

Gardom Lake Planning Committee – meeting notes

February 12, 2015

Welcome

The meeting started at 9:30 AM. Tracy Thomas and Erin Vieira welcomed everyone to the meeting. Introductions were done around the room.

Attendance

Rikk Kieft – Gardom Lake Bible Camp (to 2:25 pm)
Diane Johnson – Friends of Gardom Lake (alternate)
Susan Abbott – Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Jack Butula – Kalamalka Lake Fly Fishing Association
Fred McAllister – Gardom Lake Community Park Society (alternate)
Stuart Lee – Splatsin
Ryan Nitchie (observer) – CSRD (alternate; to 11:30 am)
Brian Turner – Rancho/Deep Creek Community Association
Joy de Vos – Agriculture sector
Marge Sidney – BC Ministry of Environment; BC Lakes Stewardship Society
Jacque Sorensen – Thompson Rivers University (guest speaker)
Tracy Thomas (facilitator) – Fraser Basin Council
Erin Vieira (facilitator) – Fraser Basin Council

Purpose

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- Learn about lakes and related natural systems
- Learn about water quality
- Development environment goals and objectives for the draft Gardom Lake Management Plan

Feedback on the planning process

A brief roundtable discussion took place on the planning process to date, and feedback committee members are receiving from their respective organizations.

Guest Presentation – Jacque Sorensen

Jacque presented on riparian areas: their definition, their important role in a watershed, how they function, threats to healthy riparian areas, and how to protect them. The presentation will be posted at www.gardomlakeplan.ca in the resources section of the website. Some highlights from Jacque's presentation include:

- A riparian area is a *transitional zone* between land and water; its boundary is determined by how far the water influences the vegetation on land
- A riparian area contains a diverse plant and wildlife community. It provides the following:
 - Shade and shelter for wildlife
 - Food (insect fall, litter fall)
- Riparian areas also:
 - Trap sediment to keep water clean
 - Filter water – this is especially important as plants in the riparian area take up excess nutrients (e.g., phosphorus, nitrogen) that flow on the surface or in groundwater that would otherwise end up in a stream or lake
 - Stabilize shorelines (prevent erosion)
 - Maintain biodiversity – VERY important. Riparian areas provide refuge, nesting and rearing habitat
- Threats to riparian areas include urban and rural development, agriculture, invasive species, resource extraction, transportation, and recreation
- Restoring and repairing riparian areas is difficult and expensive – much better to maintain their function and prevent degradation
- Strategies for protecting riparian areas include:
 - Educating the public, especially home owners, about their importance and how to be a good steward
 - In development plans, maintain 'buffers' (e.g., set buildings back from water)
 - Maintain vegetation (i.e. don't clear trees and shrubs)
 - Limit access
- Take home message: riparian areas occupy a small area of lake but are disproportionately important!

Review of Draft Plan to date

Committee members discussed and agreed upon the Vision statement.

The goals, objectives and action items for the Water section of the plan were reviewed and some edits were suggested. The DRAFT Plan will be posted to www.gardomlakeplan.ca when the revisions have been made.

Planning: Environment section of plan

Committee members discussed and agreed upon four goals and corresponding objectives and actions for the Environment section of the plan. The DRAFT Plan will be posted to www.gardomlakeplan.ca when the revisions have been made.

Update from CSRD Planning Department – Jan Thingsted

Long-range planner Jan Thingsted presented the proposed new foreshore zoning bylaw for Gardom Lake to the planning committee. Five zones are proposed each with uses and structured permitted in each zone, and with uses prohibited in all zones. The committee provided feedback to Jan.

Action Items

- Tracy will look into Riparian Areas Regulations – what are they, who do they apply to
- Fred will look into the ownership of Gardom Lake Park (to determine if/how RAR applies to the park)

The meeting adjourned at 3:40 PM.

Next meeting: Tracy will seek a date with committee members that aligns with speaker availability and CSRD Boardroom availability