

Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable

City of Nanaimo SARC building, 411 Dunsmuir Street

September 18th, 2019 1:00 pm.

Meeting Minutes

In attendance: Steve Baillie (DFO), Erica Blake (DFO), David Bramley (Harmac), Paul Chapman (NALT), Bob Colclough (NRE-LSA), Christina Czembor (DFO), Ken Epps (MFM), Pam Jorgenson (MFM), Rob Lawrance (CoN), Nick Leone (DFO), Andrew McNaughton (Consultant with SFN), Julie Pisani (RDN DWWP), June Ross (VIWWC), Louise Shuker (community), Marjorie Stewart (community).

1) Approval of Agenda: amended to include Risk Assessment process under Strategic Plan in Business Arising.

- Approved by consensus.

2) Introduction of Kayla Harris, new Roundtable Coordinator

- Kayla sends her regrets, an unavoidable scheduling conflict prevented her from attending the meeting.

3) Review of Notes from Previous Meetings, January 9th and June 19th, 2019

- Various misspellings of attendees' names.
- There was a request include the year in the heading of NRWR meeting notes
- **ACTION:** Paul to do

4) Business Arising from Notes

• **Financial Update** – Paul Chapman

- Paul reported that the total funds in the NRWR account are \$4,800.48 with \$224.17 of that allocated to support costs of bus rental for watershed tours.
- Expenses in 2019 included the cost of maintaining the website (\$56), costs related to the NALT bottle drive dedicated to the NRWR (\$56.21) and the admin service contract (\$2,000).
- The financial report was accepted by consensus

• **Nanaimo Estuary Committee Update** – Rob Lawrance

- Rob spoke of the estuary tour for Roundtable participants planned for September 26th. Details of the tour will be circulated via email following the meeting.
- **ACTION:** Paul to forward invite email to Roundtable.

- **Strategic Plan**

- **Language removed** – Paul Chapman

- As per the action item from the June 9 th meeting, the language referring to specific recreation initiatives has been removed from the strategic planning session summary.

- **Risk Assessment process, Habitat Assessment** – Erica Blake, Wilf Luedke et al

- The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) has designated the Nanaimo River Chinook population as ENDANGERED (clarification – only the Spring run population has been declared, due to the level of enhancement decisions on status of the Summer and Fall populations have been set aside until a later COSEWIC meeting– SB), Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) staff are required to gather data, identify risks, limiting factors and develop a recovery plan, called a Recovery Potential Assessment (RPA).
 - The timeline is to produce the RPA for peer review in the spring of 2020.
 - DFO is seeking watershed data to inform the process and identify data gaps.
 - Technical and public meetings will be held in January to review information and prioritize the limiting factors.
 - **ACTION:** DFO staff will draft a message asking for relevant NR watershed data to be circulated to Roundtable participants. “Ask” to be circulated through admin to NRWR.
 - Respondents to the data request may be asked to form a steering committee to deal with information and data gaps.

- **NRWR Vision** – Paul Chapman

- In June, Roundtable participants were asked to send NRWR vision ideas to admin.
- **ACTION:** Paul to seek participant vision email input from Ericka Amador. -It was generally agreed that the Roundtable needs to complete the strategic planning process begun early in 2019.
- **ACTION:** Erica Blake to inquire about availability of facilitator for strategic planning meeting. Erica may be able to contribute funds. Once the facilitator availability is determined, a NRWR strategic planning meeting will be scheduled as soon as is practical.

- **Facilitation** – Paul Chapman

- Paul reminded the Roundtable that Marjorie Stewart is seeking to step away from meeting facilitation in 2020.
- Facilitator succession will need to be considered by the Roundtable.

5) New Business

- **RDN DWWP 10-year Action Plan Update** – Julie Pisani

- Julie gave an outline of the Action Plan update process. Lots of input was received and the update is being refined for RDN Board consideration and approval by the end of 2019. Three focus areas of the update are: awareness and stewardship; information and science; and policy and planning. Julie will provide an update on the status of the RDN DWWP Action Plan at the next meeting.
- Nick Leone acknowledged the good work done by the RDN Drinking Water and Watershed Protection dept. and expressed how DWWP data would be useful to the DFO Chinook Recovery Plan process.

- **Water Stewardship Conference 2020** – Paul Chapman

- Paul distributed a brochure outlining general themes of the Comox 2020 Water Stewardship Symposium. The presentations have a common thread of restoration and relationships and Comox specific experiences will provide new paths forward.
- **Symposium dates:** April 23rd – 24th, 2020.

- **Rivers Day** – Paul Chapman

- Paul reminded the Roundtable of the Rivers Day event and activities beginning on Friday, September 20th and culminating on Sunday, September 22nd .

- **Knotweed Control** – Graham Gidden

- Paul had a discussion with Graham about concerns of invasive Japanese knotweed in the watershed. The Coastal Invasive Species Committee has a control plan and will respond to notification of invasive species. People are encouraged to note the GPS coordinates of invasive species occurrence and contact the Committee.
- Louise suggested invasive species workshops presented by the City and RDN might be useful. Julie and Rob noted the idea for possible inclusion in spring workshops and events.

- **Estuary Work** – Nick Leone

- Nick mentioned recent work in partnership between the Snuneymuxw First Nation and the Nature Trust of BC to remove some dykes and return to natural conditions which will support wellbeing of chinook and other salmon species in the NR system.

6) Next Meeting: December 12, 1 – 3 pm, hosted by the City of Nanaimo.

- **ACTION:** Rob to book meeting room.

7) Adjourned: 2:55 pm