

# Nicola Steering Committee

## Meeting Notes - July 13, 2015

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### Objectives

1. Reconvene the Nicola Lake Steering Committee
  2. Adjust the scope of the plan
  3. Provide an update on the Nicola Lake planning process
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### Meeting start – 10:15 am

Tracy Thomas welcomed everyone present; David Lawrence acknowledged the Nlaka'pamux Territory and explained its boundaries.

### Attendance

- Randy Murray – TNRD
- Stewart Murray – Douglas Lake Ranch
- Diana Norgaard – City of Merritt
- David Lawrence – Nooaitch Indian Band
- Lorna Latremouille – Beaver Point Estates
- Jo-Ann Fox – Southern Interior Weed Management Committee
- Michelle Wiebe – BC Parks
- Mike Ohata – Highland Valley Copper/Harmon Estates
- Pearl Hewitt – Cook's Ferry Indian Band
- Tracy Thomas – Fraser Basin Council (facilitator)

### Steering Committee Membership

The Nicola Steering Committee membership with updated with new members. Committee members are encouraged to have alternates in place as there are few meetings per year.

1. **Action** – Committee members need to find an alternate person for their committee seat and send the name and contact information to Tracy Thomas (TT)
2. **Action** – TT will update the membership based on the information received at the meeting and via email

### Steering Committee Terms of Reference

The Committee reviewed the terms of reference and made several revisions based on current membership and change in planning scope to include the watershed.

3. **Action** – TT will update the terms of reference based on feedback from Committee members and will send out when revisions have been drafted

### Nicola Planning Process – changing scope

The Committee worked through the Nicola Lake Action Plan and made revisions based on changing scope to include the watershed rather than a sole focus on Nicola Lake. The Nicola Lake Action Plan is now the **Nicola Watershed Plan**. Revisions to the Plan are captured in the Nicola Watershed Plan and will be posted to the Nicola webpage. With the change in scope, Committee members agreed that there needed to be additional members to the Committee to represent local licensees (Tolko/Aspen Planers), MFLNRO forestry, MFLNRO water, and the local fish and game club.

It was raised that relevant research conducted as part of the WUMP planning process should be utilized. David Lawrence raised that

4. **Action** – TT to look into the interpretation of MoE water quality samples at Nicola Lake
5. **Action** - TT to revise plan based on Committee input and post the plan to [www.nicolaplan.ca](http://www.nicolaplan.ca)
6. **Action** – Mike Ohata to investigate Ministry of Environment funding for water quality testing
7. **Action** - TT to make changes to the Nicola website to reflect the change in scope from lake to watershed
8. **Action** – TT to contact representatives from the organizations/agencies listed above and add representatives to the Nicola Steering Committee
9. **Action** – TNRD (Randy), City of Merritt (Diana), and BC Parks (Michelle) to add the Nicola webpage to their websites
10. **Action** – TT to contact Cold Country Tourism to ask for permission to add Nicola webpage to website

### **Updates**

Tracy T. and David Lawrence provided updates on the current drought conditions and angling conditions in place. (Drought level has risen to level 4 since the meeting).

### **Eurasian watermilfoil (EWM) management planning**

Tracy T. reviewed the draft Nicola EWM Management Plan with the Committee. Based on the macrophyte inventory and the fisheries utilization assessment, the removal method being recommended is diver hand pulling and cutting. The Committee was supportive of having ongoing education and prevention regarding aquatic invasive species along with diver removal.

11. **Action** – TT to add invasive species monitoring to Nicola EWM Plan
12. **Action** – TT will complete the DRAFT EWM Plan and present it to Committee members
13. **Action** – Diana and Randy to lobby UBCM for mandatory boat washing at BC Parks in September
14. **Action** – TT to put up EWM prevention/education signs at north and south ends of Nicola Lake on Highway 5A as part of the EWM Plan

### **Nicola Water Management Tool (NWMT) and related projects**

Phase 1 of the NWMT is now complete. Tracy T. is working to raise funds for Phase 2 of the project and to support parallel projects including gauging station upgrades and groundwater research. Following is a list of project updates:

- **Phase 1** complete
- **Gauging station upgrades** - the water survey of Canada has installed temperature, flow instrumentation at the Guichon Creek and Spius Creek stations. The data is now live and available at the Water Survey of Canada real time website: [https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/mainmenu/real\\_time\\_data\\_index\\_e.html](https://wateroffice.ec.gc.ca/mainmenu/real_time_data_index_e.html) A temperature gauge will also be added to the station at the Nicola dam.
- **Groundwater research project** - received \$25,000 of matching funds for a multiyear groundwater research project. The results of the project will support the NWMT and will provide valuable information to water managers in the region

## Funding

### Nicola Water Management Tool: Funding Summary

Project	Funding Source	Amount
Phase 1 - Nicola Water Management Tool (project complete)	Environment Canada	\$40,000
	TNRD	\$20,000
	MFLNRO	\$10,000
	DFO	\$12,000
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$82,000</b>
Phase 2 - Nicola Water Management Tool	TNRD	\$50,000
	Nooaitch	\$40,000
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$90,000</b>
Supporting Projects	Teck - HVC (gauging station upgrades)	\$10,000
	Groundwater Science Program	\$25,000
	City of Merritt	\$25,000
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$60,000</b>
Pending funding applications (Phase 2 - NWMT)	Nicola Tribal Association	\$15,000
	Teck - HVC	\$10,000
<b>Total:</b>		<b>\$25,000</b>
Phase 2 - Cost		\$175,000
Phase 2 - Funding To Date		\$90,000
Phase 2 - Funding Required		<b>\$85,000</b>

- Required for NWMT Phase 2 - **\$75,000 – \$85,000**
- Required for year 2 of the groundwater research project - **\$25,000**

## Next steps

- The next meeting will be on September 15<sup>th</sup>, 10 AM to 3 PM
- Action – TT to draft media release and brochure on the Nicola planning process and projects that are underway

**2:30 PM – Meeting Adjourned**

DRAFT