

Thompson Regional Committee Meeting Draft Summary for October 10th 2017

In attendance:

Rene Talbot	Columbia Shuswap Regional District	Director
Steve Rice	Thompson-Nicola Regional District	Director
Lee Hesketh	Civil Society (agriculture)	Director (<i>by phone</i>)
Herman Halvorson	Regional District of North Okanagan	Committee member
Andy Oetter	BC MFLNRORD	Committee member
Dieter Dudy	City of Kamloops	Committee member
Angela Bate	Department of Fisheries and Oceans	Committee member (<i>by phone</i>)
Mickey Macri	Squamish-Lillooet Regional District	Committee member
James Gordon	Thompson Rivers University	Committee member (<i>from 10:25</i>)
Mike Simpson	Fraser Basin Council	Staff
Erin Vieira	Fraser Basin Council	Staff

Meeting commenced at 10:00 AM

1. Welcome and introductions

- Mike and Erin welcomed all present. Secwepemc territory was acknowledged.
- The agenda and summary from the last meeting were accepted.

2. Staff Reports

Shuswap Watershed Council

Background	The FBC is the program manager for the Shuswap Watershed Council, a partnership of local governments, first nations, and provincial agencies to enhance water quality and safe recreation in the Shuswap for the long term. See www.shuswapwater.ca for more information.
Update	The SWC's annual water quality report for 2016 is complete. It presents the highlights from water quality monitoring on Shuswap, Little Shuswap, Adams, Mara and Mabel Lakes as well as Shuswap and Salmon Rivers. The report can be downloaded from www.shuswapwater.ca ; print copies are also available. The next meeting of the Shuswap Watershed Council is on October 25 th .

Nicola Watershed

Background	<p>The FBC is working on a number of different initiatives in the Nicola watershed, see www.nicolaplan.ca for more information.</p> <p>Development of a Nicola Water Management Tool has been underway since 2014 in various stages as funding permits. See below for updates.</p>
Update	<p>Staff will present to City of Merritt Mayor and Council meeting on October 10th to report back on work completed and request ongoing funding for the Nicola work.</p> <p>Groundwater mapping is underway between Merritt and Spences Bridge. MFLNRO staff and Golder Associates will complete the mapping project in March 2018.</p> <p>The groundwater budget development project will also be underway this fall between Merritt and Spences Bridge.</p> <p>Thompson Rivers University, Simon Fraser University, and the University of Northern British Columbia are all working on research projects in the Nicola as part of the Nicola Basin Collaborative Research Group. Planning is underway for a research forum that will be held in Merritt at the Nicola Valley Institute of Technology in February 2018.</p> <p>The development of the Nicola Water Management Tool is complete and the final phase is underway. A webinar is being delivered by ESSA Technologies on October 12th to the Nicola Basin Collaborative Technical Committee. Matching funds have not been obtained for this project and fund development is ongoing.</p> <p>A meeting will be held in Merritt on October 25th as requested by the City of Merritt to discuss the flooding in 2017 and possible mitigation for 2018.</p>

Thompson Steelhead Working Group

Background	<p>The FBC is facilitating a working group of members from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Secwepemc and Nlaka'pamux Nations, and the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations & Rural Development to better manage steelhead in the Thompson and Nicola River systems.</p>
Update	<p>Staff are applying to Sustainable Forest Initiative to support ongoing work of the Steelhead Working Group. The funds will go toward monitoring habitat (flows and temperatures) with a focus on the Bonaparte watershed.</p> <p>380 fish are anticipated in the watershed this Fall.</p>

Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable

Background	The FBC is the facilitator for the Kamloops Air Quality Roundtable, which is a science-based inclusive collaborative. The Roundtable has four objectives: (1) to educate and raise awareness of air quality issues, (2) to support implementation of the existing City Airshed Management Plan; (3) to identify and address monitoring and data gaps; and (4) to implement actions to improve air quality. FBC provides support to the Roundtable for its meetings 4x per year.
Update	The Roundtable met on October 5 th and discussed wildfire smoke and air quality. The meeting included presentations from Ralph Adams (Ministry of Environment) and Greg Baytalan (Interior Health Authority), and their agencies' respective roles regarding communications and public health bulletins. The Roundtable will next meet in January.

Thompson-Nicola Invasive Plant Management Committee

Background	TNRD has asked FBC for support developing and supporting a new regional invasive plant program to replace/amalgamate two former invasive plant organizations in the region. The Committee is focused exclusively on terrestrial invasive plants.
Update	The inaugural meeting of the new committee will take place on October 11 th .

NEW PROJECT: Nicola Food Action

Background	There is interest in coordinating a local food group in the Merritt area
Update	A kick-off meeting will take place on October 23 rd in Merritt at Nicola Valley Institute of Technology to bring people together to share food and ideas regarding food action in the area..

NEW PROJECT: Skeetchestn Territorial Patrol

Background	Skeetchestn Indian Band is interested in initiating a Territorial patrol. FBC has been asked to help facilitate background research and develop a framework, and ensure a patrol that can complement provincial government roles and responsibilities and engage with other Secwepemc Reconciliation Framework Agreement communities.
Update	Currently negotiating a contract with Skeetchestn.

Other Regional Projects

Wild Salmon Policy meetings	Staff will help facilitate meetings for the Department of Fisheries and Oceans <i>Wild Salmon Policy</i> meetings October 16-19 in Kamloops and Penticton. The Kamloops public open house is being held on Oct 16 at 6:30pm at the Sandman Signature Hotel on Lorne St. More info here .
Local government – First Nations communications	FBC has been retained by the Columbia Shuswap Regional District and Secwepemc communities to facilitate the creation of a

	communications protocol. A Community-to-Community Forum will kick-start this initiative on November 23 rd 2017.
Robbins Creek Restoration	Restoration project held up by an appeal of the judicial review, but may proceed this fall.

Cariboo Regional Projects

Community Wildfire Protection Plan - Quesnel	Mike Simpson and Cariboo region staff are renewing the Quesnel Community Wildfire Protection Plan, including looking at fuel treatment opportunities on-the-ground. Funding for this work is from UBCM and the Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition. Mapping is underway and fieldwork will begin later this month.
Community Wildfire Protection Plan – Williams Lake	Staff have applied to UBCM on behalf of the City of Williams Lake to do a new Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the City. FBC facilitated aspects of the ‘old’ plan for the City and fuel management in the past, and coordinated efforts by the City, regional district, First Nations, and industry to reduce fuel loads on 300 hectares of high risk lands.
Cariboo-Chilcotin Beetle Action Coalition Land and Resource Symposium	CCBAC wants to convene local, First Nations governments and industry groups to assess the challenges and opportunities of wildfires, Douglas-fir bark beetle and other changes to landscape level plans in a symposium to be held October 30 th – 31 st .

4. Fraser Basin Council Business

Operations Committee Report

No report today.

FBC Board of Directors meeting

The next meeting of the FBC Board of Directors is on October 12th in Vancouver. There will be a roundtable discussion on wildfires, and a presentation on the *Wild Salmon Policy* (Department of Fisheries and Oceans).

5. Committee Members’ Reports

John Haugen (*in writing*)

- Chief Janet Webster, Lytton First Nation, has written to the Passenger Transportation Board re: concerns over cutbacks to Greyhound bus service

Angela Bate

- DFO is beginning a series of consultations on the *Wild Salmon Policy* (WSP) next week; public open houses will be held in various locations around BC. The purpose is to discuss the draft implementation plan for the WSP. More information on these, including dates and locations for public house meetings and the draft Plan, is available [here](#).
 - The Kamloops public open house is being held Monday October 16th at the Sandman Signature Hotel, 6:30 – 8:30 pm
- Planning is underway for next year's dominant salmon return
- Bob Harding is retiring from the Department; there will be a retirement lunch for him at the Kamloops DFO office on October 16th; TRC members are welcome to attend.

Lee Hesketh

- Hullcar aquifer is going through ministerial review
- Working with DFO to strengthen partnerships through the department's Public Involvement Program and Salmonid Enhancement Program

Steve Rice

- Flood and fire impacts in the TNRD are extensive; economic impacts are substantial. Overall very impressed with emergency efforts by the regional district and the province, and looking forward to a de-brief to discuss what worked well and what could be improved.
- Concerned over steelhead numbers and habitat conditions, and the collateral damage to Spence's Bridge area. Concern over mortality to steelhead by Chum fishery.

Comment from Angela Bate: Resource biologists are working on a model to better assess impacts to Steelhead in the Chum fishery.

Rene Talbot

- CSRD is writing a letter to Greyhound Canada expressing opposition to Greyhound's plans to cut services in rural areas
- Entered into agreement with the Shuswap Trail Alliance for five years for trail maintenance and construction in the region
- Tolko made a presentation to the Board on September 21st
- Met with Minister responsible for Emergency Management at the UBCM convention regarding backcountry safety and closures during wildfire season

Mickey Macri

- Concerns over lack of timely information and maps during wildfire season



Fraser Basin Council

- Concern over retaining paramedics in remote communities of SLRD including Seton and Goldbridge
- October 16th – 22nd is waste reduction week
- SLRD will write a letter to the Passenger Transportation Board stating its opposition to cutbacks to Greyhound bus service
- The SLRD is applying for funding to support leadership meetings with the Lillooet Tribal Council and Northern St'at'imc communities
- Bylaws being prepared for marijuana dispensaries

Dieter Dudy

- September 30 byelection results are Ken Christian as mayor, Kathy Sinclair and Ray Dhaliwal as councilors; to be sworn in October 16th
- Went to TransMountain pipeline information session at UBCM last week, with Alberta's Environment Minister and Kinder Morgan president Ian Anderson
- City of Kamloops community benefit agreement with KGHM Ajax is hanging in limbo
- Yates Street emergency water in-take is nearly complete
- Kamloops Daily News site is leveled, and will be a parking lot in the interim
- The public market concept is being re-visited by stakeholders, investors, and others
- Heffley Creek bridge construction contract has been awarded

James Gordon

- A student will show *The Inconvenience Sequel* on October 26th which will feature a live Q&A session with Al Gore; tickets for the event are free but tickets do need to be acquired through EventBrite: inside.tru.ca/2017/10/03/global-q-a-with-al-gore-film/
- Working on sustainability reporting

Herman Halvorson

- Electoral Area directors are looking at conservation program concept for RDNO; will bring it to municipal directors next
- Splatins is interested in a guardianship program for Shuswap River; considering how to tie this into potential boating regulations for the river
- Met with Gerry MacDougall at the UBCM convention regarding resources for patrolling the Shuswap River

Andy Oetter

- Updates regarding post-wildfire activities:
 - Thompson Rivers Resource District will be taking over Elephant Hill fire recovery program from the Cariboo District
 - ATV closures in place throughout the Cariboo-Chilcotin region



- Post-fire moose assessments have indicated that none of the collared moose in the region perished in wildfires
- Core business for the Ministry, such as applications, have built up over the summer while staff were seconded to wildfire and emergency operations
- Interest in re-scheduling a clean energy tour to Pennask Wind Farm site next Spring/Summer
- Recent Maclean's magazine has a very interesting [article](#) on invasive species
- Compliance re: post-flood improvements in foreshore in the Okanagan is very good

Next TRC meeting: Tuesday November 14th 2017, 10 AM – 12:00 PM, at the FBC office.