

Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable

Board Room of the SARC building, 411 Dunsmuir Street.

March 8th, 1:30 pm.

Meeting Notes

In Attendance: Brad Bodnar (BB Forestry & Clean Energy), Paul Chapman (NALT), Bob Colclough (LSA), Ken Epps (IT), Molly Hudson (TW), Matt Kellow (VIU), Rob Lawrance (CoN), June Ross (VIWWC), Louise Shuker (community), Marjorie Stewart (community), Marina Wright (DFO).

Marjorie Stewart circulated information about the celebration of life for Laurie Gourlay, April 7th, 12 pm – 4 pm Cedar Hall.

1. Approval of Agenda: Approved as amended to include under New Business:

- VIWWC meeting with MLAs – June Ross
- Merville and Union Bay – June Ross
- Watershed Assessment Guidance update – Brad Bodnar
- Wetlandkeepers workshop – Rob Lawrance
- Water to Earth Month Celebration – Molly Hudson

2. Review of Notes from Last Meeting, January 24th, 2018: Approved as circulated

3. Business Arising from Notes

- **Ad Hoc Admin Models Committee**
- -Discussion of Scope of Work and notes circulated with the goal of drafting a contract for Roundtable review.
-The discussion included the list of activities to needed to replace NALT's function as Roundtable admin service (needs) and other items that the Roundtable would like to see carried out under a new admin service (wants). The idea of an annual Work Plan should be developed to include additional wants such as addressing existing data gaps, coordinating educational workshops and events, and identifying and initiating habitat stewardship projects. The Work Plan would be undertaken with the support of NRWR participants.

ACTION: Committee to redraft Scope of Work document to include Work Plan and other suggestions and then circulate to the Roundtable. NRWR participants are encouraged to send any additional Scope of Work items to paul@nalt.bc.ca

-Discussion of possible funding sources to pay for admin service.

-It was noted that some participants may be able provide stable funding for a period of time.

ACTION: Rob Lawrance to look at funding possibilities with City; Molly Hudson to look at funding possibilities with TimberWest.

-Other participants are encouraged to explore ways of financially supporting the Roundtable.

-It was noted that grant securement could be one of the items comprising the admin service delivery Scope of Work.

- **Data Gaps from Baseline Report**

- DFO habitat and risk assessment information for the Nanaimo River update – Erica Blake

N.B. Erica was unable to attend but will report on Salmon/Salmon Habitat focused habitat assessment and a risk assessment at a subsequent meeting.

- **Water Stewardship Conference – Paul Chapman**

-Reminder that the deadline for early-bird registration is March 9th. The featured presenter at the symposium is the well renowned Bob Sandford. For more information:

https://www.civicinfo.bc.ca/local_content/event_docs/6006/2018%20Nanaimo%20Symposium_program%20package_updated%20March%205.pdf

4. New Business

- **Beck Creek – Rob Lawrance**

-The Snuneymuxw First Nation is looking at ways of improving fish habitat in the rivers and creeks that drain into the Nanaimo River estuary.

-A number of issues have been identified on various creeks including collapsed or elevated culverts acting as barriers to fish.

-Before any remediation activities occur on Beck Creek more information about creek health and land use will need to be ascertained.

ACTION: Rob Lawrance to host a meeting of interested NRWR participants and others to have a focused discussion on next steps. Rob to forward meeting information to the Roundtable.

- **VIWWC meeting with MLAs – June Ross**
 - The Vancouver Island Water Watch Coalition will be meeting with Island MLAs to discuss forestry regulation and implementation of the Water Sustainability Act.
- **Merville and Union Bay – June Ross**
 - June spoke of community concerns in Merville regarding a proposed water extraction/bottled water plant and in Fanny Bay of logging in the watershed.
- **Watershed Assessment Guidance update – Brad Bodnar**
 - The Association of BC Forest Professionals is reviewing the Draft WAG, likely to be finalized in summer. Brad will update the NRWR as it progresses.
- **Wetlandkeepers workshop – Rob Lawrance**
 - There is a free Wetlandkeepers workshop being offered May 4th – 6th. For details and to register: <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/wetlandkeepers-nanaimo-2018-registration-42025331899>
- **Water to Earth Month Celebration – Molly Hudson**
 - A series of events and activities focused around international Water and Earth Days. There will be a Nanaimo River watershed tour on March 22nd as part of the celebration. For more information: https://www.getinvolved.rdn.ca/team-watersmart/key_dates

5) **Next Meeting: June 13th, TimberWest, 648 Terminal Avenue, Nanaimo.**

6) **Adjourned: 2:50 pm.**