

Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable

Committee Room - RDN Office, 6300 Hammond Bay Rd.

January 24th, 1:30 pm.

Meeting Notes

In Attendance: Erica Blake (DFO), David Bramley (Harmac), Andrew Campbell (DFO), Heidi Cao (CoN), Paul Chapman (NALT), Bob Colclough (LSA), Ken Epps (IT), Wayne Harling (NFGPA), Molly Hudson (TW), Bob Kissinger (IWFF), Rob Lawrance (CoN), Derek Nickel (Terra West), Erik Piikkila (VIWW), Julie Pisani (RDN), June Ross (VIWW), Louise Shuker (community), Marjorie Stewart (community).

Marjorie took a moment to acknowledge the passing of Roundtable participant and environmental advocate Laurie Gourlay.

1) Approval of Agenda – approved as circulated

2) Review of Notes from Last Meeting, September 13th, 2017 – approved as circulated

3) Business Arising from Notes

- **Committee Updates:**

- i. Communications Committee – Bob Colclough**

- Bob circulated the website usage statistics. There were 1,875 unique visitors to the website in 2017.

- ii. Budget Committee – Paul Chapman**

- Paul circulated a financial report. Of the \$11,000 in revenues generated in 2017 for the Roundtable NALT was responsible for approximately \$8,000 while TimberWest and Island Timberlands were responsible for the remainder at \$2,000 and \$1,000 respectively.

- As NALT hands over administration of the Roundtable its contribution will decrease.

- iii. Education and Awareness Committee – Paul Chapman**

- 1. Rivers Day Watershed Tours**

- This has largely been a committee of one, Deryck Cowling. He is stepping back from these duties, primarily coordinating the tours on Rivers Day. We will need to find a new Chair for the committee.

- Julie mentioned that she may be able to help with some aspects of the coordination of tours.

- iv. Ad Hoc Admin Models Committee – Paul Chapman et al.**

-The committee met in October and discussed models of delivering administrative services for the Roundtable.

-Two methods were presented to the Roundtable without committee recommendation.

1. VIU could provide the admin service under the auspices of either the Master of Community Planning program or the Mount Arrowsmith Biosphere Region Research Institute on a cost recovery basis. At a minimum these costs are \$2,000/term (\$4,000 - \$6,000 per year).
2. Rotating/shared delivery of service. This would involve the participation of all partners on the Roundtable on a rotating basis taking on the admin service delivery at no additional cost to the Roundtable.

-The advantages and challenges of these service delivery models were discussed. Heidi mentioned that the City of Nanaimo may be able to contribute up to \$1000 annually in support of retaining VIU and Paul indicated that NALT could support with funds from events like the Rivers Day barbecue and in-kind support by continuing the administration of the NRWR account. NRWR decided to engage VIU for the service.

-It was noted that Terms of Reference would be needed to clarify NRWR expectations of the contractor. An ad hoc committee was struck to develop the ToR and report back to the NRWR by February 7th. Committee members are Bob Colclough, Paul Chapman, Julie Pisani and June Ross.

ACTION: Bob to circulate draft ToR to the committee for discussion.

- **Mid-Island Regional Forestry Initiative – Bob Colclough**

-NRWR participants were tasked in September to discuss the possibility of a Letter of Support from the Roundtable for this initiative. There wasn't a consensus for Roundtable support LoS will be sent individually from participants if appropriate.

-Bob will update the NRWR on the progress of the initiative.

- **Situation Map Update – Julie Pisani**

ACTION: Julie will send a pdf map to participants and for posting to the website.

- **Data Gaps from Baseline Report – June Ross et al**

-June circulated a sheet outlining data gaps identified in the baseline report. Julie imported this information into a spreadsheet and added some new data.

ACTION: Paul to re-circulate data gap info and spreadsheet. Participants are encouraged to add information.

-DFO is working toward rationalizing habitat and risk assessment information for the Nanaimo River (and others). Erica will update at the next meeting of the Roundtable.

- **Governance – Treasurer, Need for Funding – June Ross**

-June noted the need for all participants to find funding sources for delivery of admin service and activities of the Roundtable.

ACTION: Erica to look into West Coast Aquatic funding as an example for the Roundtable.

ACTION: Erik to send other models of watershed organizations to Paul.

4) New Business

- **Water Stewardship Conference – Julie Pisani /Paul Chapman**

-April 11th – 12th there will be a water stewardship symposium. Symposium information can be found at <https://mailchi.mp/f8f1009de206/save-the-date-april-11-12-to-be-inspired-the-hard-work-of-hope-collaboration-success-stories-on-vancouver-island?e=26709fec39>

-Participants are encouraged to consider attending and sharing the symposium information with their networks.

- **Other Creeks Within the Watershed**

-Julie and Rob spoke of habitat rehabilitation work on Beck's Creek which runs through the RDN and City. Road infrastructure and land use have been identified as issues impacting water quality and fish habitat.

-The Snuneymuxw First Nation is working with the City on stewardship of the lower reaches of the creek.

5) Next Meeting - March 8th, 1:30 – 3:00 pm Board Room SARC building, 411 Dunsmuir St.

6) Adjourned at 2:55 pm