



## REGIONAL DISTRICT OF NORTH OKANAGAN

NOTES of a meeting of the Shuswap River Watershed Sustainability Plan JOINT LAND USE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT, RECREATION and INTERAGENCY RELATIONS ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES WORKING GROUPs held in the Board Room at the Regional District Office on November 24<sup>th</sup>, 2012 9:00 am – 12:00 pm

### Members:

#### LUNE

Aline Piche  
Bob Whitley  
Dale Kerr  
~~Doug Clark~~  
Erika Davidson  
~~Jim Davidson~~  
~~Giles Shearing~~  
~~Herman Gorrits~~  
Neil Brooks  
Ralph van Daltsen  
~~Susan Everatt~~  
~~Tom Minor~~

#### REC

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

#### IRRR

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

Rick Fairbairn Area “D” Director

**Observers:** Mike Macnabb Area “C” Director  
Jackie Pearase Area “F” Director

**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, overview of the meeting**

## **PART 2 – Working Group Presentations**

- Some minor wording changes were suggested for strategies and actions throughout the documents. These changes will be made and highlighted for review; they will not be specifically covered off line by line in these minutes.

### **Land Use and the Natural environment**

- Acknowledged that Strategy 3.2 is already a requirement by law and monitored for compliance by the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations as well as most company’s certification programs. In addition, complaints are investigated by the Forest Practices Board. Reforestation plans should be able to be accessed from the licensee- although some experience of this is proving to be difficult. However, it was noted that areas burnt and or damaged by insects are not required to be reforested unless they are also salvage logged. It was suggested that the wording around “logged areas” be taken out to reflect the areas damaged that are not mandated to be re-planted
- There was discussion around Objective 8 and specific wording regarding reducing carbon emissions.
  - noted that in the working group discussion it was felt that the recommendations should speak to managing what may happen as a result of climate change because creating actions and strategies to reduce emissions was beyond the scope of the Land Use and Natural Environment context (bit abstract).

### **Recreation**

- Noted that Action 9.7 boating restrictions might not be supported by the recreational fishermen and that problems associated with boating maybe seasonal (when water high etc).
- Discussion arose regarding upland areas and impacts of recreational users on specific species for example Mountain Caribou. Mentioned that restriction zones may be required to help protect the critical habitat of such species (no go zones based on animals, at risk species requirements).
  - Add a specific action that speaks to SEI inventory identifying no go sites.
    - Caribou habitat and other high-at-risk species
  - Need for more protected areas and wildlife corridors

- General concern that there are a lot of activities going on in the back country and the group is wondering how we can get a handle on it.
- Noted that a program is in the works to address backcountry logging roads (concerns / issues with road maintenance, ownership and decommissioning of these rds).
- Noted that we may want to look into recommendations for area specific uses, eg. Cross country skiing (people will lay a track and then its gone / used by snowmobilers).
- It was also mentioned that some concerns with ATV users could be addressed through ATV clubs, however it was acknowledged that requiring training at the time of licensing / sale of these types of equipment would be most effective.
- Action 9.8 could be more specific to requiring licensing of users of motorized recreational equipment and/or have dealerships take on the task of educating users on what responsible use entails. Always useful to have funding for initiatives.
- Concern about impacts of recreational activities in reservoir drawdown zones e.g. Sugar Lake.

### **Interagency Relations, Roles and Responsibilities**

- It was mentioned that once this Plan is complete it should be sent to other Regional Districts so they are aware of the work and recommendations that are being pursued in order to ensure the Sustainability of the Shuswap River Watershed and to seek assistance on applying pressure on the Province to assist.
- Concerns were raised regarding funding and implementation of the plan. It was noted that an outcome of the Regional Growth Strategy has been a discussion to create a Legacy Fund for the purchasing of lands of interest. This may be an avenue to preserve land of high value / sensitive habitats.
- The creation of a watershed watch group could be another avenue for resourcing / joint partnerships.
- There were concerns that current RCMP resourcing does not reflect the need in summer months as it's often distributed based on population numbers which do not reflect the seasonal influx of visitors.

### **Education and Awareness**

- Mentioned that we should be mailing residents more often to get their feedback on specific issues, concerns or projects on the go. It's a good way to get the community more engaged in local initiatives.
- Felt that instead of Rivers Day or in addition to Rivers Day, there should be one large region wide event to celebrate, honour and acknowledge the importance of the Shuswap River.
- Involve retailers of recreational equipment as they will know best ways to reach users.
- Opinions varied as to whether or not the Education and Awareness strategies and actions should be consolidated into one location or kept in all relevant areas. In the end it appeared that most people felt these strategies and actions should be kept in all locations but that executive summaries/one page information

sheets should be created for each section based on user groups (how does this plan effect boaters, or waterfront property owners etc).

**PART 3 – Strategies and Actions- Priorities and Timelines**

- The last hour of the meeting was dedicated to a discussion around prioritization and timing for implementation of specific strategies and actions.
- Each working group reconvened to go over ten strategies and actions that had been identified by staff as key issues or areas of concern (that had been raised in phase I of the planning process, community consultation, as well as within the working group discussions).
  - Within each working group area, the ten strategies and actions were reviewed and ranked by the working group members. After these group discussions, all working group members were encouraged to review each others strategies and actions and vote on their top five for each topic area. By no means is this a representation of solidified priorities rather it is a starting point for community discussions on which key strategies and actions should be acted on first. Below are a list of the top five strategies and actions that were identified in each working group area.

**Land Use and the Natural Environment**

1) 6.1 Prioritize high value riparian sites based on available information (e.g. SHIM & FIM inventory mapping work and Golder Shuswap River Technical Assessment) and identify potential funding sources for restoration.
2) 5.1 Promote water conservation through best management practices (e.g. irrigation efficiency and domestic use education programs such as live water smart).
3) 1.6 Identify sources of pollution (e.g. storm water runoff & sewage treatment discharge) and adopt higher management standards if necessary.
4) 7.8 Explore options for notification of mapping results on property titles as well as Streamside Protection and Enhancement Area widths (SPEA).
5) 2.5 Identify funding opportunities for range initiatives such as removing corrals, fencing sensitive sites and providing off-stream watering areas.

**Recreation**

<p><b>1)</b> 9.7 Engage the community to explore boating regulations in accordance with the process stipulated by Transport Canada for the purpose of reducing erosion of the river’s banks, protecting riparian areas and reducing disturbance to spawning salmon and nesting birds. Possible regulations that have been suggested include:</p> <p>Mara Lake to Enderby or Baxter Bridge (Ashton Creek) – no wake zone Up-stream of Enderby or Baxter Bridge (Ashton Creek) to Mabel Lake – non-motorised vessels only.*</p> <p>As also recommended in Action 10.2, 12.2, Strategy 13.3 &amp; Action 14.3</p>
<p><b>2)</b> 9.1 Promote responsible boating, including initiation of an education program to explain why regulation of boating is necessary for environmental, social and safety reasons.</p>
<p><b>3)</b> 12.1 Increase education and enforcement on the river with respect to responsible boating and recreational practices through increased capacity, evaluation of priorities and coordination of enforcement activities.</p>
<p><b>4)</b> 11.4 Engage with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations to explore the potential to develop river specific dock design standards and opportunities for access through the riparian areas.</p>
<p><b>5)</b> 11.3 Pursue water and foreshore zoning to control the placement and design of docks and buoys.</p>

**Interagency Relations, Roles and Responsibilities & Education and Awareness**

<p><b>1)</b> Develop a Comprehensive Education Program that addresses Actions 16.1, 19.2, 19.3, 19.5, 19.6, 19.7</p> <p>16.1 Information Brochures</p> <p>Develop a Flow Chart / Diagram or handouts outlining re-occurring infractions and who is to be contacted.</p> <p>Develop a coordinated, cohesive approach on initiatives and education materials which outline issues in the area and best management practices (documents and events should be branded e.g. “Partners for a Sustainable Shuswap River Watershed”).</p> <p>19.2 Create and deliver a comprehensive community education program to advise residents and visitors of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Existing Regulations and laws pertaining to activities in the watershed</li> <li>2. Government Agencies Roles &amp; Responsibilities</li> <li>3. Reporting and follow up mechanisms for infractions</li> <li>4. Sources of support for activities to improve the sustainability of the watershed (e.g.) how to access assistance for riparian stabilization</li> </ol> <p>19.3 Septic system and domestic water supply education (CSRD Septic Smart)</p>
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<p>19.5 Develop an education strategy with realtors dealing with rural properties to inform buyers of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Livestock &amp; Waterways</li> <li>• Water Licenses</li> <li>• Riparian Management'</li> <li>• Living by Water</li> <li>• Information Brochure "Thinking of buying a rural property"</li> </ul> <p>19.6 Identify &amp; support existing education programs and community initiatives that celebrate the value of the Shuswap River Watershed through the arts and cultural events. E.g. Kingfisher Interpretive Centre.</p> <p>19.7 Engage riverfront owner's to each do their part for river stewardship; everyone takes ownership for a healthy sustainable watershed.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Utilize stewardship groups to distribute information</li> <li>• Provide information regarding water stewardship with the "welcome Wagon"</li> <li>• Build upon the River Watch reporting mechanism</li> </ul>
<p><b>2)</b> 17.2 Develop a 'one window' integrated intake for complaints that will coordinate a response, collect the data, monitor response and provide follow up on the infraction / issue.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inquiries BC</li> <li>• RAPP</li> </ul>
<p><b>3)</b> 17.4 Develop a Watershed Watch program modeled on Block Watch to provide a network of community members to observe and report on violations.</p>
<p><b>4)</b> 17.3 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 &amp; enforcement.</p>
<p><b>5)</b> 18.2 Develop Terms of Reference for watershed monitoring/advisory body.</p>