

**From:** [Lynda Shykora](#)  
**To:** [Laura Schumi](#)  
**Cc:** [Jennifer Sham](#)  
**Subject:** FW: Newsome Creek Presentation for Delegation on November 15, 2018  
**Date:** Monday, November 05, 2018 2:27:01 PM  
**Attachments:** [Newsome Creek Watershed Action Group Delegation Request November 2018.pdf](#)  
[image002.png](#)  
[image003.png](#)  
**Importance:** High

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Good afternoon, Laura,

Here is an email with further details in regards to the attached Newsome Creek Watershed Action Group Delegation for the November 2018 Board meeting. Please include the Delegation Request Form and the contents of the email message below on the November Board agenda.

The timing for the 15 minute delegation is tentatively 11 AM – 11:15 AM, to be confirmed.

Thank you,

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## **Newsome Creek outline of presentation**

Newsome Creek is presenting very real and dangerous issues for the residents in the Sorrento-Notch Hill area. The catchments area extends from the southern mountainside north down the escarpment en route to Shuswap Lake. Historically there have not really been major problems. However, since the fire on the mountainside in 2009, and especially since the spring freshets of 2017 and 2018, Newsome Creek has generated major concerns especially north of the TCH. The impact of erosion along the banks of the ravine north of the highway threatens property, homes, buildings, roads, lake quality, and potentially, even life and limb. Left unchecked it may become costly disaster. The matter needs attention...**NOW!**

During the spring the snow pack melts, rains come, and the volume of water grows exponentially to the point where it is a torrent so great it causes major erosion to the stream banks which robs residents of land, endangers their homes and buildings, clogs culverts, results in flooding, causes breaches in roads, and turbidity in the lake. If the circumstances are right it can even lead to deaths! This is not exaggeration. These things have already happened except for deaths. Surely we do not want to wait for deaths to

occur to fix the problem.

The forest fire of 2009 along with the logging done in 2010 has led to a far greater runoff. Experts explained to a gathering of concerned residents on Oct 18, 2018 that a forest fire damages the ground, hardening the topsoil leading to its inability to absorb the precipitation; hence, the deluge in Newsome Creek. Many other issues were discussed as well. While nature cannot be stopped, it can often be managed. That is why a group was formed to explore ways to deal with the issues. We have settled on the name, Newsome Creek Watershed Action Group (NCWAG). The CSRD did prompt the province to approve and fund geotechnical reports to provide a preliminary assessment of the problem. This was done and now the group wants the CSRD Board to assist us in getting the attention and active response from the provincial and federal authorities to take appropriate measures to manage the situation.

We have legal opinion that as the creek is water it is a provincial responsibility. Their water is causing potential harm to our residents and the province, perhaps with the support of the federal government, needs to own this problem and address it correctly. The residents did not cause the problem. They are clearly victims of the problem.

Dealing with this situation is complex. There are a myriad of issues with handling the problem and several ministries, both provincial and federal, can potentially be involved. These issues were outlined in detail by several "experts". The group has continued to amass information from our the members. Most of us have lived along or near the creek for many years. A few have been here all their lives; so, the group is very knowledgeable about the creek and its past. We are all agreed that the developments over the past two freshet seasons represent a huge change in previous creek behaviour.

The group is systematically trying to develop a course of action to gain the attention of the provincial and federal authorities in order to solve the problem. Several ministries are involved. The ministry "experts" could not commit to render any assistance whatsoever when asked by the Director at the Oct 18 meeting. Their hands are apparently tied due to lack of authority and funding. Thankfully, in contrast, Director Demenok has been steadfast in his efforts to assist our efforts and has rendered positive, competent, and valuable guidance to our cause. As well, we are appreciative of the help we have received from the CSRD, staff and Board. We thank everyone from the Regional District.

For now the immediate focus is on the section of the creek north of the Trans Canada Highway. The safety of properties along the east bank of the stream is our highest priority at this time. This section has a deep ravine up to 25 meters or more in height and very steep. It gradually reduces in height on the way to the lake. Erosion has lowered the creek bed a few feet, undercut the banks of the creek, and significantly increased the amount of tree fall and debris to an alarming degree. The homes and buildings along Caen Road on the east bank are in considerable danger of tumbling into the gully. Two or three are in extreme danger of this happening. Such a calamity is bad enough. But, when people have home-based businesses located in their homes it impacts their livelihood as well as their daily lives. Indeed, should such a sudden collapse of the bank happen unexpectedly late at night while they sleep; death could pay a visit. Try to imagine losing your house, place of business, and source of income all in one ugly night. Put simply, this is not a situation which can be ignored. It is real, it is dangerous, and it is not going away.

The group has generated an plan of attack. Her are steps we will pursue:

- a. Continue to expand our understanding of the situation;
- b. Develop a web site of information on the issue;
- c. Contact relevant provincial and/or federal ministries to arrange liaison;
- d. Encourage relevant Ministers or their senior officials to meet with us;
- e. Reach out to other residents south of the TCH affected by the situation;

- f. Reach out to the rest of the residents and the businesses in the area;
- g. Search for all potential solutions to the immediate problem;
- h. Involve the media, local and provincial to add pressure for action;
- i. Encourage a letter writing campaign to government officials.

Finally, as indicated earlier, the primary objective for doing this presentation to the Board is to elicit your continued support for our efforts. At this time we would welcome whatever further assistance we can receive from the CSRD. We are not here to seek money or request boots on the ground. Rather we need the Board's endorsement with respect to our overtures with either the provincial or federal authorities and to the public. This matter is a provincial responsibility. Please help us to get our message through to the senior levels of government. Your advocacy would be of incalculable help. Our numbers are few but huge in resolve.

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