

# CRWS Project Team Meeting Notes



Chilliwack River  
Watershed Strategy

**Date:** Oct 31, 2007  
**Time:** 9:00 am – 12:00 pm  
**Location:** FVRD, Cheam Boardroom

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**Present:** Lance Lilley, Fraser Valley Regional District / FVR Watersheds Coalition  
Mark Johnson, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
David Barnes, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Tom Cadieux, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Bob Stanton, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
David Lamson, Area E Director/Chilliwack River Action Committee  
Marion Robinson, Fraser Basin Council (facilitator)  
Doug Wilson, FVRD Parks  
Sylvia Letay, MOE (conference call)  
Graham Daneluz, FVRD

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The meeting commenced at 9:10 am.

## 1.0 Acceptance of Agenda

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The Agenda for the meeting was reviewed and accepted as written except for moving the discussion about the Cultus Lake Aquatic Stewardship Strategy to Section 4.1 (Announcements).

## 2.0 Review of Aug 22 meeting notes and ACTION ITEMS

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The minutes from the Aug 22, 2007 CRWS meeting were accepted as written.

Action Items identified from Aug 22 meeting were all carried forward.

- **ACTION ITEM 1:** Lance to update/edit River Hazard Issues and Alternative Report to reflect the comments expressed about dyking in the Chilliwack River Watershed (carried forward).
- **ACTION ITEM 2:** Lance to email Coalition members about CRWS website and available Issues and Alternative Reports carried forward).

## 3.0 Business Agenda

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### 3.1 Habitat Restoration Proposals:

- Dave Lamson described submitted project proposals by the Chilliwack River Action Committee for 2008. These included an off-channel project on Ryder Creek and a

sediment monitoring and clay slide stabilization project on the Chilliwack River. Tom suggested the results of the monitoring be made available on the CRWS website, as well as the Jacque-Whitfield Report on clay slide analysis.

- **ACTION ITEM 3:** Dave Lamson to forward the consultant report and the associated literature review to Lance for inclusion on the CRWS bibliography.
- Dave Barnes discussed proposals submitted by the Soowahlie First Nation for restoration works on Sweltzer Creek and for opening up lakes for over-wintering habitat.
- A proposal for rebuilding the hatchery along Little Chilliwack River was described by Mark. This proposal also included building an interpretive centre. Marion recommended getting support and involvement from Ernie Victor (Fraser Basin Council) for this project.

### **3.2 CRWS on IPPs:**

- The group discussed the potential significance of IPP development in the Chilliwack River Watershed. Keeping up-to-date with current information was a recognized challenge for CRWS, largely because local governments are not directly involved in the decision-making. Nonetheless, it was recognized that the FVRD can relay information to CRWS in an improved manner to help keep the group better informed.
- It was noted that a large number of organized groups are starting to form to help keep track of IPPs and their potential impacts on watersheds.
- Because of the 'indirect' impacts of IPP developments, such as roads and transmission lines, it was agreed that IPPs are a very valid issue for this group to be aware of.
- Graham discussed the need for a moderate approach to this issue. The FVRD supports green energy and the advantages of local energy sources. However, we need to look at the area as a whole and prioritize an IPP strategy for a watershed-scale since each watershed has a particular carrying capacity. Sylvia further added the need for more and improved baseline data to be able to determine these carrying capacities.

### **3.3 Wilson Road Dyke Update:**

- Project Team members discussed the status of the Wilson Road Dyke and associated compensation required. Currently two options still remain possible out of the original 12 alignments originally reviewed by the Steering Committee: one for Chilliwack Lake Road to form the dyke itself, the second for the dyke to have a different route. Each option has associated trade-offs, which are resulting in disagreements and slow decision-making. Ultimate approval is required by PEP.
- Given that November is fast approaching, it was recognized as unfortunate not to have made further progress on the dyke prior to the upcoming flood season. In an emergency situation, decisions are made with interests of human safety and property first and foremost, not fish and fish habitat. Therefore it is important to make decisions such as this when water levels are normal, NOT when flooding or near flooding.

- Graham noted the FVRD has been successful in their proposal to Pacific Salmon Foundation for a flood and hazard prevention and mapping project on the Chilliwack River. More information to follow.

### 3.4 CRWS Update:

#### A. Fishing Behaviour Update:

- Lance noted the outcome of the presentation provided by himself, Graham, and Mark on Sept 12 to the Chilliwack Fish and Game Club on CRWS and the Fishing Behaviour section. The presentation was mostly well received and provided a forum for individuals to express their concerns, mostly dealing with a perception of CRWS of bypassing existing processes (i.e., Sport Fishing Advisory Board) and making recommendations that could negatively impact some stakeholders.
- As a result of some of the strong concerns expressed at this meeting, it has been recommended that some of the language and recommendations made within the Fishing Behaviour report be made more consistent with other Issues and Alternatives Reports regarding scope (e.g., omit recommendations pertaining to Fraser River fisheries) and level of detail in the recommendations (e.g., specific regulatory changes). The Project Team agreed with this recommendation as long as we do not “water down” the final product just to avoid any controversy.
- The Project Team also agreed that CRWS is an appropriate forum for describing and encouraging dialogue about relevant issues within the watershed, including Fishing Behaviour or ethics. It can do so however largely as a narrative and not to advocate for a certain position.
- Doug noted that the major issue with fishing in the Chilliwack Valley is about numbers of fishermen and a lack of enforcement. Only when these factors combine to put added stress on the watershed and the resource do the secondary issues, such as fishing ethics, emerge in prominence.

#### B. Remaining Issues and Alternatives Sections:

- It was recommended by the Project Team that Crown Land management should form part of an introduction to the final Strategy and should include an introductory diagram on jurisdiction within the watershed (most notably on Crown Land)
- The Agency and Public Communication section can form part of the implementation strategy that will comprise the last chapter in the final Strategy.
- For any outstanding Issues and Alternatives Reports that remain “yellow boxes” (i.e., incomplete in terms of detailed analysis), we can provide just summaries and still include in the final Strategy.
- Dave Lamson discussed the issue of private land ownership, erosion, and riparian rights as a potential additional yellow box. Graham agreed to incorporate this issue into the existing Development section (**ACTION ITEM 4**) rather than have it as a stand-alone issue.
- Marion also suggested Pollution Prevention as an additional yellow box issue. She used the examples of lead shot from duck hunting and cumulative fishing weights remaining in the water column as potential watershed issues not adequately included in other sections.

- It was recommended that the final Strategy include a list of additional issues/discussions needed to account for some of these outstanding issues.
- C. Cultural Heritage Resource Management Section:
- Marion quickly reviewed the draft Cultural Heritage Resource Management report prepared by Jessica and others. The report was very well received and all felt it contributed to the final Strategy.
  - One concern that was discussed dealt with the name of the report – it should perhaps be specifically identified as a report about Sto:lo culture, not culture in general, since it does not deal with other cultures that do exist in the Chilliwack Watershed.
  - The Project Team also felt that the report should include a preamble to describe the intent of the report, what it is, and how it relates to the watershed and the watershed strategy.

## **4.0 Next Meeting, Action Items, & Adjournment**

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### **4.1 Announcements:**

- Cultus Lake Aquatic Stewards
  - Dave Barnes and Marion updated the efforts underway to improve Cultus Lakes water quality, including issues such as milfoil, recreation, development, and nutrient loading. A Terms of Reference has been created.
  - On October 12 Doug met with Barry Penner and received \$10,000 to be used for a gap analysis and literature review on milfoil management techniques.
  - Marion met with Craig Sciankowy (DFO) to received his support for CLASS as a process that deals with overall lake health, not just milfoil removal.
- FVRWC AGM
  - Lance updated the attendees on the upcoming Coalition AGM, scheduled for Nov 28 at 7:00pm at UCFV Chilliwack.
- Bald Eagle Festival
  - Tom discussed the FVBEF for Nov 17/18 at various locations throughout the Valley.

### **4.2 Next Meeting:**

- The next meeting was tentatively set for:
  - Date: December 7, 2007
  - Time: 9:00am-2:00pm
  - Location: FVRD Room 224
  - Tentative topics:
    - Remaining Issues and Alternatives Documents:
      - Recreational Use
      - Biodiversity/Species-at-Risk
    - Recap of Issues and Alternative Documents Produced
    - Looking Forward

#### **4.3 Action Items:**

- **ACTION ITEM 1:** Lance to update/edit River Hazard Issues and Alternative Report to reflect the comments expressed about dyking in the Chilliwack River Watershed.
- **ACTION ITEM 2:** Lance to email Coalition members about CRWS website and available Issues and Alternative Reports.
- **ACTION ITEM 3:** Dave Lamson to forward the consultant report and the associated literature review to Lance for inclusion on the CRWS bibliography.
- **ACTION ITEM 4:** Graham to incorporate the issue of private ownership, erosion, and riparian rights into the existing Development section.

#### **4.4 Adjournment:**

- The meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm.
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