



## CHILLIWACK RIVER VALLEY WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLANNING

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### Meeting Minutes

**Date:** November 15<sup>th</sup>, 2004  
**Location:** Fraser Valley Regional District, Cheam Boardroom

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**Facilitator:** Brad Whittaker, Fraser Valley Regional Watersheds Coalition

**Present:** Tom Cadieux, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Lidia Jaremovic, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Roy Mussell, Ch-ihl-kway-uhk Tribes  
Kerry Grozier, Ministry of Forests  
Gene MacInnes, Ministry of Forests  
Hugh Sloan, Fraser Valley Regional District  
Frank Sobkowich, Director Electoral Area E  
Doug Wilson, FVRD Regional Parks  
Graham Daneluz, Fraser Valley Regional District  
Meeri Durand, Fraser Valley Regional District  
Matt Foy, Fisheries and Oceans Canada  
Shannon Sigurdson, Fraser Valley Regional District  
Brad Mason, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Community Mapping Network  
Rob Knight, Ministry of Water, Land and Air Protection

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The Meeting Commenced at 9:45 a.m.

### 1.0 Introductions and Roundtable

Brad Whittaker introduced himself as the facilitator for the meeting and a roundtable of introductions took place.

### 2.0 Background to Watershed-based Fish Sustainability Planning

A copy of this presentation is attached as an appendix. The following is a brief outline of the discussion that followed:

- Fish do not respect boundaries and enter this system from the Vedder and Sumas systems, why was the scope limited to the valley?
- The watershed is very complex and large and it was felt that it was more practical to address it as parts of the whole. It was not meant to be exclusive of the whole.
- A Species at Risk Recovery team is currently addressing Cultus Lake Sockeye at Cultus Lake and the Vedder River Management Committee is addressing issues in the Vedder, these groups need to be integrated into this process.
- It should be identified that the Chilliwack River historically ran through several First Nations communities and that these communities still have ties to this watershed, it is important that these historic issues are looked at.
- The knowledge management aspect of this project should address the entire watershed, including those areas that were historically a part of it – have to understand history so it is not repeated.

- There is a need to clearly define and develop an approach for this exercise, there has to be an identification of where to work first, there can be several areas and they do not necessarily have to be contiguous.
- There is recognition that the entire watershed needs to be visualized; focus of planning may be limited to one area, but not in isolation of the whole picture.
- The Terms of Reference includes three distinct zones and includes the channels cut off by the Vedder Canal – there is a conference on Thursday to address the Nooksack, another tributary cut off from Sumas Lake.
- The Strategy can be addressed sequentially or parallel – different players/committees/stakeholders for the different geographical areas.
- The capacity of understanding is global, but depends on local level strategizing – critical that a common understanding is reached.
- There is an issue that the entire watershed is large and passes several jurisdictional boundaries; it may be too complex to handle practically as a whole.
- The work done on the Habitat Atlas and Background will assist other jurisdictions with interests in the watershed – there are common elements that can be addressed without crossing those jurisdictional boundaries.
- Need to identify the land use plans that are in place (forestry, development, fisheries) and integrate them to find a common understanding – integrated watershed plan.

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**Action Item 1: Identify stakeholders and interest groups still required to participate**

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**Action Item 2: Set up presentations from each agency/stakeholder for future meetings to come to a common understanding of the processes used for land use planning by each group and their values in the watershed.**

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### 3.0 Draft Terms of Reference

A copy of this presentation is attached as an appendix. The following is a brief outline of the discussion that followed:

- The Draft Terms of Reference outlines the Regional District’s perspective, it is a start and does not represent the end product – there is flexibility.
- The Terms of Reference should reflect a broader perspective and be put into a larger context.
- It is project specific currently.
- It is difficult to put a deadline on a planning exercise – it is a complex process and there are millions of users and potential stakeholders – a deadline may make the project unachievable.
- If the deadline passes- project does not end.
- Years 2 and 3 may not be secured – the recreational issue has its own wheels – parallel but separate.
- Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management (MSRM) needs to be represented at the table – they are responsible for provincial planning.
- Ministry of Forests has impacts at the source – need to see the overlaps and what the outcomes of the project are.
- There are four governments at the table – Federal, Provincial, First Nations and the Regional District – there needs to be clarification on what types of issues we can address (regulatory/non-regulatory).
- The future perspective should be included – desired outcomes of the project need to be defined.
- Knowledge perspective is on-going – need to compile the historical and current situation to conceptualize what is here today to plan for the future – better decision making.
- The involved agencies bring a different perspective and background on the values present in the watershed.

- Breaking down communication barriers between the agencies and understanding how each function will allow for better decision making.
- Community needs to be represented.
- Step one is to address what values are there today – knowledge management – to reach a common understanding.
- There has been some cooperation between the Ch-ihl-kway-uhk and Forestry to look at history and issues – key First Nation values.
- There is an issue with consultation and how each agency has a different legislated mandate for consultation with First Nations.
- It is recommended Fraser Basin Council is invited to participate in this initiative.
- The Regional District has a legal obligation to consult with First Nations, but it is narrow.
- Role as a facilitator and to work toward consultation or collaboration, not at the same level as Provincial or Federal consultation processes.

(Note that Ministry of Forests representation had to leave and were not involved in discussions following this point)

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**Action Item 3: The Project has to be further defined, including roles and responsibilities as well as the scope of each step, with the understanding that Knowledge Management will be comprehensive and on-going.**

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**Action Item 4: Public Consultation obligations need to be discussed in further detail, including First Nation consultation.**

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#### **4.0 Roles and Responsibilities**

This presentation is included in the minutes as an appendix. The following outlines the discussion following the presentation:

- It was discussed that it would be important to this exercise that each agency present how their planning systems work – forestry planning processes has changed recently, as have others.
- Governments are now service orientated and need to understand how to best serve their clients.
- An alternative approach for the Terms of Reference would be to avoid the division of the project into the three areas as it may be counter-productive.
- Demands are on the entire watershed – knowledge management will have to be comprehensive, but issues may be detailed in a site specific manner.
- Knowledge management needs to encompass entire watershed and be on-going.
- Addressing issues non-specifically may result in road blocks – too many people becoming involved invites conflict.
- The area approach was chosen for clarity, it is hard to make decisions if there is no clarity on the subject.
- Lovely Pond and Thomson Park are deliverables that show progress and promote the project.
- The Terms of Reference is dependant on resources and capacity.
- We need to manage capacity so the momentum is not lost – will provide opportunities through connection.
- Stakeholders are hard to identify and often may focus on independent interests instead of the whole picture – need to make sure that the focus is ‘the whole’ and not ‘the parts’.
- Fish are tied into the health of the watershed (socially and ecologically) – where does the focus or centre sit? – fish are a healthy indicator of watershed sustainability – should we abandon this focus?
- Fish focus may alienate those who are participating.

- There is an important connection between fish and other eco-system components, including human health.
- The project should not be narrowed to focus on too few issues; residents are concerned this project may result in regulation of their activities.
- In Christina Lake - a similar exercise for the lake focused on water quality – for drinking water, fish and ecological values and economic values – water quality was the binding factor.
- The Fraser Basin Council in the 1990's identified that there are four factors to planning – socio-economic, environmental, and the political and institutional factors.
- People are a factor – success is measured by the sustainability achieved for future generations.
- People are attracted to the Chilliwack River for recreation and other activities because of good water quality.
- Compromise is the realization that there are confines to what can be done and working within those confines regardless.
- The purpose of the exercise is to prevent the loss of the watershed or to improve upon its management.
- What role can people commit to? What other agencies need to be invited to the table?
- Knowledge management will be continual – DFO, FVRD, MWLAP, First Nations are committed to see through the project.
- Timelines and commitments need to be clarified.
- First Nations need the capacity and support to participate – a different consultation process for First Nations is needed beyond the scope of general public consultation as they differ.
- A background on each agency should be presented.
- There is regional support from the Electoral Area's for this exercise – needs clear deliverables of mutual benefit – specific guidelines with limited resources and time.
- Need to focus on deliverables before a schedule of meetings and a timeline can be defined.

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**Action Item 5: Clarify Timeline and Commitments required from involved partners.**

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## **5.0 Knowledge Management**

Brad Mason presented the work that has been done on the Habitat Atlas and SHIM Atlas under the Community Mapping Network. Sensitive Habitat Inventory Mapping (SHIM) was a one year project within the District that mapped and classified fish presence in the streams and water bodies in the area. The Chilliwack River Atlas is a dynamic interactive mapping tool with several layers of information. More input on what information can be included should come from the agencies and partners involved. The entire floodplain is shown, including the historical channels. Comprehensive layers can be expanded as based on 1992 and 1996 baseline thematic mapping. There are changes to the landscape that are more recent, and it is proposed that the Technical Committee work on developing a 2004 model.

The following outlines the discussion of information management:

- The community has hazardous areas and a tree cutting boundary that could be included.
- Regional and Provincial Parks and the Trans-Canada Trail could also be incorporated.
- Client service focus improved knowledge and decision making.
- Sto:lo Atlas is not verified and can not be used to adequately portray First Nation values.
- First Nation values may be sensitive and can not be mapped.
- Forestry has effective clearcut areas – critical maps could include the percentage of allowable cut.
- Green power projects are also growing in interest.
- The maps will show a progression of time and change in the area.

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**Action Item 6: Identify Needs for Mapping and Background Information**

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**6.0 Next Steps**

The following were indicated as next steps by those in attendance:

1. Identification of needs for mapping and narratives.
2. Clarification of outcomes and products
3. Fraser Basin Council – sustainability indicators.
4. Communication Strategy – inclusive
5. MSRM - will follow up on their participation.
6. Ortho photos will be available in December.
7. UCFV Data Collection
8. Technical and Planning Connection.

**Action Items:**

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**Action Item 1: Identify stakeholders and interest groups still required to participate**

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**Action Item 2: Set up presentations from each agency/stakeholder for future meetings to come to a common understanding of the processes used for land use planning by each group and their values in the watershed.**

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**Action Item 3: Further define project, including roles and responsibilities as well as the scope of each step, with the understanding that Knowledge Management will be comprehensive and on-going. Revise draft Terms of Reference and circulate for further discussion and formal acceptance.**

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**Action Item 4: Discuss public consultation obligations in further detail, including First Nation consultation.**

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**Action Item 5: Clarify Timeline and Commitments required from involved partners.**

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**Action Item 6: Identify Needs for Mapping and Background Information**

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