



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 October 5th, 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

PART 4 – ADOPTION OF MINUTES

The meeting minutes for June 8, 2012 were re-sent and if no changes are received from group members they will be approved as presented.

PART 5 – BUSINESS ARISING FROM MINUTES

PART 6 – NEW & UNFINISHED BUSINESS

6.1 Review of the Plan Outline and Recreation documents

The group went through the Plan Outline and Recreation documents

In the initial discussions a couple of points came up. There was a request for research to be carried out on other waterways within the Province where boating restrictions have been put in place to find out how they were developed and implemented and what happened afterwards. Were they successful?

The topic of inter-basin water transfers also came up. Is it mentioned in the plan and is it strong enough? Currently the Land Use and Natural Environment Chapter references the Regional Growth Strategy Water Stewardship Strategy WS-2.5 strategy which reads;

Fully consider the economic, social, ecological and hydrological consequences of future inter- and intra-basin transfers during the evaluation of these types of projects.

It was suggested that there needed to be stronger wording around preventing such transfers. The question was raised “what is the process to apply for an intra-basin water transfer in today’s context?”

Plan Outline Document

Comments regarding the Plan outline document were as follows. Specific content changes have been made to the document.

- Long-term nature of the plan needs to be emphasised
- Need to demonstrate the document is legitimate, recommendations are science based and the working groups were not biased.
- Need to include the representative nature of the working groups
- Document needs to include list of supporting references
- Human Activities section
 - Represent the change in population numbers, visitation numbers, rate of change.

Recreation Document

Comments regarding the Recreation document were as follows. Specific content changes have been made to the document and are not all listed here.

- Needs to reflect that there has been an increase in the level of awareness regarding the impacts of recreational activities on the watershed and an associated decrease in level of tolerance.
- Level of tolerance of activities and the associated impacts have been influenced by changes in actual equipment (personal watercraft, bigger boats), technology, bigger wakes, increased levels of wealth resulting in more equipment and changes in perceived “need” for equipment.
- The question came up as to whether there was any broader process to regulate the size and scale of equipment.
- Discussion around ensuring there was good scientific studies used to back up the piece regarding impacts of boating. An example was raised of a tourist boat on the Yukon River that used to sail from Dawson City. This example was researched and although the boat in question is no longer running due to the investigations into its impacts, there was never a final ruling as to its impacts. The tour company pulled it before the final ruling came out.
- Context information
 - Section 1
 - Add reference to littering and garbage
 - Reads boat heavy, expand to other recreation activities, enhance land-based information.

- Reiterate that focus is whole watershed, not just waterways.
- Section 2
 - Add noise and disrespectful behaviour
 - Strengthen safety aspect
 - Include conflict between recreation users and residents
- Section 3
 - Expand on promoting, fostering sustainable forms of recreation

Need to identify/reference strategies and actions that support themes discussed in other chapters such as riparian areas protection.

Future discussions need to look at

- Defining what responsible boating is
- Docks/access/structures discussion – need reasonable accommodation of access without creating structures that are out of character for the local context.

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 year.

7.3 Future Meeting Dates and Locations

Next meeting will be November 2nd, 2012 9:00am to 12:00pm at the RDNO offices.

Joint Working Group meeting – RDNO staff discussed how they would like to have a joint working group meeting to review the Working Group recommendations as a wider group and cover some common topic areas.

PART 8 – ADJOURNMENT