

Thompson Flood Advisory Committee
9:00AM to 12:00PM, June 15, 2021
Online meeting

Approved meeting summary as of January 24, 2022

Meeting Objectives Regarding Flood Mapping and Risk Assessment

- Focus on Thompson River Watershed, but also other areas (CSRD, CRD)
- Update on what's been done
- Update on what's underway
- Provide input on what's next

Participants

- Sylvia Chow, Emergency Management BC (EMBC)
- Wendy Coomber, Village of Cache Creek
- Ian Franks, City of Kamloops
- Tom Hansen, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
- Kris Holm, BGC Engineering Inc.
- Bill Kershaw, Thompson-Nicola Regional District
- Mike Knauff, EMBC
- Alex Krause, Thompson-Nicola Regional District
- Stuart Larson, Cariboo Regional District
- David Major, Columbia Shuswap Regional District
- Stephanie Masun, Cariboo Regional District
- Deven Matkowski, City of Kamloops
- Don McArthur, City of Merritt (from 10:00)
- Tracy Meldrum, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
- Al Richmond, Cariboo Regional District
- Elisa Scordo, BGC Engineering Inc.
- Sarah Simon, Ministry of Forests, Lands, Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development
- Mike Simpson, Fraser Basin Council (FBC) (facilitator, recorder)
- Kevin Skrepnek, Thompson-Nicola Regional District
- Gerald Smith, EMBC (to 10:00)
- Ron Storie, Thompson-Nicola Regional District
- John ter Borg, T'kemplups te Secwepemc
- Greg Wightman, City of Kamloops

1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda and Objectives

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone, Secwepemc territory was acknowledged, and introductions were made. The agenda was accepted. Regrets were noted from Graeme Schimpf and Tom Kneale of Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, and it was noted that Charlie Henderson and Don McArthur of City of Merritt and Jan Thingsted of Columbia Shuswap Regional District would be late.

Mike reminded all participants that all past reports and data are at www.thompsonflood.ca and that the intent of this initiative is to make everything available to all orders of government.

2. Meeting Summary from December 3, 2020

The meeting summary from December 3, 2020 was approved. It is posted online [here](#).

3. What's Been Done, What's Underway

a) Recent Work Completed

Kris Holm and Elisa Scordo presented on all work that initiated in the Thompson River Watershed, back to the [Risk Prioritization Study](#) finished in March 2019, and the [lidar and orthoimagery](#) captured in fall 2019. Their presentation can be accessed [here](#).

The most recent work just completed this spring is as follows (click [here](#) to access reports):

- Detailed flood mapping, Nicola and Coldwater Rivers within the City of Merritt.
- Base level mapping update with lidar data, Thompson-Nicola Regional District.
- Base level mapping update and new areas with lidar data, Cariboo Regional District.

Spatial and other data can be requested by emailing msimpson@fraserbasin.ca. Spatial data can be seen by logging onto the [Cambio Communities](#) interactive web map which requires a login/password (click to request a login on the web mapping page).

b) FBC Coordinated Funding Applications

The only FBC-coordinated [UBCM CEPF](#) (Union of BC Municipalities, Community Emergency Preparedness Fund) funding applications that was submitted by February 26, 2021 was for detailed flood mapping in Bridge Creek, submitted by District of 100 Mile House and Cariboo Regional District. There is no decision on those funding applications to date.

Shortly after the December 3, 2020 meeting of the Thompson Flood Advisory Committee, there was a funding intake for the [National Disaster Mitigation Program](#) that the Fraser Basin Council applied for on January 7, 2021 and was successful in receiving. The funding is for \$2.5M and covers detailed flood mapping or new base level mapping at 13 sites, and assessment of two steep creek hazard areas, all within the Thompson River Watershed. The work must be completed by March 2022. Until EMBC and Public Safety Canada announce this and other projects publicly through a media release, FBC is instructed to communicate that *“we are working with the Province and federal government to formalize funding details for this project but proceeding with this important project this spring. A public announcement will be made when complete funding agreements for these projects have been finalized.”*

4. What's Currently Underway

The current work underway is the detailed flood mapping or new base level mapping at 13 sites, and assessment of two steep creek hazard areas, all within the Thompson River Watershed. The work must be completed by March 2022. BGC Engineering Inc. is under contract to FBC to complete the work, and Ecoscape Environmental Consultants Ltd. are subcontracted to BGC to do the bathymetric surveys. Ecoscape plans to access water bodies from public sites, but there may be inquiries from local landowners questioning what they are doing.

See Kris and Elisa's presentation [here](#). An excerpt of the work plan, showing locations and a table of what is being completed can be seen [here](#), and the schedule of the bathymetric survey field work [here](#).

5. Comments and Discussion

The following were the points raised throughout the meeting:

- Some noted they are having challenges accessing Cambio Communities; email kholm@bgcengineering.ca for support
- Not all local and First Nations governments in the Thompson River Watershed seem aware of the work completed; they are submitting applications to UBCM CEPP for things that repeat what has already been done. Mike regularly emails chief administrative officers, administrators and senior staff of 4 regional districts, 16 municipalities and 31 First Nations governments and tribal councils with what is underway, what's completed and how to access deliverables. It was suggested to phone too.
- Ron Storie asked why this work is being done, and who asked for Fraser Basin Council to apply for NDMP funding to do further work. Mike responded that the main intent is to access resources to enable the best information available for flood mapping and risk assessment and make it available to all orders of government. Kris added that the application has built on previous studies and accessing NDMP funding at the scale of \$2.5M is far more efficient to advance the work than coordinating multiple applications to UBCM with a funding ceiling of \$150 000 each, of which some get approved and others don't. Kris noted that the more detailed assessments occurring in the current phase of work are needed to meet professional practice standards and guidelines for the use of map deliverables in regulation, zoning, and mitigation planning.
- It was suggested that in an ideal world, the province would be taking responsibility for this flood mapping and hazard assessment work and making it publicly accessible. Sarah noted that there is a BC Flood Strategy being developed within BC government, and there are targeted sessions coming up June 23 and July 8 to seek input. Local governments and First Nations should have received invitations to participate. Contact sarah.simon@gov.bc.ca if your government has not received in invitation to participate. Kris noted that the Thompson Flood Initiative advances current provincial flood strategy within the existing structure of government funding; the results are made available via Cambio and the data packages provided with each project.
- It was noted that reporting flow discharge values (cubic meters per second) would be useful along with return periods for flood hazard map deliverables. Kris noted that discharge values are given in report documents; flood hazard map layers display velocity, depth, and intensity (flood depth multiplied by the square of flow velocity).
- It was noted that the data and information from this work can inform not just emergency response and future planning but could be used for many other applications within local and First Nations governments (e.g., Village of Ashcroft used lidar data for trails planning). Kris noted that the survey work and hydraulic models developed by the current work can be used for other applications such as hydrotechnical assessments and subsequent stages of flood mitigation.
- Ian Franks noted that the City of Kamloops flood mapping for the 200 year flood is more conservative than what is currently in BGC's work. Kris noted that BGC's April 30, 2020, report notes the discrepancy, which BGC believes is related to Kamloops Lake water levels assumed by the historical floodplain maps being higher than can be supported by current information. This discrepancy will be further examined in the current work.
- Share the schedule of bathymetric fieldwork with participants, post on www.thompsonflood.ca and raise awareness

- Numerous participants offered existing data that may be useful or parallel work: Deven noted there is 20 year old survey data from the City of Kamloops pipelines; Tracy noted that Fortis is doing bathymetric surveys at Pritchard this year; Tracy offered hydrological data
- It was suggested to do a media release about the project and schedule of bathymetric surveys (Mike noted we can't do that yet, as noted above)

It was suggested that FBC/BGC could host a webinar for local governments and First Nations, to raise awareness of what has been completed to date and what's underway. This could be recorded and posted online. There was no clear direction from participants whether this would be welcome.

6. Next Steps

The following were agreed to as next steps:

- Next Advisory Committee meeting – once draft products are produced, anticipated to be December 2021 or January 2022
- Mike to seek coordination opportunities amongst
- Action items listed in table below

List of Action Items

Task	Responsibility	Timing
Participate in BC Flood Strategy sessions (email sarah.simon@gov.bc.ca for more details)	Local, First Nations governments	June 23 or July 8
Raise awareness of this project and its deliverables with your colleagues in your government, and in other governments	Everyone	Ongoing
Determine whether building footprints from LiDAR data acquisition should be shared with BC Assessment Authority	Mike S	Initiated January 2021
Convene a meeting with GeoBC and EMBC staff to discuss roles and synergies for geohazards information management and data sharing , leveraging the development of existing software tools (e.g. Cambio & COP). The goal would be to define roles for data management, platform development, and specialist support, resourced on a long-term basis	Gerald	Ongoing (from Sept 16, 2019 meeting)
Convene a meeting with FLNRORD, EMBC and MOTI staff to discuss roles and synergies for the work being accomplished during the current NDMP Stream 2 project, and other FBC led work on BC Flood Strategy	Mike S	Initiated June 2021.
Follow up with participants regarding offers of data provision noted above.	Elisa	Initiated June 2021
To possibly* consider a “big meeting” similar to February 2018 that launched this project, to invite all orders of government to raise awareness of what has been created to date, and to seek input on a critical question that warrants gathering 60-80 people	Advisory Committee	When there's sufficient interest and public health orders allow it