

Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable

TimberWest Office, 201-648 Terminal Ave.

June 13th, 1:30 pm.

Meeting Notes

In Attendance: Ava Breakwell (NALT), Brad Bodnar (BB Forestry & Clean Energy), Heidi Cao (CoN), Paul Chapman (NALT), Bob Colclough (LSA), Ken Epps (IT), Molly Hudson (TW), Bob Kissinger (IWFF), Rob Lawrance (CoN), Julie Pisani (RDN), June Ross (VIWWC), Louise Shuker (community), Marjorie Stewart (community).

1) **Approval of Agenda** – approved by consensus

2) **Review of Notes from Last Meeting, March 8th, 2018** – approved by consensus

3) **Business Arising from Notes**

- **Ad Hoc Admin Models Committee**

- The Roundtable discussed the draft Scope of Work (SoW) document generated by the ad hoc committee.

- Edits to the SoW include adding ensuring facilitation to the Role; adjusting the Term to semesters rather than years; adding *other duties* to procedure; and including a list of Key Skills.

ACTION: Paul to include edits and send the SoW to the Roundtable.

ACTION: Bob C to discuss SoW with Pam Shaw (VIU).

- **Data Gaps from Baseline Report**

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

- **Water Stewardship Conference – recap**

- The two-day event included field trips to Buttertubs Marsh and the 5-Acre Farm, a lecture by Bob Sandford, and an all-day symposium on stewardship collaboration success stories.

- Concerns were raised about the valuation of natural assets using tools like the Ecological Accounting Process.

ACTION: June to send article to be disseminated to the Roundtable.

- **Beck Creek Stewardship – update** Rob Lawrance
 - The process involves Snuneymuxw First Nation interest in improving fish habitat and the route of the creek across jurisdictions (City and RDN).
 - There will likely be opportunities for land owner and community engagement and participation.

- **VIWW Meeting with MLAs – June Ross**
 - Leonard Krog (MLA) arranged a meeting of VIWW with Island MLAs.
 - VIWW made four requests:
 1. Establish the legislative and regulatory framework to empower local governance of community drinking watersheds through the full implementation of the Water Sustainability Act (WSA) and its Regulations.

 2. Amend the necessary forestry acts (Forest Act, Forest Planning and Practices Regulation, Forest and Range Practices Act, and Private Managed Forest Land Act) to improve standards of practice and oversight. Forest harvesting and management standards in watersheds that supply community drinking water must be raised to ensure quality and quantity (supply) for future use, within the context of climate change.

 3. Establish a Community Drinking Watershed Investment Fund for the purchase of Private Managed Forest Land Act (PFL), in community drinking watersheds on Vancouver Island. In addition, preserve and protect Crown Land within existing Vancouver Island TFL's.

 4. Amend the Mines Act to restrict mining activity in community drinking watersheds to ensure protection of source drinking water and the environment as the highest purpose.
 - VIWW has sent two follow up requests seeking a timeline to address the concerns they raised.

- **Financial Update – Paul Chapman**
 - The Roundtable has \$2,223 (\$2K from TW) available for administration and \$546 available for Rivers Day activities.
 - It is expected that the cost to hire an administrator through VIU will be \$2,000/semester.
 - There may be funds available from the RDN and CoN for administration in 2019.

4) New Business

- **Watershed Governance Model UBCM – Bob Colclough**
 - Julie informed the Roundtable that the motion the Sunshine Coast Regional District brought to AVICC than is now going to UBCM in September:

R25 Watershed Governance Model

Whereas UBCM has consistently advocated for providing water purveyors with greater control over the watersheds that provide drinking water to their communities; And whereas an integrated watershed governance approach that recognizes indigenous water rights and utilizes a collaborative, consensus building approach to decision making could provide a model that addresses community needs while balancing the resource and capacity limitations experienced by local governments and First Nations: Therefore be it resolved that the Province recognize and support local watershed collaborative governance entities and adequately resource these entities.

ON MOTION, was ENDORSED

ACTION: Bob will report back from the UBCM

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

-The initiative is still working its way through stakeholder consultation and regulator approval.

- **Watershed Assessment Guidance update – Brad Bodnar**

-Brad is still awaiting the updated WAG for review

ACTION: Brad to send article on professional reliance for dissemination to Roundtable

5) Next Meeting:

The City of Nanaimo will host the next meeting in September. Date and location to be announced.

ACTION: Rob to arrange.

6) Adjourned: 2:30 pm