

Nicola Lake Working Group - Meeting Notes

Topic: Eurasian Watermilfoil (EWM) – workshop debrief

Date & Time: February 26th, 2013 from 12 to 4 PM

Attendance: Matt Williams, Jo-Ann Fox, Lorna & Vern Latremouille, Randy Murray, Allison Guichon, Guy Rose, Kim Poupard, Stuart Murray, Mike & Jenny Ohata, Mike Simpson, Tracy Thomas

Objectives

- Increase knowledge and awareness
- Review the current version of the DRAFT *Nicola Lake Plan*
- Update the DRAFT *Nicola Lake Plan*

Agenda

1. Welcome & Introductions – Mike Simpson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

2. Water Quality & Eurasian Watermilfoil Workshop Debrief

Some of the EWM Workshop take-home messages for Working Group members:

- Rototilling – different from a harvester
- The effectiveness of herbicide – possible pilot here?
- The use of divers and barriers
- Funding via registration stickers and the app for reporting non-compliance
- The use of drawdowns – possible on Nicola Lake using the dam?

3. The Group discussed Eurasian watermilfoil management. The general discussion points are captured below. The discussion points are also reflected in the updated version of the Nicola Lake Plan.

Goals/Management Strategies:

- We are working toward eradication of Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) in Nicola Lake
- We will manage EWM with respect to the effects that management will have on other resources and/or side effects (ie. algae blooms/fish survival)
- Replace EWM with native plants where appropriate
- Assign different management strategies based on different values in areas around the lake
- Replicate the successful dam/flow management in 2012

Where:

- High use “human use” areas – narrows, Monck Park, Harman Estates, Beaver Point, Sailing Club, boat launches and other places of “human use values”

Proposed management approach/steps:

- Prevention – from spread to other lakes. Signage at boat launches

- Inventory – use Foreshore Inventory Mapping (FIM) to start, “emergent vegetation” on the FIM map will include EWM. Use a rake to confirm the presence/absence, species, density
- Inventory in August/summer?
- Use a GPS with sounder to determine depth and then map points/information
- Focus on the narrows, Monck Park, sailing club, Harman Estates, private waterfront lots/estates, boat launches

Management:

- Draw down of dam (concern around possible impacts to fish/ province participation)
- Rototiller – consider the use of contractors (there are US companies that do this) – contact OBWB for information
- Use “weed razor” manual harvester, in small areas
- Hand pulling – landowners can do this
- Mechanical harvester? Utilize contractor for this rather than purchase equipment, very expensive/upkeep/operator etc.
- ASAP – authority/approvals from DFO/MFLNRO/MoE?
- Advocate for herbicide trial – in the narrows

Timing of Management:

- Spring/summer – hand pulling/diving
- Late fall (prior to freeze) for rototilling
- Summer – inventory
- Summer – harvester (several cuts)

Management Personnel:

- Inventory
 - Grad student/ SIWMC (board open to aquatics)
- Management
 - Not TNRD unless a specified area tax is in place
 - TBD
- **ACTION: Jo-Ann Fox to discuss future work/relationship with NLWG**

Funding:

- 2013
 - Multiple electoral area gas tax (TNRD Areas M, N, I, City of Merritt)
 - Minimum \$100,000, up to \$300,000
 - Universities?
- Beyond 2013
 - Specified area tax? (TNRD Areas M,N,I) (long process to initiate)
 - User pay/stickers/wash stations
 - BC government management of these issues, instead of us?
 - Federal funding, DFO fund/manage
 - First Nations funding

- Private funds from resource development (i.e, Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion)
 - Short term funding programs:
 - Invasive species
 - Tourism?
 - Health?
4. Speakers/dates for upcoming meetings
- Cultural Heritage (we still need story tellers!) June 8th - Public Meeting
 - i. **ACTION: Guy Rose to contact his son and former Douglas Lake Ranch Manager regarding story telling at the public meeting in June**
 - Development (shoreline, recreation, housing, etc.)
 - i. Randy has a TNRD planner lined up to speak
 - ii. Discussion around the type of planning the Group would be interested in hearing about.
5. Upcoming Events:
- NLWG Meeting – March 11th, 2013 – Water & Fisheries with Brian Heise
 - NLWG Meeting – April 8th, 2013 – Sustainable Recreation Development
 - Public Meeting – June 8th, 2013 - Presentation and feedback on the draft plan and governance options, and focus on Cultural History
6. Other Information
- Randy Murray shared information on Place Speak, a kind of Facebook for local governments that could be used as a communication tool for raising awareness of the Nicola Lake plan and the issues we are addressing.
 - The Group discussed governance and the future of the NLWG or other group/organization
 - i. **ACTION: Mike Ohata to confirm the interest of the Nicola Lake Stewardship Society to change their mandate to include the management of Nicola Lake as outlined in the draft Nicola Lake Plan.**

4:00 PM Meeting Adjourned