

Gardom Lake Planning Committee – meeting notes

March 30, 2015

Welcome

The meeting started at 9:35 AM. Erin Vieira welcomed everyone to the meeting and acknowledged Secwepemc territory. Introductions were done around the room.

Attendance

Rikk Kieft – Gardom Lake Bible Camp
Elizabeth Winter – Friends of Gardom Lake
Susan Abbott – Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Jack Butula – Kalamalka Lake Fly Fishing Association
Fred McAllister – Gardom Lake Community Park Society (alternate)
Brian Turner – Rancho Deep Creek Community Association
Joy de Vos – Agriculture sector
Marge Sidney – BC Ministry of Environment; BC Lakes Stewardship Society
Glen Hill – North Okanagan Holding Society; Legion
Eric Hegerat – Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Brian Robertson – Guest
Andrew Klassen – Guest
Jason Webster – Guest
Ken Namislo – Guest
Erin Vieira (facilitator) – Fraser Basin Council
Mike Simpson (facilitator) – Fraser Basin Council (*to 12:30 pm*)
Tracy Thomas (facilitator) – Fraser Basin Council (*from 1:30 pm*)

Purpose

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- ❖ Learn about stocking rates and access points
- ❖ Lake access discussion, issues and solutions
- ❖ Develop 'people' goals, objectives and action items 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. Some noteworthy points from that discussion include:

- ❖ FM – Gardom Lake Community Park Society has applied for Section 9 notifications at the park

- ❖ EW – Friends of Gardom Lake have applied for a grant-in-aid to repair/replace a water testing meter; FOGL is hosting a yellow flag iris removal on June 7th

Guest Presentation – Brian Robertson, BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

- ❖ Water Act, Section 9 applies to works in and about a stream; a stream is defined as any and all watercourses (fish-bearing or not). Two types of work under a Section 9: (1) a notification, and (2) an approval. The former is straightforward and no cost; the latter is more involved, a fee applies, may require work by a Qualified Environmental Professional, First Nations referral, and requires a decision by Ministry staff.
- ❖ The new Water Sustainability Act will be implemented in January 2016. Its objectives include:
 - Protect stream health and aquatic environments
 - Improve water governance arrangements
 - Groundwater regulation
- ❖ Riparian Area Regulations (RAR) are an 'enabling legislation' in the Fish Protection Act; it enables local governments to create bylaws to protect riparian areas from development and impacts thereof. RAR applies to riparian areas that 'have a connection to fish-bearing waters' – this includes ditches that connect to fish-bearing streams. RAR does not apply to federal lands or agricultural lands, or to institutional developments (i.e. hospital; school). Where RAR applies to a proposed development or works, the proponent needs a Qualified Environmental Professional to conduct an assessment.
- ❖ For more information, contact:

SECTION 9 Application Information

Okanagan Shuswap Natural Resource District:

Email: FCBCVernon@gov.bc.ca

Phone: 250-558-1700

Toll Free: 1-877-855-3222

http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wsd/water_rights/licence_application/section9/index.htm

RAR Information

FLNR Penticton Regional Office

Phone: 250-490-8200

Email: RARReg8@gov.bc.ca

<http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/topic.page?id=FB284A0570084959BEBF55B9D4D4AEC2>

Guest Presentation – Eric Hegerat, BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

- ❖ Fish population and stocking records for Gardom Lake date back to 1909; history of Gardom Lake stocking was presented
- ❖ Gardom Lake is managed as a 'Quality' fishery; this has been an evolving process at the BC MFLNRO to meet regional demand and angler response; acknowledged the angler pressure on the lake and that there are some conflicting values at play
 - There was discussion in the group regarding changing how the fishery is managed – to a Trophy fishery or a Family fishery, as a means of alleviating angler pressure – however it's unknown how changing the management regime would affect demand. It's thought that managing the fishery as 'Quality' is the sweet spot.
- ❖ The contact point regarding stocking is regional staff – Eric Hegerat or Tara White
- ❖ BC MFLNRO is open to explore opportunities for working together on education/engagement, signage, stewardship initiatives, etc.
- ❖ Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC has a website with educational material on it: www.gofishbc.com.

Guest Q&A – Ken Namislo, BC Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure

Q: Why won't the boat launch at Teal Road be shut down?

A: From the MOTI perspective, it isn't a boat launch – it's a road. The boat launch was not developed by MOTI; we only maintain the road to the water's edge. [Other people in the room pointed out that as a launch it is providing an important service for emergency services].

Q: Can MOTI work with a group to better manage the area?

A: Yes, with some limitations. Cannot block access to the water (i.e., MOTI will not install bollards). Would need to follow necessary approval processes, have insurance, etc.

Q: There are erosion issues and run-off into the lake. Could MOTI put gravel on the boat launch to alleviate this?

A: No – it's outside of the MOTI mandate and putting gravel in is illegal, without proper permits.

BCMFLNRO: willing to explore possibility of supporting gravel or pads into the lake at Teal Road.

Q: Could a community group 'adopt' an MOTI right-of-way access point and co-manage it for garbage, squatting, etc.?

A: Suggested a field trip to discuss road issues – Wednesday April 1st – not a Gardom Lake Planning Committee meeting but open to anyone who would like to discuss road issues.

Discussion: Access Issues and Solutions

The committee discussed the need for Gardom Lake to have a public boat launch:

FM: No – a trailer-access boat launch isn't needed. The Gardom Lake Park Society has voted that there should not be a launch in the park.

JD – tough question, but yes – because it makes the lake accessible to anyone

BT – yes

Brian Robertson – yes – issues will escalate until there is a properly maintained public boat launch

Jason Webster – yes

Eric Hegerat – yes – it will enable safer, more responsible access to the lake

EW – yes – but it needs to be carefully considered, doesn't feel like all options have been looked at yet

GH – yes

JB – yes, the lake has been used by fishers since before 1908. Need a proper boat launch with a washroom; accessible for people with mobility challenges. Gardom Lake is provincial gem; it's a public resource, not a private lake for residents. A boat launch would alleviate pressure from other access points on the lake.

SA – yes

RK – yes, because it enables holding people accountable

The committee brainstormed and discussed solutions for establishing a boat launch with parking, toilet, garbage, and educational information/kiosk, and that would be accessible for persons with mobility challenges. Feasible options at this point include:

- ❖ Crown land – Gardom Lake Park
- ❖ Partnership with the Bible camp or Legion (existing boat launches)
- ❖ Partnership with private landowner (i.e. Teal Road)

Purchasing property to develop a boat launch is not considered feasible due to the cost.

Roundtable discussion:

MS – The park has a place for parking, signs, toilets are already there. Slope issues could be addressed.

Ken Namislo – Musgrave Road offers everything: toilet, access, parking, minimal disturbance to residents. Inexpensive to develop.

FM – explore partnership with landowner at Teal Road to develop parking/turn-around space

RK – Musgrave Road seems logical, but need to consider work, cost, impact to habitat

JB – Purchasing private land with suitable grade would be ideal; alternatively, consider why Musgrave Road can't be developed

GH – consider developing multiple sites; e.g., a hand launch site and a trailered boat launch site. Consider easement from property owner for a boat launch.

EW – All sites including Gardom Lake Park should be investigated. It needs deep water, an already-impacted site, toilets, parking, suitable grade.

SA – new motor restrictions will have an impact on boat traffic; the effects of this are yet to be seen.

Guest – Jan Thingsted, CSRD

The CSRD planning department is looking at introducing lake zoning to Gardom Lake to zone the surface of the lake, the foreshore zone in particular. Dock sizes and numbers can be regulated in a zoning bylaw.

Re: dock sizes. Considering maximum size of 12m² for dock surface, in addition to 5m² for ramp. Small docks seem appropriate for a small, non-motorized lake. Would allow for a larger dock in the park zone and the bible camp zone in the new bylaw. Limited to one dock per residence; existing structures would be grandfathered.

Gardom Lake Management Plan DRAFT: Section 3.3 - “People”

Committee members assembled in two small groups and each discussed one topic: access, or homeowner education on water quality and septic systems.

The revised plan will be posted to www.gardomlakeplan.ca.

Next Steps

- ❖ The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM
- ❖ Next meeting: April 16th, Meet at Gardom Lake Park at 8:30 AM for field tour; have lunch and final planning meeting at Gardom Lake Bible Camp
- ❖ Public meeting will be held on May 14th at Rancho – Deep Creek Fire Hall