

## Bonsall Creek Watershed Management Plan Advisory Working Group

### Meeting #3 - Notes

Municipality of North Cowichan Office  
January 27, 2015

#### Present

Don Allingham	Agricultural Community
Erica Blake	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
David Clough	DR Clough Consulting
Neil Goeller	Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Peter Griffiths	Creative Salmon
Mel de Jager	Sustainability Solutions Group
Keith Lawrence	Cowichan Valley Regional District
Jeremy Murphy	Sustainability Solutions Group
Andrew Newall	Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure
Ruth Sauder	Penelakut Tribe

#### Staff Present

Darrel Frank	Municipal Forester
Brian Green	Manager of Planning and Sustainability
John MacKay	Director of Engineering
Kyle Young	Planner

#### Regrets

Chris Cole	TimberWest Forest Corporation
Deb Epps	Ministry of Environment
Chris Groenendijk	Agricultural Community
Wayne Haddow	Ministry of Agriculture
Earl Jack, Chief	Penelakut Tribe
Stacey Sowa	Island Health
James Thomas, Chief	Halalt First Nation

#### 1. Introductions

The Advisory Working Group (AWG) members and the consultants – Sustainability Solutions Group (SSG) – introduced themselves.

#### 2. Baseline Report Overview

Jeremy and Mel provided an overview of the draft baseline report, noting that community information from the engagement events with Halalt First Nation and Penelakut Tribe still needs to be incorporated into the report.

Jeremy noted that the changes predicted to occur as a result of climate change, such as sea level rise, could have implications for the future of the watershed. Some of the possible effects of climate change include increased groundwater/soil salination, more intense winter storm events and increased wildfire risk.

Mr. Clough provided an overview of the biological characteristics of the watershed and indicated that the lower reaches of Bonsall Creek contain some of the best Coho rearing habitat areas on Vancouver Island. Mr. Clough also noted that there is a sediment sump on the creek that is emptied every 3-5 years. The health of Salmon species can be used as an indicator of the health of Bonsall Creek

### 3. Visioning

The AWG was asked to brainstorm visioning elements for three broad categories of the watershed:

#### *Human Water Use*

- More data, metering
- Clean, healthy, sustainable (amount used less than available supply)
- Balanced, equitable water use
- Eliminating need to move people off their land because of flooding

#### *Ecosystems and Habitats*

- Sustainable fishery (summer flows to keep fish alive, winter flows to bring the fish into the creek)
- Rehabilitate the creek ecosystem (vegetation on creek banks, including trees and shrubbery)
- More sustainable forest harvest, better forestry practices
- Stewardship (engaging people to take care watershed)

#### *Agricultural Operations*

- Access to water to grow crops
- Proper flood management
- High water quality (protection of aquifer from contamination)
- Continued farming industry in North Cowichan
- Farms operating under Environmental Farm Plans
- Affordable water

### 4. Public Open Houses

A public open house is scheduled for February 19, 2015.

### 5. Next Steps

Next steps include looking at the future of the watershed, scenario building, creating a water balance model.

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