

Gardom Lake Planning Committee – meeting notes

March 9, 2015

Welcome

The meeting started at 9:35 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 1:45pm)
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)
Stuart Lee – Splatsin
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
Keith Weir – Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (guest speaker)
Pat Tobin – Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (guest speaker)
Ben Van Nostrand – Columbia Shuswap Regional District (guest speaker)
Natalie Staff – Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society (guest speaker)
Brian Gregory – Interior Health Authority (guest speaker)
Tracy Thomas (facilitator) – Fraser Basin Council
Erin Vieira (facilitator) – Fraser Basin Council

Purpose

The objectives of the meeting were to:

- ❖ Review the draft Gardom Lake Management Plan “environment” section
- ❖ Learn about Crown land/ jurisdiction, septic systems, drinking water testing, invasive species
- ❖ Develop “people” 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.

Gardom Lake Management Plan Review: Section 3.2 - Environment

The committee members reviewed the draft environment section of the Plan. Revisions will be added to the Plan and it will be posted to www.gardomlakeplan.ca when complete.

Guest Presentation – Keith Weir, Senior Lands Officer, BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

- ~ 20 years ago BC Parks divested themselves of Gardom Lake Park. 1997 – Crown Lands enabled the Gardom Lake Park Society to take it over. In 2007 the Licence to Occupy was renewed and will expire in 2017. The renewal process involves a review of the file, complaints, insurance, and a new management plan. Terms and conditions include: ongoing public use with no reasonable restriction of access and a safe and clean site. Rent is \$1 for a 10 year term. No cutting trees without a permit, except for safety (e.g. snags); the Park Society must apply for permission to add sand to the beach. For more information go to the **FrontCounter BC website at: <http://www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/> or call the office directly at: 250-828-4131. Long story short – a license of occupation does not come with rights to cut trees or fill beaches.**
- Heritage Conservation Act – cannot disturb registered archaeology sites. None currently registered at Gardom Lake.
- Federal Fisheries Act – includes all sport fisheries
- Operationally the recreational fisheries component (fish stocking and aeration) is implemented by the BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and the BC Ministry of Environment
- Property that bounds water, that boundary is mobile – it moves with erosion and accretion. Waterfront property owners have the right to protect their property from erosion **above the high water mark but that requires an application/permit through FrontCounter BC.**
- EW: clarification on what the high water mark. Where is the Crown boundary? KW: hard to answer. Some lakes are controlled with a dam. Getting it surveyed would give you the best answer. Can consider the presence/growth of woody material near the historical/highest water mark. “The visible high water mark of any lake, water or stream where the presence and action of water are so common and usual ... as to mark on the soil on the bed of the body of water ...” BUT remember that beach grooming obscures this.
- Can apply for accretion to extend the boundary of your title
- Call FrontCounter BC **at 250-828-4131**, they are the single window of application for provincial legislation. They can guide proponents on matters relating to development or modifications on water-front property. They will also instruct proponents when it's appropriate to seek approval from regional/local government where there are bylaws in place.
- FM: question about fencing off embankment to control access to the beach, encourage trail use. KW: yes, call FrontCounter BC and find out if application is necessary. PT: a licence of occupation isn't meant to be a tool for park management. The Crown prefers a local Government to operate parks. In the newest management plan, include description of any work the Park Society would like to do. **Works in and about a stream (this includes streams, swamps, lakes) require a notice.**

Patrick Tobin – Regional Manager, Compliance and Enforcement, BC Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

- We hold people accountable for their behaviour and support behaviour change that results in compliance. There are approximately 40 pieces of legislation that we enforce. In 2010 the first iteration of FLNRO was created and took elements of Water and Wildlife Section from BC Ministry of Environment; also took the then-known Integrated Lands Management Bureau. As a result, Compliance & Enforcement (C&E) moved away from forestry and the scope grew significantly. Working to develop policy to bring issues of major non-compliance into greater

compliance – e.g., docks, retaining walls, beach grooming, and other lake front management issues.

- Respond largely to public complaints. However, we are taking an inventory of lakes to understand the issues and be proactive.
- Thompson Region has 19 officers, covering the area from the US border, north to Clearwater, east to Wap, and west to Lillooet. Lakes and recreation are the major focus for our work. We work closely with land officers and the water stewardship branch to ensure public engagement and understanding regarding shoreline rights and values.
- Water Act, Land Act are two of the most powerful pieces of legislation. Any activity on Crown Land is a contravention. Policies provide for how people interact with Crown land – recreation, building, occupying etc.
- Examples of Crown land trespass include unauthorized building of structures such as docks, boathouses, and retaining walls. A non-compliant proponent would be asked to get a tenure; if they do not, they would be issued a trespass notice. A last case resort, the structure would be seized and removed at the expense of the proponent.
- JD: if I were a prospective buyer of a property, can I get a Natural Resource Officer to check the property and check compliance? PT: no, due to lack of capacity. It's a buyer-beware situation.
- EW: who would apply to remove a downed fence on a public access? PT: suspect BC Ministry of Transportation.
- NRO has a reporting line: **1-844-676-8477**. That will get you a FrontCounter BC dispatcher. Website is: <http://www.frontcounterbc.gov.bc.ca/>
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Natalie Stafl – Columbia Shuswap Invasive Species Society

- Covers CSRD boundary
- Facilitate prevention, management, reduction of invasive species in the region
- Education and engagement about invasive species and the impacts
- Establish and operate invasive species mgmt. programs
- Environmental impacts: second greatest threat to global biodiversity after habitat loss
- Social impacts include health (e.g. giant hogweed, fire ants) – burns, stings, allergies, etc.
- Economic impacts: e.g. loss to hay sales and other agricultural operations
- Aquatic Invasive Species Profiles
 - **Zebra and quagga mussels** – large threat to BC waters but currently not present. The focus is education and prevention campaigns.
 - **Yellow flag-iris** – present at Gardom. Impacts to waterfowl and painted turtle; outcompetes native vegetation; very difficult to control – rhizome removal and seed-head cutting is effective but labour - intensive. Catherine Tarasoff's study at Thompson Rivers University regarding anoxic treatment of yellow flag-iris
 - **Knotweeds** – also known as false bamboo. Extremely fast-growing and can grow through concrete, asphalt. Hazard for transportation. Thrives in moist areas, takes over riparian areas. Most effective method of treatment is herbicide.
 - **Purple loosestrife** – part of Mint family, has a square stem.
 - **Himalayan balsam** – highly reproductive. People mistakenly plant it as an ornamental. Relatively easy to get rid of.
 - **Eurasian watermilfoil** – a concern for the Shuswap area. Can be very prolific. Highly undesirable for boating, swimming. CSRD is harvesting in priority areas.

- Loss of enjoyment; increased maintenance costs; collapse of aquatic ecosystems and fisheries
- **What can you do? Get educated. Spread the word. For boaters, don't transport invasive species – clean, drain, dry your boats and recreation equipment before going to another lake/body of water**
- Report-a-Weed app for smart phones – take a photo of the invasive plant/species. Download the app here: <https://itunes.apple.com/app/report-a-weed/id547471331?mt=8>
- CSISS – supports community weed pulls (provide food, honoraria); provide youth programs; ID workshops; landowner extension (information)
- Website, social media
- JB: what do you do about invasives on private property? NS: we can visit a property owner to educate them. It is their responsibility to keep the species from spreading.

Ben Van Nostrand – Columbia Shuswap Regional District

- Solid waste, recycling, septic, invasive species
- Septic Smart program born out of Liquid Waste Management Plans (LWMP). Plans in place for Areas F, C, and E. These plans address lakeshore development and private discharge; public desire to eliminate discharges to lakes; opportunities for education and outreach
- Septic Smart – to reduce health and environmental impacts through public education
- Area D does not have LWMP – this includes Gardom Lake although Gardom Lake participated in a septic survey that was part of LWMP
 - Survey results indicate that waterfront properties have older septic systems; inspections are either frequent, or never; frequency of pump-outs is frequent or never
- TT: is there a record of what properties have what kind of system? BVN: Historically, yes the Health agency did. Currently, installation is sub-contracted out to on-site contractors and the home owner has to file records with Interior Health.
- MS: is there a way to find out if there are dry wells near Gardom Lake, and force a homeowner to upgrade? BG: Unless you can prove contamination to drinking water, and unless you can determine it's a health hazard, and unless sewage is surfacing – then you can't force an upgrade, just encourage.

Brian Gregory – Environmental Health Officer, Interior Health Authority

- Infrastructure Programs at the Interior Health Authority's Health Protection Department includes Healthy Built Environment; large water systems; small water systems; public health engineering teams
- Healthy Built Environment team: input on watershed protection, community sewer and water supply.
- Large Water System team: serves over 500 people. Monitors and enforces compliance with the Drinking Water Protection Act (DWPA), regulations and policies
- Small Water System team: serves up to 500 people and monitors/enforces compliance with the DWPA, regulations and policies
- Public Health Engineering team: provides support to the large water and small water teams
- Changes to the role of the Infrastructure Programs:
 - No onsite sewerage inspection unless there's a hazard or a complaint is lodged, or taking enforcement action. Educate, Advocate, Enforce.
 - More emphasis on strategies to reduce the number of systems on boil water notice
 - More emphasis in land use planning and the promotion of a sustainable healthy built environment

- Engage and collaborate with local, regional government recognizing their leadership role in planning and delivering drinking water (re: OCPs, RGS, LWMPs, zoning, etc.)
- Regarding Onsite Sewage:
 - Environmental Health Officers (EHOs) enforce the sewerage system regulation
 - Only an 'authorized person' can install a sewerage system; they must refer to the standard practice manual for guidance (re setbacks, etc.)
 - EHOs respond to complaints regarding illegal installations and malfunction systems
- Regarding Drinking Water:
 - A 'drinking water system' is defined as a domestic system that serves more than a single family residence
 - **Single family owner-occupied residents that provide their own drinking water are not 'drinking water systems' and therefore are unregulated;**
 - Water supply systems must monitor the drinking water source, water in the source and the water it provides
 - Regulations re: *E. coli* and coliform bacteria are contained in the DWPA
 - IHA uses the federal drinking water guidelines
 - IN the event of water quality standards not being met, the lab must report this to a Drinking Water Officer
 - Drinking water system operator must prepare an annual report; and an emergency response plan
 - Common contaminants to drinking water: many are naturally occurring.
- **Take home message: Single family residents that don't have a treatment system (UV & filtration) should boil their drinking water**

Gardom Lake Management Plan DRAFT: Section 3.3 - People

Committee members discussed the presentations and key messages that should be included in the "people" section of the plan. Given that the next planning meeting will be about management and people, the goals, objectives, and action items were not drafted during this planning session. Key messages include the following:

- There is a need for more recreation information regarding the amount of use Gardom Lake receives, recommend a recreation survey
- Voluntary septic system testing (funding provided)
- Provide information about common trespass activities on Crown land (adding sand, dock building, tree cutting, etc.) Include information on how to determine property line
- Include direction on when to boil water and for how long

The DRAFT Plan will be posted to www.gardomlakeplan.ca when the revisions have been made.

Next Steps

- The meeting adjourned at 3:30 PM.
- Next meeting: March 30th, CSRD Board Room, 9:30 AM