

Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable

Harmac Pacific, 1000 Wave Place Nanaimo.

February 17th, 2016 – 1:00 pm

Meeting Notes

In Attendance: Dave Bramley (Harmac), Paul Chapman (NALT), Dave Clough (DFO SEP), Bob Colclough (LSA), Deryck Cowling (NALT), Ken Epps (Island Timberlands), Lauren Fegan (RDN DWWP), Wayne Harling (Nanaimo Fish & Game), Molly Hudson (TimberWest), Matt Kellow (VIU Outdoor Rec.), Bob Kissinger (IWFF), Rob Lawrance (CoN), Julie Pisani (RDN DWWP), June Ross (VIWW), Rosie Simms (POLIS), Bill Sims (CoN), Marjorie Stewart (Community), Nicolette Watson (DFO Stock Assessment).

1) Approval of Agenda – Approved by consensus

2) Review of Notes from Last Meeting, November 25th, 2015 – Approved by consensus

3) Presentation: *Water Sustainability Act* – Rosie Simms, POLIS

-POLIS is a UVic based transdisciplinary centre for academic and policy research and community action on ecological governance and the promotion of sustainability.

-Rosie Simms presented a snapshot of the new BC Water Sustainability Act.

-Rosie spoke to some of the encouraging inclusions (such as regulation of groundwater, the consideration of environmental flows) as well as some of the deficiencies in the Act (like the maintaining FITFIR water use hierarchy, and the exclusion of consideration of First Nations' water rights).

-It is an enabling Act, its effectiveness will be judged by the regulations developed to carry out the intent and implementation of those regulations. There will be opportunities to comment on proposed regulations as they are developed.

-The new Act is an improvement on the old in regards to intents and objectives (Phase 1), the success of the Act will rely on the strength of the regulations created to implement the Act (Phase 2).

ACTION: Paul to circulate Links to full POLIS Report and Water Contest.

4) Business Arising from Notes

- **Coal Tenure Update – Bill Sims**

-Bill spoke with Kim Stone, Senior Advisor, Coal Titles, BC Land Title & Survey, about Skyland Resources coal tenure application in the Nanaimo River watershed.

-The application is still in discovery to ascertain whether or not there is any crown-held coal within the area covered by the application. The assumption is that it is likely that all the coal tenures within the area are privately held. This is likely the initial stage of a very lengthy process.

- **Haslam Creek update - Dave Clough and Wayne Harling**

-Dave and Wayne circulated photos and presented a slide show about the significant work done to stabilize a section of bank on Haslam Creek on Nanaimo Airport property.

-The work involved the maintenance of some previous large woody debris (LWD) work, the installation of LWD and boulders for erosion protection and habitat as well as riparian area planting appropriate to airport operations.

-Project partners providing both labour and funds or in-kind contributions were the Nanaimo Airport Commission, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, COPCAN Civil Ltd., Northwest Hydraulic Consultants and D.R. Clough Consulting. Additional funding partners include the Pacific Salmon Foundation and the Nanaimo Fish and Game Protective Association.

- **Committee Updates:**

- **Communications Committee – Bob Colclough**

- Bob circulated a report on website traffic for 2015. The total number of unique visitors for the year was 1,062.

- It was suggested that Roundtable participants share their events through the website to increase content and traffic.

- **Budget Committee – Gail Adrienne**

- A financial report for 2015 was circulated at the meeting. Of the \$3,821 in the account at the end of the year \$2,997 is allocated for specific purposes leaving \$824 for operations. Participant donors who have specified use of donated funds are asked to consider reallocating funds for general operations.

- **Education and Awareness Committee – Deryck Cowling**

- Deryck has announced he is withdrawing from the committee and the Roundtable. He will still be available to help out with Rivers Day tours.

- The participants acknowledged Deryck's efforts on behalf of the Roundtable with a round of applause.

- ACTION:** Need for additional committee members.

- **National Marine Conservation Area – Laurie Gourlay**

- Laurie sent an email in response to the notes from the November 25th, 2015 meeting of the Roundtable.

Hello Paul,

Thank you for the NRWR minutes, and for noting VICCS interest in the February Agenda to have a discussion about the proposed Southern Strait of Georgia National Marine Conservation Area. Our campaign of the last three years and more has provided us with a good sense of the public interest that can be served by helping to protect and restore the marine waters in the region, and in particular the opportunities to extend the proposed NMCA area at the least into the Nanaimo estuary as a northern boundary.

In this respect we have a ppt slide show which we would be pleased to show at a future NRWR meeting, if that would be of interest - detailing many of the benefits to be had from marine protected areas. And we're prepared to go over questions about what that may mean about present uses of the estuary, and of course long-term needs that should be addressed. Climate change will bring challenges, and plans should now be accommodating GHG projections as they affect water levels and development interests, with an eye to sustainability and sustainable development requirements.

I won't go on, except to say that my workday will not allow me to make the upcoming February meeting, but I would be prepared to come to the March or April NRWR meetings, to speak to the NMCA potential which was supported in the initial mandate that established the NRWR. I think it would not be fair, nor reasonable, to simply forego this essential and extremely important and beneficial aspect of the Nanaimo River watershed.

If you need additional information please do not hesitate to be in touch.

best,
Laurie Gourlay
President, VICCS

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5) New Business

- **Water Day – June Ross**

-June was curious to know if NALT and other Roundtable participants planned to take part in RDN Water Day festivities planned for Nanaimo March 20th and Qualicum Beach April 3rd.

- Lauren Fegan spoke about the free events which will include information booths, interactive displays, workshops, kids' activities, food concession, live music and more, all to celebrate the many ways that community members interact with water. The events coincide with Canada Water Week, March 21st – 27th and World Water Day March 22nd.

ACTION: Lauren will email promotional materials and event links to Paul to be shared with the Roundtable and beyond.

- **Email form Joe Materi**

-An email was received from Joe indicating the winding down of his business, Ursus Environmental Consulting, and his withdrawal from participation with the Roundtable in part due to health concerns.

-Joe has been a generous volunteer in the community and involved with Nanaimo River stewardship since before the creation of the Roundtable.

- **Diver Lake – Wayne Harling**

-For Information, Wayne spoke of concerns around a proposed land swap to the benefit of a development that would remove a public access non-motorized boat launch from public use.

6) Next Meeting – April 27th at DFO

7) Adjournment 2:45 pm