



## CHILLIWACK RIVER VALLEY WATERSHED STRATEGY

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### Meeting Minutes

**Date:** January 10<sup>th</sup>, 2005 1:00 p.m.  
**Location:** Fraser Valley Regional District, Cheam Boardroom

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**Facilitator:** Mark Johnson, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

**Present:** Tom Cadieux, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Len Leroux, Ministry of Forests  
Graham Daneluz, Fraser Valley Regional District  
Meeri Durand, Fraser Valley Regional District  
Matt Foy, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Mark Johnson, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Dave Lamson, Chilliwack River Action Committee  
Ross Neumann, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection  
Sylvia Letay, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection  
Frank Sobkovich, Electoral Area E Director  
Brad Mason, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

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The Meeting Commenced at 1:05 p.m.

#### 1.0 Introductions and Roundtable

Mark Johnson introduced himself as the facilitator for the meeting and a roundtable of introductions took place.

#### 2.0 Tolmie Clay Slide

Gale McMahon from the Fraser Valley Regional District provided the group with an update on the slide that occurred Friday, January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2005 in the A.M.

The FVRD was informed by David Lamson that he had observed cracks in the evening of Thursday, January 6<sup>th</sup> and that the area may be unstable. The next morning the slump fell into the river, blocking  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the river channel and moving approximately 50,000m<sup>3</sup> of material. No body was injured and there was no damage to property. Golder Associates assessed the site and commented that little could have been done to prevent the slide and that further assessment would be required after the snow subsides. The material has not been removed due to the fisheries window and instability of the site. Signage is required for the site to warn recreational users of the potential danger. It is important to note that the area

where the Chilliwack River Action Committee had installed groynes was found to be stable despite the instability of the area adjacent. An issue remains of the material moving after thaw occurs.

Discussions included the following:

- There is a issue of jurisdiction and responsibility toward public safety – funding for signage
- Kayakers may also be in danger, in addition to anglers and hikers
- DFO expressed that they may be able to secure funding for the signs, if the donation from the local anglers group does not go as planned
- Mark Johnson will contact Dave Lamson regarding the sign and will assist in facilitation of the process to get them made and installed
- The Chilliwack Progress (local newspaper) has been cooperative in warning the public through news articles
- The Chilliwack River Valley is geologically unstable and a larger warning system may be needed.
- Currently there are local area emergency coordinators for Chilliwack River Valley, Cultus Lake and the Columbia Valley area
- Road closures are the responsibility of Ministry of Transportation and Highways

The issue will be brought forward into the February meeting with a presentation by the Fraser Valley Regional District on their role.

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**Action Item: Mark Johnson will speak with Dave Lamson regarding how the project team can assist in getting the signage for this area up**

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### **3.0 Discussion of the Terms of Reference**

The following are points that were made during the discussion:

- The process is not clear on how it will impact on decision makers
- Challenge of providing the required information to direct decision makers
- The group will produce products that will provide tools to assist in decision making
- The purpose of the project needs to be clearly articulated
- In specific reference to objective 3 regarding the advisory panel – each agency has its own process to make decisions
- The establishment of indicators is an expensive undertaking
- Each agency has information, when partnered, that expands the knowledge base of all those at the table – good information is essential for planners at all levels
- It was suggested that an MOU for decision makers be drawn up as a referral service for change and to facilitate exchange of advice

- There is a lack of awareness of what everyone is doing and missing information – once these are identified then there can be formulation of decisions or advice
- There is a concern that there needs to be a decision of where we are going before we move forward
- Specific objectives need to be developed – key indicators of watershed health
- Ministry of Forests operations are based on best management practices – specific operational practices are set by legislation
- There is however room to improve referral process (due diligence)
- The Watershed-based Fish Sustainability process is not regulatory by nature – The Terms of Reference is consistent with this process, but is not the same
- Each agency has its own way of doing things – but their activities overlap – acting in isolation of one another is ruining public creditability
- Deliverable number one should be clarified to be a natural resource assessment
- Question of how the group attains creditability – decision making is based on costs and liabilities
- Buy-ins include financial backing, best management practices that are specific to the area (non-generic), summarized advice, group successes, better referrals
- Decision makers need to see these successes before there can be MOU's – objectives need to be specific
- It is important that simple communication occurs between planners and decision makers – the creation of a website will act to inform everyone, including the public
- There needs to be a collective decision of where to go and what the process will accomplish

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**Action Item: A workshop will be held to further revise the Terms of Reference and to reach consensus on the objectives and deliverables of this project (schedule and location pending)**

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#### **4.0 Stakeholder Involvement**

The following groups and individuals were identified as stakeholders in the process:

- Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management – Gary Sutherland
- Land and Water BC – Andrew Upper
- City of Chilliwack – Jim Vickerson
- Cultus Lake Parks Board – Grant Sanborn
- Ministry of Transportation and Highways
- Department of Defense
- Chilliwack Fish and Game Protective Society
- Post Creek Boaters
- Attorney General

- Vedder River Management Committee – Garry Wickham
- Neil Shubert – Cultus Lake Sockeye Recovery Team
- Baker Trail Strata Association
- Mike Pearson – Salish Sucker Recovery Team
- Kayakers Association
- Business Owners
- Holly Meaker – BC Timber Sales
- Provincial Corrections
- Forest Tenure Companies – Len Leroux will provide

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**Action Item: Meeri will add the identified stakeholders to the contact database for the project and make further contact with Land and Water BC, MSRM, and City of Chilliwack in regards to participating on the Project Team**

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\* The remainder of the agenda was not covered and will be carried over into February's meeting.\*

**The next meeting will be held on  
February 14<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at 1:00 p.m.  
Fraser Valley Regional District  
Cheam Boardroom  
45950 Cheam Avenue, Chilliwack**