



Steering Committee

June 10, 2013

Meeting Summary v2 as at June 25, 2013

Approved Sept 11, 2013

District of Sicamous office

Meeting Objectives

1. Share current status of draft Recreation Management Plan
2. Discuss status of SLIPP or successor organization beyond 2013/14, including priorities, possible new governance models, and external funding opportunities
3. Share financial status of SLIPP expenditures to date
4. Confirm dates and venues for summer open houses

Meeting Outcomes

- A revised budget and work plan dated June 7, 2013 was approved
- Paul Demenok, CSRD Area C Director, was appointed Chair
- Steering Committee members are now familiar with the content of the draft Recreation Management Plan, and that the public comment period is open until September 15
- New opportunities for SLIPP or a successor organization that require collaboration were reviewed, and feedback was heard.
- It was agreed in principle that the three regional districts must work together on water quality and safety in 2014 and beyond
- Clarity was provided that the enforcement of provincial legislation around docks is not the role of SLIPP. Information was provided on compliance and enforcement plans for this year.
- Steering Committee members are now familiar with the purpose, structure, activities and funding of the Okanagan Basin Water Board
- SLIPP will host three public open houses on a weekday evening in early August in Scotch Creek, Sicamous and either Blind Bay/Sorrento/Salmon Arm. Exact dates to be determined.

Please refer to *SLIPP Steering Comm Mtg Presentation 10jun13.pdf* for the presentation material from the meeting referred to in this meeting summary.

1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda, Previous Meeting Summary, Financial and Budget Update

SLIPP Steering Committee Vice Chair Nancy Cooper welcomed everyone at 9:00AM and turned the meeting facilitation over to Mike Simpson. Introductions were made around the room, including local government staff present in the public gallery. Secwepemc territory was acknowledged, and the District of Sicamous was thanked for hosting the meeting. The agenda was accepted as presented, with the exception of adding the discussion of a public survey under next steps in Evaluation of 2008 SLIPP Strategic Plan, and allowing comments from the former Chair.

The meeting summary from March 1, 2013 (as at March 18, 2013) was reviewed on screen, and was approved by consensus. All action items were either completed or included in today's agenda, with the exception of the following that remain relevant with *updates provided in italics*:

ACTION #5 (Feb 1, 2013): FBC will share budget tracking with SC including in kind donation from partnering agencies. *Ongoing*

ACTION #7 (Feb 1, 2013): FBC to quantify all other funds that are provided to SLIPP from other agencies. *Ongoing*

ACTION #14 (Feb 1, 2013): Heidi Frank will send information regarding the boat removal process that she recently went through with the federal government. *Not completed.*

ACTION #1 (March 1, 2013): Distribute existing scientific information/reports on specific fish species habitat requirements and what is known specifically about Shuswap and Mara Lakes. *Draft reports on sockeye and chinook are being peer-reviewed.*

ACTION #2 (March 1, 2013): Determine ownership of the foreshore prioritization tool, if development costs shared. *FBC would own on behalf of SLIPP if significant portion of cost was contributed.*

ACTION #4 (March 1, 2013): Peter Lishman and Mayor Trouton to coordinate a meeting with MFLNRO, DFO, and District of Sicamous to identify status of the issues in Sicamous Narrows, including silting/dredging and the inventory of docks and structures in the Narrows. *Until DFO can provide someone to participate in a meeting, this issue has not proceeded.*

A financial overview of spending in the first two years, and this year's budget was presented. Mike noted that time spent managing SLIPP since April 1, 2013 is currently being covered by \$25 000 of Living Rivers Trust Fund monies that Fraser Basin Council has accessed. An updated budget and work plan dated June 7, 2013 was reviewed and approved.

2. Steering Committee Chair Appointment

Ray Nadeau nominated Paul Demenok, and Paul accepted the nomination. No other nominations were received; there were no objections; therefore he was appointed Chair by consensus.

Paul thanked the SC members for their support, and expressed his interest in working together with everyone in a positive manner.

Outgoing Chair Larry Morgan, who resigned via email on May 23, 2013, cited unrelenting pressure to continue SLIPP and the large contribution from his electoral area gas tax funds as among his reasons for stepping down.

3. Draft Recreation Management Plan

Sydney Johnsen, the consultant leading the development of the recreation management plan (RMP) was ill and unable to attend today's meeting. Mike provided an overview of the content of the plan, and that public comments are welcome through an online survey until September 15, 2013. The draft plan can be downloaded and the online survey accessed at <http://www.slippbc.ca/draft-rmp-ready-for-public-review>. Mike encouraged SC members to raise awareness of the public comment period to their constituents, colleagues, friends and neighbours. The draft plan will be highlighted at the summer open houses, and computers will be made available for people to complete the online survey.

4. SLIPP All Committee Debrief

The SLIPP All Committee meeting was held April 24, 2013 at Quaaout Lodge. For the first time the meeting was open to the public in the morning and over 100 people were present. Approximately 60 people involved in SLIPP committees or technical teams stayed for working sessions after lunch.

SC members gave feedback about the meeting that focused on the water quality monitoring results, and the need to get this information to the public in a lay-person format. Frustration was expressed at the continued delay of the water quality reports. Mike advised that the executive summary of the 2011 water quality report has been posted on the website since early May, and showed on screen the full 236 page technical report that is currently being reviewed by the Water Quality and Waste Management Technical Team.

Other feedback about the April 24 meeting was that safety is a key issue, and that recreation infrastructure such as parking, boat launches, and public access to the lakes is needed. Mike reminded participants that these are the key elements of the draft RMP, including supporting the tourism economy.

5. Evaluation of 2008 SLIPP Strategic Plan, Current Work, and New Opportunities

Paper copies of *SLIPP Evaluation June 2013.pdf* were distributed and reviewed, comparing original goals and strategies from the 2008 SLIPP Strategic Plan with what has been completed to date, and with new opportunities raised at various meetings this year.

Comments were varied and at times conflicting with other SC members' feedback, but are summarized as follows:

- **Water quality** - support for continued coordination and efficiencies around monitoring, but also a desire to see management or mitigation of the sources of water contamination. Mitigation could include sewer systems, and working with the agriculture sector through a model such as Alternate Land Use Systems (ALUS), using bioremediation, or other methods. Moving into management/mitigation will result in a true watershed-wide initiative, not just a focus on the lakes.
- **Safety** - can include derelict, abandoned docks, safety of boats and recreation on the lakes to avoid deaths and accidents, removal of sunken buoys and boats, and other safety issues. Some expressed concern that this is duplication with CSRD bylaw officers and other government agencies.
- **Liaison/Advocacy** - it was suggested that SLIPP could be a liaison between the business community and the different orders of government; others thought this kind of advocacy was inappropriate.
- **Representation** - SLIPP has been a good venue to engage first nations.
- **Foreshore development** - improvements have been made in how federal, provincial and local governments engage on development applications; this would now happen with or without SLIPP, therefore not necessary to include in SLIPP going forward.
- **Foreshore restoration** - given the negative feedback, there are lessons to be learned. Excepting the derelict, abandoned docks program, drop the restoration piece, separate the roles around docks, structures and foreshore modifications.
- **Recreation** - infrastructure is critical to the economy, silting of Sicamous Narrows and impacts on boat moorage, and boat launches, parking and lake access is needed.
- **General** - twelve strategies under three goals in the 2008 plan was too much; reduce the focus, don't try to do everything. Most agreed that there is a continued need to work together on issues, but some expressed concern that SLIPP is another level of government that is a waste of money.

It was suggested but not agreed to at this point in the meeting that the following information would be needed to make a decision at the next meeting to make an informed decision about SLIPP or a successor organization beyond this year:

- A financial snapshot of how much money has been saved through coordinated efforts on water quality monitoring and other initiatives

- A public survey to determine support for SLIPP or a similar organization going forward
- Hiring a strategic consultant to seek input from each SC member, and build a governance model going forward

6. Okanagan Basin Water Board

Nelson Jatel, Water Stewardship Director, gave a presentation on the purpose, structure and funding mechanism of the OBWB. See OBWB presentation to SLIPP 10jun13.pdf for his presentation. Key points that Nelson made included the following:

- OBWB was initiated in 1965 as a question, and formed through letters patent in 1970 with a water management mandate, to address priorities and make recommendations on water issues, control Eurasian watermilfoil, coordinate all levels of government, and provide grants for sewage facilities.
- Recognized early on that water is critical to the economy and growth of the region
- OBWB has no authority on water management decision making (i.e., it does not replace any decisions around water made by other levels of government)
- Funded through taxation at mil rate of 3.5 cents/\$1000 assessed value, or about \$10/person; with other funding sources, an annual budget of approximately \$3.5M
- Governance includes representation from three regional districts and technical representation; Water Stewardship Council is a technical body that reports back to OBWB
- New initiatives around endocrine disruptors, climate change impacts to water supply, and awareness/prevention of invasive aquatic species including zebra and quagga mussels

Nelson summarized by stating that collaboration is messy and challenging, but we need to do it.

7. Funding Sources for the Future - External Sources

External funding sources to supplement any future local government gas tax or taxation contributions were explored. Possible sources include National Science and Engineering Research Council (NSERC) funds through Thompson Rivers University, Southern Interior Development Initiative Trust, Alternate Land Use System (ALUS), and other sources that Fraser Basin Council has already accessed including RBC Bluewater Project, Living Rivers Trust Fund.

Mike sought direction from the SC to explore these external funding opportunities, as information to support decision making around the future of SLIPP. Feedback from SC members was varied and conflicting, ranging from support to consider all funding sources, to frustration that we just need to fund sewer systems and not seek more research studies. Peter Milobar clarified the discussion and asked the question “do we agree in principle that three regional districts need to work together, or not” otherwise funding won’t be in place and it will be too late for something to continue next year.

It was **agreed in principle** by consensus that the Thompson Nicola, Columbia Shuswap, and North Okanagan Regional Districts want to continue to work together to address water quality and safety issues in the entire Shuswap watershed in 2014 and beyond. This agreement in principle is subject to the following to be determined at SLIPP SC meetings and at board meetings of the three regional districts later this year:

- **Governance model** - what is the structure, function, representation on and name
- **Funding sources** - whether gas tax, taxation, specified area tax, or external sources, and approval by each regional district
- **Cost sharing** - between regional districts, and also cost sharing between electoral areas and municipalities within regional districts

- **Work plan and specifics** - what specifically will be the priorities under water quality and safety, and what are the roles of the new organization (e.g., coordination, education, monitoring, reporting, recommendations, or implementation and

Charles Hamilton noted that it is likely too late to establish a service for 2014, therefore gas tax funding would be needed in 2014, if approved by the CSRD board.

8. Provincial Government, Docks and Enforcement Plans

Peter Lishman of the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations confirmed that enforcement of legislation around unauthorized docks is their mandate, and has nothing to do with SLIPP. He noted that approximately 150 docks are owned by semi-waterfront owners that front property owned by Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure and without permission from the upland owner, these docks may have to be removed. The removal of approximately 20 structures is planned for 2013. Enforcement of legislation around docks is taking place on lakes throughout the province, not just in the Shuswap. Tenure for docks and structures on the Crown foreshore can be applied for through FrontCounter BC. Once tenure is in place, minor repair such as deck maintenance can be done under the tenure, and application through section 9 of the Water Act would then be unnecessary. Peter distributed a brochure *Private Moorage on Shuswap, Mara & Mabel Lakes* to SC members and members of the public that were present.

9. Summer Open Houses

Three summer open houses will be held during the first half of August, on weekday evenings in Sicamous (recreation centre upstairs), Scotch Creek (community hall), and either in Salmon Arm, Sorrento or Blind Bay to cover the South Shuswap. If funds and time permits, an open house could also be held in Chase, as well as two in the South Shuswap.

Next SLIPP Steering Committee Meeting - tentatively set for Monday September 9 or during that week, to be confirmed through email to all SC members. Location TBD.

1:05 PM Adjourned

Attendance

Steering Committee members	
Ron Anderson	Mayor of Chase, Thompson Nicola Regional District Director
Nancy Cooper (Vice Chair)	Mayor of Salmon Arm
Howie Cyr	Enderby Mayor, Regional District of North Okanagan Director
Paul Demenok (Chair)	Columbia Shuswap Regional District Director - Area "C"
Ron Jules	Adams Lake Indian Band Councillor
Pete Lishman	Technical Team representative (MFLNRO)
Peter Milobar	Mayor of Kamloops, Thompson Nicola Regional District Director
Rhona Martin	Columbia Shuswap Regional District Director - Area "E"
Larry Morgan	Columbia Shuswap Regional District Director - Area "F"
Ray Nadeau	Public Advisory Committee representative
Jackie Pearase	North Okanagan Regional District Director - Area "F"
Rene Talbot	Columbia Shuswap Regional District Director - Area "D"
Darrell Trouton	Mayor of Sicamous

Other attendees* (other elected officials, staff, guest speakers or consultants)	
Heidi Frank	District of Sicamous, Chief Administrative Officer
Charles Hamilton	Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Chief Administrative Officer
Nelson Jatel	Okanagan Basin Water Board
Marcin Paschinski	Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Parks and Recreation Leader
David Raven	Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Chair
Mike Simpson	Fraser Basin Council (FBC)
Tracy Thomas	Fraser Basin Council (FBC)

**Approximately 30 members of the public were present for much of the meeting*