



# Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable

*Kwkwetlem, known as "Red fish up the river."  
A living river that reveals its spirit.*

## Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable Core Committee Meeting Port Coquitlam Fire Hall September 11, 2013

### 1. INTRODUCTION

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 am and concluded at 12:30 pm. Blaire Chisholm and Steve Brown chaired the meeting. Janis Boivin, Engineering Assistant, City of Coquitlam took notes. Participants in the meeting:

Sector	Organization	Member (or alternate)
Local Government	City of Coquitlam	Steffanie Warriner Margaret Birch ( <i>alternate</i> )
Local Government	City of Coquitlam	Terry O'Neill
Local Government	City of Port Coquitlam	Steve Brown
Local Government	City of Port Coquitlam	Darrell Penner
First Nation	Kwkwetlem First Nation	Craig Orr
Regional Government	Metro Vancouver	Dave Dunkley
Federal Government	Department of Fisheries and Oceans	Maurice Coulter- Boisvert
Real Estate Development	Brook Pooni Associates, UDI	Blaire Chisholm
Aggregate Industry	Jack Cewe Ltd.	George Turi
Recreation	PoCo & District Hunting and Fishing Club	Norm Fletcher
Stewardship	North Fraser Salmon Assistance Program	Tony Matahlija
Stewardship	Tri-City Green Council	Elaine Willis Gord Lewis ( <i>alternate</i> )
Arts and Culture	Arts Connect	Sherry Carroll Roger Loubert ( <i>alternate</i> )
First Nation	Kwkwetlem First Nation	Absent
Provincial Government	BC Ministry of Energy, Mines & Natural Gas	Absent
Education	BCIT	Absent
Recreation	Riverside Fly & Tackle	Absent
Utilities	BC Hydro	Absent

Observers: Gillian Fielding, SFU Master's Student, Janis Boivin, City of Coquitlam

Regrets: Fred Hulbert, Kwkwetlem First Nation, Ed Taje, BC Ministry of Mines & Natural Gas, Edie Thome, BC Hydro, Marvin Rosenau, BCIT, Garry Elgear, Riverside Fly & Tackle

## 2. AGENDA REVIEW

- Introduction of observers
- Addition of an agenda item by Steffanie Warriner – Coquitlam River Water Quality Monitoring update

## 3. MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE

- Watershed Coordinator position (September to December)
  - Krista Englund has stepped down, she will continue to volunteer part time
  - City of Coquitlam has retained Janis Boivin to fill the position in the interim
- Appointment of City of Coquitlam Councillor Terry O’Neil to Core Committee
- Dale Lessoway has changed positions, June Harris is the new alternate for Kwikwetlem First Nation

## 4. JUNE 6<sup>TH</sup> ROUNDTABLE PARTICIPANT FEEDBACK

- Margaret and Gillian – highlights of Roundtable feedback and the Watershed Plan
  - Gillian summarized the following aspects of the June 6<sup>th</sup> meeting:
    - General feedback – components (positive), overall success (positive), online engagement
    - General Feedback – people wanted more time and thought small group sessions would be useful, but generally we received positive feedback
    - Components, attributes and indicators – Ashley transcribed the feedback and the task group went through it and made changes, most of the changes were minor (such as wording of the component, attribute or indicator)
    - Major changes – Recreation & Natural Areas
    - Pressures – preliminary summary
    - Next steps – clearly define all pressures and stressors
      - 2 day pressures workshop for task group in late October
      - Conceptual modelling for each pressure
      - Modelling will help identify the best places to act or implement changes
    - Priorities based on scope, severity and irreversibility
- Discussion points:
  - More focus on the positives was suggested, possibly developing a scale that indicates whether we are advancing
  - Q. What are the standards? A. The standards were displayed on the panels at the June 6<sup>th</sup> workshop. Part of what goes into the ratings are land use maps, Metro Vancouver research, sets of data, etc., that are used to come up with the ratings and levels of severity.
  - Discussion was focused on salmon and there was concern about how to rate their success and whether or not using hatcheries to enhance salmon diversity would change the rank from “good” to “very good”
  - Q. In regards to sockeye, would they only be rated “very good” if the sockeye were to return naturally? A. Any way they return would be very good.

- Q. What is the point of having artificially spawned fish in the river? A. There wouldn't be as many species in the river without it, but there has also been habitat restoration work done, eg. Colony farms.
- We have an urban watershed below the dam, huge tracks of land are no longer recoverable, to put together a plan that goes otherwise is unrealistic, we need to stay as realistic as possible with this plan. We are trying to maintain salmon in the watershed, hanging on to unrealistic ideas affects the credibility of what the RT is trying to achieve.
- Members of the task group tried to get some of the conceptual models completed but we found that having the facilitator was needed to guide the process

## 5. LOWER COQUITLAM RIVER WATERSHED PLAN

- **Task Group:** Margaret Birch/Gillian Fielding (lead), Craig Orr, Gordon Lewis, Elaine Willis, Norm Fletcher, Maurice Coulter-Boisvert, Blaire Chisholm
- **Handouts included:** Summary of June 6<sup>th</sup> Roundtable Feedback on Components Goals, Attributes and Indicators & Resulting Changes and Preliminary Pressures Identification Summary
- Highlights of Task Group work since June 6<sup>th</sup> Roundtable
- Core Committee review of components and pressures documents
  - All pressures are listed alphabetically
  - Stresses are defined at the back of the report for reference
- Discussion:
  - Concern was raised about the mining section of the preliminary pressures doc. Pg 17 and the wording that was used to describe slope instability as this has been improved this summer. Locally, Jack Cewe Ltd has actually played a role in stabilizing the slope in the area. If the word "increase" was removed then you could highlight positive improvements. We need to be careful of the wording in each pressure.
  - Q. Have there been any technical reports on slope stability? A. Yes we (Jack Cewe) do studies every year.
  - Re-focus - to make it clear, stresses are what the consultants associate with the pressures, these are not necessarily going to be included in our plan, this is just a starting point for our list
  - The wording is important, using certain language such as "slope instability" suggests that it is unstable etc as opposed to saying, "changes in slope stability".
  - Concern that someone could read this list and take away a negative implication from the wording, we need to look over the wording and make it objective.
  - Q. Are there any potential stresses associated with naturally occurring events? Eg landslide, flood? A. Accidental is maybe in the realm? Use caution when associating accidental and naturally occurring events. At the June RT there was an introduction to the pressures exercise, Abby used another watershed as an example, she gave a list that the group chose from for the Coquitlam River that apply; the task group has added a few more from that list, it doesn't mean that it is all of them; natural disasters may show up eventually.
- Update on Next Steps of Step 1 phase work for the fall/winter 2013- based on funding. Additional \$13-15,000 to 'complete' Step 1 of the Conceptualization Phase as per the Open Standards planning process. Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam to provide some cash and in kind; can any Core Committee members provide funds this fall/2014?
- Discussion:

- Q. What do we have currently? A. \$4500 is what we have, we are short \$9000
- Q. Pacific Salmon Foundation – suddenly has some money, is this a possible source? A. They will not fund watershed plans or wages, but will fund certain components ‘boots in the stream’ type things. We will put in an application for the Oct. 1<sup>st</sup> deadline, to be put it in the ‘hopper’, to help with ‘hard costs’ of outreach. Unlikely we will get funding on the first go around.
- Q. What about casino funding? A. We have an opportunity for that, have spoken to Sherry about this, but potentially in the future, this is why we are having a presentation about becoming a society
- City of Coquitlam has casino funding, through the Spirit of Coquitlam, and yes we received \$1500 with the help of Watershed Watch Salmon Society, these applications are a lot of work, however we will continue to apply and the next request due September 30 will be for Rivers Day 2014.
- Summarized: we have enough funds to get us through to the end of November to get the pressures and ratings seminar done and at least two conceptual models drafted.

**ACTION:** Core Committee members look for possible funding options for the fall 2013/New Year 2014.

## 6. WHAT IT TAKES TO BECOME A SOCIETY

- Geri Briggs-Simpson, Community Services Supervisor, Parks, Recreation & Culture
- Presentation on benefits for CRWR to become a Society and training services available to assist in the process
  - Where your group is now, unincorporated
  - Why you want to consider society
    - Legal status
    - Set purpose & bylaws to follow
    - May have assets, can enter into agreements with other groups and can receive gifts
    - Liability
    - Group becomes incorporated in the Society Act of BC
  - Obligations
    - 5 individuals on board (have to have definitions of these positions)
    - AGM and annual general report
    - Bylaws & constitution
  - Requirements
    - Name the Society
    - Define purpose
    - Develop bylaws (define membership, schedule AGMs, duties of officers, etc)
    - Insurance (liability, directors liability insurance)
    - Constitution
- Questions and discussion
  - Q. Would a society include public outreach or would it be the core committee? (Ex. Will it include the people who attend RT) A. It really depends on what you want to do.
  - Q. Could we have a society of convenience? One that was to administer for the CRWR, so that we could exist as the RT that existed for consensus A. this is a bit hokey, not the best approach.

- Q. Could it be set up as a small society essentially as a funding society that sits on the roundtable and funds the projects? A. We are doing that a little bit now.
- Comment – you are only talking about provincial societies not CRA, it is important to know the requirements ahead of time, a lot of the time you need to be registered federally to apply, especially for large grants. It is still a good idea to have an alternate strategy, like partnering with organizations with charitable status.
- Comment – what is our goal? If it is strictly funding, I think all of the superfluous stuff, and I don't think it meets our needs.
- Comment – seems that there is one major gap in how we have been operating, one thing that we have not defined is membership which has been anyone who shows up at a public event. Membership would have to be formalized.
- Comment – one problem, another level of meetings that need to happen, there would have to be 5 people volunteering to meet A. The Core Committee meetings, you already have, would qualify as the meeting.
- Comment – closest example – Stoney Creek Environmental Committee in Burnaby
- Comment – right now we have directors that are appointed by their own groups; would this be an issue for an election for the directors? A. No you can write this into your rules.
- Q. What does it cost to register a non profit? A. \$100
- Q. If there are other similarly functioning roundtables, are they registered as a society?
- Comment – you don't need members to be a society, you only need directors.
- Comment – something that a membership could bring is \$\$ which could be a funding opportunity. What are our next steps? Margaret are you having trouble with funding apps without this?
- A. Yes, right now we are using other non-profit groups to get funding, the idea of this topic is to introduce it, you can email your input. We have a large application in right now, if we are not successful, we might need to look at other options
- Q. Margaret this your recommendation? A. Yes, but it will require time of members of this group to work towards it.
- Comment – so it sounds like we need to come together and make this decision in November, we need to look at what we are missing out on by not being a society, it would seem that we are close to being there already.
- Q. Does anyone have experience with becoming a society? A. Yes
- Comments – grants are out there to become a society
- Comments – Right now something that is worrying is that let's suppose that some members go out and get \$60,000 grants, those people have taken a personal liability, being a society would protect them.

**ACTION** – Fundraising Task group pull together a list of grants we have received, and those not received due ineligibility.

## **7. UPCOMING EVENTS/DATES – Roundtable Displays, Next Roundtable Meetings**

- **Tree Fest**, Riverview Lands, Saturday September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013 – Gord Lewis and friends have volunteered to man the event booth, promote the work of the Roundtable
  - Gord will be bringing a canvas for people to paint at the event
- **Plans for BC Rivers Day, Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Port Coquitlam, Lions Park** – The Core Committee and Roundtable members are invited to donate an hour at the large tent to

communicate progress being made on the Lower Coquitlam River Watershed Plan – sign ups requested. The event has been sponsored by Fisheries & Oceans (DFO)

- We will be displaying posters from our RT under two large tents
- We are requesting that CC members commit to an hour at the tent the event
- Hours 10 am – 2 pm, everything has to be set up by 10 am no vehicles allow after this time
- **Salmon Come Home**, Hoy Creek Hatchery, Sunday, October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 – anyone interested to participate and display Roundtable materials?
  - Gord is interested
- **Next Roundtable Meeting – 2014** – time to plan for a theme to spring event
  - This will depend on funding opportunities
  - This will be focused on elements of the watershed plan

## 8. FUNDRAISING AND BUDGET

- **Standing Committee** - Margaret Birch (lead), Maurice Coulter-Boisvert, Gordon Lewis, Monte Anions
- Update on Funding – Jack Cewe Ltd. (\$5,000. June 2013); Fisheries & Oceans Canada (\$1,000., June 2013); Arts Connect (\$790. June 2013, plus in-kind advertising); Metro Vancouver (\$20,000. – decision pending by Metro Board, late October 2013)
  - Jack Cewe – went to plan and to fix website
  - DFO 2013 – Rivers Day event
  - Arts Connect – food at the June 2013 RT meeting
  - Metro Van – will be confirming funding at the end of October (this will help with the Real Estate Foundation application)
  - Gord Lewis – has been covering the cost of the canvas, painting supplies, etc to the value of \$600 in kind
- Update on Reports sent to Funders – WWSS to Spirit of Coquitlam (Watershed Cafes) June 2013; CRWR Delegation to Metro Vancouver Environment & Parks Committee to present Step 1 Watershed Plan update, July 11, 2013)
  - Sherry, Margaret & Dale Lessoway went to MV and did a presentation that was well received
- Update on Final Reports to Funders – Real Estate Foundation Final Report, due September 13, 2013; Budget and Workplan to Metro Vancouver, due September 11
- Update on Funding Applications – Letter of Interest to Bullitt Foundation for \$50,000 (WWSS/CRWR split) due September 15; Stage 1 Funding Application to Real Estate Foundation of BC for \$50,000 for September 13, 2013
  - Craig is submitting application for \$50,000, 25,000 for CRWR
  - Krista just finished Real Estate Foundation application
- Discussion:
  - Q. Sherry would you consider helping the fundraising task group? A. I am very concerned about the idea that we are applying to be a society for the sole purpose of applying for funding applications, but will help with some of this.
  - Concerns about not having a fall meeting and losing community momentum and support, some questions were asked about having a smaller lower budget meeting,

some questions were asked and discussed about whether the meeting is a higher priority than further more tasks to the Phase I watershed plan.

- Comment – the group has a commitment to produce a plan, right now this should be priority in order to meet the requirements of our funders and to be able to move to the next step at our next Roundtable.
- Comment – I don't believe it is feasible to have another public event, there are lots of other events we will be at this fall, I don't believe that it will be well attended
- Comment - The purpose of Rivers Day is to provide a mechanism for the RT to have a presence to demonstrate to the public their work to promote the plan in progress.
- We need to communicate to the RT why we are unable to have a meeting
- What if we used our membership list and asked them to come out and tell us how we are doing, entice them with a mug or something
- Encourage the RT to come out to Rivers Day, feedback form and receive a mug
- What feedback do we want? A. have you been to the website, general type questions, this can help guide things for next year
- Have you been a part of this process? Are we meeting your expectations?
- Can we come up with something other than surveying people, other ways of engaging people
- We have things, dots on the map, painting, we need to track them better
- We can use what we have at the site to show them the stressors and pressures?
- Could we include the results of the water quality monitoring?
- Could we do basic water chemistry activities?

## **9. CITY OF COQUITLAM UPDATE – Steffanie Warriner**

- We have started our 2013/14 water quality monitoring of the Coquitlam River, including the same as last year (dry/wet)
- We are building on this by going out every single Friday from August 2013 – January 2014 collecting data using YSI meter to help to capture seasonal influences “real time monitoring” basic water quality parameters
- We are also wanting to target storm events, we have already had two, luckily on Thursday night (Sept 5, 2013)
  - Q. Could you bring something into the field at Rivers Day to show people how you are monitoring water quality? A. Yes we will look into it
- Coquitlam Council has endorsed the Stream and Drainage Protection Bylaw (Erosion and Sediment Control) this week
  - Within this bylaw there are some pro-active measures
  - The new bylaw is available on the City's website
  - New outreach & education materials will be coming out soon
  - Q. How does this rank against other Municipalities? A. A lot of research went into creating this bylaw this included looking at what other municipalities in our region are doing, our new bylaw is strong.

## **10. COMMUNICATIONS**

- Virtual Tour CRWR website – maintenance matters
  - We were taken down due to viruses, Jim Stacey, a contract developer for Jack Cewe Ltd was a huge help

- No one noticed that it was down for 6 weeks
- No response to the June 6<sup>th</sup> Roundtable stuff that was posted
- We need to commit \$ to ongoing maintenance, backups, regular cleanups
- Our former developer had not built in the ability to update Drupal versions and site became vulnerable
- Changes: Lettering was changed to black, the images will be slide shows, being able to see the entire website at the same time
- Q. Do we have any recourse in our contract with the supplier?
- Comment – we need a twitter feed on the home page, this will bring our placement higher in a google search
- Comment – we thought this was going to be our main outreach do we want to continue using it? A. We have invested a lot into this, it also holds a lot of our data, we have to drive users to the site by various other means.

**ACTION:** Elaine & Margaret to discuss the situation and a strategy on what the next steps will be.

- U-Tube kudos from Mark Angelo – Coquitlam off BC Endangered Rivers List
  - Comment – Darrell Penner praised us for making this happen at Metro Vancouver meeting
- Metro Vancouver to promote efforts of work in the Coquitlam River as part of their Regional Video series.
  - They have approached City of Coquitlam to feature their water quality monitoring program late September and this group will be mentioned in this video.

## 11. NEXT CORE COMMITTEE MEETING

- Wednesday, November 13, 2013 (9:00 am – Noon)
  - BC Hydro is proposing to partner the meeting with the Monitoring Committee
  - By a show of hands, it looks good, but many people would like to try a different day
  - CC will have to stick to a 2 hour meeting if it is on the same day as the BC Hydro meeting
- Location
- Co-chairs

**ACTION:** Margaret to contact Julie Fournier at BC Hydro to convey feedback from the Core Committee. The CC would like to look at a date the next week following.

**VOTE:** To use the remaining funds to continue with watershed plan rather than a RT meeting. Everyone voted Yes.

## 12. ADDITIONAL BUSINESS

Maurice Coultier-Boisvert advised on the significant restoration project in the watershed: new intake and habitat in conjunction with existing habitat at the upper Coquitlam River Park, north of the parking lot. Walk down the path, it's on the left hand side. Maurice sent some pictures around; this could be added to the restoration projects site.