

# Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable

Seminar Room, Pacific Biological Station,  
3190 Hammond Bay Road.

November 12th, 2013 -1:00 pm

## MEETING NOTES

### Participants in Attendance:

Gail Adrienne (NALT staff), Scott Akenhead (MISSI), Larry Bell (paddler group), Dave Bramley (Harmac), Melvin Bramley (VIWW), Colin Brown (VIU Student), Don Cohen (VIU staff), Bob Colclough (LSA), Deryck Cowling (community), Ken Epps ,(Island Timberlands), Teunesha Evertse (VIU Student), Dean Gaudry (NALT Board), Molly Hudson (TimberWest), Dawn Keim (RDN), Domenico Iannidinardo (TmberWest), Wilf Ludke (DFO), Chantel Nessman (DFO), David O'Brien (DFO), Louise Shuker (Landowner), Bill Sims (City of Nanaimo), Marjorie Stewart (Meeting Facilitator), Catherine Watson (NALT), Nicolette Watson (DFO), Jen Wilson (NALT staff)

### **1) Approval of Agenda**

Approved with addition under New Business - DFO presentation

### **2) Introduction of new NRWR Participant -Larry Bell –**

representing a group of recreational paddlers.

### **3) Review of Notes from Last meeting, May 15th 2013 - Accepted.**

### **4) Business Arising from Notes**

Committee Updates:

Communications Committee – Scott Akenhead and Bob Colclough

-Scott suggested using Coquitlam River Water Roundtable website as a template for NRWR. He wants to identify issues, communicate with public and provide internal communication between members.

-Gail indicated that NALT will assist with communications.

-Bob is looking at TOR for Communications Committee.

-Louise Shuker (property owner) expressed concern over public release of maps and other data from the GIS study done by a former VIU student and the potential of privacy/trespassing. She was reassured that the maps would not be used with his information – it was just a hypothetical study as part of a student project

Committee Report Received.

**RECOMMENDATION:** NRWR use Coquitlam River Water RT website as template (with permission) to reduce work and costs.

Education and Awareness Committee – Deryck Cowling

-Deryck distributed the new NRWR brochure – it will be used for introducing the NRWR at various events

- Report on Rivers Day Activities: NRWR Tours were a success despite bad weather. Net revenues of \$107 from tours after paying for the bus, and \$240 from NALT salmon BBQ sales after expenses,  
There was a general discussion about number and timing of activities for next year.
- Domenico offered congratulations to Deryck for all of his work organizing the tours  
Report Received.

#### RDN Water Budget - Nanaimo River Watershed - Dawn Keim

- Dawn presented a detailed report of recent data collected focussing on the Nanaimo River. watershed and ground aquifers As part of the RDN Water Budget Project, Part1. The 2014 RDN budget proposal will seek to address in gaps in the data. Go to the [www.rdnwaterbudget.ca](http://www.rdnwaterbudget.ca) for details of the report.  
The RDN's Integrated Water Management Initiative will be glad to work with NRWR.

#### NALT Acquisitions Committee – Dean Gaudry

- Dean reported that NALT has completed a CDF assessment, a habitat inventory and property appraisals for the Couverdon Properties that NALT is interested in acquiring for added parkland. Next steps will include discussions with the RDN and VIU to determine who will hold title and manage any acquisition after acquisition.
- Dean and Gail explained the covenant process for long-term protection of acquired properties.

#### Budget Committee – Gail Adrienne

- Presentation by Gail. 2014 Budget template handout. Around \$3000 to \$4000 in account at present. Input wanted on ways to keep some funds coming in. **ACTION:** Committee to meet before Christmas and draft a budget

### **5) New Business**

Watersheds 2014 - the UVic POLIS Project is hosting a conference in January 2014 in Duncan; too costly for NRWR to attend – RDN reps plan to attend and will report back.

#### Water Sustainability Act

- Strong statement by MISSI of the inadequacy of the proposed Water Sustainability Act regarding the importance of the Act, and the consequences of industrial water needs.
- General discussion of who acts as owner or trustee of water vs collaborative stewardship model; omission of saline water draw-downs; concern over the new Act omitting ecological flows reporting.
- the Vancouver Island Water Watch Coalition has made a statement of disapproval of the proposed Water Sustainability Act.
- NRWR cannot make a collective statement; each representative from a participating organization must take it back to their organization to make individual statements. Deadline for statements: November 15<sup>th</sup>

#### DFO- David O'Brien and Nicolette Watson

Gave a brief presentation on Nanaimo River Salmon Stocks Assessment. They stressed the importance of salmon as an indicator species and nutrient enhancer of the Nanaimo River.

Water flow and temperature are very important for adult salmon migration back up the river to spawn.

-Question: Why is sediment movement in the Nanaimo River not being monitored as it is in the Cowichan River?

- the Nanaimo River Hatchery would be a resource for information about regular monitoring on the river.

-Marjorie reiterated that health of Nanaimo River salmon populations related to human health.

**Thanks to DFO for the facility and refreshments for this meeting.**

**6) Next Meeting -Where and When?**

**When: Wednesday, January 29, 2014 at 1:00pm**

**Host and Location: City of Nanaimo Public Works Building, 2020 Labieux Road**

**7) Adjournment 3:20 pm**