

# Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable – Inaugural Meeting

1:00 pm, February 12, 2013 – Beban Social Centre, Meeting Room #3

## MEETING NOTES

### 1) Who are We?

-In Attendance: Gail Adrienne (NALT), Scott Akenhead (MISSI), Rosie Barlack (MOE), Andre Bertoncini (VIU), Colin Brown (VIU), Paul Chapman (NALT), Haydda Chaves (VIU), Don Cohen (VIU), Bob Colclough (NRE, LSA), Deryck Cowling (NALT), Tuenesha Evertse (VIU), Dean Gaudry (NALT), Allan Hawryzki (NALT), Domenico Iannidinardo (TimberWest), Morgan Kennah (Island Timberlands), Rob Lawrance (City of Nanaimo), Wilf Luedke (DFO), Joe Materi (Ursus Environmental), Derek Nickel (EDI), Julie Pisani (RDN), Louise Shuker (property owner), Bill Sims (City of Nanaimo), Marjorie Stewart (Facilitator), Nicolette Watson (DFO), Wally Wells (NALT), Fraser Wilson (NALT)

### 2) Student Projects VIU

NRW GIS Mapping Project - Presentation by Andre Bertoncini

-Andre Bertoncini is undertaking to add more layers of information to the existing GIS data included in the Nanaimo River Baseline Report (2011). If you have data or other resources to share with Andre please email him at [andre.sbertoncini@gmail.com](mailto:andre.sbertoncini@gmail.com)

Estuary Water Quality- Presentation by Haydda Chaves da Hora

-Haydda is doing a research project on water quality in the Nanaimo River estuary. If you have any data or other information to share with Haydda please contact her at [chaves.haydda@gmail.com](mailto:chaves.haydda@gmail.com)

### 3) What the Working Group Has Agreed to.

Terms of Reference:

The Terms of Reference were reviewed and affirmed by the Roundtable participants. By consensus, some leeway was agreed to about appointing an official Representative and Alternate from each participating organization and agency. It was generally agreed that, until such a time as the Roundtable votes, this requirement of the ToR does not need to be invoked.

### 4) Who's Not Here?

A list of contacts was created to renew contact with, expand participation in and raise awareness of the Roundtable:

- As a priority, the Roundtable should continue to strengthen communications with the Snuneymuxw First Nation; also contact the Stz'uminus First Nation, since the watershed exists within the traditional territories of both of these First Nations.

- The CVRD, as a portion of the watershed falls within their jurisdiction.
- The Nanaimo River Hatchery
- South Wellington and Area Community Association (SWACA)
- Recreational Interests such as the Bungy Zone and Living Forest Campsite
- Nanaimo Forest Products
- The Agricultural Community (who?)
- The Aggregate Industry
- As well, it was suggested that notes from Roundtable meetings be widely circulated to the community and groups (eg Waterwatch).

## 5) What's Up?

### Current Stewardship Initiatives for the Watershed.

- The MOE and RDN in partnership with community groups and organizations are annually monitoring the water quality in several watersheds throughout the Regional District. In the Nanaimo River watershed (Nanaimo River and Haslam Creek) the monitoring is being done by NALT. So far, two years worth of data has been collected during the late summer and fall.
- RDN has secured land for a community park from a Couverdon subdivision process.
- NALT is in the early stages of gathering information about whether or not properties adjacent to that park are suitable for acquisition.
- NALT has received funding from the Pacific Salmon Foundation and TimberWest to carry out a review of a previous fish habitat report (Gaboury 2002) to inventory what has been done so far and what remains to be done, and which projects NALT and partners could carry out effectively.
- With funding from the Thrifty Foods Smile Card Program, the two projects by the VIU students, previously mentioned at the meeting, as well the updated fish habitat report could become part of the second edition of the Nanaimo River Baseline Report (2012).

## 6) Agenda Items Suggested by Participants

- Change in Federal Ridings -It was suggested that the Roundtable be prepared to adjust to federal riding realignment should the new ridings intersect the watershed.

## 7) What are the Roundtable's Priorities?

- Wilf Luedke suggested that it should be a priority for the Roundtable to set stewardship targets (objectives). There was wide-ranging discussion about this, and the general consensus was that these targets, and the accompanying strategies and indicators, be developed over time as the role of the Roundtable and the relationships between participants builds.
- Bob Colclough added that as we learn what is being done and what isn't being done we can set targets to meet these stewardship gaps.
- A need for participants to support the Roundtable was identified, Wilf Luedke, Rob Lawrance and Don Cohen mentioned likely being able to provide meeting space.

- Colin Brown suggested that some of the field projects being carried out by various VIU departments could be re-worked to take place in the watershed and generate information that can be shared with the Roundtable.
- Rob Lawrance proposed that at each meeting of the Roundtable the agenda should include a presentation by one of the participants.
- Various participants suggested the formation of committees to report at the next Roundtable meeting:
- Scott Akenhead introduced the idea of a Collaborative Communications Committee to develop a web-based venue for sharing participant information.
- Deryck Cowling spoke of the need for an Awareness and Education Committee, and suggested that there be a day of celebration of the watershed which might include tours of the various environmental, social and economic values supported by the watershed – possibly in conjunction with World Rivers Day.
- Paul Chapman will work to find committee participants.

#### 8) Agenda Items for the Next Roundtable Meeting:

- The RDN may be ready by then to present the findings of its Water Budget Study.
- Rob Lawrance and Bob Colclough will give a presentation about the Nanaimo River Estuary Committee.
- NALT will give an update on possible land acquisition
- The Collaborative Communications Committee will report the Roundtable
- The Awareness and Education Committee will report to the Roundtable

#### 9) Next Meeting

- The next meeting of the Roundtable will be in May. The 7<sup>th</sup> was suggested as a possible date, but it was also agreed that alternate dates be added and scheduling will be arranged by email (Paul Chapman).
- The meeting time of 1 – 3 pm seems to work for most participants (at least, those present today).
- A venue at VIU will be confirmed by Don Cohen once the meeting date is set (the semester is over by then, so both space and parking are not a problem).