



NICOLA WATERSHED COMMUNITY ROUND TABLE

REGULAR MEETING

December 06, 2018

9:00am at Brambles

Present: Lou Cooke, Marilyn Cooke, Judy Guichon, John Anderson, Kate Anderson, Bruce Beech, Gerry Sanford, Jill Sanford,

Al Mackay-Smith, Liis Jeffries, Wayne Schindler, Nic Beers, Terrence Grams

1. Opening Circle

Everyone made an opening comment. Some thoughts included the possibility that there might be funding available in the future with the latest concern about the viability of the Chinook population. Another thought was that the way of the future would be "professional reliance" where professionals police themselves with little oversight.

2. Forum Planning Meeting:

- Title and theme of the January 24/09 forum will be : "Healthy Local River Systems"
- Themes to include could be: Storage (dams & dikes), Riparian Rehabilitation, Where do we go from here?
- Jeremy Cook is available and eager to come. (At no cost)
 - Examples of things done in the valley
 - Expert on Nicola Dam and WUMP
 - Has worked with Lou on the Coldwater
 - Continue to have FLNRO involved - ?Patrick Farmer
- A panel was discussed for the question period, but was decided that John would handle eliciting the participation of audience members similar to the first Forum.
- Questions would be documented. Not all questions would be answered. Record questions, answers and try to refer to where to find answers.
- Nic will be meeting with Jeremy with Nic's working model.
- Look at local solutions and where do we start.
- What about finances?
 - Estimated cost per forum = \$1500 including paying for as speaker and their expenses.
 - \$1500 coming from TNRD sometime this week.
 - Grant in Aid from City – asked for the hall rental "in kind" and \$1000 in cash for the January forum and one other not yet scheduled.
 - Can solicit other funds as needed.
- Donors should be recognized
- Donation box should be more visible - perhaps on the registration table?

- The Riparian committee has hats and t-shirts to sell.
- Use the same format.
- Jeremy will speak 30-40 minutes then questions.
- Next forum maybe ??? explaining the First nations Pilot Project.
- Suggest that the NWCRT meet with the Mayor – make an appointment soon

3. Tasks:

- Publicity:
 - Radio –Judy
 - Newspapers – Kate
 - Posters – Kate, Distribution – Wayne & Terence
 - Social media and Website – Al
- Format:
 - Tables: All
 - Table supplies: Nic
 - Name Tags: Bruce
 - Numbers: Marilyn
- Snacks & Drinks: ??

4. 9am Guest: Tracy Thomas from the Fraser Basin Council:

- Tracy works for the Fraser basin council out of the Kamloops office.
- They make decisions by consensus.
- The Fraser Basin Council (FBC) is a neutral not for profit society who were involved with the WUMP (Water Use Management Plan) process.
- The FBC was approached by the TNRD regarding Nicola Lake to do shoreline erosion work, a lake management plan and a Eurasian Milfoil plan but this didn't get going.
- DFO became involved, using better data to release water from the dam.
- Now working with the Nicola Tribal Association (NTA).
- They have spent a lot of time looking at the 37 recommendations from WUMP and trying to work with FLNRO.
- Mapping of the Coldwater and Nicola is in process. Groundwater is critical as it provides the habitat for the fish, so groundwater mapping and modelling are being done as is looking at the various uses of water.
- Some studies being done :
 - Nicola Symposium last February on the studies in the Valley.
 - Tom Willms is doing PHD research on up-welling sites.
- The Nicola Pilot Project isn't a big plan, it is just trying to connect with all the people involved – Nicola Basin Collaborative, all government agencies, all bands through the Nicola Tribal Association, ranchers, and lake dwellers.
- More information on the FBC web site.
- The MOU is for a three year project worth three million dollars.

5. Some discussion from the NWCRT for Tracy to take back to the FBC and the project:

- There needs to be local input into decisions made in our watershed.
- Changes recommended in the WUMP have not been made.
- We may be headed in the same direction with the fir forests as the pine forest and Pine Beetle infestation.

- We live in this watershed and are constantly being directed by those outside of this valley on how the watershed is managed.
- We recognize that the new relationship between government and the first nations is a good thing and a step in the right direction.
- An example of how policy is slow to respond to actual needs is the fact that 800 meters of shoreline is being lost per year while policies are being formed.
- There is an upcoming food forum for all agricultural representatives.
- Why not do an inventory of what has been done well?
- Tom Willms should be invited as he is a local who cares and has a PHD in this field.
- Tracy has a list of items she will take forward from the NWCRT and she will send this to us.

6. Closing Circle.

7. Next Meeting – January 9, 8:00 to 9:00 AM for the forum planning and 9:00 to 12:00 for the grasslands visioning session. Both meetings will take place at the Nicola Firebase Station, Merritt Airport Road.