



Meeting Minutes

Date: October 11th, 2005 1:15 p.m.
Location: Sweltzer Campground, Soowahlie First Nation

Chair: Marion Robinson, Fraser Basin Council

Present: Mark Johnson, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
David Barnes, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Tom Cadiuex, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Krista Englund, Fraser Valley Regional District
Graham Daneluz, Fraser Valley Regional District
Sylvia Letay, Ministry of Environment
Nelson Kahama, Soowahlie First Nation
Carl Commodore, Soowahlie First Nation
Lincoln Douglas (2:30), Contractor to Soowahlie First Nation

The meeting commenced at 1:25.

1.0 Introduction and Acceptance of Agenda

Several items were added to the agenda. The agenda was accepted as modified.

2.0 Added Agenda Items

2.1 Road Washouts on road leading to Soowahlie Reserve

Nelson Kahama of Soowahlie First Nation informed the Project Team that Sleepy Hollow Road leading to Soowahlie Reserve (in behind Riverside Resort & Cafe at Vedder Crossing) experienced serious erosion by the Chilliwack River during high water this year. Part of the road was washed out overnight and was in danger of further erosion. The Soowahlie First Nation attempted to contact the City of Chilliwack to determine the appropriate protocol for mitigating the damage to the road caused by the River. Unable to contact someone at the City, the Soowahlie First Nation engaged a contractor from K & L Contracting to fix the road due to the serious threat posed to public safety (this road is used by members of the public and residents of the Soowahlie Reserve). K & L Contracting reportedly stabilized the bank to the required standard with gravel and rocks at a cost of approximately \$29,000.

The questions/concerns raised by Soowahlie First Nation and K & L Contracting were as follows: (a) who is responsible for maintaining the portion of the road on which the washout occurred, (b) how can the risk of future washouts be mitigated in the short term and the long term, (c) how should Soowahlie deal with this if it occurs again (i.e. who should be contacted, contact info, protocols), and (d) will the City of Chilliwack reimburse the Soowahlie First Nation for the cost of emergency road repairs? It was determined that the road washouts occurred within the City of Chilliwack boundaries. Maintenance of that portion of the road is the responsibility of the City of Chilliwack. Future discussions need to occur between the City of Chilliwack and the Soowahlie First Nation on how to deal with this potential liability and threat to public safety in the short term. These discussions should occur before high water in November. The long term issue of gravel building up in the river bed and shifting river patterns is also an issue that can be considered in the upcoming Issues and Alternatives phase of the Chilliwack River Watershed Strategy.

Action Item 1: Krista to prepare a larger map showing jurisdictional boundaries around the Watershed and the Soowahlie Reserve

Action Item 2: Krista and Graham to forward a brief report of this issue to the City of Chilliwack on behalf of the Chilliwack River Watershed Strategy to facilitate the flow of information.

2.2 Relationship to Chi-ihl-kway-uhk

The Chi-ihl-kway-uhks recently held a meeting in the Chilliwack River Valley and discussed their plans for the future of the Valley. Both the Chi-ihl-kway-uhks and the Chilliwack River Watershed Strategy are interested in the future of the Watershed and so our processes should be complementary. It is important that our process connects to their process in an appropriate way. There was a suggestion that we focus on being inclusive and sharing information as we are working for the same thing. It was suggested that representative(s) from the Project Team should approach a representative of the Chi-ihl-kway-uhks to ask how the two processes could be integrated. Nelson offered to bring this message to the Chi-ihl-kway-uhks on our behalf. The project team supported these actions.

Action item 3: Nelson to inform the Chi-ihl-kway-uhks about the purpose of our process and invite others to be involved.

Action item 4: Marion to contact a representative of the Chi-ihl-kway-uhks and ask how the two processes could be integrated.

3.0 Review of Outstanding Action Items

Action Item 1: Krista to contact Nelson about youth group participation in the fisheries tour.

Action Item 2: Krista to draft a 1-page description of the tour and a schedule of events and distribute widely.

Action Item 3: Krista to request funding for the forestry tour lunch from Frank Sobkowich.

Discussed under section 3.1

Action Item 4: Krista to prepare a short article (1-2 pages) for the Ratepayers Association newsletter at end of September, and a presentation to be followed by a discussion for the meeting itself.

The article for the newsletter was submitted and a presentation is under development.

Action Item 5: Tom to contact Lydia Jaremovic about getting links or pdf's to the bibliography documents.

Action Item 6: Krista to look into having the FVRD host the website and getting more prominent links to the website.

Discussed under section 3.4

Action Item 7: Dawn O'Neill to investigate giving the Project Team a referral (this means that the Project Team would be given an information package and the opportunity to comment on the proposal within 60-90 days depending on the urgency).

Action Item 8: Krista to investigate whether the Project Team can receive referrals for other developments in the Chilliwack River Valley.

Discussion ensued regarding the Project Team taking referrals. It was agreed that since the Project Team is not in a position of authority, formal referrals cannot be received. However, the Project Team can receive information and can provide the value of multiple perspectives and expertise in one place.

Action Item 9: Doug to email Krista with an update on recreation management in the Chilliwack River Valley.

No updates received to date, but something should be coming soon.

Action Item 10: Dave B. to look into getting the video footage of the Chilliwack River Valley.

Bruce Usher had the video at one time, but thinks there is another copy in the Surrey Archives – the search continues.

Action Item 11: Krista to draft a presentation that could be delivered to EASC by Tom, Brad or Hugh at the November 8th meeting to encourage additional funding from FVRD for the Watershed Coordinator position.

This action item will be addressed at the Joint Management Committee meeting for the Watershed Coordinator position on October 28, 2005. Graham suggested that letters of support from the various agencies on the project team would be helpful.

Action Item 5: Project Team members to forward letters of support for the Watershed Coordinator position to Graham Daneluz at the FVRD.

The September minutes were adopted as written (2:30pm).

4.0 Business Agenda

4.1 Fisheries Tour

Outstanding Action Items from last meetings:

- A one page description of the tour was distributed.
- Soowahlie Youth Group will be providing a salmon and bannoch lunch.
- No one from UCFV is available to film the tour, but Mark Johnson will bring his camera.

Approximately 20 individuals are expected for the tour. Several other individuals that might be interested in attending the tour were identified. Unfortunately, the October 20th date conflicts with a large meeting of Ministry of Environment and Cultus Lake Park Board representatives.

Action Item 6: Dave B. to confirm attendance by Jennifer Feinberg at the Chilliwack Progress.¹

Action Item 7: Krista to inform participants to bring their own chair and mug.

Action Item 8: Krista to contact individuals from the City of Chilliwack, Ministry of Forests, and the Ministry of Transportation to invite them to attend the tour.

4.2 Forestry Tour

Who & When

- We should plan for a full day
- We should hear primarily from the Ministry of Forests (i.e. Gene McInnes – Operations Manager Chilliwack FD) and perhaps someone from Industry as well

Topics of interest

- species at risk
- slope/terrain stability issues
- explanation of terminology
- see an example of a report, go out and see what happened & get explanation
- decommissioning of roads
- allocations to FN in the area
- management of sensitive areas
- differences in management under the old Forest Practices Code and the new Results-based Code
- challenges facing the Forestry Industry

¹ Note that Jennifer has confirmed her attendance and a photographer will meet us at the hatchery.

Other Suggestions/Discussion

- Suggestion to approach the Ministry of Forests regarding providing lunch
- Frank Sobkowich has obtained approval to fund the lunch
- the fish hatchery could be a stopover point
- people want to get a map of the area before going out to the field
- some of the topics of interest may be better addressed in “classroom” sessions during future meetings

Action Item 9: Krista to follow up with Gene McInnes about the forestry tour.

4.3 River’s Day Sub-Committee

- Articles were published in the Chilliwack Progress and Chilliwack Times prior to the event
- Approximately 100 people attended the river clean up portion of the event
- About 25 individuals “put a pin in their house” on the air photo of the valley
- Approximately 25 brochures were distributed
- The response from people was very positive – some were interested in becoming involved and left their names
- About 10 individuals participated in other activities (trivia, matching, left name and contact info)

4.4 Data Management Sub-Committee

Background document – Comments received from Graham Daneluz and Dave Schaepe were integrated. The Electoral Area Services Committee (EASC) will be asked to approve the Historical Society’s use of the document in their book at the October EASC meeting.² The project team approved the background document.

Action Item 10: Krista to forward a copy of the background document to Ron Denman at the Chilliwack Museum.

Watershed atlas – These maps are close to being complete. It was suggested that the draft Watershed Atlas be run by Rob Knight for comment before being finalized.

Action Item 11: Krista/Shannon to forward the complete Watershed Atlas to Rob Knight for review prior to printing.

Bibliography – Dave Schaepe added a section for Sto:lo documents. Virtually all documents now have a source/location listed. Many critical documents are not in pdf format and must be scanned before they can be linked to the website. It was noted that the FVRD is not responsible for any copyright issues that might arise with respect to the Bibliography.

² Note that EASC approved the use of this document, with a small amendment to the list of contributors, in the Historical Society’s book on October 12.

Action Item 12: Individuals from each agency should produce pdf copies of the critical documents as they can and forward the pdfs to Krista for linking to the bibliography.

Website – At a meeting just prior to the CRWS meeting, it was decided that the FVRD will host the html pages of the CRWS website, and the Community Mapping Network will help by hosting the large files (i.e. bibliography, watershed atlas, etc). Ryan Durand has been hired to complete the necessary programming to get a new website up and running. The website should be ready for launching in about a month.

Action Item 13: Krista to email the draft new website to project team members for comment.

4.5 **Communication Sub-Committee**

The Communication Sub-committee met prior to River’s Day to discuss communication and stakeholder engagement. At this meeting, the brochure was updated and a rough plan for the issues and alternatives phase was agreed to. The sub-committee brought several points regarding the upcoming phase of “Issues and Alternatives” forward to the Project Team for discussion:

List of Stakeholders

The list of stakeholders was circulated and Project Team members were asked to add any missing names to the list. It was noted that this list will never be “complete.” Rather, individuals will be added as they are identified.

Action Item 14: All Project Team members to forward names and contact information for stakeholders, First Nations representatives and members of the public that are currently missing on the list to Krista as soon as possible.

Plan for Watershed Forums

The subcommittee presented the plan to hold a series of watershed forums to the group (one for First Nations, one daytime forum for government reps and others who would attend as an employee, and one evening forum for members of the community). The following concerns were noted and suggestions were made:

- It would be preferable to hold the public forum before the ‘government forum’ – if we build community support, then participation of government will be more effective
- Government reps should be encouraged to attend the community forum to hear the issues – but not to debate the issues
- Expectations management will be key – the forums must be planned to involve individuals in a productive way (e.g. we must set the stage with regards to what issues we want to hear about – the big issues – maybe provide some examples)
- We cannot really avoid identifying issues and alternatives – it will not be pretty, but we have to do it – it will be like making sausage
- Some items brought forth from the community will be perceptions of issues rather than actual issues – we need to address both
- We need a hook to engage community members; food is always a good draw

- Venues suggested include the old RCMP training centre, the University College and the Fish and Game Protective Association clubhouse. It was noted that the college would be good because it is neutral and the association's clubhouse would be good because it is in the Valley.
- A talking stick or roving microphone might encourage individuals to talk and keep the discussions flowing effectively
- A survey should also be completed for those individuals who do not wish to speak
- A key question is: what is the product we want to produce? And how will the results of the "issues and alternatives phase" be used? As laid out in the Terms of Reference, we will produce an Issues and Alternatives document, which provides an analysis of the issues and alternatives. Once the analysis is complete, it is hoped that we can generate some recommendations to deal with the issues. These recommendations could be presented to the appropriate agencies/decision makers for consideration. The document that outlines the issues, alternatives, and recommendations itself will be a key product, as well as the relationships and understanding built amongst those involved in conducting the analysis and generating the recommendations.

5.0 Consent Agenda

5.1 Restoration Projects Update

Nutrient Fertilization

Unfortunately, the application for nutrient fertilization submitted by DFO was not successful.

5.2 Priority Restoration Projects

Krista asked the project team to help her identify potential funding sources for projects, and ideas for projects in the Chilliwack River Watershed (or anywhere in the Fraser Valley Regional District). There are upcoming deadlines for the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk fund and the Pacific Salmon Foundation. Several other potential funding sources include Eco Action, Skagit Endowment, Western Economic Diversification, and potentially something from the USA.

Action Item 15: All team members to forward ideas for projects or funding sources to Krista

Action Item 16: Sylvia Letay to talk to Ross Venesland about a potential project for the Habitat Stewardship Program.

Action Item 17: Krista to follow up with Dave Lamson about potential projects in the Valley.

6.0 Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

7.0 Appendices

- A. Summary of Action Items
- B. Background document
- C. Communication and Stakeholder, First Nations, and Public Engagement Plan
- D. Contact Database
- E. Fisheries Tour Itinerary and Description
- F. Calendar of Events
- G. CRWS Brochure

The Next Meeting will be:

**Tuesday, November 15
Cultus Lake Laboratory
4222 Columbia Valley Highway, Cultus Lake
1:15 pm**

Come at 12:30 for a brief tour of the hatchery!

Appendix A. Summary of Action Items

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