



CHILLIWACK RIVER WATERSHED STRATEGY

Meeting Minutes

Date: April 11th, 2005 **1:00 p.m.**
Location: Fraser Valley Regional District, Cheam Boardroom

Facilitator: Meeri Durand, Fraser Valley Regional District

Present: Tom Cadieux, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Graham Daneluz, Fraser Valley Regional District
Meeri Durand, Fraser Valley Regional District
Dave Lamson, Chilliwack River Action Committee
Sylvia Letay, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection
Frank Sobkovich, Electoral Area E Director
Nelson Kahama, Soowahlie First Nation
Dave Barnes, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Brad Mason, DFO, Community Mapping Network
Rob Knight, MWLAP, Community Mapping Network
Shannon Sigurdson, Fraser Valley Regional District
Dave Sheape, Sto:lo Archaeologist

The Meeting Commenced at 1:15 p.m.

1.0 Introductions and Roundtable

Meeri Durand introduced herself as the facilitator for the meeting and a roundtable of introductions took place.

2.0 Adoption of Agenda and Minutes

The agenda was changed to allow the Community Mapping Network to present after committee housekeeping and updates. The minutes and agenda were carried with said changes.

3.0 Presentation

3.1 *Dave Shaepe, Sto:lo Archeaologist*

- A Heritage Management Plan has been prepared by Sto:lo which indicates their archaeological sites, archaeological site potential (modeled), place names, trails, Stl'aleqem sites, transformer sites and significant landscape features

- Heritage and cultural values are not often recognized during land management planning, or given the same level of importance as other values
- The Heritage Management Act goes beyond the standards of the BC Heritage Act to include features not recognized under the Act
- Within the Chilliwack River Watershed; upstream of Vedder crossing, are at least 63 site locations protected from disturbance under the Heritage Act
- Each of these sites has a corresponding site plan and are protected under Section 14 enforcement regulations and Section 12 permits to allow for disturbance
- Archeological sites are the physical remains of human activity pre-1849, these can range from pit houses, settlements, tools, human or animal remains, or rock paintings (petroglyphs are found only in the northern portions of the Fraser watershed)
- High impact recreation can often inadvertently destroy or damage sites
- In some cases, management of a site is through lack of information surrounding the site location or feature, or in areas of heavy activity, include interpretive facilities to improve education
- The RCMP polices or enforces the Act, but there are very few convictions
- The Ministry of Forests (MoF) enforces the Heritage Management Plan
- Less than 1% of the traditional area has been inventoried, so a site potential model has been used to assist in efforts and to set priorities for protection and future efforts
- The territorial boundaries of the Sto:lo are delineated by watershed boundaries, based on place names and village sites
- There are 10 place names in the Chilliwack River Valley, and villages of up to 23 to 60 homes are found at these locations – an estimated population of over 300 people likely lived in the Soowahlie settlement and more than 500 in the Chilliwack River Valley
- Trail systems have been determined based on historical accounts and maps of the travel routes of early explorers
- Verbal descriptions exist for Centennial Trail and the Elk/Thurston trails
- Stla'leqem sites are those inhabited by supernatural beings or are defined as powerful landscapes – they are generally localized where there are slough channels – double headed serpents – this symbol is shared amongst many Coast Salish groups
- Cultus Lake is an area that once held much power, but too many visitors caused the power to be used up
- Transformer sites that are familiar landscape features include Tamih Mountain (sleeping chief)
- The different values can be overlaid using a GIS system to represent these values in the Heritage Management Plan
- Similar work has not been pursued in the United States, although family ties and territory extends as far south as the Nooksak system
- American federal legislation provides protection to heritage and cultural sites beyond that in Canada

- It is important to feed cultural and heritage values to decision makers so that better management of these sites occurs
- Currently work closely with many of the forestry operators and are included as part of the referral process for forestry
- Areas of contention include Slesse Creek and Elk Creek
- Medicinal plant inventories have not been conducted in this area

Action Item: A half day tour of these sites would be of benefit for interested committee members. A May field trip will be arranged with Dave. Those interested may also be interested in the June and July field work at the Hope Campground

Action Item: A PDF copy of the maps and presentation will be made available

3.2 Presentation by the Community Mapping Network

(This presentation was deferred to follow housekeeping items)

4.0 Correspondence and Project Updates

4.1 Vedder Mountain Meeting Summary

Both Graham and Frank attended a meeting organized by the Columbia Valley Stewardship Society regarding matters on Vedder Mountain. The meeting was productive and general concerns expressed included forestry issues, recreational issues and impacts on water supplies, fire risk and illegal dumping.

The group desired the area to be managed as a recreational corridor, similar to that being prepared for the Chilliwack River Valley. This matter has been discussed with Gerry Kingston and Hugh Sloan and will be brought forth to EASC on Tuesday, April 12th. The Columbia Valley Stewardship Society has written the Regional District asking that Vedder Mountain be considered within the scope of this planning committee.

Discussion: The group had the overall consensus that this work was outside of the scope of this committee and is not included in the area of primary interest. It is premature to expect the capacity to take on more issues and area than that as described in the Terms of Reference. Information will be exchanged to assist this group.

Action Item: Graham Daneluz will prepare a response to the Columbia Valley Stewardship Society on behalf of the committee.

4.2 Evergreen Riparian Planting

Evergreen Foundation was involved in planting the site referred to as Boulder Run just west of the Tamihi Bridge April 2nd. Approximately 300 plants were used to restore riparian habitat along the creek and river banks. Several young naturalists and their parents assisted in efforts.

One of the issues on the site was vehicle access. Funding to de-activate the access point and to extend the berm on the site is hoped to be secured within the next week.

Discussion: Dave Lamson has several hundred plants that are available for similar work. Species include Red-osier dogwood and Douglas fir.

Action Item: Doug Wilson should be invited to provide an update on the Recreational Corridor Management Planning currently underway

5.0 Mapping

Presentation by Community Mapping Network

Brad Mason and Rob Knight of the Community Mapping Network demonstrated the internet based Chilliwack River Habitat Atlas and led discussions on this innovative tool.

The following are points made during the demonstration and subsequent discussions:

- The internet allows users to analyze and access data on-line – data entry requires a password to ensure quality control
- The site currently shows the historic scope of the watershed, but will be adjusted to identify the area of primary interest – similar to the hard copy maps being developed by the FVRD
- The Community Mapping Network is hosted by a server in the District of Squamish
- The Chilliwack River Atlas includes orthophotos from 2004 for the Canadian portion of the watershed
- Metadata descriptions will include the date and source of the data available – this requires some work for improvement
- The Ministry of Forests has contributed several data themes that incorporate the Forest Practices Code classification system – which may be confusing for users unfamiliar with these classifications
- An overlay of Fisheries and Oceans Canada stream data and Ministry of Forests data shows some correlation – it is important to note that stream classification by the Ministry of Forests is based on width and slope and not on biological factors, such as fish

- This is why it is important to clarify the metadata to avoid confusion
- It is difficult to determine stream buffers, due to different legal constraints based on land use, while the Riparian Areas Regulation (set back of 30 meters) is applicable to local governments, it is not applicable to forestry or other land use on Crown lands
- The Atlas allows measurements, such as distance, area and GPS coordinate search functions. These tools are not built into every atlas but can be if desired
- All Atlases have different functionality; but layers from other atlases can be transferred into mapping on another (grasslands mapping can be opened in the Chilliwack Atlas if so desired)
- The Southern Gulf Islands Atlas includes a user manual that can be used as a model for the Chilliwack River Atlas
- Layers of data are available from each agency and can be incorporated into the Atlas both on the Community Mapping Network and on hard copy

Action Item: Meeri will prepare an introduction and user manual for the Community Mapping Network modeled after the one prepared for the Southern Gulf Islands

Action Item: Agency GIS contacts will be sent to Shannon, Brad and Rob for their use in the development of the Atlas

Action Item: Brad Whittaker of the University College of the Fraser Valley will be invited to speak in regards to the partnership with the college for field work in the Chilliwack River Valley

- There are many inaccuracies involved with stream data depending on the scale of the mapping
- Provincial mapping is at a scale that does not allow for streams to be mapped at a high level of accuracy. This is why many streams on the map are not in the correct location (eg. Ryder and Wingfield Creeks).
- The reasons for inaccuracy is often based on the scale of mapping, how data was collected and the fact that many streams change course over time – historic drainage patterns are also important features
- Inaccuracies can be corrected, but it takes time and funding – may be an opportunity for UCFV students
- A training curriculum is being designed for UCFV for SHIM training – DFO can offer assistance in funding proposals
- Both DFO and WLAP reports are linked to the Community Mapping Network and stream data reports can be brought up by clicking on the stream of interest
- Other features that should be included in the mapping include the geotechnical hazards from the Hay and Company report, lot lines and boundaries and historical settlement patterns.

Action Item: Shannon, Brad and Rob will look at the Ryder Creek area to consider whether improvements to mapped stream locations can be made by interpretation of the 2004 orthophotos

Discussion of Website and Narratives

- Water, Land and Air Protection are preparing a brief narrative of about 5 pages – the desire was not to be overly technical and to grab the audience
- These shorter narratives can then be used to tie into the technical documents if a member of the public wants to dig deeper into a topic of interest.
- The website for the project has recently been re-designed and is being built upon over time
- There is a lack of photos available for the site currently and mapping
- These will be included as the habitat atlas is further developed
- Errors in the information as presented or ideas to incorporate into the site should be directed toward Meeri.
- A section to highlight the community should be incorporated into the site and the recreational corridor management plan should also be highlighted

Action Items: Images for the website are needed and members are asked to submit any photos or images they may have that are not copyright for use on the site

Action Item: Meeri will work with Doug Wilson to determine how he would like his project highlighted on the site

Action Item: Meeri will email a link to the website and prompt members for comments

Action Item: A Community component will be worked into the website and other sections developed over the next few weeks.

Action Items for Next Meeting

1.) Action Item: A half day tour of these sites would be of benefit for interested committee members. A May field trip will be arranged with Dave. Those interested may also be interested in the June and July field work at the Hope Campground

2.) Action Item: A PDF copy of the maps and presentation will be made available

3.) Action Item: Graham Daneluz will prepare a response to the Columbia Valley Stewardship Society on behalf of the committee.

- 4.) Action Item: Doug Wilson should be invited to provide an update on the Recreational Corridor Management Planning currently underway**
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- 6.) Action Item: Agency GIS contacts will be sent to Shannon, Brad and Rob for their use in the development of the Atlas**
- 7.) Action Item: Brad Whittaker of the University College of the Fraser Valley will be invited to speak in regards to the partnership with the college for field work in the Chilliwack River Valley**
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- 10.) Action Item: Meeri will work with Doug Wilson to determine how he would like his project highlighted on the site**
- 11.) Action Item: Meeri will email a link to the website and prompt members for comments**
- 12.) Action Item: A Community component will be worked into the website and other sections developed over the next few weeks.**

REMINDER of outstanding items from March Meeting

- 1.) List of Background Documents to be added to the Project Bibliography**
- 2.) List of desired values to be added to the Habitat Atlas available on the Community Mapping Network www.shim.bc.ca - ongoing**
- 3.) Narratives of the Chilliwack River Watershed - ongoing**

The Next Meeting will be held:

May 16th, 2005 at 1:15 pm
Cheam Boardroom, Fraser Valley Regional District