, discussions shifted to the concept of collection, coordination and housing of data relevant to activities going on within the Shuswap River Watershed. The group felt it would be ideal to develop a baseline on the entire scope of activities within the watershed and to identify the scale in which these activities are occurring.
- Watershed Data could consist of:
  - a mapping tool with layers outlining where logging, mining and agricultural uses are underway, tenures.
  - Recreation uses e.g. number of RV and camping sites
  - Identify specific areas where these activities are impacting the river. (eg is logging having an impact on the hydrologic cycle and potentially increased runoff and river flows? If so where?)
- Question was posed as to what kind of data is currently available on the watershed. **Staff note that the technical assessment carried out by Golder and Associates provides an up to date account of all data and studies that currently exist on the river and watershed. The technical assessment is located on the SRWSP website – [www.rdno.ca/srwsp](http://www.rdno.ca/srwsp).**
- It was noted that **RDNO Staff** should talk with other watershed boards as to what data they are monitoring for and what kind of data would they like to collect or have collected (mapping, snap shot of activities) to ensure effective watershed management.
- The IRRR group felt that a Shuswap River Watershed monitoring group or referral body should have a mixed composition of: local experts, on the ground experts, community representatives, first nation’s representatives, local government politicians, industry representatives, stewardship groups, as well as geographical representation. Need balanced perspective around the table, include this as a part of terms of reference for the development of this group. This group would ultimately be notified when activities are proposed within the watershed. The group needs to have a high profile so that it is automatically notified when activities are proposed.
- Attach a draft terms of reference for the monitoring group to the SRWSP.

- Use Issue identification list from Phase I to create flag words/criteria for triggering notifying the monitoring group (Strategy 3.3.1).
  - The question was raised as to whether the “products” being discussed by the IRRR would be referred to in the SRWSP or whether they would be developed to be included in the plan e.g. education material, Flow Chart / Diagram or handouts outlining re-occurring infractions and who is to be contacted. Where possible it was felt the IRRR working group could be used to at least develop draft documents.
- It was once again noted that the community often expresses their concerns regarding activities within the watershed but nothing happens; falling on “deaf ears”.

## **6.2 Development of IRRR Goal, Objectives and Strategies**

- **Review Draft Goal Statement**
- **Identify additional Objectives**
- **Identify additional Strategies / Actions**

## **6.3 Discuss and review “Education and Awareness” Goal and possible wording for the “Quality of Life” & “Climate Change” Goals**

- The group made a number of recommended revisions to the IRRR Worksheet which have been up-dated and attached as **Appendix 2**.
- In regards to the development of a “Quality of Life” goal the group felt that the other goals, strategies and actions specific to Land Use and the Natural Environment, Recreation and Interagency Relations, Roles and Responsibilities all work towards a good quality of life and that a separate specific goal is not needed.
- Discussion ensued regarding a Climate Change goal and the group felt that as data and information on the impacts Climate Change will have on the watershed emerges the plan and monitoring group will need to be adaptive and take into account those issues as they arise.

## **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; members will be paid at the end of the meeting period.

### **7.3 Future Meeting Dates and Locations**

Next meeting will be October 10th, 2012, 6:30 – 9:30 pm at the RDNO offices.

### **7.4 Upcoming Community Events**

## **PART 8 - ADJOURNMENT**

## Appendix 1

# Examples of Watershed Groups

## The Cowichan Watershed Board

The Cowichan Watershed Board (CWB) was announced on January 28, 2010.

The (CWB) is a recommendation of the [Cowichan Basin Water Management Plan](#) (the Plan) that was completed in March 2007. The CWB's mandate is to provide leadership for sustainable water management to protect and enhance environmental quality and the quality of life in the Cowichan watershed and adjoining areas.

The CWB does not have regulatory authority. Its job is to promote wise water management practices throughout the watershed by:

- advocating for the well-being of the watershed;
- guiding and coordinating the implementation of the Plan;
- providing timely, balanced and thoughtful advice to First Nations, federal, provincial and local government;
- securing stable funding sources to support water management activities;
- engaging local stakeholders in water management decisions;
- gathering information on and monitoring the health of the watershed;
- providing and accessing specialized expertise and knowledge for sustainable water management in the Cowichan watershed; and
- developing outreach and educational tools to enhance watershed thinking and increase understanding of water science, stewardship and management activities.

### The CWB has 12 members.

- Three appointed from among CVRD directors
- Two appointed from Cowichan Tribes Chief and Councillors
- Four appointed jointly by Cowichan Tribes and the CVRD
- One recommended by the Department of Fisheries and Oceans
- Two recommended by the Ministry of Environment

### Advisors and Committees

The CWB is assisted in its work by an [Advisory Board](#), a Communications Committee and a Technical Advisory Committee. Other committees will be convened as needed

## Nisqually River Council

The Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan is implemented through the “Nisqually River Council”, a non-regulatory coordination, advocacy, and education organization. The Council seeks to integrate the history, culture, environment, and economy of the watershed into healthy and sustainable future. A separate “Nisqually River Citizens Advisory Committee” assures citizen representation during implementation of the Nisqually Watershed Stewardship Plan.

The Nisqually River Council consists of nineteen active members. These members are:

- [Lewis County](#)
- [Pierce County](#)
- [Thurston County](#)
- [WA Dept. of Fish & Wildlife](#)
- [WA Parks & Rec Commission](#)
- [WA Dept. of Natural Resources](#)
- [Nisqually Tribe](#)
- [Citizens Advisory Committee](#) Representatives (3)
- [WA Dept. of Ecology](#)
- [WA Conservation Commission](#)
- [UW Pack Forest](#)
- [Joint Base Lewis-McChord](#)
- [Nisqually National Wildlife Refuge](#)
- [Mt. Rainier National Park](#)
- [Tacoma Public Utilities](#)
- Municipalities Joint Representative (1) [Eatonville](#), [Roy](#), [Yelm](#)
- [Gifford Pinchot Natl Forest](#)

## Nisqually Citizens Advisory Committee

The CAC is a very special and exciting group of citizens who are dedicated to protecting the watershed. Members enjoy a marvelous opportunity meeting other citizens from all walks of life who share common interests in the environment and who provide an opportunity of membership in a select group dedicated to protecting the Nisqually Resources throughout the River Basin. Our strong volunteer citizen element is the cornerstone to a successfully organized watershed, whereby citizen voices are heard through a process of respect, discussion at the table, and consensus on courses of action and responsibility. As a matter of protocol, we have a unique ability to interface with all the Nisqually River Council Agency representatives at monthly meetings and to co-serve with Council Members as volunteers for various committees within the Council structure.

**The Role of the CAC** in the original Nisqually River Management Plan was to provide for an active body of citizens within the watershed who work harmoniously with the River Council, who are substantially represented on the Council with three voting members, and who meet independently bimonthly, elect our own Chair and Vice Chair, and who plan our Annual Agenda in concert with the objectives of the Nisqually River Council’s goals determined at the Annual March Retreat.

### **The CAC purpose is four fold:**

- To provide advice and information to the Nisqually River Council, (NRC), on topics requested by the Council.
- To report on activities throughout the Watershed for the purposes of keeping the Council informed on citizen issues.
- To request information, approvals, or actions from the Council in order to be an effective watershed steward group.
- To assist the Council by participating and serving on various committees and units for Education, Natural Resources, Public Access, Salmon Recovery, Water Quality and Water Quantity Planning Unit, and on the Executive Committee.

## **The Coquitlam River Watershed (CRW) Roundtable**

The Coquitlam River Watershed (CRW) Roundtable will be a multi-interest body with members representing the various sectors with interests in the watershed. Governments and government agencies will be represented on the Roundtable, but the Roundtable will be an independent entity, not under government direction. Representation on the Roundtable will come from entities with legislative authority in the watershed such as the City of Coquitlam; the City of Port Coquitlam; the Kwikwetlem First Nation; Metro Vancouver; a Province of BC Ministry i.e., Natural Resource Operations and/or, Environment; Fisheries and Oceans Canada; and BC Hydro. Important non-government sectors that will be represented on the team include the aggregate industry, real estate developers, outdoor recreation, stewards involved with monitoring, enhancement, restoration and salmon, regional non-government organizations, education and culture, residents-at-large.

The Roundtable will not have authority to make decisions related to the jurisdictional authority or legislative responsibilities of governments or government agencies. The types of activities the Roundtable might undertake could involve coordinating a watershed-wide monitoring program, preparing a plan for the watershed, or working towards consensus on issues that affect the watershed. Because of its broad-based membership, the Roundtable will gain credibility through its actions and become an important voice in support of a healthy watershed. At the same time, it should help reduce conflict and make decision-making based on shared values of the watershed more efficient.

The Roundtable will be comprised of a Core Committee (administrative body), comprising 11-13 members, a Coordinator, and a Funders Group. The Roundtable is not intended to replace existing groups and organizations working on issues related to the watershed, but rather provides a structure to further facilitate this work in a collaborative way.

In considering what type of new organization would best serve the interests of the Coquitlam River watershed, participants in previous year's meetings studied the effectiveness of approaches used in other watersheds, such as the Cowichan Stewardship Round Table on Vancouver Island, the Salmon River Watershed Project in the Interior, and the Nisqually River Council in Washington State.

### **OBJECTIVES**

- To build partnerships and strengthen relationships between diverse members of the Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable

- To share information and encourage communication about the watershed through meetings, the project Web site and email list, and local news media
- To improve the health and long term sustainability of the Coquitlam River watershed
- To secure funding and in-kind support to continue the operation of the Roundtable in future years

## **METHODS**

The methodology for this project is best illustrated by describing the activities of the Roundtable which will be to:

1. Hold at least two Roundtable meetings which will be open to the general public.
2. Hold up to three Roundtable Core Committee meetings.
3. Hire and supervise a paid coordinator.
4. Share information and encourage communication about the watershed through meetings, the project Web site and email list, and local news media.
5. Define and implement up to three projects and activities, including preparing a business plan.

## **BENEFITS**

If the Roundtable is successful, its decisions, projects and activities will have a direct and positive impact on the health of the Coquitlam River watershed and the long-term sustainability of salmon in the watershed. The capacity of governments and non-government organizations to work on issues related to the watershed either collectively through the Roundtable or individually will be enhanced by the existence of this new coordinating body.

## **Horsefly River Roundtable**

The Mission of the Horsefly River Roundtable is to be a catalyst to achieve and maintain healthy Horsefly community watersheds, through coordinated management of all resources, respect for all concerns and cooperative, positive action.

### **Who ?**

Membership consists of interested members of the Horsefly community, and industries and government agencies that operate in the area, including forest licensees.

### **What ?**

A Non-Profit Society incorporated in the province of British Columbia in 2007

### **Where ?**

The area of interest represents those connected with the community of Horsefly, and includes the Horsefly River Watershed, and Beaver Valley.

## Why ?

- **Stewardship**
  - ecosystem health, including hydrology, fish and fish habitat
  - knowledge and appreciation of natural history
  - viewscapes and aesthetics
  - recreational tubing on the river - pollution, safety
  - education of those outside the roundtable
  - water stewardship - quantity and quality
  
- **Community voice**
  - economic, environmental and social opportunities and issues
  - communication with government agencies, industry, and other organizations
  - education of the roundtable members
  
- **Industrial development**
  - logging and trucking
  - road development and access
  - mining, mineral exploration, and placer mine reserve on the Horsefly River
  - hydroelectric production
  
- **Planning**
  - Cariboo Chilcotin Land Use Plan, Horsefly Sustainable Resource Management Plan
  - settlement planning and access
  - other plans
  
- **Ranching and private land**
  - erosion issues on the Horsefly and Moffat mainstems

## Nechako Watershed Council

A multi-interest group with First Nations, business, community and government representation. The NWC has accomplished much towards its goal of developing new water management strategies that incorporate solutions to the longstanding conflicts in the watershed



## Appendix 2

### Draft IRRR Goal Statement:

- ❖ **3. Facilitate, simplify and promote collaboration and efficiencies among agencies and the community for sustainable watershed management.**

#### Objective 3.1 Education:

To create and deliver a comprehensive community education program to advise residents and visitors of the following:

- a. Regulations and laws pertaining to activities in the watershed.
- b. Government agencies roles and responsibilities.
- c. Reporting and follow up mechanism for infractions.
- d. Sources of support for activities to improve the sustainability of the watershed (e.g. how to access assistance for riparian restoration / bank stabilization).

#### Strategies / Actions:

**3.1.1** Publish a list of agency roles and responsibilities

**3.1.2** Information Brochures

- Develop a Flow Chart / Diagram or handouts outlining re-occurring infractions and who is to be contacted.
- Develop a coordinated, cohesive approach on initiatives & marketing materials which outline issues in the area and Best Management Practices (we should brand these documents and events e.g. “ Partners for the Sustainable Shuswap River Watershed”).

#### Objective 3.2 Compliance & Enforcement:

To create and deliver an appropriate and timely response to complaints, and infractions.

#### Strategies / Actions:

**3.2.1** Develop an integrated response plan and secure sufficient financial resources to support the enforcement service.

**3.2.2** Develop a ‘one window’ integrated intake for complaints that will coordinate a response, collect the data, monitor response and provide follow up on infraction / issue.

- Inquiries BC potential avenue to carry out pilot project on geographic specific reports on complaints & follow up.

- 3.2.3** Explore funding of enforcement officers (RCMP, Conservation Officer, Bylaw Officer) who can be trained to enforce all acts. This service would be needed in peak season only (May long weekend to mid Sept)
- Activities will include looking at other models, meeting with all agencies, and exploring funding options for compliance & enforcement.

**Objective 3.3 Monitoring :**

To develop an independent permanent monitoring / referral/ advisory body or committee to:

- a. Oversee watershed health (cumulative impacts perspective),
- b. Identify and lobby for change to address ongoing issues,
- c. Act to create long term solutions (e.g. Enforcement and legislation changes),
- d. Tracking of unresolved issues & evaluate responses (short falls).

**Intent:** This body would be consulted by authorities or agencies on various activities in the Watershed, especially on Crown Land. This type of approach and referral process would be effective in providing more information and knowledge to the community about activities underway or proposed within the watershed. This monitoring body would also represent ongoing community concerns.

**Strategies / Actions:**

- 3.3.1** Develop Terms of Reference for watershed monitoring/advisory body.
- 3.3.2** Develop a referral mechanism in which the monitoring body is consulted on specific activities within the watershed.
- Key topic areas/flag words/criteria s/locations should be developed that would prompt consultation. (eg. parks, industrial use, we need to determine the scope of what is to be referred, suggestion to flag issues that were identified by the group in Phase 1, Issues Identification).
  - Geographic interest areas could also be mapped as triggers.
  - The group should have a mechanism to identify and act on repetitive issues as they arise – adaptive role.
- 3.3.3** Identify gaps and overlaps in jurisdiction, legislation and response to watershed issues in an ongoing manner.
- 3.3.4** Meet with Provincial and Federal Politicians to engage them in the process. This would be an opportunity for them to hear about the status of the watershed and get their participation in pursuing solutions. (e.g. the MLA could follow up on issues related to provincial ministries).
- 3.3.5** Identify impacts from natural disasters (e.g. recent flooding and landslides) and learn from these events to develop strategies to reduce the impacts of future such events.

- 3.3.6** Ensure the Shuswap River Watershed Management Plan and monitoring body maintain an adaptive approach to issues within the watershed especially in regards to emerging data and research on the effects climate change will have on the Watershed.

## **GOALS ACROSS WORKING GROUP AREAS**

### **❖ 5. Education and Awareness Goal –**

**To raise community awareness of the importance of the Shuswap River watershed, the ecosystems it supports and the relationship between human activities and watershed health, such that we all take ownership of our actions.**

## **Strategies / Actions**

- 5.1** Develop and implement a water quality education program.
- 5.2** To create and deliver a comprehensive community education program to advise residents and visitors of the following:
1. Existing Regulations and laws pertaining to activities in the watershed
  2. Government Agencies Roles & Responsibilities
  3. Reporting and follow up mechanisms for infractions
  4. Sources of support for activities to improve the sustainability of the watershed (e.g.) how to access assistance for riparian stabilization
- 5.3** Septic system and domestic water supply education
- 5.4** Educate adjacent land owners and public on high value fish spawning / habitat areas.
- 5.5** Develop an education strategy with realtors dealing with rural properties to inform buyers of:
- Livestock & Waterways
  - Water Licenses
  - Riparian Management'
  - Living by Water
  - Information Brochure "Thinking of buying a rural property"
  - Need to contact existing owners as well
- 5.3** Identify & support existing education programs e.g. Kingfisher Interpretive Centre.
- 5.4** Engage riverfront owner's to each do their part for river stewardship; everyone takes ownership for a healthy sustainable watershed.
- Utilize stewardship groups to distribute information
  - Provide information regarding water stewardship with the "welcome Wagon"