



CHILLIWACK RIVER WATERSHED STRATEGY

Meeting Minutes

Date: March 14th, 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
Mark Johnson, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Dave Lamson, Chilliwack River Action Committee
Sylvia Letay, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection
Frank Sobkowich, Electoral Area E Director
Nelson Kahama, Soowahlie First Nation
Gary Sutherland, Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management
Kevin Walker, Land and Water BC
Dave Barnes, Fisheries and Oceans Canada

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

Carried

3.0 Correspondence

Cultus Lake Parks Board

Cultus Lake Parks Board sent a letter thanking us for an invitation to participate. They will receive continued correspondence and have voiced their support for this initiative. A concern was expressed regarding Northwest Hardwoods plan for Vedder Mountain. The Board was sent a copy of the Regional Districts comments on the aforementioned proposal.

Ministry of Forests, Kerry Grozier

A letter received March 9th, 2005 from the Ministry stated that based on the Terms of Reference and scope of this project that the Terms of Reference be forwarded to the Inter-Agency Management Committee for their review and consideration so that the Ministry of Forests can better assess their level of participation in this process. They asked to continue to receive minutes of the meetings and that information and data needs be forwarded to Mike Smith, GIS analyst for the Chilliwack Forest District. For specific meeting attendance, Len Leroux will remain their main contact.

Please note: A decision regarding the referral to the Lower Mainland Inter-agency Management Committee will be withheld until the Executive Committee that is in its preliminary form has decided on that direction. It is a consideration that the Executive Committee formed between MWLAP and DFO will consider expansion to include other key Ministries, such as the Ministry of Forests and that this committee will be responsible for sign off on the Terms of Reference.

4.0 Old Business

4.1 Update on the February 22nd DFO Meeting

- The executive committee of Ed Woo, Dale Paterson and Brian Clarke met with key staff from both agencies, as well as various presenters from the Chilliwack River Watershed Strategy Project Team
- The aim was to improve the transparency of planning processes and to improve focus
- Presentations from the various partners encompassed the morning session and discussions between MWLAP and DFO continued in the afternoon
- The purpose was to educate other staff in DFO about the pilot project and to discuss the challenges of partnerships
- The meeting resulted in a coalescence of support from MWLAP and DFO, the original signatories for the 'Watershed-based Fish Sustainability' process
- The pilot was shown to be a good model of how to achieve objectives
- Tools being developed will focus on service to local government, First Nations, industry etc...

4.2 Terms of Reference

- The Executive Committee will be broadened to include other parties and once broadened will be responsible for the sign-off on the Terms of Reference
- The Watershed Coordinator will be central in the communication role between the executive committee and the Project Team
- The dynamics of the executive committee will validate Provincial concerns

- The Terms of Reference will be held until the Executive Committee is decided upon in whole.
- The name Chilliwack River Watershed Strategy will be adopted in future documentation for this project
- A clause in the Terms of Reference will fully detail the boundaries of the project and will make it clear the area does not include the Vedder River portion of the watershed, although recognized as part of the ecological boundaries
- The Vedder River Management Committee and City of Chilliwack will be kept informed of the process and will be invited to attend meetings where cross-jurisdictional issues are of concern, such as fisheries

4.3 *Draft Stakeholder Consultation Plan and Knowledge Management Plan*
Copies of each document are appended to the minutes and comments are welcome.

5.0 Presentations

5.1 *Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management*

5.2 *Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection*

Presentations are included as handouts to the minutes. Copies will be made available electronically and at the next meeting.

6.0 Group Exercise

Because of the timeframe available, the group exercise was not carried out. A discussion of general housekeeping items for the Background Information stage of the project followed the presentations:

Background Narrative:

- Difficult to conceptualize the background narrative and how that will meet the needs of the public and planners
- A Narrative is by nature a value-laden exercise, whereas a Background Document may be technical and objective
- It is important that both are available to the public, as some information may be lost in a narrative approach (such as geological or soil types) that are nonetheless important values for consideration
- A framework for the document was discussed as:

Background Document (Objective) FVRD Project Team reviewed	→	Various Narratives (Value-laden) Agency/Individual	→	CD of documents (Bibliography)
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- Concern that it would be difficult to discuss biodiversity values in a short narrative due to number of Species at Risk in the area
- Biodiversity values could be linked to the Species at Risk website or other concepts could be forwarded
- Exerts from the Narratives could connect to the Background Document (a concise technical/social overview of the area) and further connect to references in the Bibliography of documents available on the watershed. This concept works well for web-based information exchange but will be harder to achieve in hardcopy.
- Bibliography and Habitat Atlas will be subject to Freedom of Information and Privacy Act and sensitive materials may be excluded from public access. Some materials are not copyrighted for our use and will be simply stated as available from the appropriate publisher or agency
- Some data will be for use by the Project Team and not be made available to the public. These include sensitive cultural values and personal correspondence
- David Shaepe will be contacted for next month's presentation

Homework: The Document database that has been started will be sent out to each of the partners on the Project Team for their review for completeness and to highlight key documents that may be important in the development of the Background Document and Narratives. A list of mapping themes will also be sent to be reviewed and suggestions are welcome. It is understood that some data will be sensitive and will remain unavailable to the web and Community Mapping Network interfaces.

Next Meeting

April 11th, 2005 1:00pm to 4:00pm
Cheam Boardroom, Fraser Valley Regional District
45950 Cheam Avenue, Chilliwack BC V2P 1N6

Agenda to Follow

Appendixes:

- 1.) Presentation – Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management
- 2.) Presentation – Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection
- 3.) Stakeholder Consultation Plan
- 4.) Knowledge Management Plan