

# Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable

## Beban Park Social Centre, Activity Room #7

June 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2015 – 1:00 pm

### Meeting Notes

**In Attendance:** Gail Adrienne (NALT), Erica Blake (DFO), Dave Bramley (Harmac), Paul Chapman (NALT), Dave Clough (RP Bio.), Bob Colclough (LSA), Deryck Cowling (NALT), Laurie Gourlay (VICCS), Molly Hudson (TimberWest), Morgan Kennah (Island Timberlands), Rob Lawrance (CoN), Joe Materi (RP Bio, Ursus), Julie Pisani (RDN DWWP), June Ross (VIWWC), Louise Shuker (community), Bill Sims (CoN), Marjorie Stewart (community).

**1) Approval of Agenda:** approved as amended to move Eel Grass Restoration Experiment: Harbour Authority eel grass info to first item under business arising to accommodate a schedule conflict for Rob Lawrance.

**2) Review of Notes from Last Meeting, March 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015:** received as circulated.

### 3) Business Arising from Notes

- **Eel Grass Restoration Experiment:** Harbour Authority eel grass info – Rob Lawrance
  - Chatwin Engineering did a 700 m<sup>2</sup> installation of eel grass in a sub-tidal area off Protection Island in 2011 near a historical log boom area.
  - As well, a VIU study of eel grass restoration work carried out in the Nanaimo River estuary is being peer reviewed and may soon be available.
  - ACTION:** Rob will try to obtain the Chatwin Report and will speak to Pam Shaw at VIU about a presentation of the estuary review to the Roundtable.
  - Rob also mentioned the potential of partnering with the SFN doing water quality assessment and impact on shellfish in the estuary.

- **Coal Tenure– Update Bill Sims**

- Bill has had further correspondence with Kim Stone, **Senior** Advisor, Coal Titles, Mineral Titles Branch, regarding a coal tenure reserve (exclusion) for the Jump Lake watershed.
- Kim explained that a coal tenure reserve can only be placed over crown-held coal and that the process to determine coal tenure (Crown vs. Private) is a several month endeavour that is normally triggered by an application for tenure rights. At this time, there will be no further action to investigate or institute a coal tenure reserve.
- Louise Shuker asked if there is an update on Skyland Resources coal tenure application.
- ACTION:** Paul Chapman to contact Kim Stone re: Skyland Resources application.

- **School District 68- update Paul Chapman**

- Paul asked for a postponement of drafting a letter to SD68 until the Education and Awareness Committee has had an opportunity to review the Provincial curriculum and the curriculum based activities offered by some Roundtable participants and to develop a presentation for a District Professional Development Day.

- The RDN through Team Watersmart in conjunction with TimberWest and Island Timberlands is offering curriculum connected field trips in both the Nanaimo River watershed and the Englishman River watershed. Team Watersmart also offers in-class presentations linked to both drinking water and watershed ecology.

- Dave Clough and Erica Blake mentioned a beach seine activity at the beach end of Needham Street involving students from Bay View Elementary.

- June Ross mentioned Vancouver Island Water Watch Coalition have a 3D model of the watershed available for educational opportunities.

- By consensus it was agreed that the letter to SD68 be postponed.

- **Committee Updates:**

- **Communications Committee – Bob Colclough**

- Agendas and meeting notes from previous Roundtable meetings are available on the Roundtable website.

- Bob will continue to develop links with Participant activities and initiatives (such as Team Watersmart SD68 activities).

- Participants are encouraged to share pictures with Bob for use on the website.

- **Budget Committee: 2014 Financial Year End Report - Gail Adrienne**

- NALT is in the process of reviewing year-end financials and will have that completed soon.

- ACTION:** NALT will prepare and circulate Roundtable 2014 Financial Report and a draft 2015 Budget to Participants via email prior to the next meeting.

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

- ACTION:** Deryck will be working with Deb Beck (CoN) to register Rivers Day watershed activities in the CoN Activity Guide.

- ACTION:** Deryck will contact activity partners to plan.

- The Committee will work toward developing an educational opportunities for SD68.

- **Potential Roundtable Projects - update**

- **Watershed Guided Activities:** grant applications update

- Thrifty Foods Smile Card Funding for additional busses for watershed tours has been approved. Money available will depend on supporter participation in using Smile Cards.

- Other grant applications were declined.

- **River/Park Clean up:** discussion with RDN Parks

- Paul Chapman accompanied RDN Regional Parks Coordinator, Chris van Ossenbruggen, to assess the state of the new riverside park. Very little refuse was present. They will reassess after the summer.

- **SD 68 Pro D Day Presentation**  
-See above under Education and Awareness Committee report.
- **LWD Installation on Halsam Creek**  
-Dave Clough reported that they have received \$8,500 from the Pacific Salmon Foundation to develop a restoration plan.  
-Donated materials and labour continue to be sourced as the application for a DFO Habitat Enhancement Grant is reviewed.  
**ACTION:** Dave will share the restoration plan report on the roundtable website and will circulate opportunities for material and labour donations to the Roundtable.
- **Eel Grass Restoration Experiment:** Harbour Authority eel grass info  
-See above, first item under Business Arising.
- **Presentations to City Council and RDN Board – NALT**  
-In response to direction given at the March meeting, in an effort to promote the Roundtable, Gail Adrienne and Paul Chapman have made presentations about the Roundtable to Nanaimo City Council, the RDN Board of Directors and a VICCS hosted community meeting in Cedar.  
-Information about Roundtable was distributed at all meetings with hard copies of the *Nanaimo River Watershed Baseline Report, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition* presented to all Councilors and Directors.  
-The presentation was well received and other opportunities to present about the Roundtable will be welcomed.

#### 4) New Business

- **Climate Change Planning – Molly Hudson**  
-In addition to adjusting infrastructure to being prepared for more frequent and intense rain and flood events, much of TimberWest's preparation for climate change involves a diversity of genetics in its seeds and seedlings.  
-When considering what to plant where there are several considerations such as regulations, Ecology and markets.  
-The Chief Forester of BC has adjusted regulations to expand zones of allowable planting (i.e. Douglas fir and red cedar at higher elevations). The forestry companies then have to balance what grows best with which species are more marketable.  
-Assisted migration of trees involves introducing (or reintroducing) seed stock from more southern latitudes (Washington, Oregon).  
-Both senior levels of government are involved with climate change planning as well as industry and professional associations.  
-The Pacific Climate Consortium provides modeling of shifting conditions under climate change for resource planning.  
-Laurie Gourlay mentioned the need to share climate change information to educate and activate our community.
- **VICCS Heritage and Beautification Project – Laurie Gourlay**  
-Working toward identifying areas of historical and cultural significance in the Cedar, Yellowpoint, Cassidy, South Wellington and North Oyster area.

- Heritage lands project to link lands through trails/routes as well as brochures for Canada 150 (2017).
- Dave Clough suggested that the installation of rain gardens integrate the in balance with nature aspect of beautification.
- Gail Adrienne suggested barefoot mapping, a method of mapping the historical, cultural, natural and personally significant area of a community.
- It was suggested that VIU might have resources to aid with this.

- **First Nations Outreach**

- Deryck Cowling asked about efforts to connect with First Nations.
- At the June 2014 meeting of the Roundtable it was agreed that Roundtable Participants continue to pursue their individual outreach efforts with First Nations.
- Communications are ongoing.
- Rob Lawrance suggested working with SFN to develop bilingual stream signage in Nanaimo (English and Hul'qumi'num).
- Erika Blake offered to share stream information with Rob Lawrance.

- **Ladysmith Watershed Initiative – Laurie Gourlay**

- Ladysmith is working toward developing a watershed body. What can the Roundtable do to help?
- Erica Blake suggested sharing our Terms of Reference with them.

**ACTION:** Share ToR with Ladysmith contact.

## **5) Next Meeting - Where and When?**

**Location TBA September 16<sup>th</sup>, 1 – 3 pm.**

## **6) Adjournment 2:45 pm**