

CRWS Project Team Meeting Minutes

Date: April 24, 2006 1:15 p.m.
Location: Fraser Valley Regional District



Facilitator: Marion Robinson, Fraser Basin Council

Present: David Barnes, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Tom Cadieux, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Krista Englund, Fraser Valley Regional District/F.V.R. Watersheds Coalition
Sylvia Letay, Ministry of Environment
Kevin Walker, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands
Mark Johnson, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Barry Eastman, Ministry of Transportation and Highways
Doug Wilson, Fraser Valley Regional District Parks
Alan Kenney, Pacific Salmon Foundation

The meeting commenced at 1:20

1.0 Introduction and Acceptance of Agenda

The agenda was adjusted and accepted as modified.

2.0 Review and Acceptance of Minutes

January Action Item 1: Krista to bring forth the deer and goat map item to the March meeting for an update. The Ministry of Environment has not yet officially released the deer and goat winter range map.

January Action Item 2: Krista Englund to distribute a summary of the van tour to the project team. Completed.

The minutes of the January 25th meeting were accepted as circulated.

3.0 Updates/Presentations

3.1 Recreation Management in the Chilliwack River Corridor

Doug Wilson informed the group that the Ch-ihl-kway-uhk Tribe Society recently met with the Integrated Land Management Bureau and the Fraser Valley Regional District to discuss recreation management in the Chilliwack River Valley. FVRD has proposed that the Province issue the FVRD a 2-year license of occupation to provide for a testing period for a pilot project to address several environmental and social concerns associated with overnight use of undesignated sites in the valley. This would enable the Regional

District to prepare a Bylaw to enable government agencies that have expressed interest in protecting the Valley to enforce regulations primarily respecting camping location, parking, and nuisance and noise regulations. Another meeting is set for May 2, 2006 to discuss management possibilities in more detail. The goal is to have a system in place before the May long weekend.

A draft management for recreation in the Chilliwack River Corridor was produced by FVRD Parks in 2003 based on the work of a steering committee that began in 2001. This document cannot be released publicly until the FVRD has been delegated the responsibility to manage recreation in the corridor.

The traffic counter that was operated by FVRD between January 2005 and January 2006 recorded 1.3 million visits to the valley.

3.2 Fraser Basin Salmon and Sustainability Plan

Alan Kenney from the Pacific Salmon Foundation delivered a presentation about the Fraser Basin Salmon and Watershed Sustainability Plan, which is a jointly managed initiative between the Pacific Salmon Foundation and the Fraser Basin Council. Key points from the presentation are:

- This plan was requested by the Living Rivers Trust Fund Advisory Group, which is comprised of John Woodward (chair), Chris Trumpy, Don Peterson and Rick Hansen.
- The Living Rivers Trust Fund was established in 2002 with the vision of creating a legacy for BC founded on healthy watersheds, sustainable ecosystems and thriving communities.
- In fall of 2005, two workshops were held to develop an overall vision and plan. These workshops led to an agreement in principle in December.
- The Province is expected to announce the plan in May. Following this announcement, an inaugural meeting (e.g. Fraser Assembly) will be held.
- A detailed workplan is under development and projects are expected to start this summer.
- The vision of the plan is “to inspire and enable changes in human behaviour for the benefit of salmonids and the watersheds they depend on.”
- The objectives and key strategies are:

Objectives	Priority Strategies
Enhance collaborative governance and coordinated stewardship	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Celebrate salmon • Governance and integrated planning • Engage First Nations
Integrate waters use with watershed and fish planning/management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tools to integrate water use and watershed and fish sustainability • Protect and restore habitat

Improve info base for fisheries management while reducing impacts on non-target stocks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sustainable fisheries • Improve fisheries information
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- There is an opportunity for strong linkages between the Chilliwack River Watershed Strategy and the Fraser Basin Plan.

Action Item 1: Krista and Alan to arrange a meeting to discuss the relationship between the CRWS and this new initiative in more detail.

4.0 Business Items

4.1 Government Forum Debrief

Attendance to the Government Forum (i.e. special meeting) was excellent and the discussion that occurred was useful. In addition, it was valuable to ensure that all agencies are aware of the Strategy and its goals. Unfortunately, the format somewhat prevented more in depth dialogue. It was noted that some issues cannot be discussed in an open format like the government forum (e.g. traditional use).

A summary of the dialogue at the government forum was distributed.

Action Item 2: Project team members to submit corrections/comments RE the government forum notes to Krista by May 3, 2006, otherwise, they will be considered approved.

4.2 Forestry Tour Debrief

Hats off to the Ministry of Forests, and Gene MacInnes in particular, for putting on a great tour of forestry in the valley on April 13, 2006.

One thing that was highlighted during the tour is that because forests take so long to regenerate, forestry really is a generational issue. In this field, it is important to understand the history from a long time ago. This emphasizes the need for better information, such as the atlases produced by both the Ministry of Forests (http://www.for.gov.bc.ca/dck/Lim/dck_Maps_home.html) and the Integrated Land Management Bureau (<http://lrdw.ca/>).

Action Item 3: Kevin Walker to explore the opportunity for creating a direct link between the CRWS website and the Chilliwack River Watershed on the ILMB atlas system.

Action Item 4: Krista to send out the link to the ILMB atlas website.

4.3 Issues & Alternatives Discussion

The group reviewed the proposed structure of the issues and alternatives document and the list of issues to be included. The initial response to the proposed structure was that it should be effective. The list of issues was amended to the following:

Human activities

1. Recreation
 - (a) Overnight and day use of non-designated sites
 - (b) Overuse of designated sites
 - (c) Motorized vehicle use
 - (d) Illegal and/or harmful fishing techniques
2. Illegal Activities
 - (a) Illegal dumping and littering
 - (b) Public safety crimes
3. Management of Fish and Wildlife
 - (a) Hatchery production
 - (b) Hunting
 - (c) Invasive species
 - (d) Restoration and enhancement projects
4. Development
 - (a) Commercial, residential & institutional development
 - (b) Resort development
 - (c) Independent power projects
 - (d) Transportation networks
5. Resource Extraction
 - (a) Forestry
 - (b) Mining
6. Cultural Issues

Natural Processes

7. Flooding
 - (a) Flooding
 - (b) Flood Mitigation works
8. Landslides & Slope Hazards
9. Forest Fires

Governance/Relationships

10. Cooperation/Communication/Data and knowledge sharing
11. Participation
12. Crown Land Tenures & Sale

After discussing the best way to proceed with analysis of the issues, it was generally agreed that working groups would be the most effective approach. There was some concern about the timing for conducting this type of analytical exercise given that the summer field season is beginning. In response, it was noted that working groups can be small in order to reduce difficulties associated with process. In addition, working group members can work largely through writing and phone calls in order to maintain some flexibility.

There was some discussion about whether the Project Team should prioritize the issues at this time. It was agreed that individuals should start working on issues that are within their area of expertise/interest. Future discussions should be held regarding prioritization.

It was noted that working groups will need to identify the short term wins (e.g. “doables”) as well as the issues that will need to be addressed over the long term.

Action Item 5: Krista to send out a request for participation in working groups to analyze each of the 12 issue categories. Each working group should have a leader and one or more participants.

5.0 Projects/Referrals

5.1 Referrals

The group discussed the role of the project team in reviewing referrals. It was noted most agencies on the project team receive and respond to referrals through other established means (e.g. not through the CRWS project team). Also, discussing each referral in detail during project team meetings could require a significant amount of time. It was decided that for now, referrals could be distributed for information only because project team members do find it useful to keep up to date with what is happening in the watershed.

5.2. Garbage Cleanup

Graham Daneluz and David Barnes have been coordinating a clean up of garbage with inmates from the Ford Mountain Correctional Centre along the Bench Road after the May long weekend. Some funding has been secured to assist with this initiative. It is hoped that this clean up can be repeated after the Labour day long weekend as well.

The Chilliwack-Vedder Cleanup Coalition completed another river clean up on April 22. Over 130 people were in attendance. Twenty-one of the twenty-seven sections of river have now been adopted.

5.3 Ryder Creek

The joint FVRD-UCFV mapping project for the Ryder Creek drainage is now complete. The mapping resulted in the identification of several kilometres of previously unmapped water courses, as well as numerous ponds and wetlands. The majority of the newly mapped water courses were considered to be nonfish bearing (generally intermittent or ephemeral streams), with the exception of constructed rearing channels and ponds. Incidental mapping of the endangered (SARA Schedule 1 species) Oregon forestsnail (*Allogona townsendiana*) proved to be a valuable addition to the project.

6.0 Other

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20 pm.

The next meeting will be held on Monday June 12 from 1-4 pm (location TBA). If any project team members would like to volunteer/suggest a meeting location, please contact Krista.

7.0 Summary of Action Items

Action Item 1: Krista and Alan to arrange a meeting to discuss the relationship between the CRWS and this new initiative in more detail.

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