

Nanaimo River Watershed Roundtable

Zoom Meeting

June 24th, 2020 1:00 pm.

Minutes

In attendance: Paul Chapman (NALT), Kayla Harris (NRWR Coordinator), Andrew McNaughton (Snuneymuxw), Bob Colclough (NR Estuary Log Storage Association), Nick Leone (DFO-Restoration), Christina Czembor (DFO), Jaclyn Boutillier (Previously DFO- Stock Assessment), Steven Baillie (DFO-Stock Assessment), Louise Shuker (Community), Erica Blake (DFO- Community Advisor), Julie Pisani (Regional District of Nanaimo, DWWP), Matt Kellow (VIU), Jean-Michel Hanssens (Community Stewardship Advocate), June Ross (VIWCC), Steve Moore (Snuneymuxw), Douglas Wood (Port of Nanaimo-Health, Safety, and Environmental manager), Rosie Barlak (Ministry of Environment), Karalea Cantara (DFO), Rob Lawrance (City of Nanaimo-Environmental Planner)

1) Approval of Agenda

- **Three items added:**

- 1) Chinook Risk Stock Assessment and Recovery Assessment Report added under business arising from the notes
- 2) oil slicks and spills in the Nanaimo Harbour added under new business arising
- 3) updates from the group and DWWP updates that would be of interest to the group.

2) Meeting Chair – Andrew McNaughton

3) Approval of February 20, 2020 meeting minutes with amendments

- There were some suggested edits that had been missed prior to the May 7, 2020 meeting. Changes have been made since then. Roundtable reviewed changes and approved the minutes from February 20, 2020 with changes.
- Minutes from February 20, 2020 approved

4) Approval of May 7, 2020 meeting minutes

- Louise provided a reminder to the group that the Terms of Reference (TOR) has been updated since 2012. This comment was relating to previous minutes where this has been mentioned that the TOR had not been updated.
- Minutes for May 7, 2020 Approved

5) Business Arising from Notes

- **Financial Update** – Paul Chapman
 1. \$4561 of which 225 is allocated and the rest is for the Roundtable use. Currently at 4562 with an extra dollar from interest
 2. Kayla has submitted an invoice for \$1400 for coordinator wages from January 1, 2020 to June 25, 2020
- **Nanaimo Estuary Eco Cultural Project Update** – Steven Moore
 1. February 2020 Snuneymuxw and the City of Nanaimo met with Guardians of Mid-Island Estuary Society to discuss eco-cultural fencing to protect *Carex lyngbyei* beds. The beds are being grazed upon by Canadian Geese. They eat the chutes then eventually they will dig up the rhizomes. Rhizomes help stabilize the banks and provide cover for the salmonids. The geese need a landing strip to fly in. Guardian's idea was to create enclosures with willow poles and fencing. On west side of estuary near Living Forest Campground.

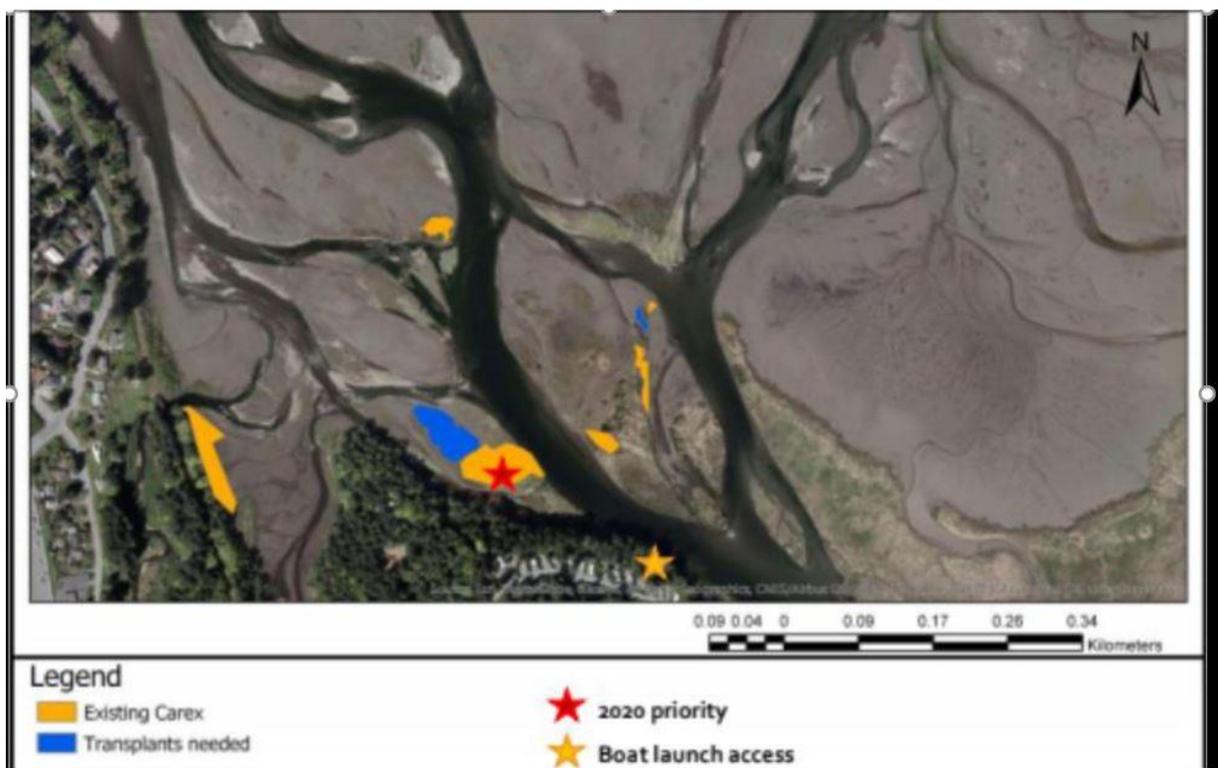


Figure 1: Distribution Map of Carex Beds and Transplant Areas

2. Orange spots are existing *Carex lyngbyei* and blue are areas where transplanting is needed. Red star areas are where they want to start. Eco fencing has been completed around red star location. Enclosure where transplanting is needed. Transplanting may occur next year. Goal is to monitor how effective the fencing is and create new enclosures around other affected sites.
 - Snow fencing has not yet been swapped out. Andrew will follow up with this. No monitoring for other donor sites has not occurred yet. Some discussion of taking *Carex lyngbyei* from mouth of Chase River and Beck Creek. The lifespan for the fencing is 5-10 years.
 - Englishman River Estuary fencing has been successful so far in keeping the geese out.

3. Strategic Plan Timeline Review and Discussion– Kayla Harris

- The group discussed the draft timeline and agreed to move forward with the timeline as it is and make changes as we move forward to ensure progress is achieved.
- If the Roundtable's intention is to have a draft of the Strategic Plan completed by the end of the year, the timeline was agreed to be reasonable.
- Timeline can be adjusted based on the capacity of NRWR participants.
- The Strategic Plan can also be visited again frequently over time as components change and updates are necessary.
- The heading in the timeline "Review of Roundtable Members" has been changed to "Review of Roundtable Participants". Membership would exclude certain agencies and individuals from being able to participate
- Key discussions will be added to agenda of meetings as feedback and collaboration are needed.
- A mix of community partners and aspirations contributing to the process is required.
- **Action Item:** Kayla create Google Doc for Roundtable participants to provide comments and suggestions on the mission and vision statements as part of the strategic planning process. As discussed in the meeting, the Roundtable agreed to a deadline of Tuesday July 14, 2020

to provide their comments and suggestions on the mission and vision. After comments are received, Kayla will compile the information and formulate a draft and draft options for the group to vote on before moving forward in the strategic planning process.

- The mission and vision information provided at the November 21, 2020 should be the information that guides the discussion on the mission and vision. There has been some concern that the comments have veered from what was discussed at the Strategic Planning Session on November 21, 2020.
- Discussion occurred around a reminder to keep the mission and vision short. Some of the issue has been around trying to include all of the comments provided into a succinct one to two sentence mission and vision.
- Kayla will compile all the information into the report. The content is not expected to come from Kayla; however, she will be assembling the documents and conducting research on behalf of the Roundtable

- **New Business**

- **Terms of Reference and Vision and Objectives Issues** – June Ross

- It was confirmed that the Terms of Reference are not up for review at this time. As part of the Strategic Planning process, the Terms of Reference will be reviewed after the Strategic Plan has been drafted and worked through. It is necessary that we are all clear on the mission and the vision.
- Once a vision and mission are established they are intended to take place of the existing mission and vision in the TOR. We will want to review the TOR to ensure it fits.

- **Chinook Assessment and Recovery Potential Assessment and Associated Activities** – Steve Baillie

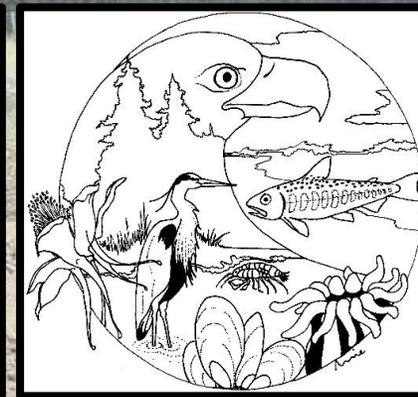
- Habitat report initiated in 2019. Draft version was presented at the RAMS meeting in January. The report is under revision. In the next couple months, a final edition will be shared with the group
- Potential data gap and habitat restoration project document has been created. Changes will occur over time. Report will be shared with group.

feedback is requested. Document will be shared to Slack and Kayla can circulate the document via email.

- A report that encompasses the biology, the habitat report, the results of the risk assessment from January, and the data gap project ideas document will be assembled by the end of this year.
- The government agencies involved in the recovery potential habitat work plan to form an interagency partnership that are regulatory bodies to facilitate the watershed recovery efforts. Idea is to work as a group to smooth the process for other agencies such as this group. Goal is to get projects initiated, funded, and addressed. As well as the DFO Sectors, other government agencies represented will be Ministry of Forests, Lands, and Natural Resource Operations, Regional District of Nanaimo, City of Nanaimo, and Snuneymuxw First Nation.
- **Oil Spills and Slicks in the Nanaimo Harbour** – Jean-Michel Hanssens
 - Nanaimo Harbour Authorities, Captain Santinder Singh is looking at a monitoring system to monitor oil spills. Currently they are based on patrol and people reporting spills.
 - Kayla will pass the email provided by Captain Singh to the group.
 - Captain Singh will be able to provide a presentation to the group so that everyone can learn about the idea before providing comment.
 - Douglas Wood will speak with Captain Singh.
- **Updates** – Roundtable
 - Updates were not able to be completed due to time constraints of the shorter, one-hour meeting and will be added to the top of the agenda for the next meeting
- **Next Meeting:**
 1. **Save the Date: Tentatively Wednesday July 22, 2020. 1:00pm to 2:00pm.**

8) Adjourned: 2:05 pm.

Nanaimo Estuary Eco-Cultural Fencing Project



Background

- ▶ *Carex (Carex lyngbyei)* beds are valuable chinook habitat. Canada geese graze on carex shoots and rhizomes; over time the carex bed erodes.
- ▶ In February 2020, The Guardians of Mid-Island Estuaries Society and Snuneymuxw First Nation along with the support of the City of Nanaimo develop plans to install eco-cultural fencing to protect existing Carex Sedge and transplant from healthy sites to restore impacted areas.
- ▶ Fencing consists of ~1.5m alder poles with weaved willow branches for support, designed to exclude Geese from landing within the enclosure.





0.09 0.04 0 0.09 0.17 0.26 0.34
Kilometers

Legend

- Existing Carex
- Transplants needed

- 2020 priority
- Boat launch access

2020 Activities

- ▶ Construction of eco-cultural fencing around the 2020 priority site to protect existing Carex (Completed).
- ▶ Construction of second eco-cultural fencing site east of the 2020 priority site to protect existing Carex Sedge (Completed).
- ▶ Construction of eco-cultural fencing around transplant site north of 2020 priority site (Not Completed).



Future Plans

- ▶ Monitor effectiveness of eco-cultural fencing.
- ▶ Transplanting from donor sites to already impacted areas
- ▶ Build new enclosures around sites with existing Carex.

