

Joint Golden & Valemount Debris Committee Meeting
Wednesday, April 13, 2022 • 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. Pacific Time
MS Teams

Attendees

BC Hydro:	Mary Anne Coules, Community Relations, Southern Interior Mark Sherrington, Natural Resource Specialist, Water Licence Requirements
Golden:	Mike Cante, CBRAC member; retired senior; lives in Rural A Director Karen Cathcart, Regional District of Columbia Shuswap; CBRAC member Murray Chapple, Debris Contractor, Sterling Lumber Terry Dowsett, Property Owner, Surprise Rapids Kim Johnson, Kinbasket Property Owner Ron Oszust, Mayor, Town of Golden Randy Priest, CBRAC member; Golden resident
Valemount:	Dannielle Alan, Director, Robson Valley-Canoe, RDFFG Dave Craig, Debris Contractor for the North End Roy Maxwell, Valemount Marina Association Owen Torgerson, Mayor, Village of Valemount

Welcome & Introductions

- Welcome and roundtable introductions.

CLB WORKS-16 WUP Recreation Objectives & Overview

- Shore based woody debris collection and disposal.
- Increase recreation and boat access/safety/fishing activity.
- Prescribed reservoir debris removal in Kinbasket from 2008-2026.
- In 2007, independent debris committees were established in both Golden and Valemount.
- The committees revise the strategy annually.
- 2018/19 – the Comptroller of Water Rights (CWR) approves additional year (2019) – debris program and reservoir-wide aerial photography (historic-low water elevation).
- In 2020, CWR approved additional five years (2021-2026) debris management and inventory.

2021 (F22) Program Recap

- Debris burning and removal work occurred in April and May, mostly in Canoe Reach and at Bush Harbour pen, but then was stopped by mid-June due to rapidly increasing fire risk (late June *heat dome* with temps up to 40C in Kinbasket area resulted in extreme fire conditions that persisted well into August).
- Work through October and November once colder and wetter.
- 680K total for F22 debris work.
- 55k Archeological surcharge archaeology work occurred in 2021 including First Nations to address heritage/archeology interests and address overlapping priorities.
- COVID-19 travel constraints limited participation.

Forecast for Kinbasket Reservoir

- The reservoir is currently at 2,370 feet and expect to continue drafting until April 28.
- Forecast minimum at Kinbasket is about 2,365 feet, lower than the average minimum.
- Kinbasket is not expected to fill this year. Forecast maximum is about 2,472 feet in August.

2022 Program Recommendations

- Mobilize in May for any clean-up at boat launches and recreation areas (Victoria Day long weekend).
- Boomstick Inventory, repairs and Bush Harbour pen maintenance.
- Floating debris program (water-level dependent).
- Tug and Barge operation support to support Spaz Logging operations in Canoe Reach.
- F23 base debris budget of 430K (250k and 180k).
 - Debris Removal (Canoe Reach) \$180k.
 - Debris Removal (Mid and South) \$220k.
 - Debris Inventory (Drone) \$30k.
 - Archeology \$70k.
 - High-water contingency (debris) \$120k (as needed).
- First Nations consultation to address heritage/archeology interests.
- Timing mid-late June for the Heritage and archeology impact assessment monitoring planned again in spring (late June) 2022.
 - Bear Island Area – Bush Arm.
 - Ptarmigan (Boat Access?).
- Continue to find ways to address overlapping priorities and study objectives.

Archeology

- Discussion of ongoing approaches to find balance between meeting debris removal objectives while protecting archeology resources in the reservoir.

Understanding Debris Inputs

- Debris loads estimates of debris amounts contributed each year from erosion, tributaries, and log transport.
- Comptroller of Water Rights December 23, 2015 TOR approval letter: “The CC recognized that debris problems in Kinbasket Reservoir were fewer than historical post impoundment years; however, concern was expressed around residual debris, debris contributions from erosion, and new debris that was entering the system either from tributaries or from sloughing of banks during high water events.”
- The debris management program was to involve establishment of a multi-interest debris committee, which would develop strategies and targets for debris management activities, maintain a comprehensive inventory of existing debris fields and sources of current new recruitment.

Air Photo debris inventory

- Flown on May 14th, 2019.
- Point collection of elevation points from spring to fall 2021.
- 840,000 cubic metres of wood debris.
 - Dense bathtub ring is 30,000 cubic metres.

- Moderately dense woody debris 335,225 cubic metres.
- Scattered wood debris 450,180 cubic metres.
- Slide inputs 19,000 cubic metres.

Discussion

- For the archeological component, Randy recommends that we connect with Cindy Pearce.
 - **Action:** Mary Anne will circulate contact information for Cindy to the group.
- The high-water contingency program is for debris removal only.
 - During the 2020 high water situation, it caused quite a bit of damage to the shoreline, resulting in safety issues for recreational users.
 - When there is high water, the winds increase, and waves get bigger.
 - Would like to have input into the operational decisions and provide input directly to the Comptroller of Water Rights.
 - Contact information for the office of the Comptroller of Water Rights:
Chris McMillan
Secretary to the Comptroller of Water Rights
Phone: 778-698-7334
Email: Chris.McMillan@gov.bc.ca
- The boat ramp etiquette signage has not been posted at Bush Harbour.
 - **Action:** Mary Anne will follow-up with Trevor.
- ATVs are causing significant damage around Bear Island.
 - BC Hydro does not have the authority to limit access to these areas.
 - What is the process, who is the correct contact?
 - Signage may be helpful as well.
 - Please forward any concerns to the Ministry of Forests at 250-387-6121.
- Debris removal can conflict with potential damage to known archeological sites but avoiding these sites can also have negative impacts to recreation and safety.
 - Have to consider the overlapping priorities when making decisions on where to remove the debris.
- There is interest in looking at alternate ways of disposing of the debris. There needs to be more money to get rid of the debris in a more environmentally sensitive way.
- Why aren't we cleaning closer to the creek mouths to allow fish to access the creeks to spawn?
 - The direction from DFO is to avoid the creek mouths.
 - **Action:** Mark will look into this and Dave Craig will take some photos to illustrate the concern and explore enhancing some creeks where fish cover is sparse with Murray Chapple.
- There are several objectives for the program, with recreation and safety being significant priorities.
 - As the water levels increase and decrease, it results in hazards on the reservoir.
 - It would help to have buoys on the reservoir to alert users to hazards.
 - This is not something that BC Hydro looks after, but perhaps a local community group could pursue this.
 - BC Hydro does provide Community Grants to address safety issues. The details are available on our website: <https://www.bchydro.com/community/community-giving/grants.html>.

Conclusions and Next Steps

- **Action:** Mary Anne will schedule a follow-up meeting for August.