

Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition
General Meeting
May 20, 2010, 7:00-9:20 pm
UFV Chilliwack
Room A201



Meeting Minutes (DRAFT)

Attendees:

Lance Lilley	Brian Foster
Detmar Schwichtenberg	Angel Foster
Dick and Margaret Bunbury	Kathy Peet
Jim Taylor	Steve Clegg
Terry Taylor	Ronald Naas
Monica Pearson	Janne Perrin
David Urban	Jennie Aikman
Jeanie Hughes	AJ Fedoruk
Jill Miners	Kerstin Schwichtenberg
Andrea Gielens	David Urban
Mark Johnson	John Kupp
Rachel Drennan	Helen Turner
Barb Strachan	Mike Pearson
Kathy Wilkinson	Graham and Mats Daneluz
Zoey Slater	

Presentation:

Presenter: Mike Pearson

Presentation Title: Tales of Two Rivers: Ecology and Conservation of Two Watersheds in the Peruvian Amazon.

Time: 7:15 – 8:30 pm

Book Draw:

- Total of tickets 58 (at \$1/each) were sold
 - Winner of Draw: Kathy Wilkinson
 - Selected Prize: Horse cards (thank-you cards)
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Society Business:

1.0 Adoption of Agenda and minutes

- Motion to adopt minutes (from June 2009) as written - Approved (Jim 1st, Dick 2nd).
- Motion to adopt Agenda (David 1st, Kathy 2nd)
- Note: at next meeting we need to adopt minutes from March, 2010 meeting.

2.0 Society Business

2.1 Update on Mission compensation plan

- Jim Taylor and Lance Lilley will write up a project implementation plan and submit shortly. Construction will begin at Silverdale July 13th – July 30, 2010 under the direction of DFO (Jonathan Bulcock). Currently there are frog studies planned (western toad have been seen at the wetlands; good news, as it is a species of concern), and fish and water quality sampling will continue for the rest of 2010 at the wetlands. Silverdale Wetlands grand opening was a success and interpretive signage is up. Planting will be conducted following construction activities.
- Large ponds at wetlands will be drained this summer to reduce the amounts of invasive species, and a consultant will be involved to ensure no other native species (amphibians) are endangered when the water level is reduced.
- MOT authorized another \$400,000 to Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) to go towards land acquisition, bringing the total to just over 1 million dollars to purchase land in the area or of similar type.
- MOT is continuing with the highway widening from Nelson road to Silverdale ave, so there is a possibility for more compensation in future.

2.2 Update on Outreach Coordinator – Mike

- Mike announced that Rachel's contract has been extended for another year, and she has been bumped up to full-time hours. Congratulations, Rachel.

2.3 Update on Evans Road Compensation - Mike

- Fall 2010 there will be a planting at the Woodtone site and Gill road site; after these plantings our area requirements will likely be met.
- This year we need to identify sites for both fall and spring planting and remove the blackberry at the appropriate time so that spring plantings can occur.
- Rachel gave a brief summary of Camp Slough Monitoring to date – Between May 2009 and October 2009 fish trapping and water quality sampling was completed on Camp and Hope Sloughs. There are 16 stations in total, 8 on Camp Slough and 8 on Hope Slough (or close tributary). Fish are caught using Gee traps, counted and identified to species. Predominant species found was threespine stickleback. Only small numbers of salmon found, and only in Hope Slough/Big Ditch (i.e., not in Camp slough). Only introduced species found was pumpkin seed fish and only in small numbers. CHIP Gate was opened last year in June to allow water from the Fraser to flow into the slough. This year the gate is currently open and water is flowing in from the Fraser.
- Jim mentioned that there has been shown a possible trend on other systems whereby prior to big mouth bass introductions, people have first released pumpkinseed fish. It was suggested that to be proactive and informative we should post signs along the streams about not introducing fish.

2.4 Update on CLASS-Lance

- Approximately \$40,000 in funding from the Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program was received by the Fraser Basin Council (Marion Robinson) to continue work on the Cultus Lake Aquatic Stewardship Strategy.
- These funds will go towards ongoing dialogue amongst stakeholders, filling critical information gaps, and promoting the issues of Cultus Lake to the community and stakeholders. One identified task consists of piloting a boater survey this summer to find out boater knowledge of Cultus Lake issues such as milfoil and water quality.
- Efforts are also underway to begin a nutrient management study of Cultus Lake to determine the source and cause of significant nutrient inputs into the lake. DFO has agreed to provide in-kind funding, but additional funding is needed for equipment and supplies.

2.5 Foray into facebook – Rachel

- Explanation of new website contents was provided: the Frog Blog is up and running (thanks you Monica), and the header on the website is now more dynamic.
- Rachel provided an overview of the new Fraser Valley Watersheds Coalition Facebook page – what is available and how the page is linked to our website. Facebook is powerful tool to post events and keep people engaged. It also allows people to upload their own photos, make comments, and join discussions.

3.0 Events announced:

- Next FVWC meeting is July 15th 2010 – Abbotsford Campus (tentative).
- Fraser Assembly May 26-27th.
- Experience the Fraser project – David Urban talked briefly about his role on this project with the FVRD, which will include increased outdoor recreation and amenities along the Fraser River corridor from Hope to the ocean. Currently the planners are meeting with First Nations, other user groups and stakeholders to discuss proposed trail routes etc. This fall they plan to have an open house for public input on the project.
- Ugly Bug Ball – This is an opportunity for Fisheries and Oceans, Community Involvement Program and Pacific Stream keepers Federation to recognize volunteers, who give so much of their time and energy to aquatic stewardship initiatives in the Lower Fraser Area. This event is on June 12th 2010 at A ROCHA field study center site in Surrey. Contact Mark Johnson for more details.

4.0 Meeting Adjourned at 9:20pm
