

CRWS Project Team Meeting Notes



Chilliwack River
Watershed Strategy

Date: November 1, 2006
Time: 1 pm – 4 pm
Location: FVRD, Cheam Boardroom

Facilitator: Marion Robinson, Fraser Basin Council

Present: Krista Englund, Fraser Valley Regional District/Watersheds Coalition
Dave Lamson, Electoral Area E, CRAC
Graham Daneluz, Fraser Valley Regional District
Doug Wilson, Fraser Valley Regional District
Mike Hofer, Fraser Valley Regional District
Sabina Kasprzak, Fraser Valley Regional District
Nelson Kahama, Soowahlie First Nation
Sylvia Letay, BC Ministry of Environment
Bob Stanton, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Mark Johnson, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
David Barnes, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Tom Cadieux, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

The meeting commenced at 1:15 pm.

1.0 Introduction and Acceptance of Agenda

The agenda was accepted as written.

2.0 Review and Acceptance of Meeting Notes

The notes from the August 30 meeting were accepted as circulated.

Action item review:

Action Item 1: *Email Nelson by September 28th if you would like to attend the Cultus Lake Sockeye Forum and dinner on the evening of Tuesday October 17.*

See update in section 3.2 below.

Action Item 2: *Project Team to email their 2007 projects ideas to Krista by September 8th.*

Action Item 3: *Project Team members to review the summary of EBA's priority restoration projects and notify Krista if a project has already been completed (by whom and when) and add additional projects that your organization considers important.*

These suggestions were considered by the Restoration working group.

3.0 Business Agenda

3.1 Upcoming Events – please mark these on your calendar!

- Thursday-Friday, November 16-17: Fraser Basin State of the Basin Conference, downtown Vancouver – see www.fraserbasin.bc.ca for details!
- Wednesday, November 22: Bald eagle release at Matsqui Park at 11 am as part of the Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival.
- Saturday & Sunday, November 24-25: Fraser Valley Bald Eagle Festival – see www.fraservalleybaldeaglefestival.ca for details!
- The Coast Salish meeting has been postponed until January 2007.

Action Item 1: Krista to show the Nisqually Watershed video at the next CRWS meeting and send out info about the process to the Project Team.

3.2 Current Activities / Updates

Cultus Sockeye Forum (Nelson Kahama/David Barnes)

The forum went very well and was fairly well attended (about 70 participants), although more were expected.

Independent Power Proposals (Nelson Kahama)

Soowahlie First Nation has entered into an agreement with Interpac to propose a run of the river hydro project on Tamihi. Nelson offered to have the Interpac representative, Dave, give a presentation about the proposal and gave his contact information to Krista.

Soowahlie Gravel Extraction (Nelson Kahama)

DFO has approved Soowahlie's proposal to extract gravel from the Chilliwack River upstream of the Soowahlie Reserve. The proposed extraction would take the main flow away from the campsite and would be relatively small (e.g. 100 yards). This extraction may take place as early as January. A 5-10 year plan still has to be worked out with DFO.

Chilliwack River Action Committee Project Update (David Lamson)

Nonie Creek ponds, once completed, were left dry and will fill up when the fall rains arrive.

The Slesse Creek side channel was completed in September and will help to reduce erosion of the clayslide on the opposite bank.

The CRAC Help Habitat fundraiser raised \$5,000.

The Chilliwack River Action Committee will be putting forth a proposal to the Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program to study the clayslides in the watershed. A meeting will be held to work out the details of this proposal on November 10th.

The Chilliwack River History Book will be released on Saturday. The book costs \$50 and 1,000 were printed.

Action Item 2: Dave Lamson/Krista to send out an invitation to the Project Team to attend the clayslide meeting with the Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program on November 10th.

Action Item 3: Dave Lamson/Krista to inform Project Team how they can purchase the Chilliwack River Valley History Book.

Nuisance Mitigation (Doug Wilson/David Barnes)

Doug met with Minister Penner recently to discuss nuisance issues in the watershed. Doug noted that fishing license sales are down; it seems people are not purchasing licenses (note that licenses cost \$50 and the fine for not having a license is about \$100). It was suggested that the authorities revisit the fee structure.

The Nuisance Mitigation Team will meet next on November 9th. Little has changed since July. A copy of the September 14, 2006 meeting notes were distributed FYI.

Presentation to DFO Pacific Region Staff (Bob Stanton)

Bob has continued to follow up with DFO organizers about the Project Team doing a presentation to the Pacific Region Staff at the upcoming Oceans, Habitat and Enhancement Branch workshop/meeting. No confirmation has been made yet. If a presentation goes forward, Krista will attend with several DFO representatives.

Past Project Monitoring (Dave Barnes/Bob Stanton)

Bob Stanton and Matt Foy will be meeting with local fisherpersons in mid-November to discuss volunteer efforts to monitor past fisheries restoration sites/projects.

Cultus Lake Sockeye Status (David Barnes)

Close to 3,600 Cultus Lake sockeye have returned this year compared to 80,000 historically. Many are dying before spawning due to a kidney parasite. Some fish will be tested by the Pacific Biological Station. It seems to be the later run fish that are dying. The theory is that early run fish return to the lake quickly, whereas the later run fish hold in the Fraser and Chilliwack, giving the parasite the opportunity to mature faster because of the warmer water. Both early and late run sockeye spawn at the same time – all hold until December.

South Coast Conservation Program (Sylvia Letay)

In order to address the need for better inventory of species at risk in the Fraser Valley, crews searched for tall bugbane and phantom orchid throughout the Valley this past summer. Not much was done on private lands/valley bottom lands; efforts concentrated on crown lands. Data collected during these surveys will be available on the SCCP website and the Conservation Data Centre. Funding is required to support two traplines (\$5,000). Note that it may be possible to have a UCFV student do some of this work (e.g. Doug Wilson did Mountain beaver inventory on Sumas Mountain using a UCFV student).

Action Item 4: Sylvia Letay to help ensure Project Team can access new species at risk data collected through the South Coast Conservation Program for use in order to improve decision making.

Illegal Dumping Strategy (Mike Hofer)

At the request of provincial agencies, the FVRD is planning to revisit the Illegal Dumping Strategy, which was originally completed in 2003. A meeting will be held with all stakeholders in early January.

Action Item 5: Krista to send a list of potential attendees to the FVRD led-Illegal Dumping Strategy meeting to Mike Hofer. This list should include David Lamson, the CRWS Illegal Dumping working group members, ICBC, the Ch-ihl-kway-uhk Tribe Society and the rest of the Nuisance Mitigation Team.

Action Item 6: Mike Hofer to send Krista information about the Illegal Dumping Strategy meeting (e.g. time, location) to forward to the Project Team.

State of the Fraser Basin Conference (Marion Robinson)

The biannual State of the Basin conference will be held on November 16-17 downtown Vancouver. At one of the concurrent sessions on fish & sustainability, the CRWS will be listed as one example of progress towards sustainability. Note that there is funding to assist individuals attend if needed.

Heart of the Fraser (Marion/Tom)

Canfor recently turned over 55 acres on the Harrison Knob to be managed by Scowlitz First Nation as a conservation covenant. Heart of the Fraser representatives continue to meet with other agencies, First Nations and individuals to dialogue about protecting the heart of the Fraser.

BC Rivers Day

Over 250 people attended the cleanup on Rivers Day. The garbage picked up overflowed the 40 ft bin. Five truckloads of stolen property were retrieved from the end of Edwards Road about 2.5 km upstream of the Vedder Bridge. All recognize the complex social problems (e.g. homelessness) associated with this issue.

Fences on Private Lands/Access (David Lamson)

A new issue has become apparent in the watershed: fences on private land blocking access to the river. Fences can also pose a significant threat to safety. This issue should be considered by the Project Team.

3.3 Illegal Dumping Working Group Debrief

David Barnes and Krista Englund walked the Project Team through the draft illegal dumping issues and alternatives document. A revised copy of the document is attached in Appendix A. Discussions will continue at the next meeting.

3.4 Watershed Assistant

Krista distributed a copy of the job description and posting for the Watershed Assistant. The position will be posted at all relevant educational institutions (e.g. colleges and universities), in the newspaper, and with all First Nation employment networks in addition to the standard FVRD posting locations. Interviews will be conducted by Krista, Graham and Brenda Williams, FVRD Human Resources Manager. Project team members who have suggestions for the interview process are asked to send those suggestions to Krista ASAP.

3.4 First Nations Engagement

The Project Team appreciates the ongoing participation of Soowhalie First Nation/Sto:lo Tribal Council and Sto:lo Nation where possible. A representative of the Ch-ihl-kway-uhk Tribe Society or participating First Nation governments is also welcome to attend to replace the late Roy Mussel.

3.5 Progress of Other Working Groups & Future Scheduling

Knowledge Management: One meeting has been held and another is planned for December. Some assistance is required. A draft document is expected to be ready to present in January/February.

Restoration & Enhancement: The first meeting was held in early October and another meeting is planned for November 10 to discuss landslide rehabilitation.

Angling Ethics: The first meeting is planned for November 15th. It is expected that Mark will have a draft issues and alternatives document to present in late January.

Independent Power Projects: Krista has met with Nelson Kaham and Dawn O'Neill from the FVRD to begin discussions about IPPs. More discussion is needed with other interest groups. A draft issues and alternatives document is expected in late December/January.

4.0 Wrap Up

4.1 Next Meeting Dates/Locations

The next meeting will be held on December 13, 2006 from 9:00 am to 1:30 pm.

The meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm.

5.0 Summary of Action Items

Action Item 1: Krista to show the Nisqually Watershed video at the next CRWS meeting and send out info about the process to the Project Team.

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