



## Inaugural meeting of the Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable

February 19, 2011 • Victoria Drive Hall, Coquitlam • Meeting Notes

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### 1. Opening presentations and introductions

#### Performance: 'Art and environmental health'

J. Peachy, a local artist, radio host and advocate for mental health narrated a presentation of his paintings, inspired by the natural beauty of the Coquitlam watershed and offering parallels to his own personal struggles with mental health, growth and positive change. A key theme of the presentation was the relationship between art, nature and community and the importance of a connection with nature in helping people cope with the challenges in their lives.

Musician David Blair followed, performing a song whose lyrics emphasized the theme that "we have come so far."

#### Opening remarks by Fin Donnelly, MP, New Westminster-Coquitlam & Port Moody

Long-time steward Norman Fletcher introduced opening speaker, Fin Donnelly, expressing appreciation for his many efforts to protect watersheds.

After swimming across Georgia Strait and Juan de Fuca to raise public awareness of environmental concerns, Donnelly said he shifted his focus to freshwater and the 34 river watersheds within the Fraser Basin. His goal was to raise awareness of the issues facing watersheds and to bring people together to work on them. Donnelly was first elected to public office in 2002, after deciding it was time to shift his attention to public policy.

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This area is facing growing pressures from development. The quiet, natural setting that attracted so many new residents is changing drastically with major developments such as the Westwood Plateau. But change has also brought positive results, such as more people and more energy to work on local watershed issues. Donnelly worked on the corridor strategy that represented the roots of the current initiative to establish a watershed Roundtable. The Coquitlam River Aggregate Task Force was another initiative, formed to address challenges relating to gravel extraction. New streamside protection regulations, introduced in the early 2000s, were contentious.

These issues – development, resource extraction, traffic, etc. – are what bring us together, Donnelly continued. They are difficult issues to resolve and this Roundtable is very important to supporting their resolution. We need to figure out how we live, work and play in ways that respect the landscape and the environment that supports all of us, along with the creatures that we value so much, while still maintaining the lifestyle that we lead. This is the challenge of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century and of sustainable living. The work of this Roundtable is to figure out how we achieve that balance. There are many stakeholders and we all have values, issues and agendas. But by working together we can come together to figure it out.

This is a historic day, Donnelly concluded. As the song said, “we have come so far” to get to this point. Donnelly praised the work done by Margaret Birch in shepherding this process through a very difficult political climate. Neighbouring communities such as Port Moody and Port Coquitlam are starting to do very noticeable work. Hopefully with this initiative, Coquitlam can start to catch up and I wish you the best of luck, Donnelly said.

### **Other elected officials attending**

Facilitator Julie Gardner of Dovetail Consulting acknowledged other elected officials present: Port Coquitlam Councillor Sherry Carroll; Coquitlam Councillors Selina Robinson, Barrie Lynch, Brent Asmundson and Neal Nicholson; and Coquitlam Mayor Richard Stewart.

Later in the morning Councillor Fred Hubert of the Kwikwetlem First Nation joined. Coquitlam councillor Linda Reimer arrived after lunch.

### **Terry Tebb, VP Operations, Pacific Salmon Foundation**

Jessica Hawkins of the Fraser Basin Council introduced Terry Tebb from the Pacific Salmon Foundation as the next speaker.

The partnership between the City of Coquitlam, Port Coquitlam and the Kwikwetlem First Nation has done a remarkable job, Tebb said. We have funded a number of watershed Roundtables, but none has reached this far and we are very proud to have supported this program.

The original funding was provided via the Living Rivers Foundation and then via the Province’s Fraser Basin Initiative. That funding ends on March 31, but there is still some Living Rivers funding to offer continued support for 2011. A critical question is how to keep this process going as we may not have

money in the future. Industry, agencies like BC Hydro and the cities need to bring funding to these processes because while we commend the project team for getting this far, we still have very far to go.

One of the most important pieces of current legislation is the modernization of the *Water Act*, Tebb continued. Our watersheds are being damaged, with many water systems over-subscribed, and we can't have healthy communities if we don't manage our water resources. The proposed *Water Act* legislation is far behind schedule and needs to be addressed. We also need to consider that legacy access rights to water cannot be continued. In the BC interior, extractions of surface water now far exceed the capacity of those systems to renew themselves in some cases. One piece of the new legislation is new local governance models and the hope is that processes like this will be the key to implementing these new governance models. There is a void to be filled and you have an opportunity to be part of the solution.

Concluding, Tebb said staff at the Fraser Basin Council and the Pacific Salmon Foundation looked forward to working with the new Roundtable as it moves forward, with or without money, as they are all very concerned about the health of watersheds.

## **Introductions – Who's here?**

Gardner introduced participants Nancy Joe and George Chaffee from the Kwikwetlem First Nation and acknowledged their traditional territory. Gardner also introduced muralist Wendy Anderson, who would be preparing a graphic record of the day's discussion, along with the meeting notes, which would be posted on the Website.

Gardner then introduced members of the newly-formed core committee before inviting all participants to stand up take part in a "Crossing the river" exercise to show the many constituencies and interests represented at the meeting. Almost 70 people attended the meeting, most of whom have participated in previous phases of the Coquitlam River Watershed Strategy. They included youngsters and elders, stewards and industry owners, recreationists, residents, educators and more.

## **Focus of the meeting**

Julie Gardner explained that the focus of this meeting will be to identify priority tasks that the new Roundtable can get started on, although there are still some loose ends to be resolved regarding the Roundtable's terms of reference. Much of the focus in past meetings was on process, so the emphasis today will be primarily on what the Roundtable can do. Before jumping into new projects, however, it is important that everyone is aware of what projects are already going on. The intent is not for the new body to take over from existing activities, but rather to complement and support those existing efforts.

## **2. Progress to date: Overview of the Coquitlam River Watershed Strategy**

Margaret Birch, Environmental Services Coordinator, City of Coquitlam, started by explaining funding sources and the phases of the Strategy.

## **Funding**

Birch opened by acknowledging the funding and other support received from the following groups: the Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program and DFO had contributed over \$170,000 over 4 years; the Coquitlam River Watershed Society and BC Hydro had contributed a combined \$10,000; and the cities of Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam, along with the Kwikwetlem First Nation, had also provided extensive funding and support.

To date, funding has been managed by the City of Coquitlam, which has held all funds in trust for the Roundtable. How to hold money is a question that needs to be resolved moving forward.

## **Phases**

Birch reviewed the four stages of development that led to the establishment of the new Roundtable.

**Phase I (2007-08):** Background research leading to the report; “The Story of the Coquitlam River Watershed – Past, Present and Future.”

**Phase II (2008-09):** Engagement and visioning, with a series of workshops that brought together watershed interests to develop a common vision and values for the watershed and a draft mission statement.

**Phase III (2009-10):** Development of a collaborative body to carry out the objectives of the Coquitlam River Watershed Strategy. These discussions considered various structures that have been implemented in other watersheds and agreed that a Roundtable provided the best structure to move forward collaboratively. This Phase also developed a summary description of the watershed and a working set of principles to guide future decisions.

**Phase IV (2010-11):** Implementation, began in fall 2010 and continues with the launch today of the new Roundtable. It is hoped that the new Roundtable will reduce conflicts in the watershed and support shared decision-making towards a healthy and sustainable watershed.

## **Key directions for the Roundtable agreed on to date**

Gardner explained some of the key aspects agreed on in earlier phases that provide direction for the new Roundtable. These include a summary description of the watershed (upper – wilderness, lower – urban), and a common vision of *“a healthy watershed supported and enjoyed by the community in a manner that respects our common values through partnerships and collaboration, education, stewardship and monitoring, conservation and green economics, and responsible decision-making in perpetuity.”*

The draft mission statement still needs some more work to finalize it. Shared values of the watershed are: *ecosystem integrity, home/heritage/culture, native biodiversity, natural beauty, natural resources, protected areas, public access, recreation, responsibility to protect, spiritual qualities and sustainability.* The guiding principles developed in Phase III, which also need some more work before they are finalized,

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require the Roundtable to be: *accountable, adaptive, consensus-based, effective and credible, efficient with capacity, inclusive and respectful, influential and responsible, proactive and relationship building.*

A lot of work went into arriving at the Roundtable structure agreed in Phase III, with presentations from other existing watershed groups on lessons learned and other research. A top priority was to have a structure consistent with the guiding principles. The Roundtable is open to all participants sharing the Coquitlam River watershed vision and values from various sectors of interest. So those who show up for these meetings are the Roundtable, as long as they share the vision and values. This is a model that is unusually inclusive. The Roundtable is independent from government, and it cannot make decisions that are under the jurisdiction of other bodies. Within the Roundtable, there is a core committee and a coordinator.

### **The Roundtable transition planning process – forming the Core Committee**

Gardner noted that there are many sectors with interests in the Coquitlam River watershed, including various levels of government, government agencies, industry, recreational users, stewards, residents and others. The Core Committee is part of the Roundtable and exists to serve the Roundtable. It consists of a subset of people representing key sectors, including governments, the cities and First Nations. This will act as an executive body, along with the coordinator. The Core Committee needs to be small enough to be able to work on tasks efficiently and effectively.

Last March, the public process resulted in a proposal to establish a transition planning team to get the Roundtable set up. All participants were contacted and individuals from the key sectors who held leadership positions and had been active in the Coquitlam River Watershed Strategy were invited to nominate representatives. Some of the transition team members stayed on to become part of the Core Committee, while other members of the Core Committee were chosen via elections or other communications held among sector groups. Most of the Core Committee members were not formally elected but are easily identified as representatives by their peers. There may be a different way to fill seats in this group in the future, but it was necessary to find a way to get started.

Current members of the Core Committee are: Tom Adlington (recreation/trails), Blaire Chisholm (real estate industry), Maurice Coulter-Boisvert (DFO), Dave Dunkley (Metro Vancouver), Norman Fletcher (hunting and fishing), Elaine Willis (stewards), Tony Matahlija (stewards), Gordon Lewis (stewards – alternate rep.), Craig Orr (holding seat for Kwikwetlem), and Judy Dobrowolski (BC Hydro).

The government representatives will take the results of this inaugural Roundtable meeting to their next Council meetings to decide who their representatives will be. Staff with the Cities of Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam have been closely involved but the respective Councils will not formalize their participation on the Core Committee until later this spring. Some aggregate industry leaders had decided to attend the open Roundtable meetings instead of joining the Core Committee.<sup>1</sup> The selection of a representative

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<sup>1</sup> After the meeting of February 19<sup>th</sup>, representatives of the aggregate company, Cewe, decided that the industry would, after all, take a seat on the Core Committee. As well, a representative of the BC Ministry of Ministry of Natural Resource Operations may come forward.

for education, culture and/or the community at large remains to be done, and some candidates for this seat (or seats) have been contacted.

### **A likely route forward**

Because the Roundtable as a whole is potentially very large and expensive to convene, Gardner suggested that it may not meet very often (2-4 times a year), unless sufficient funding is found for more meetings or an inexpensive format is worked out. These meetings can be used to: set priorities, build shared understanding about themes and issues in the watershed, provide information for the Roundtable work plan, and engage participants in joint project teams. The Core Committee will develop the work plan and budget. Funding will be allocated based on what is available, how contributed funds may be earmarked, identified priorities and costs. Funding the coordinator role has been seen as a key priority. The Core Committee will likely meet monthly (that may be reduced depending on what is manageable).

This is a loose map for the way forward, Gardner concluded, likening the process to a nature trail that has many potential routes or the braided channels in a river delta. Not every twist and turn can be resolved today, but it's important to have the courage to move forward nonetheless. Gordon Lewis offered that the Roundtable is like the river and will respond to both intention and action just as the river's flow responds to the weather and humans.

### **Questions and answers on the overview of progress to date**

Gardner invited participant questions on the progress and agreements outlined, including any loose ends seen as priorities for resolution.

- Q: How is the Roundtable going to be formed?
  - The instructions from the consultations to date reflected a desire to keep the process open, so whoever wants to be involved can be part of the Roundtable. It may become necessary in future for the Core Committee to propose criteria for firming up membership but so far it's an open conversation. The input to date also emphasized the importance of continuity, so, for example, you would not want the terms for all Core Committee members to expire in the same year.
- Comment: I've been involved in this process for 12 years and have extensively researched other such processes. This is the most inclusive and I'm very pleased that this is where it's going.
  - In other processes, a question that arises is what to do about new people who join in and raise questions that have already been well-covered in the process before they arrive. The group could request that newcomers at least read the backgrounder or that they listen first and ask questions later.
- Comment: Coquitlam is a very ethnically-diverse community. The Core Committee should consider developing materials that reach out to and invite in other ethnic and cultural communities.
  - Good point. There should be efforts to bring more diversity, including cultural diversity, to the Core Committee and the Roundtable in future.

- Q: Where did the CRW Strategy emblem (logo) come from? The emblem might provide opportunities for fundraising – e.g. local businesses could contribute financially to the process in exchange for the right to use the emblem.
  - It was developed by a local graphic artist, David Pacholco (David James Design, Coquitlam, BC).
- Q: With funding in mind, was the formation of a society considered, to qualify for charitable status?
  - We looked at becoming a society and having paid membership, etc., but it was decided that was not needed for the time being. It's something that the Roundtable can revisit in future, as it is too early to determine how this might impact on the Roundtable.
- Comment: Societies cannot spend more than 10% of their resources on lobbying.
  - Even though the Roundtable doesn't face this restriction, it is not that relevant. The Roundtable includes government and so as an entity it would not be engaged in lobbying governments. This would not preclude individual members from practicing advocacy under their own names or organizations.

### **3. Current Watershed Activities**

Participants were invited to engage in group discussions at their tables to identify some of the key watershed activities that were currently underway. Using flipcharts and maps, groups were asked to provide brief descriptions of 2 - 3 projects each, including who is involved and how the projects relate to the values and vision of the CRW Strategy.

The table groups were invited to report back on one of the projects they had discussed. Following is a short description of some projects and watershed themes that were highlighted by the four groups. The activities listed reflected virtually all of the values and guiding principles that provide direction to the Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable; so projects like these would be consistent with the direction of the Roundtable into the future.

#### **Maple Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan**

The Maple Creek Integrated Watershed Management Plan is a partnership that involves the cities of Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam, the Maple Leaf Streamkeepers, BC Hydro, Metro, DFO, businesses and others. A specific project at Maple Creek is the off-channel pond.

#### **Coquitlam salmon restoration program**

The Coquitlam salmon restoration program involves fish-friendly designs for things like culverts and water mains, setbacks, low-impact development guidelines and best management practices. The approach includes open houses and stakeholder sessions.

#### **Coquitlam Dam trap and track project, fish passage**

"Fish passage" was an activity that came up several times in discussion, usually in connection with sockeye at the Coquitlam Dam. The Coquitlam Dam trap and track project monitors fish brought up into

the watershed (from the ocean, reintroduced to the lake, which also provides drinking water). Participants include the Kwikwetlem First Nation, Metro Vancouver, BC Hydro and the public. The focus is on what is needed to permit fish passage for the up- and down-river migrations.

### **Ecosystem connections**

Councillor Fred Hubert of the Kwikwetlem First Nation explained that the watershed has importance to humans as well as to other animals. The returning fish have been critical to the survival of local First Nations, and the nutrients they bring are important to the whole ecosystem. We are starting to see fish carcasses on the banks and that's a good sign. The dam upset the balance that existed in the upper watershed, including the important plants and herbs and the animals that belong there. We have a purpose and we need to work together. It's important to get the river clean again and to bring it back for all generations.

### **Eco-tours and bike tours**

Eco-tours and bike tours organized by groups such as the Kwikwetlem First Nation and the Green Club bring a multicultural aspect. Efforts underway include providing interpretive facilities along riverside routes. Metro Vancouver conducts watershed tours in the spring and summer. These initiatives contribute to education and are at the core of what we're trying to do (emphasizing home, heritage and culture) by highlighting the vast richness of what we have.

### **Fish habitat enhancement and fisheries restoration**

The Salmon Enhancement program includes maintenance of stocks, Sockeye salmon restoration and, hopefully, an expansion to restore all salmon populations that were once native to the waters above the dam. More generally, fish culture and salmon enhancement in the watershed involves PoCo Hunting and Fishing, River Springs, the Hoy/Scott Creek Hatchery and DFO (including in connection with pink and Chinook salmon). Some fish habitat enhancement and fisheries restoration is connected with the Gateway project. Multiple stakeholders are involved, including the Kwikwetlem First Nation, DFO, City of Coquitlam, and BC Ministries of Transportation and Environment.

### **Strengthening OCPs to protect sensitive areas from development**

Activities related to this theme include slope stability mapping, environmentally significant area identification, linking Official Community Plans to the regional sustainability plan and coordinating within Tri-Cities. Those involved include the public, watchdog groups, media and all levels of government.

### **Other current activities**

- Water quality study
- Education in schools and community
- Hyde Creek Festival
- Managing urban development – City, UDI, landowners, developers
- Managing access – ratepayers



- BC Hydro water use plan monitoring and studies, involving the province, DFO, Metro Vancouver, Cities of Coquitlam and Port Coquitlam, stewards, Kwikwetlem, BC Hydro
- Interior to Lower Mainland Transmission Project
- Flood Buffer agreement
- Watershed Watch's map project with a focus on the Coquitlam River
- Outdoor recreation, involving both organized and unorganized participants (e.g. cycling)
- Stream and watershed stewardship, involving Riverwatch; Streamkeepers – Marie, Hoy, etc.; DFO; Kwikwetlem First Nation; BMN
- Community newsletters from BMN and Riverwatch
- Thurber diversion (regarding creeks in gravel pits)
- Broadway compensation (Maple Creek)
- BC Hydro monitoring incidental capture of species with DFO, Ministry of Environment (MoE) and City of Coquitlam
- MoE monitoring flow above and below dam with staff gauges

#### **4. Activities for the new Roundtable**

Gardner noted that dozens of projects are already underway that relate to the health of the watershed. Councillor Carroll has helped us to see these projects and the governments and organizations running them as “assets” that can be built upon. Many ideas raised in previous meetings have been pulled together in a draft list of “possible activities” (distributed at the meeting).

Key roles for the Roundtable include coordinating players and information, education, monitoring, planning (not replacing what municipalities do – there are many ways to do this and it may or may not include lines on a map) and stewardship. The Roundtable might not have the resources to undertake certain projects on its own, but it can connect with other people and groups that can do so, and facilitate the coordination needed to make it happen.

Noting that Roundtable activities could be split into start-up and longer term activities, Gardner urged participants to honour the work done before by starting from the draft list, highlighting priority projects for the short term and commenting on priorities for the long term. They should also think about criteria for prioritizing and about projects that people around the table can assist with. Gardner suggested possible criteria for prioritizing potential Roundtable projects as follows: *helps to pursue the watershed vision, consistent with shared values, complements existing projects, broad relevance to the watershed, and potential to build a record of success and experience in working together.*

Participants suggested that an initial project should also create “buzz” about the Roundtable, and demonstrate partnerships.

Gardner informed participants that some funding is already available for projects, but low-cost projects that draw on shared resources or that bring new funding sources would be welcome. A potential

concern expressed by a participant in response to all the ideas for activities (below) is the workload for the Roundtable's coordinator.

Following are ideas for projects or activities for the Roundtable resulting from the meeting discussions. They are compiled from flip chart records and from notes on presentations from discussion groups and plenary discussions. These ideas will be processed by the Core Committee, ultimately leading to a work plan with a budget.

### **Monitoring water quality**

Participants reflected on existing monitoring programs related to water quality, fish habitat, etc., particularly sediment and siltation. They recommended that these monitoring programs – e.g., by the City of Coquitlam and the Water Use Plan program, be continued or that past efforts be resumed. They also asked how the public could be informed about accessing data. One group suggested that a plan should be generated to “keep track of the river.” Maintaining drinking water quality is a priority that was emphasized.<sup>2</sup>

### **Stewardship and enhancement**

In relation to riparian management we should collectively seek opportunities to improve riparian areas or to collaborate on habitat (e.g. habitat banking). Objectives would include increase in fish stocks and restoration of salmon above the dam. Fish passage initiatives deserve enhanced awareness and support. Stewardship and monitoring would naturally be part of most tasks, supporting the activities already underway.

### **Information compiling and sharing (also relates to education)**

With the right level of information and cooperation, it was felt that many of the other concerns would fall away. A vehicle or media for information sharing were seen as central and received much attention from various discussion groups. Value was identified in getting the information “out there” as a united group. A newsletter was mentioned but the focus fell on a website (noting that the Coquitlam River Watershed Strategy already has a good website). A key purpose of a Web-based information centre would be to allow everyone to learn what is going on and how to get involved. Other ideas for what the website could include or accomplish included:

- Learn your watershed: a database accessible to all that lists all the players, projects and provides contact information for those who want to get involved or link up with others
- A catalogue/inventory covering compensation, changes, salmonid passage, issues and water quality
- Existing resources linked interactively – research from all sources – live filters to help people searching on specific topics

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<sup>2</sup> On review of the draft meeting summary, Core Committee members wished to clarify that there are several sources of impacts on water quality, including storm runoff, natural landslides, and non-point source pollution – all of which warrant monitoring.

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- A database of information from all stakeholders, providing an inventory of what various groups are doing
- Best practices
- Watershed dialogue – focus on public dialogue
- A virtual Coquitlam Watershed/environmental Centre, including a database and a more interactive tool like a virtual watershed tour, profiling recreation, hatcheries, and the upper watershed
- Link to a “sockeye cam”

Cooperative aspects included the suggestion that the Roundtable host some of the smaller groups’ Web presence, and that BC Hydro could rent space to post water flow information, reporting things like downstream effects of dam manipulations, providing safety for recreationalists. A cautionary note was that any website needs to be maintained and updated.

### **Public awareness and education, art**

There was a strong emphasis across the discussion groups on more education, especially on the ground, in the field or on the streams. Visitation to sites and tours of research stations could be encouraged. Tools that are already out there could be used, such as stewardship and monitoring programs. Both the general public and youth should be targeted. Mentoring should be considered. Creativity and art should be used in awareness raising – e.g. public art and play projects targeted at school groups/kids. A play could be tied to the Web information. Other ideas included:

- Have a lecture series, or something like a Philosopher’s Café, featuring speakers talking about various aspects of the watershed or watershed issues.
- Encourage public input and debate on watershed issues.
- Produce travelling mini shows, with a maximum of 20 slides.
- Enhance awareness and support for fish passage restoration.
- Install signs and artistic interpretation of the information along streamside trails that pass through areas that have been researched.
- Broaden awareness of how people’s personal activities can affect some species in the watershed.
- Start a new River Festival to coordinate with the festival planned by the Kwikwetlem for when the sockeye return – April & May.

### **Support activities underway in the watershed and get involved**

One way the Roundtable could promote activities already going on in the watershed would be to put a calendar of events on the Website. This could help draw in more volunteers and educate other Roundtable members about what is already being done. Getting the members of the Roundtable involved directly in the watershed was highlighted, e.g., by connecting them with the Colony Farm Community Garden, Coquitlam River Watch, the Kwikwetlem tour, river monitoring, Salmon Watch, the Burk Mountain Naturalists, Maple Lead Streamkeepers, the hatchery tour and the Coquitlam Dam tour.

## **Planning and coordination**

Planning and coordination was seen as a key role for the Roundtable. Related suggestions included:

- Strengthening OCPs (official community plans), water use plans, etc. to protect areas sensitive to development, and striving to affect change towards the general vision as necessary
- Doing an inventory of existing plans, reviewing and identifying relevant policy and monitoring effectiveness (e.g., enforcement of stream setbacks)
- Leading a comprehensive watershed management plan, which entails where clean water goes, where dirty water goes, how much H<sub>2</sub>O and when, ground and surface H<sub>2</sub>O, storm runoff, rainfall management and more
- Coordination of planning between cities that share the watershed

## **Raising awareness of the Roundtable and the Coquitlam River Watershed Strategy**

A number of ideas related to promoting the Roundtable itself. One suggestion was to market and brand the strategy: make the logo available for people to use to promote the strategy. A river/stream clean-up campaign was identified as another way to promote the Coquitlam River Watershed Strategy. A slogan was suggested: “We all care” - collaborating CRW Strategy and Kwikwetlem = collaboration to perpetuity.

## **Other activities**

Some other themes and activities mentioned included:

- Hot ticket items: rare birds, animals, fish, archaeology, artefacts
- Trail restoration – improve access to areas where access is cut off
- Expand “wild” areas
- Control of waste dump areas

## **5. Advice to Core Committee on Roundtable Work Plan**

Gardner invited advice on the most cost-effective things that can be done with available funding, and other advice to the Core Committee as the meeting drew to a close. Input from participants is summarized here.

- The hope is that we would have activities lined up and ready for the public to get involved in when we build awareness and interest.
- If the Core Committee wanted to create working groups, is there a way to call on people beyond the Core Committee without calling a full Roundtable meeting?
  - Gardner asked for a show of hands to indicate participants’ willingness to be contacted about their interest in working on particular projects. Most indicated agreement and Gardner proposed that those who did not want to be contacted should advise the registration desk before leaving. Those who were interested in supporting projects could indicate areas of interest on their name tags before handing them in.

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- It will be important for the Core Committee to set priorities for the work to be done by the coordinator. For activities like fish releases, individual groups can do it.
  - Gardner: So a criterion is the amount of coordination time required. Funders can also specify what kind of projects they want to fund.
- Many people have put a lot of work into this. We need to put more effort into broadening awareness. We are like generals without an army. It would also be useful to get participants to share their background/expertise.
  - Gardner: It's important to think of this as work that "we" need to do.
- There are a series of festivals planned between now and the fall, including the Waters Edge festival planned for next weekend.

Gardner sought advice on how often the Roundtable should meet, and suggestions included:

- Twice a year – we get a lot done in this sort of format and emails are great in between.
- We can't make up a number at this point. We should meet, look at the budget, set up plans and then decide what's appropriate.
- Ask people to see how often they are available and go from there.
- A Doodle poll is an easy tool for scheduling meetings.
- The Core committee can help address how members of the Roundtable communicate together.

## **6. Closing**

Gardner thanked participants, noting that a meeting report would be posted on the Website for comment in a few weeks and participants could use the website to add further feedback. In closing, she thanked everyone, including the funders, those who set up displays, and drew attention to Anderson's mural, which had captured key ideas from the day's discussions.

On behalf of the Roundtable Core Committee, Judy Dobrowolski thanked everyone for coming out and for contributing good ideas and energy to the process, saying she hoped this would continue and that she looked forward to the next meeting.

The inaugural meeting of the Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable adjourned at 3:20 pm.

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