



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 November 2nd, 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

Guests: Mike Simpson FBC
Liz Williamson MFLNRO

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 Oct 5, 2012 were 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 discussed the **Plan Outline** document and a number of points were raised:

- There needs to be made mention of periodic Plan Reviews (status up-date as to what initiatives have been acted on and where work needs to be done).
 - It was mentioned that maybe the watershed referral body could take this on as one of their tasks.
- Include a paragraph in the Plan Outline that acknowledges that issues and concerns on / along the river were of main concern during the public consultation phase and that these issues will need to be addressed in the short term. However, the plan does also address watershed wide issues and areas of importance.
- Felt that more enforcement would reduce the incidents and conflicts on the Lower Shuswap River.
 - Need to explore the opportunity to deputize people (citizens, Roy Morgan, Neil Brooks)
 - Pursue discussions at the Senior Management level to ensure that more focus is paid to enforcement on the river and existing resources are utilized (funds already allocated but not spent).

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.

- Need to substantiate the statistics of non-motorised and motorized recreationists on the river (chamber report, citizen surveys and studies, Kildonan Boat Launch).
- Section 1, paragraph four of the document we need to expand on the fish species present within the river (currently just focuses on salmon).
- Section 1, paragraph three need to substantiate these claims of conflicts between recreational users (utilize River Watch Reports).
- Recreation goal now reads “That the Shuswap River Watershed is a model of **safe and** sustainable recreational practices, providing diverse recreational opportunities that respect and do not compromise, interfere with, pollute or devalue the ecosystems and communities that the watershed supports”.
- Edit all strategies and actions that relate to pursuing boating regulations and re-word to reflect the consultation process required by Transport Canada.

Discussion with Liz Williamson Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (Vernon office) regarding review of dock guidelines for the Okanagan component of the Thompson Okanagan region:

- Liz processes applications for docks on Okanagan and Kalamalka Lakes. At this point applications for docks on Shuswap River, Mabel Lake, Sugar Lake would likely be undertaken by Kamloops staff. In long term plan is to have all applications in this area processed out of Vernon office.
- Currently there is no ultimate restriction on size of docks.
- Transport Canada gets involved if there may be any navigation concerns regarding dock size & location (MFLNRO screen first).
- Not many local governments have bylaws restricting docks and buoys however these bylaws are critical in aiding in a municipality or regional districts’ ability to gain more control over dock design (potentially size and character) and total number of structures & buoys.
- Implement a Development Permit Process for dock approval and in sensitive high value habitat areas require a Qualified Environmental Professional report.

- Floating platforms do not require Provincial approval, but to require Transport Canada approval.
- Currently not any river specific dock development guidelines in the Province.

**A copy of the content from an email from Liz is at the end of these notes with a whole lot of contact information.*

The group proceeded to discuss the topic of Boating Restrictions:

- It was noted that more of an effort needs to be made on informing the public of the concerns associated with motorized watercrafts (erosion of river banks, negative impacts on fish habitat and natural environment, as well as safety concerns e.g. potential collisions between motorized and non-motorized river users).
 - This discussion and greater awareness of the issues should be carried out prior to the initiation of Transport Canada boating regulation process.
 - Education could go a long way in reducing concerns and be carried out in conjunction with the boating restriction consultation process.
 - Changes were made to the wording of the boating regulation recommendations to speak to engaging the community in the Transport Canada stipulated process to explore boating restrictions.

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

A Joint Working Group meeting will be held on November 24th, 2012 at the RDNO office. Each working group will present the key recommendations they have developed in response to the issues identified by the wider community in Phase I of the planning process and the working group discussions.

PART 8 – ADJOURNMENT

Email from Liz Williamson - Fri 11/2/2012 2:41 PM

Hi Anna:

Thanks to you as well for the opportunity. It was valuable to listen to concerns & the not-so-small nuances of river vs lake.

Here is some contact info for us in Vernon:

General enquiries re permits required**, construction requirements etc:

Reception: 250-558-1700 (ask for FrontCounter BC & will be redirected to the person on call that day)

Email: FCBCVernon@gov.bc.ca

** Please note – we are just starting to learn about SLIPP so we may, in the short term, need to get back to people on specifics

Questions re guidelines, SLIPP requirements etc; request for input into bylaws:

For now folks should continue to contact Kamloops (let me know if you want specific contact info). At some point this may be administered from Vernon but until then Kamloops should be your point people.

Questions re what's happening with the Okanagan basin guidelines, interaction with SLIPP/Shuswap, etc.

Me: 250-558-1721; elizabeth.williamson@gov.bc.ca

Individual trespass complaints re unauthorized or excessive structures:

Provincial Compliance (RAPP) Line: 1-877-952-7277 or <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/cos/rapp/form.htm>

With respect to complaints – it is really helpful to have a sense of the issue. For example, if there are concerns re navigational safety the issue is best sent to Transport Canada as it is outside our provincial mandate.

Having mainly dealt with the larger docks on the lakes, a few things as well that occurred to me after the meeting - there may be quite a few structures that would not go through an extensive authorizations process. As mentioned, the seasonal floating docks that can be removed every fall are under the jurisdiction of Transport Canada (similar to mooring buoys). In addition, we have a provincial authorization called the "General Permission" – this is for structures <20m². I'm wondering if quite a few of the "untenured" structures might fall within the general permission framework. The general permission has requirements & a process but does not go through as stringent of a Land Act tenuring process. Any in-stream works do however still require a Water Act notification/approval so there would be scrutiny re habitat impacts.

Would you like me to send you info on the provincial & regional guidelines, difference between a general & specific permission, etc for distribution?

Please let me know if I can provide more info or if you have questions, suggestions, etc.

Liz Williamson, R.P.F.

Senior Land Officer

Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Okanagan Shuswap District

2501 14th Ave

Vernon, British Columbia V1T 8Z1

Tel. 250-558-1721

Fax. 250-549-5485

Email: Elizabeth.Williamson@gov.bc.ca