

# Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable

VIU Room 444, Building 305

January 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017 – 1:00 pm

## Meeting Notes

**In Attendance:** Paul Chapman (NALT), June Ross (VIWW), Julie Pisani (RDN), Marjorie Stewart (community), Matt Kellow (VIU), Ehren Lee (Urban Systems), Ken Epps (ITLP), Ashley van Acken (MABRRI), Molly Hudson (TW), Louise Shuker (community), Nicolette Watson (DFO), Bob Colclough (LSA), Wilf Luedke (DFO), Bill Sims (CoN), Bob Kissinger (IWFF), Dave Bramley (Harmac)

**1) Approval of Agenda** – approved by consensus with the addition of a Millstone River update by Bob Kissinger under New Business.

**2) Review of Notes from Last Meeting, September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2016** – approved by consensus.

### **3) Presentation: Ehren Lee, *Watershed Governance, The Cowichan Experience***

Ehren spoke of the experience within the Cowichan Valley Regional District, identifying watershed focused stewardship groups, assessing the risks to watersheds (with highest risk watershed requiring more formal structures while lower risk warranting more informal), exploring the function and form of watershed stewardship bodies and moving toward legislated watershed entities.

### **4) Business Arising from Notes**

- **Committee Updates:**

- i. **Collaborative Watershed Governance Committee**

- a. **Committee Recommendation:**

- Through committee member discussions, it has become apparent that for the Nanaimo River watershed The Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable and the Roundtable Governance Committee's lack of full understanding of Snuneymuxw First Nation's role in the watershed is our most clearly defined problem. The committee suggests that further study of alternative governance models within the Nanaimo River watershed is unproductive until Snuneymuxw is actively involved on their own terms as rights holders in developing a potential alternative governance model to address management decisions in the Nanaimo River watershed.*

- Therefore, the Governance Subcommittee recommends to the Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable that the committee be suspended at this time and that further discussions be handled at the Roundtable level.*

- Emphasis was placed on the need for Roundtable engagement.

- The recommendation to suspend the committee was accepted by consensus.

- b. **A Proposed Framework for Moving Forward as the NRWR (Julie)**

- Tabled for next meeting

- ACTION:** Julie will circulate handout.

- c. **Terms of Reference (ToR) Update**

- A new draft of the ToR, incorporating suggestions from Roundtable participants, was circulated prior to the meeting.
- Additional activities such as gold panning and mushroom harvesting were suggested for the list of values supported by the watershed.
- It was suggested that the Roundtable develop a vision statement for inclusion in the ToR.
- There was discussion regarding funding of the Roundtable.
- June suggested a number of data gaps identified in the Baseline Report could form the basis for the ongoing work of the Roundtable (i.e. filling the data gaps).
- The renewed ToR were accepted by consensus.
- ACTION:** Paul to send updated ToR to website.

**ii. Communications Committee – Bob Colclough**

- Information on the website has been updated.

**iii. Budget Committee – Gail Adrienne**

- Tabled for next meeting.

**iv. Education and Awareness Committee**

- There are no members of this committee.
- Ashley suggested informing VIU campus clubs.
- Julie spoke of a parallel committee planning events linked to Water and Earthday.

**ACTION:** Paul to circulate completed event poster to the Roundtable.

- **Streamkeepers Update**

- There is a fully enrolled Streamkeepers workshop scheduled for March and an additional workshop on April 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## 5) New Business

- **VIU Outdoor Recreation in the Watershed – Matt**

- Matt spoke of VIU Outdoor Recreation's interaction with the watershed including kayaking, rafting, swimming with salmon and as an outdoor classroom.

- **Millstone River Update – Bob Kissinger**

- With Dave Clough, the Island Waters Fly Fishers have completed an in-stream survey of the Millstone River and will be applying for a Pacific Salmon Foundation grant based on the report.

## 5) Next Meeting: March 14<sup>th</sup>, 1 – 3 pm at Harmac

**N.B. A Roundtable watershed tour is being arranged for May.**

## 7) Adjournment 2:55 pm