

Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable

Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Whitmore Building, 3225 Stephenson Point Road.

April 27th, 2016 – 1:00 pm

Meeting Notes

In Attendance: Gail Adrienne (NALT), Scott Akenhead (Vancouver Island Roundtable on Economy and Environment), Paul Chapman (NALT), Bob Colclough (LSA), Ken Epps (IT), Laurie Gourlay (VICCS), Molly Hudson (TW), Bob Kissinger (IWFF), Rob Lawrance (CoN), Julie Pisani (RDN), Greg Roberts (Ladysmith & Area Watersheds Coalition), June Ross (VIWWC), Marjorie Stewart (Community) and Nicolette Watson (DFO).

1) Approval of Agenda – approved with additions under New Business – BC Water Week; and Watershed Board Models

2) Review of Notes from Last Meeting, February 17th, 2016 – Approved as circulated

3) Business Arising from Notes

- **Committee Updates:**
 - **Communications Committee – Bob Colclough**
 - No update
 - **Budget Committee – Gail Adrienne**
 - Gail presented a Financial Report for January – April 2016. Highlights included \$500 support from DFO and a release by Island Timberlands of \$300 of allocated funds to general use. The funds remaining are \$2,763 for specific allocations and \$2,054 available to Roundtable operations.
 - **Education and Awareness Committee**
 - -Opportunities may exist to support participant initiated education programs.
 - Julie Pisani will monitor to gauge interest within School District.
 - Christy Wilson was mentioned as an excellent resource.
 - Watershed tours for Rivers Day
 - The roundtable expressed enthusiastic support of Deryck Cowling’s offer to help with planning of watershed activities for Rivers Day 2016.

4) New Business

- **Streamkeepers – Gail Adrienne**
 - With funding from Real Estate Webmasters plus some from NALT’s annual Stewardship budget, NALT was able to deliver two Streamkeepers courses: one in March (Departure Creek) and another in April (Haslam Creek). Instruction was provided by Dave Clough, and the only cost to participants was \$30 for *The Streamkeepers Handbook*. Both courses were filled to capacity, drawing participation from as far

away as Port Alberni and Victoria, with additional interest expressed from the Sunshine Coast. NALT will seek funding to provide additional courses tentatively to be scheduled for late fall and spring.

ACTION: Bob Kissinger expressed interest from IWFF members, and will forward names/contacts to Gail.

ACTION: Gail will present about Streamkeepers course to seek grants-in-aid funding from the City of Nanaimo.

- **RDN DWWP – Julie Pisani**

- **Holden Creek – stream assessment opportunity**

- In response to property owner concerns about flooding on agricultural lands, although not a RDN responsibility, the RDN is seeking Streamkeepers for Holden Creek to collect data that may, over time, lead to recommendations for restoration and enhancement work for flood abatement.

- **Haslam Creek – hydrometric station installation**

- To fill an identified data gap, in partnership with DFO, FLNRO and landowners a hydrometric station has been installed on Haslam Creek.

- **Recap Nanaimo Water Day Event**

- Approximately 270 people attended the Water Day event in Nanaimo. The feedback is that it was generally well received, and plans are to repeat as an annual event.

- **Team WaterSmart’s upcoming Water Saver yard sign campaign and contest**

- Yard signs have been developed for a campaign to recognize “water savers” in the region. Nominations will come from neighbours and both nominee and nominator will be eligible for a weekly draw, and then a grand prize draw.

- **New region-wide watering restrictions framework**

- The RDN and City of Nanaimo have standardized watering restrictions throughout the region. Phased in stage 1 and stage 2 restrictions will be harmonized, with additional stages determined as needed by local water source and local authorities.

- Laurie Gourlay suggested installing roadside water-source stewardship signs such as those in the CVRD.

- The lack of a contact phone number in the advertisement of the region-wide framework was noted as a barrier to those with restricted access to, or discomfort with, online computing.

- Julie also noted that the annual report to the Community Watershed Monitoring Network will be presented on May 26th, at Costin Hall in Lantzville, 1 pm.

- **BC Water Week**

- May 1 -7. On Saturday May 7th, 10 am – 2 pm there will be an open house at the new CoN water treatment facility on South Fork Road.

- ACTION:** Paul to circulate poster to Roundtable participants.

- **Watershed Boards – Laurie Gourlay**

- Citing growing pressures brought on by climate change and population growth and the need for sharing of information and knowledge across all sectors of community, Laurie asked if the Roundtable saw itself transitioning to a watershed board. He offered many models of watershed governance to draw from.

-Bob Colclough suggested looking at the structure and function of the past Greater Nanaimo Watershed Board.

-A committee has been formed to explore models of watershed boards and report back to the Roundtable at the next meeting. Committee participants include: Gail Adrienne (NALT), Nicolette Watson (DFO), June Ross (VIWWC), Molly Hudson (TW), Bob Colclough (LSA) and Ken Epps (IT). Julie Pisani will take this back to the RDN to identify appropriate staff to participate on the committee. As well, an invitation to participate will be extended to Bill Sims (CoN), Dave Bramley (Harmac) and the Snuneymuxw First Nation.

ACTION: Committee to meet in May at NALT office, date to be determined.

5) Next Meeting - Where and When?

TimberWest Boardroom, September 14th, 2016, 1 – 3 pm.

6) Adjournment: 2:45 pm