

NEWSLETTER



September 21, 2005

The Fraser Valley Regional Watersheds Coalition met on September 21, 2005 at 6:30 p.m. at the Abbotsford Campus of the University College of the Fraser Valley in Room A225. In attendance at the meeting were:

- Brad Whittaker, Fraser Valley Regional Watersheds Coalition (FVRWC)
- Dick Bunbury, FVRWC & Central Valley Naturalists
- Meeri Durand, FVRWC
- Bruce Fatkin, FVRWC & Cedar Business Services
- Tom Cadieux, Fisheries and Oceans Canada
- Henk Saaltink, Central Valley Naturalists
- Margaret Bunbury, Central Valley Naturalists
- John Kupp, Chilliwack Vedder Watershed Restoration Society
- Ryan Durand, Taara Environmental
- Jared Taylor, Denbow
- Darren Brown, City of Abbotsford
- Krista Englund, Watershed Coordinator

The events of the meeting are summarized below:

1.0 Introductions

The meeting was called to order at 6:45 p.m. by Brad Whittaker

2.0 Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved.

3.0 Approval of Meeting Notes

The meeting notes were adopted as circulated.

4.0 Introduction to Krista Englund, Watershed Coordinator

Krista Englund introduced herself using a short powerpoint presentations with pictures of some of her previous school and work experience in forestry, agriculture, environmental education and resource planning/management. She is excited to be on board!

5.0 Update on Society Status

The last signature for the forms that we have to submit to the Provincial Government to obtain society status was collected at the meeting. Once our name is approved, the forms can be submitted.

6.0 Needs Assessment Survey

Meeri and Krista drafted a needs assessment survey, which Ryan has programmed to the web. The content of the survey was primarily taken from discussions at previous meetings. The goal is to have the survey complete and the data analyzed in the next several months. Several individuals offered to review the survey: Tom, Dick, Hank, John, Brad and Bruce. It was also suggested that Lisa Fox and Lisa Burgess-Parker be asked to review the survey.

7.0 Hope Slough Project Update

Meeri gave a super presentation about the enhancement work completed in Hope Slough:

Introduction:

- The project was born out of a partnership between DFO and the FVRWC
- The project is a demonstration project under the Chilliwack River Watershed Strategy because Hope Slough is a historic tributary to the Chilliwack River
- The project is primarily designed to benefit Chinook salmon, although other species such as Coho will also benefit
- A key component of the project was to build relations with First Nations by recognizing the historic tributaries of the Chilliwack River
- The budget for the project was \$42,800 – the instream works are under budget, which has enabled more funds to be dedicated to other key activities (e.g. preparing sites on other locations of Hope Slough for restoration and monitoring)

Approximate Timeline of Events:

October, 2004 – site selected in a high profile public park close to downtown Chilliwack

January – July 2005 – site design

August 26 – September 5th – site preparation, construction of retaining wall, deposition of gravel in the stream bed, seeding and haying of bare ground, development of signage

Late September – October – monitor returns

October 15th – community planting and opening

Late winter – installation of interpretive signage

Key Lessons:

Need to check progress of project daily

Always get written quotes

Never leave materials unsecured at a restoration site in a high profile public park

8.0 Future Speakers/Presentation

A brainstorm about potential speakers/presenters came up with the following suggestions:

- October – Bald Eagle Festival (Tom Cadiuex)
- November – Salish Sucker Landowner Contact Program (Mike Pearson)
- December – Chilliwack River Watershed Strategy & website (Ryan/Krista)
- January and ongoing – Sumas Lake (Iona Smith)
 - OWL (Orphaned Wildlife Rehabilitation Centre – Ted Williams)
 - Black bears (the Whistler bear guy - Michael Allen)
 - Erosion and Sediment control BMP (Jared Taylor)
 - Planning for Agriculture (ALC)

9.0 AGM Planning

The AGM will be postponed for several months until society status is official and the needs assessment survey has been completed.

10.0 Roundtable

Tom Cadiuex

- The Stave Valley Salmonid Society, Ducks Unlimited and the City of Mission purchased lands on Sliverdale Creek and will be conducting restoration here
- Public announcement will occur on River's Day

Henk Saaltink

- A new process is beginning in the Clayburn Creek Watershed to foster a stewardship ethic in the watershed and take a watershed approach to management
- Funding has been secured to do the initial phases
- Letters have been distributed to 500 landowners
- A public meeting is being organized for October 19th

Krista Englund

- The Chilliwack River Watershed Strategy is nearing completion of the background phase and will be starting the next phase of identifying issues and alternatives
- This phase will be more public – the first public event is this upcoming River's Day celebration at Thompson Park

Brad Whittaker

- Discussions are beginning at the Centre for Sustainability at UCFV regarding the construction of an environmental lab

Ryan Durand

- A new board was elected to the Abbotsford Land Trust several months ago
- A major focus of the group right now is a landowner contact program

Bruce Fatkin

- Stacey Crawford has moved to the Abbotsford office
- Sheila Creighton will be returning to the area soon

John Kupp

- John will be doing some work on a proposal for an ecotourism development in the tropical Solomon Islands (SE Asia) this fall

Dick Bunbury

- The Coalition could take on a role similar to LEPS in Langley; they are a good model
- LEPS actually only secures a small portion of their funding from the Township yet manages a budget of \$500,000 or more each year – this demonstrates that there is still money accessible to NGO's that know where to find funding

Margaret Bunbury

- McLellen Creek is the focus of some restoration/enhancement work. This has involved a presentation and letter and they want to have an open house.

Jared Taylor

- There is some very exciting information and products coming out in the field of green technology (e.g. green roofs, composting, sediment control and erosion)

Darren Brown

- The City of Abbotsford is embarking on some exciting initiatives, including biophysical inventories, involving stakeholders, and watercourse ground truthing
- McKee peak is one area of focus due to a high number of rare species and pressures for development

11.0 Other

Meeting times – it was decided that the preferred date for monthly meetings is the third Wednesday of each month. However, due to a conflict with a large public meeting being planned by Henk Saaltink for Oct 19th, the October meeting will be held on the fourth Wednesday.

The next meeting of the *Fraser Valley Regional Watersheds Coalition* will be

October 26th, 2005

6:30 p.m.

Chilliwack Campus (room tba)

University College of the Fraser Valley