



## CHILLIWACK RIVER WATERSHED STRATEGY

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### Meeting Minutes

**Date:** July 11th, 2005      **1:15 p.m.**  
**Location:** Fraser Valley Regional District, Cheam Boardroom

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**Chair:** Marion Robinson, Fraser Basin Council

**Present:** Tom Cadieux, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Dave Lamson, Chilliwack River Action Committee  
Mark Johnson, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
David Barnes, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Graham Daneluz, Fraser Valley Regional District  
Meeri Durand, Fraser Valley Regional District  
Nelson Kahama, Soowahlie First Nation  
Sylvia Letay, Ministry of the Environment

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The Meeting Commenced at 1:30 p.m.

### **1.0 Introduction and Acceptance of Agenda**

There was a round table of introductions and several items added to the agenda:

- a.) Update on the habitat work undertaken by the Chilliwack River Action Committee
- b.) First Nation participation and project relationship to Aboriginal Rights and Title
- c.) Messaging and how to clearly articulate the project goals and vision to the public

### **2.0 Action Items from the June Meeting**

- 2.1.) *Arrange for a presentation or tour of the Hatchery and the Hatchery program*  
Bob Stanton is on holidays and arrangements will be made upon his return  
It is advised that the Hatchery is at its busiest in October and November
- 2.2.) *15 to 20 hardcopies of the Habitat Atlas will be produced for distribution. A background information package will also be made for all the*

*information produced during the Background Information stage and linked to information sources.*

The hardcopy Habitat Atlas is slated for completion at the end of the month. The background documents once approved will be linked to the maps in the atlas and will be presented with the bibliography on disc. This package will be interactive on the website and available on disc from the Fraser Valley Regional District, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, the University College of the Fraser Valley and the Ministry of the Environment.

- 2.3.) *The Project Team will review and provide comments on the Background Document by the end of July so that revisions and a final product can be distributed and posted by August 2005.*  
This action item is addressed later in the meeting.
- 2.4.) *Tom Cadieux and Graham Daneluz will form a sub-committee to address what documents are critical and the format it will take on the website.*  
This action item is addressed later in the meeting.
- 2.5.) *A sub-committee will be formed to plan the public event on River's Day.*  
This action item is addressed later in the meeting.
- 2.6.) *Meeri Durand will develop a timeline for the project to assist the Project Team in prioritizing and meeting deadlines*  
A timeline was distributed with the minutes of the June meeting.
- 2.7.) *The forestry field trip will be arranged shortly after a new watershed coordinator is hired.*  
Pending the hiring of a new coordinator
- 2.8.) *Meeri Durand will arrange for interested individuals to have a tutorial on how to use the Community Mapping Network*  
Arrangements will be made when interest is expressed.
- 2.9.) *Matt Foy and Sylvia Letay will be asked to provide a brief overview of the changes made to the Lovely Pond project.*  
Matt Foy was not in attendance at the meeting. Sylvia Letay presented a brief overview of the changes made to the original plans and a justification for these decisions. A technical meeting was held on site with several experts in hydrology, herpetology and fisheries. These individuals discussed balancing the needs of improving habitat for fisheries values and the need to balance habitat work with the protection of wetland wildlife species, such as dragonflies and amphibians. **There is a lack of information on wildlife values in the area and a concern was expressed in regards to Species at Risk potential by Ministry staff.**

There are areas of the wetlands that have been designed to encourage fish and others areas that have been designed to intentionally not provide access for fish. Shallow wetland areas support dragonflies and other wetland species that are vulnerable to predation from fish. Additional area is created in the channel to also increase fish habitat, displacing only native common plant species. Fish access will be from Ryder Creek.

The Lovely Pond project is administered and funded through the Chilliwack River Action Committee (CRAC).

***Action Item 1: Matt Foy and Jon Bulcock from Fisheries and Oceans Canada will be asked to present the design to the Project Team for the next meeting, pending their availability.***

**Additional Agenda Item: *Discussion of Aboriginal Rights and Title***

- Concerns have been expressed in regards to the determination of Treaty areas and the practice of traditional rights within the river valley.
- Question of if this planning exercise will infringe on Aboriginal Rights and Title and First Nation consultation
- First Nation concerns need to be addressed and incorporated into the Project literature
- Needs to be further discussion of how to share sensitive information (cultural and natural heritage values)
- Chilliwack River Action Committee has worked with Dave Sheape on many of their projects to assess impacts to archaeological and cultural values.
- All in-stream work and other activities should be referred to the elders for comment
- It is not the intention of this project to be considered formal consultation, it is a knowledge sharing exercise and not a decision making exercise
- The group does not wish to conflict with First Nations or other participants
- Aboriginal Rights and Title is protected by the constitution and therefore their interests also protect the interests of private property owners
- The spirit of cooperation to benefit the watershed is what the project is intended to achieve and why participants are involved.

***Action Item 2: Frank Malloway and Jeff Point will be invited to participate in project related events to integrate traditional knowledge.***

***Action Item 3: A meeting will be coordinated with First Nations to discuss protection of cultural values.***

***Action Item 4: A letter outlining the scope of the project and its relationship to Aboriginal Rights and Title will be forwarded to Frank Malloway with cc to Roy Mussell, Nelson Kahama and others.***

### **3.0 Determination of Sub-committees**

#### **a.) Rivers Day Event Sub-committee**

Rivers Day is on September 25<sup>th</sup>, 2005. Event will be on the Saturday.

Sub-committee Members: David Lamson (will be in China day of event)  
Mark Johnson  
Meeri Durand (or new watershed coordinator)  
Tom Cadieux  
Dave Barnes  
Nelson Kahama

The sub-committee will invite the Chilliwack Vedder Clean-up Coalition to participate. Doug Wilson and FVRD park staff will be approached for their participation. It will be investigated if the Soowahlie Youth Group would be able to run a concession to raise funds for the organization at this event.

#### **b.) Data Management Sub-committee**

This sub-committee will be responsible for reviewing and determining methods of displaying and presenting information to the public and project team. This will include the management of sensitive information.

Sub-committee Members: Tom Cadieux  
Graham Daneluz  
Lidia Jaremovic  
Rob Knight

It was determined that the website go ahead using the Background Document and that the narratives be added as completed. An example may be the Municipality of Bowen Island website. The group may ask for input from David Lamson.

***Action Item 5: Ryan Durand will be asked to present the template modeled for the website and its capabilities. The mock template will be forwarded to Graham Daneluz for review.***

#### **c.) Communications Sub-committee**

Sub-committee Members: Marion Robinson  
Mark Johnson  
Meeri Durand (or new watershed coordinator)

This sub-committee will be responsible for determining how to put the Communications Strategy into action. It may or may not make use of external resources. Its intent will be to engage the public to participate in the process and how to frame the messages brought forth. Some emphasis will be made on participation in the Watershed Assemblies.

#### **4.0 Review of the Background Document**

The group split into smaller groups to review sections of the draft Background Document and to determine where significant errors in information or gaps in information were observed.

- Lidia Jaremovic has reviewed the document in detail and will be advised to send her comments electronically to Meeri Durand
- Representatives from Land and Water BC, Frank Malloway, Geoff Point, Marny Pfeifer and Marie Goulden will also be sent copies to review and provide comment.
- It is asked that comments are made using the track changes device, so that the original text is not changed and that corrections can be easily observed. Hand written comments on hard copy will also be accepted.
- Many spelling errors were observed and require correction.

***Action Item 6: Comments on the Background Document will be accepted until the end of July so a revised version can go forward at the August meeting. Please provide comments electronically with tracked changes or by hard copy with hand written comments to Meeri Durand.***

#### **Additional Agenda Item: Invitation and Role of the Fraser Basin Council**

Marion Robinson, Manager, Fraser Valley for Fraser Basin Council, has agreed to Chair the Chilliwack River Watershed Strategy project team. She asked if the contribution of the facilitator role would be required.

To clarify the role:

While this group is interested in FBC participating in this planning and action processes as a stakeholder/member bringing forward a sustainability view, it might be more valuable to be an impartial facilitator / convenor and that FBC's "value added" would be in process design, and assisting where necessary to enhance collaboration - rather than acting as a stakeholder/member at the table. Process design is critical to successful outcomes – getting it all to work.

FBC, as a non-profit society, brings connections through its board members and extended networks. FBC recognizes Aboriginal Rights and Title and bridges understandings.

***Action Item 7: Marion agreed to send the Charter of Sustainability and the Flood Plain maps for the next meeting; also a one-pager about FBC.***

***Action Item 8: All are invited to contact Elizabeth Balkwill at 1-604-4885350 or [info@fraserbasinn.bc.ca](mailto:info@fraserbasinn.bc.ca) to get on the mailing list for newsletters and other publications.***

## **Additional Agenda Item: Update on the habitat work undertaken by the Chilliwack River Action Committee**

### Lovely Pond

Materials for this project have been stockpiled at Thompson Park and work will commence in August.

Mark Johnson is working on interpretive materials for the site

Doug Wilson is the lead for trail development

In-kind contributions from BC Parks, DFO and FVRD Parks has been significant

### Wingfield Creek

Four rearing ponds have been created

### Ryder Creek

A settling pond has been cleaned out

### Deer Creek

A blocked culvert at the site has been cleaned out and the channel cleared of debris

### Tolmie Slide

\$50, 000 has been secured to complete the project this summer after August 1st, 2005

The project will protect from 20 to 40 year flood events, but is not designed to protect against the 100 year flood level on the Chilliwack River

### Nutrient Pellet Project

Nutrient pellets have been placed in Centre, Foley, and Post Creek

This program is extremely effective and low cost

### Next Year Projects

- Slesse Creek Slide is being reassessed with Golder and Associates next week
- Nonie Creek is being looked at as a habitat complexing project
- Pierce Pond is located above the hatchery and is also being considered for habitat work
- Spawning gravel depletion is occurring in the Centre Creek area, Matt Foy is working on an agreement that gravel extraction in the Vedder River portion of the watershed be returned upstream where gravel depletion is occurring

The Chilliwack River Action Committee (CRAC) takes into consideration the balance of wildlife values and fisheries values into the development of all habitat projects it undertakes.

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***Summary of Action Items:***

***Action Item 1: Matt Foy and Jon Bulcock from Fisheries and Oceans Canada will be asked to present the design to the Project Team for the next meeting, pending their availability.***

***Action Item 2: Frank Malloway will be invited to participate in project related events to integrate traditional knowledge.***

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**The Next Meeting will be  
August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2005 at 1:15 pm  
Fraser Valley Regional District  
Cheam Boardroom, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**Appendixes: No further appendixes**

