

# Nicola Lake Steering Committee

## October 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Meeting Notes

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### Objectives

- Provide status update of actions in the Nicola Lake Action Plan
- Review and discuss the Eurasian Watermilfoil inventory results
- Finalize Nicola Lake Steering Committee terms of reference

### Attendance

Allison Guichon	Gerard Guichon Ranch	Committee Member
Stewart Murray	Douglas Lake Cattle Company	Committee Member
Vern Latremouille	Beaver Point Estates	Committee Member
Lorna Latremouille	Beaver Point Estates	Committee Member
Michael McDonald	Quilchena on the Lake	Committee Member
Matt Williams	Nicola Ranch	Committee Member
Tracy Wimbush	Nicola Tribal Association	Committee Member
Kim Poupard	Kamloops Sailing Association	Committee Member
Mayor Susan Roline	City of Merritt	Committee Member
Jo-Ann Fox	SIWMC	Committee Member
Guy Rose	Quilchena Ranch	Committee Member
Frank Rizzardo	Nicola Lakeshore Estates	Committee Member
Tracy Thomas	Fraser Basin Council	Facilitator
Mike Simpson	Fraser Basin Council	Facilitator

### Agenda

#### 1. The meeting opened at 10:10 AM

Mike Simpson and Tracy Thomas welcomed everyone. The agenda was reviewed and accepted.

#### 2. Overview of Nicola Lake Action Plan

All that were present were involved in the development of the plan, therefore an overview was deemed unnecessary (this was intended if new participants were present).

#### 3. Progress Report (see the *Nicola Lake Integrated Planning and Management Interim Report to Sept 30, 2013* at [www.nicolaplan.ca](http://www.nicolaplan.ca) )

*Eurasian watermilfoil inventory* – The EWM inventory was completed in mid-September when the lake water was low and clear; high water during the summer and a late summer algae bloom delayed the initiation of the survey. There were several species identified both native and non-native milfoils and other plants. The entire perimeter of the lake was inventoried for submergent macrophyte (aquatic plant) populations; those areas with substantial weed beds were mapped. EWM is

pervasive and prevalent throughout the lake however there are very few areas with 100% EWM coverage.

Primarily the inventory was conducted by boat using a rake to collect samples; snorkeling was the secondary method. All plants were not identified to species though they were identified to the genus level. In addition to EWM, there were some blue listed species (Includes any ecological community, and indigenous species and subspecies considered to be of special concern (formerly vulnerable) in British Columbia. ~ BC Ministry of Environment) identified. The preliminary results are that there is a mixture of plants and there should be a mixture of management techniques applied.

Along with the submergent macrophyte inventory, there also needs to be a fisheries habitat assessment completed prior to developing a milfoil management plan; Tracy is working on putting together a team of experts to guide this process. No milfoil will be removed in 2013.

We have compiled a list of contractors that may be able to mechanically remove Eurasian watermilfoil, both mowing and rototilling, that are primarily based in the USA. There is concern around sharing equipment across the border due to the possibility of introducing another invasive species; we will work under the guidance of local expertise to determine whether there are other options; all possible management options will be determined by the completed inventory and habitat assessment.

- The Committee discussed the reintroduction of native plants as part of the management regime.
- Discussion around having a boat wash station or stations considering that this is an infested lake and effort should go into prevention of the spread of EWM
- It was suggested that we develop an “EWM zone” with Hwy 5A signage aimed at drivers coming into the area
- **ACTION:** Distribute the final inventory report in mid/late November to the NLSC and post to the website
- **ACTION:** Proceed with purchase of boat wash stations (one for Monck Park) and determine schedule and best locations mobile boat wash station (e.g., south and east end of Nicola Lake, Hwy 97C/5/5A junction)
- **ACTION:** Look for long term funding for EWM management and prevention of spread (funding from TNRD)
- **ACTION:** Determine if there needs to be some deactivation of boat launches in the future, how to advise the public, and weigh the social impacts

*Water quality monitoring* – Water quality testing was conducted throughout the summer by the Nicola Lake Stewardship Society (Mike Ohata, Jenny Ohata, Ian Gordon) in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment (Dennis Einarson).

Mike Ohata provided an update via email prior to the meeting on the summer water quality testing as follows:

- Completed 6 profiles since April to 50 metres
  - 6 composite chlorophyll samples and filtered
  - 6 composite nutrient sample sets in both the epilimnion and hypolimnion
  - 6 secchi disc readings
  - Not certain how many creek samples have been collected
  - No results from testing yet, samples are frozen
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- **ACTION:** Confirm funding requirements for water quality testing with Mike Ohata, Jenny Ohata, and Ian Gordon.

*Education and outreach* – Two students worked over the summer delivering education and outreach primarily at Monck Park. While they were in the field, they also conducted a recreation survey to locals and visitors and completed an inventory of the recreation infrastructure available around Nicola Lake and area. They provided information to hundreds of people regarding the lake and the Nicola Lake Plan and conducted more than 100 surveys.

- **ACTION:** Review recreation inventory and develop proposal on milfoil signage design/messaging and locations

#### 4. **Nicola Lake Steering Committee terms of reference**

A few minor changes were made to the Terms of Reference including to the membership list (i.e., names were listed where known; it was noted that there are no downstream water licensees based on storage) and regarding quorum and decision making; the updated ToR will be posted on the website at [www.nicolaplan.ca](http://www.nicolaplan.ca).

#### 5. **Financial Update** – There is a complete financial update in the Nicola Lake Integrated Planning and Management Interim Report to Sept 30, 2013. Available at [www.nicolaplan.ca](http://www.nicolaplan.ca)

It was agreed that there is some flexibility to shift funds between budget categories; the Fraser Basin Council staff, Mike and Tracy will advise the NLSC members to keep them informed of any budget shifts.

- **ACTION:** Mike Simpson to add an “in-kind” and other sources of funding section to the financial tracker
- **ACTION:** Mike Simpson to request to carry forward any unused funds

#### 6. **Next steps and focus in next quarter** – The next steps/planned activities for the next quarter (October 1, 2013 to December 31, 2013) are as listed in the *Interim Report* and follow the Nicola Lake Action Plan goals, objectives and action items. Discussion around next steps generated the following ideas and action items including the following:

### *Funding*

- Suggestion: include EWM management in the long term funding formula for the TNRD
- **ACTION:** Initiate discussions with local government elected officials and staff about long-term, secure funding
- **ACTION:** Find a corporate sponsor
- Suggestion: Look into funding that may be available to NTA around conducting a literature review of all articles/research on Nicola Lake (this would be a separate contract). This project could include Ministry of Environment papers/research and WUMP papers/research.
- **ACTION:** Tracy Thomas to follow up with Tracy Wimbush regarding available funding and project ideas
- **ACTION:** contact Frank regarding rock sources for erosion control project

### *Water*

- **ACTION:** Develop a laymen's water quality report based on literature review with NTA funds
- **ACTION:** contact Upper Nicola Band, Lower Nicola Band and NTA Arch. Department regarding shoreline erosion control at Monck Park
- **ACTION:** Form a sub-committee to guide the fisheries habitat assessment for the purpose of EWM management; invite the following people to take part:
  - Tracy Wimbush – NTA
  - Andy Morris – MoE
  - Mark Phillipotts – MFLNRO
  - Jo-Ann Fox – SIWMC
  - Hamish Kassa – CSRD
  - Dennis Einarson – MoE
  - Matthias Herborg – MoE (cc)
  - Bob Harding – DFO
  - Mike Ohata – Teck - Highland Valley Copper

### *Education & Awareness*

- **ACTION:** Draft a media release and increase communications around the Nicola Lake Action Plan and recent activities
- **ACTION:** Create a logo contest for the Nicola Lake Action Plan & Process – the winning student's class to champion the project.

### *Recreation & Development*

- **ACTION:** Send out the results of the Recreation Survey to the members of the NLSC and post to the website

*Make the following change to Goal 5 - Sustainably manage lakefront and foreshore development:*

- The objective “Identify a volunteer waterfront property owner to champion shoreline health” was removed and will be updated with an objective that includes the provision samples of photographs (from other areas) showing examples of different levels of shoreline health and will provide explanations respectively.

**Next Meeting** – no specific date set, but tentatively planned for a Monday in late January to early February 2014. Tracy will send out an email in January to solicit input on a meeting date.

The meeting was adjourned at 2:45PM.