

# DRAFT - Nicola Lake Working Group - Meeting Notes

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**Topic:** Nicola Lake Water Quality – Bob Grace and Gabi Matscha

**Date:** January 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013

**Location:** Brambles Bakery & Café - Merritt, BC

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**Attendance:** Vern Latremouille, Lorna Latremouille, Frank Rizzardo, Kim DeRose, Neil Todd, Jo-Ann Fox, Randy Murray, Barb Jackson, Michael McDonald, Guy Rose, Stewart Murray, Allison Guichon, Matt Williams, Trevor Owen, Brian Heise (guest), Sharon Brewer (guest), Gabi Matscha (guest), Bob Grace (guest) Mike Simpson, Tracy Thomas

**Regrets:** Herb Graham, Kim Poupard, Arnie Narcisse, Peter Schmid, Upper Nicola Band, Nooaitch Band, Susan Roline, Ian Gordon, Mike Ohata, Jenny Ohata, Tracy Wimbush

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## 1. Welcome & Introductions

- Mike and Tracy welcomed Nicola Lake Working Group members, along with guest speakers, Gabi Matscha and Bob Grace

## 2. Gabi Matscha & Bob Grace, Ministry of Environment – Water & Watersheds

- Bob Grace presented on basic limnology and water quality data from Nicola Lake. Bob explained that the Lake is eutrophic and provided background information on that classification. There were several questions regarding algae and milfoil and how they relate to one another in the Lake. High levels of phosphorous (P) increase plant and algae growth in lake systems; Nicola Lake has high P levels. Available methods that may help to lower P include mechanical aeration, adding lime or iron chloride, and reducing the external phosphorous inputs (from streams). Each of these options has associated cost and side effects; there needs to be further studies done before any method to reduce P is put in place. It is possible to calculate the proportion of P that is coming from internal and external loading respectively; knowing the source of the P would help to identify how best to address the issue. For more details please see Bob and Gabi's presentation at [www.nicolaplan.ca](http://www.nicolaplan.ca).
- Gabi Matscha presented on a similar planning process that she was involved in. She cautioned the Group to make sure that they identify sources of pollution, nutrient inputs etc. using science and not placing blame without proof.

## 3. Approval of the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting notes & revisions to the plan

- The Group approved the notes from the December 3<sup>rd</sup> meeting and agreed that there would be no formal process going forward on the approval of the notes; after each meeting, the draft meeting notes will be sent out to Group members and posted directly to the Nicola Plan website. If any revisions are made to notes, they will be made and a final version of the notes will then be posted.

#### 4. Revise the Water section of the Nicola Lake Plan

- Based on information from today's presentation the Group revised the Water section of the draft Nicola Lake Plan. Several different short term objectives were added and the long term objective "operation of the dam" was removed since it was agreed that there is too much liability for any group other than the province to manage it.
- The Plan vision was also revised
- See the updated DRAFT Plan at [www.nicolaplan.ca](http://www.nicolaplan.ca)

#### 5. Fraser Basin Council Update

- Funding update
  - i. Currently using \$20,000 of Living Rivers Trust Fund dollars to support this process – estimate these funds will last until the end of March
  - ii. Still waiting on an application for funding from UBCM, should hear by the end of January
  - iii. If the UBCM funding is not approved, an alternate option is to have the City of Merritt, Area M and Area N collectively provide funds to support the Nicola planning process going forward.
  - iv. Fraser Basin Council has secured funds held in trust of approximately \$12,000 for use commencing April 2013
- Planning for the upcoming water chemistry and fisheries meeting, February 4<sup>th</sup>
- Planning for water quality/Eurasian watermilfoil workshop, February 15<sup>th</sup>
  - i. There are 40 seats available in Merritt, 100 seats available in the Fraser Valley (Chilliwack)
  - ii. Will send out a detailed agenda and related information as soon as possible.
  - iii. The working group provided some questions for the speakers for the next two meetings
- Working Group membership
  - i. Mike and Jenny Ohata are new Working Group members, representing Harmon Estates
  - ii. Mike Simpson has been communicating with George Saddleman from the Upper Nicola Band regarding taking part in this committee – George is making arrangements for Mike and Tracy to present to Chief and Council on the Nicola Lake planning process
- Current status of WUMP recommendations
  - i. Valerie Cameron updated the Nicola Watershed Community Round Table (NWCRT) and the Fraser Basin Council on the status of the recommendations that were made to the Province as part of WUMP
  - ii. Waiting on a response from the CoM and TNRD on their respective WUMP recommendations

#### 6. Upcoming Events:

- February 4<sup>th</sup> – Water Chemistry & Fisheries Meeting
- February 15<sup>th</sup> – Water Quality & Eurasian Watermilfoil Workshop

- Date TBA – Development Meeting
- After May long weekend - Public Meeting - possibly combine with the TNRD and City of Merritt mosquito control meeting; Saturday would likely maximize public participation.

4:00 PM Meeting Adjourned

### Summary of Action Items

- **Susan Roline** to provide an update on the status of WUMP recommendations made to the City of Merritt
- **Mike & Tracy** to present NLWG information to Upper Nicola Band at a Council meeting
- **Tracy** to plan a development meeting
- **Group** to send development meeting speaker ideas to Tracy
- **Group** to send questions regarding water chemistry, fisheries, Eurasian watermilfoil to Tracy
- **Tracy** to conduct literature review of WUMP studies, fisheries data etc. relating to the Nicola Plan, find data gaps
- **Group** to send any information on existing Nicola Lake data/reports etc. to Tracy
- **Jo-Ann Fox** to send out herbicide in water information to the Group
- **Tracy** to compile current status of WUMP recommendations from Provincial and Regional Governments and post on Nicola Plan website
- **Tracy** to set date and begin planning for cultural heritage meeting
- **Tracy** to set date and begin planning for public meeting