

Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable Meeting

May 15th, 2013 – VIU, Building 355, Room 211 - 1:00 pm

MEETING NOTES

Meeting Facilitator: Marjorie Stewart

Participants in Attendance:

Scott Akenhead (MISSI), Brian Banks (Nanaimo River Hatchery), Andre Bertoncini (VIU), David Bramley (Harmac), Colin Brown (VIU), Haydda Chaves (VIU), Deryck Cowling (NALT), Jean Crowder (MP Nanaimo-Cowichan), Phil Edgell (DFO), Ken Epps (Island Timberlands), Brian Herman (Nanaimo River Hatchery), Domenico Iannidinardo (TimberWest), Dawn Keim (RDN), Rob Lawrance (City of Nanaimo), David O'Brien (DFO), Pam Shaw (VIU), Louise Shuker (community, property owner), Yana Stratemeyer-Trinczek (Assistant to Jean Crowder MP), Nicolette Watson (DFO), Fraser Wilson (NALT)

NALT Staff Support: Gail Adrienne and Paul Chapman

1) Approval of Agenda

-Approved as circulated

2) Review of Notes from Last Meeting -- February 12, 2013

-Approved as circulated

3) Business Arising from Notes

New Contacts:

-Paul Chapman acknowledged new participants in attendance: Brian Banks and Brian Herman from the Nanaimo River Hatchery, and David Bramley from Nanaimo Forest Products– Harmac.

-Paul also updated contact he has had with other agencies listed; contact has been made with all on the list in Notes from the Previous NRWR Meeting: CVRD, SWACA, Bungy Zone and Living Forest Campsite are all showing interest in attending Roundtable meetings. Snuneymuxw FN contact was previously established, and an information protocol is being followed. Still awaiting word back from Stzu'minus FN, Cedar Farmers Institute, and the Aggregate Industry.

-Scheduling conflicts prevented Paul from attending a recent meeting of the Cowichan Water Board.

-Nicolette Watson (DFO) has contacted some First Nations Fisheries representatives.

NRWR Committees Formed at Previous NRWR Meeting

- **Communications Committee** – Scott Akenhead.

-Scott Akenhead conveyed regrets from Bob Colclough who could not attend today's meeting.

-Scott gave a presentation outlining some of the functions, forms and issues around developing a website to handle internal and external communications.

-Scott iterated that the Roundtable needs to develop a strategic plan for the website to support.

ACTION: A questionnaire about website functionality will be circulated.

- **Education and Awareness Committee** – Deryck Cowling
 - Deryck spoke of two initiatives of the committee: creating and coordinating an event to showcase the Nanaimo River watershed on Rivers Day 2013; and developing a brochure to promote the watershed, the Roundtable and Rivers Day activities.
 - The committee has met with Deb Beck (Recreation Coordinator, City of Nanaimo) to coordinate Roundtable Rivers Day activities with the City's event.
 - The City event, held in Bowen Park on the Millstone River, would be the locus for transportation to satellite activities within the Nanaimo River watershed.
 - A number of activities have been discussed, including guided walks/hikes, rafting and/or kayaking the estuary, bird-watching, Wild Play activities, and tours of the Morden Colliery Park. Each satellite event would be responsible for its own logistics; the committee would be responsible for coordinating scheduling and transportation. *NB Previously, TimberWest expressed interest in leading a tour of its properties. This was not discussed at the committee meeting; and needs to be followed up*
 - Modest charges for tours should make this a revenue-neutral event.
 - As well, the committee developed a draft brochure and distributed it to the meeting as an example and for discussion. The brochure can be tailored to reach different audiences and can be adjusted to provide information about different events or initiatives. Feedback from participants was requested.
 - The committee asked for and received Roundtable approval to continue with these two initiatives.

RDN Water Budget Survey – Update by Dawn Keim, Drinking Water and Watershed Protection Coordinator RDN

- Dawn introduced herself to the Roundtable and gave a brief overview of the RDN water budget process now underway.
- The Water Budget takes in GIS mapping information about land features and use within the major watersheds within the RDN and generates data about water availability and demand.
- the Budget is still a work in progress and will become available to the public after review by RDN staff and committees, and final approval of the RDN Board (hopefully sometime this fall)

4) New Business

- **Nanaimo River Estuary Committee Presentation – Bob Colclough and Rob Lawrance**
 - In Bob's absence, Rob gave an overview of the history and process of the Estuary Committee.
- **NALT Acquisitions Committee – Dean Gaudry and Fraser Wilson**
 - Dean spoke of the process of appraisal of the environmental and monetary value of Timber West lots 11, 12 and 13 on the Nanaimo River.
 - As the purchase of these properties would add significantly to the amount of protected river frontage, and with lots 11 and 12 adjacent to the existing RDN community park, they have come under the consideration of the NALT Acquisition Committee.
 - As well as environmental and financial considerations, NALT seeks partnerships when undertaking an acquisition. The typical process is that NALT raises part or all of the funds for purchase, and then holds

and manages a Conservation Covenant on the land, which goes on title - but does not hold title to the land.

-The Acquisition Committee is still deliberating; has not yet made a recommendation to the NALT Board.

- **GIS Mapping – Andre Bertoncini (VIU Student Research Project)**

-Andre explained the values he assigned to land and water features to map hypothetical areas for potential parks acquisition within the watershed.

-As well, Andre offered to provide maps for Roundtable use in brochures and other materials.

- **Funding for Administration of NRWR – Gail Adrienne**

-The cost of providing Roundtable administration is a continuing challenge, and funds set aside by NALT for this purpose are beginning to dwindle (about 6 months worth left).

-As per the wording in the Roundtable Terms of Reference, participants are encouraged to contribute either funds or in-kind.

-The need to develop a budget to have a funding target was discussed. Domenico offered to help NALT staff with this process.

ACTION: Request for any other interested in participating on a Budget Committee.

ACTION: It was also suggested that the Cowichan Watershed Board be contacted to attend a Roundtable meeting and share their experience re: funding.

5) Next Meeting - Where and When?

- Early to mid-September was the preferred timing for those present

ACTION: Paul to circulate scheduling poll to set date of next meeting for early September.

Wednesday, in the 1- 3 pm time slot works for most.

6) Adjournment