

**Bonsall Creek Watershed Management Plan
 Advisory Working Group (AWG) – Meeting Notes**

Meeting : #1
 Date: January 30, 2014
 Location: North Cowichan Town Hall

AWG Members

Attended			Attended		
	Chief Thomas	Halalt First Nations	✓	Ruth Sauder; Anne Crocker on behalf of Chief Earl Jack; Deb Epps	Penelakut Tribe
	Chantal Nessman;	Dept. Fisheries & Oceans			M. of Environment; Environmental Quality Section
✓	Wayne Haddow	M. of Agriculture	✓	Neil Goeller;	M. of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
✓	Don Allingham	Farmer		David D Edgar; Andrew Newall; Katie Burrige	M. of Transportation & Infrastructure
✓	Stacy Sowa	Island Health; Drinking Water Quality	✓	Peter Griffiths	Creative Salmon
✓	Chris Cole; Domenico Iannidinardo	TimberWest Corp	✓	Keith Lawrence	CVRD

Municipality of North Cowichan

✓	Jen Woike	Chair, Councillor	✓	Brian Green	Manager of Planning & Sustainability
✓	Audrey Rogers Ken Horton	Planner Project Engineer	✓	Darrell Frank	Forester
✓	John Mackay	Director of Engineering	✓	Scott Mack	Director of Development Services
	Ernie Mansueti	Director of Parks & Recreation			

Others

Funding provided by:



Discussion Results

Agenda Items

1. Introductions

- The advisory working group members introduced themselves

2. Bonsall Creek Watershed Management Plan – Background and Introduction

- Audrey Rogers, Planner, presented a PowerPoint, and provided a PP handout, to introduce the AWG to the background and context for developing a Bonsall Creek watershed management plan.

Included:

- Introduction to North Cowichan's Official Community Plan including plan principles, goals and goal policies; the OCP is goal oriented and, to support achieving the goals, an implementation plan for the OCP is under development by North Cowichan.
- Introduction to BCWMP including priorities established by North Cowichan's Agricultural Advisory Committee, the challenges and goals of the plan, the stakeholders, the watershed boundaries (as currently understood), the staged process to develop the plan including community engagement, the budget, a draft schedule, and the role of Council, the Agriculture Advisory Committee, AWG, public, staff and consultants in the development of the plan
- Request made for a larger map (pdf sent by email Jan 30, 2014)
- Interest expressed to give consideration to organizing a tour of the watershed for the AWG

3. Press Release and Funder Requirements

- All public documents, invites, signage, events and such must recognize the funders. Funder expectations for public documents have been provided to North Cowichan.
- Consideration to be given to a joint press release
 - To be drafted by North Cowichan and given to the AWG to respond (a week prior to release)

4. Review, revision to draft Request for Proposal

- Comments received prior to the meeting were presented and discussed
 - Methodology left to consultant – consultant experience is key
 - Storage and agriculture water reserve exploration
 - Include reference to pilot agricultural adaptation to climate change projects currently underway
 - Biological assessment; needs of fish (water flows, habitat requirements)
 - Noted that AWG's support through project should help avoid the need for third party review (budget does not include 3rd party review)

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- Surface water review – limit surface water review to watershed
 - Water balance – inputs, withdrawals, natural losses
 - Unlicensed withdrawals
 - Carrying capacity of natural system; ability to meet additional demand
 - Local government does not have control over water licences however a watershed management plan will help province make decisions (due to having good information); may support local government application for or acquiring licenses and control distribution.
 - Other studies in the Province noted:
 - Township of Langley, City of Coquitlam, Central Saanich
 - Ecosystem data
 - North Cowichan is inputting some data into municipal GIS system
 - Potential inclusion of representation from Ducks Unlimited or Cowichan Valley Naturalists – Audrey to follow-up
 - AWG to provide relevant information that may be useful for the consultant as background information for the plan.
 - AWG to provide recommendations of potential consultants; noted that the AWG will be invited to review proposals (method to be established).
5. Future meeting
- To be determined; once RFP finalized it will be distributed, with a list of proposed consultants to the AWG for comment – should there be concerns that require a meeting of the AWG one will be organized. Otherwise the next meeting will follow receipt of proposals from potential consultants. Noted that while specific consultants will be issued a copy of the RFP it will also be advertised on CivicInfo BC

Next Meeting – To be determined

Suggested agenda:

- Proposal review/consultant selection

Funding provided by:

