

# Nicola Lake Working Group - Meeting Agenda

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## Meeting Information

**Topic:** Fisheries – Dr. Brian Heise, Thompson Rivers University

**Date & Time:** March 11<sup>th</sup>, 2013 from 12 to 4 PM

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**Attendance:** Mike & Jenny Ohata, Vern & Lorna Latremouille, Michael McDonald, Guy Rose, Matt Williams, Allison Guichon, Neil Todd, Randy Murray, Jo-Ann Fox, Kim Poupard, Christine Saddleman, Stewart Murray, Brian Heise (guest speaker), Tracy Thomas, Mike Simpson,

## Agenda

### 1. Welcome & Introductions

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Brian Heise Presentation – Fisheries

Brian went over the fisheries present in Nicola Lake and the requirements for their optimal health; requirements such as food source may change throughout the life cycle of a fish. He conveyed that there is a balance to be considered when managing any part of a lake system with regards to fish; for example, you may want to remove milfoil however, fish need some cover to protect them from predators. He also included some information about the limnology of Nicola Lake, it is eutrophic, it has higher than optimal temperatures and it often suffers from not having enough water in the system. He felt that digging more wells to access ground water was not a great solution as those wells would be drawing from a groundwater system that is recharging the lake; groundwater recharge areas are very important for fish. In conclusion, he felt that Nicola Lake has valuable sport fisheries, that these fish are negatively affected by low water flows (therefore high temperature), to manage nutrient levels and not significantly increase them, and recommended an invasive species prevention program.

- Q - What would happen if “drawdowns” were used to help manage milfoil?
  - Drawdowns would negatively impact invertebrate production and sculpin habitat. The timing of the drawdown is important.

### 3. Feedback & Revisions - *Nicola Lake Plan*

- The group made changes to the Plan; those changes are recorded in the March 11<sup>th</sup> version.
- The group discussed which authority would have to approve work, this would be DFO and or MoE

- It was confirmed that there are no fisheries management goals or objectives in this plan, which is the responsibility of the different agencies and first nations. The goals within our plan are to ensure healthy foreshore, habitat, water quality and conditions that will maintain all fisheries.
  - **ACTION: Tracy to review jurisdiction regarding the removal of Eurasian watermilfoil**
  - Discussion around possible technology... including the “death ray” use of harmful wavelengths of light. Vertical Design is a company that Michael is aware of that may be able to develop this.
  - Discussion around prevention – There are worse species than EWM and they are on the way, ie. quagga mussels. There is interest in having an inspection station or possibly wash stations for boats/trailers; Monck Park is already set up for a wash station. Nicola Lake needs invasive species prevention, not just milfoil. We could consider “train the trainer” workshops. There is also a need to have an invasive species education program for the public in place. There is also the option of putting bylaws in place to help prevent the spread of invasive species.
  - Kim Poupard submitted a proposal to inventory the species/density of EWM at high uses areas as identified by the DFO FIM map and the NLWG.
  - **ACTION: Kim to send proposal to Tracy for distribution to the NLWG**
  - **ACTION: Tracy to look into having a new DFO representative as part of the Group or as a “CC”**
  - **ACTION: Mike Ohata to look into have the Nicola Lake Stewardship Society take this project on**
4. Fraser Basin Council Update
- Summarizing the milfoil workshop/posting material on line
  - Meeting preparation and background work
  - Presentation to Upper Nicola Band Chief and Council tonight (post-meeting, this was cancelled and postponed to April 8)
5. Funding
- On March 28<sup>th</sup>, the TNRD board will meet to approve gas tax funds of \$35 000 per electoral area for M, N, and I. Randy is looking to ratify between \$105,000 and \$140, 000 this year for this project
  - The City of Merritt may put in \$35,000 from their gas tax funds, this will go to their council
  - **ACTION: Mike & Tracy to develop a budget table to flush out at the next NLWG meeting, comparing costs of short term actions with available budget**

- Presentation to the Chamber of Commerce – letter of support from this group or from members of this group would be helpful – the NLWG needs long term stable funding
- **ACTION: NLWG members to consider funding for this Group “Homework”**
- **ACTION: Mike and Jenny Ohata to bring back details regarding the water quality testing that they have conducted on Nicola Lake**
- Mike explained the funds that have supported the NLWG to date including, TNRD gas tax, LRTF (5 months) \$5,000 upcoming. In April we will use Provincial Trust funds.

#### 6. Upcoming Events:

- Meeting – April 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 – Sustainable Recreation/Tourism Development
  - Sydney Johnson, Peak Planning Associates and instructor at TRU will present on recreation/tourism development.
- Public Meeting – June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 – Cultural History (story telling)
  - **ACTION: Tracy to contact NVIT Elders Society regarding story telling**
  - **ACTION: Tracy to invite the Honourable LG Judith Guichon to tell a story**
  - **ACTION: Mike and Tracy to draft an agenda**

3:50 PM Meeting Adjourned