

# Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable

Harmac

December 12<sup>th</sup>, 1:00 pm.

## Minutes

**In attendance:** Paul Chapman (NALT), Kayla Harris (NRWR Coordinator), Jerrod Pinder (Nanaimo Hatchery/Sport Fishing Advisory Area 17), Andrew McNaughton (Snuneymuxw), David Bamley (Harmac), Steve Quinn (V.I.W.W.C), Bob Colclough (NR Estuary Log Storage Association), David Belezney (Mosaic Forest Management), Nick Leone (DFO-Restoration), Crissy Czemor (DFO-Restoration), Jaclyn Boutillier (DFO- Stock Assessment), Steve Ballie (DFO-Stock Assessment), Louise Shuker (Community), Erica Blake (DFO- Community Advisor), Dave Clough (DFO-SEP Technical Advisor), Bob Kissinger (I.W.F.F), Julie Pisani (Regional District of Nanaimo, DWWP), Matt Kellow (VIU), Mike Squire (City of Nanaimo- Water Resources).

**1) Approval of Agenda**—Approved

**2) Introduction of Kayla Harris, new Roundtable Coordinator**

**3) Meeting Chair**—Appointed Paul Chapman Chair of meeting. Discussion of rotating Chair for those interested. Andrew McNaughton, Paul Chapman, Louise Shuker, June Ross, and Bob Colclough have shared interest so far in rotating chair for the upcoming meetings

**4) Review of Notes from Previous Meetings, September 18<sup>th</sup>, 2019.** Reviewed meeting notes from Strategic Planning Session held on November 21<sup>st</sup>, 2019.

**5) Business Arising from Notes**

- **Financial Update** – Paul Chapman
  - \$4800 most of which can be applied for administration. \$4500 that can be allocated
  - Previously VIU contacted admin for \$2000
  - Discussion of Coordinator Contract for administration services to the Roundtable. Kayla will invoice directly to NALT for services, rather than through VIU. Reasoning, to limit overhead expenses and maximize available hours for administrative work. Kayla will be paid at an hourly rate of \$25/hour for up to 80 hours per term based on available funding. Consensus was reached on NRWR Coordinator contract.
  - January 11<sup>th</sup> NALT bottle drive—Proceeds go towards administrative services
  - NALT will look for support from Roundtable members to replenish funds going forward wherever possible.

- **Nanaimo Estuary Committee Update** – Bob Colclough
  - Estuary Tour—several members from the Roundtable joined with their associated organizations. The group met at the Port Authority building where the group was shown what work has been done.
  - Tom Reid gave an overview of physical works that have been done and Bob provided an informative history tour of the log storage in the estuary. The tour received positive feedback.
- **Strategic Plan**
  - As per the November 21, 2019 Strategic Planning Session, there were several action items delegated to Roundtable members
  - **Map of The Watershed**

Julie and the RDN GIS department created a map of the Nanaimo River watershed. Further discussion of the draft map included:

    - DFO has a map that should be coordinated with the RDN map. The layers from DFO will be able to be shared in the future to contribute to the map.
    - Julie presented map discussing how the map boundaries were defined
      - Jurisdictional boundaries
      - Red boundary is water region 6
      - Red outline is topographical boundaries
      - Main rivers and tributaries are added
      - Hill shade was added
      - Mapped aquifers are there but don't have aquifer numbers to avoid confusion
      - Diagonal striped lines for bedrock aquifers
      - Dotted yellow area for sand and gravel aquifers as captured in the lower watershed
      - It was discussed whether we should include the Nanaimo River basin as well as the Chase River watershed.
      - Format-wise, we can keep building on a pdf or create an interactive map.
      - Important to note that this would have to be public data
      - Discussion of separating watersheds that don't drain into the Nanaimo river
      - Discussion of including Cedar (through North Cedar Improvement District) watersheds due to importance of shared water sources with Nanaimo and groundwater storage and boundaries.
      - Leave the red line as the watershed boundary and keep aquifer layers
      - Discussion that there is a distinct definition of what a watershed is. The term basin could be used when talking about the watershed and the term study area could be used when discussing the areas that influence the watershed
      - Discussion of Nanaimo Hatchery
      - Robert White (Snuneymuxw) is working on data that could contribute to place names and information being included in the map

- **NRWR Vision** – Paul Chapman and Kayla Harris
  - Discussion of visioning and mission statements that were sent out via email prior to meeting
  - Through discussion of draft vision statements the Roundtable agreed that the statements included too much information and that shorter would be better.
  - Comments were shared from all those that contacted Kayla about the mission and vision as well as those present and not present at the meeting
  - A small workgroup of Kayla, Paul, and Julie have agreed to work together on the mission and vision statements and will send out the drafts for review prior to the next Roundtable meeting
  
- **Google Docs for Sharing Data** – Kayla Harris
  - Kayla created three Google Spreadsheets for RT members to contribute information on funding sources, types of monitoring data, and best practices workshops. The links have been sent to all members. The documents are intended to be living documents to be added to continually over time.
  - Important to note that Google stores its data outside of Canada in the US. Any organization that is concerned about this privacy and security of information can contact Kayla and the information can be circulated and stored separately.
  
- **Risk Assessment process, Habitat Assessment Update** – Ericka Blake
  - January 14<sup>th</sup> tentative date for expert technical input for pre-scoring some of the Risk assessment report. Meeting to eliminate limiting factors that don't apply to Nanaimo watershed. Eg. Mountain Pine Beetle
  - January 28-29<sup>th</sup> to complete the Risk Assessment workshop. Will be going through all the limiting factors
  - Erica will send more information to Kayla to circulate.
  - Once it is finalized, DFO will be able to share that information through public document.
  - Potential layers to be added to the study area map.
  - The reports access previous information that looks at the current status and limiting factors.
    - All very important to the health of the watershed
    - Can help inform where we are at and where we would like to go as a group
    - Roundtable process is public. Members of this NRWR will be specifically invited
  - There will be much to read so that everyone is informed and prepare
  - There will be an opportunity to submit information for comments from NRWR

## 6) New Business

- **Real Estate Foundation Grant** – Paul Chapman

- Real Estate Foundation doesn't fund retroactively. Paul is in conversations and will carry it through to pursue funding for a years' time for the group. Application would go through NALT. Up to \$5000 max. would need to match with both in-kind contributions.
- Discussion that there may be opportunities to connect projects through City of Nanaimo or through the Port Authority. SFN may also be able to help access funds for matching for the grant
- Reminder that potential funding opportunities can be added to the Google Sheet at any time.
- **Water Stewardship Conference 2020** – Paul Chapman
  - Series of symposia, influenced by one in 2016 in Courtney/Comox, 2018 in Nanaimo and 2019 in Parksville.
  - The idea is to share the unique things we are doing and gain some information from that. Will be important to NALT as to how they operate
  - Can access from NALT Facebook page to register and get more information about the conference
  - **Date of conference:** April 23<sup>rd</sup> and 24<sup>th</sup>.
- **Slack, Communications Platform** – Kayla Harris
  - The group discussed the Slack communications platform and Kayla provided a brief tutorial and overview of the site for the group to see.
  - There was positive feedback from the group and many members agreed to give the platform a try. More information is needed as to where the information on the site is stored (Canada or US). Kayla will look into this.
  - For those that don't wish to use the platform, circulating information via email through Kayla and the Roundtable will continue.
  - Kayla will invite all the Roundtable members to Slack from new NRWR coordinator email
  - New email address is **nwrcoordinator@gmail.com**

**7) Next Meeting:** The next meeting will be tentatively held at Woodbank Elementary School on Thursday February 20<sup>th</sup> at 1:00 pm

**8) Adjourned: 2:45 pm**