



## Steering Committee Strategic Planning Meeting

September 11, 2013  
CSRD office, Salmon Arm

Meeting Summary as at Sept 26, 2013

### Meeting Objectives

1. Review recent SLIPP progress
2. Review recent water quality results
3. Develop a shared vision for sustaining adequate water quality of Shuswap Lake
4. Develop an iterative and inclusive process for the development of an effective water quality program to succeed the Shuswap Lake Integrated Planning Process in 2014 and beyond
5. Develop a stakeholder engagement strategy involving First Nations, local, provincial and federal governments, private sector and the public to receive input on the shared vision and a possible new Shuswap Lake Water Quality Program

### Meeting Outcomes

- Meeting summary of June 10, 2013 was approved
- Up to \$13 000 was reallocated towards derelict, abandoned dock removal in the work plan
- Steering Committee members are familiar with the water quality monitoring program, the type of monitoring done, the costs and leveraging of the program, and the 2011-12 results
- Agreement was reached for a Shuswap Watershed Water Quality Program to commence in 2015, and objectives identified, with some objectives around education and promotion of human safety
- Agreement was reached that 2014 would be a developmental or transition year to engage orders of government, first nations, and stakeholders including the business community and seek broad public and sectoral input on the Shuswap Watershed Water Quality Program, with some continued water quality monitoring

Please refer to *SLIPP Steering Comm Mtg Presentation 11sept13.pdf* for the presentation material from the meeting referred to in this meeting summary.

### 1. Welcome, Introductions, Objectives and Agenda

SLIPP Steering Committee Chair Paul Demenok welcomed everyone at 9:00AM, and introductions were made around the room, including guests invited to observe the meeting, local government staff, and other observers present in the public gallery.

The Chair outlined his expectations for the session, that this meeting is to focus on *what* we want going forward; the *how* and the *funding* will be covered at subsequent meetings. The Chair emphasized that partnerships need to be confirmed with government agencies and others, and that he will be meeting with ministers at UBCM next week to confirm the new direction. The Chair requested that people be respectful, thoughtful, brief and that we should have fun. David Marshall, Executive Director of Fraser Basin Council was introduced as the facilitator for the strategic planning portion of the agenda. The agenda was accepted as presented.

When approval of the previous meeting summary was brought up, a discussion ensued regarding the use of consensus-based decision making or voting. Mike Simpson noted that the current terms of

reference stipulate consensus-based decision making, with votes only if consensus can't be reached. A majority of those present agreed with the suggestion to utilize motions, seconders, and votes when presented with decisions to be made.

The meeting summary from June 10, 2013 (v2 as at June 25, 2013) was approved (**moved by Ray Nadeau, seconded by Jackie Pearase, carried**). All action items were either completed or included in today's agenda, with the exception of the following that remain relevant with *updates provided in italics*:

**ACTION #5 (Feb 1, 2013):** FBC will share budget tracking with SC including in kind donation from partnering agencies. *Ongoing*

**ACTION #7 (Feb 1, 2013):** FBC to quantify all other funds that are provided to SLIPP from other agencies. *Ongoing*

**ACTION #1 (March 1, 2013):** Distribute existing scientific information/reports on specific fish species habitat requirements and what is known specifically about Shuswap and Mara Lakes. *Draft reports on sockeye and chinook are being peer-reviewed.*

**ACTION #4 (March 1, 2013):** Peter Lishman and Mayor Trouton to coordinate a meeting with MFLNRO, DFO, and District of Sicamous to identify status of the issues in Sicamous Narrows, including silting/dredging and the inventory of docks and structures in the Narrows. *Until DFO can provide someone to participate in a meeting, this issue has not proceeded.*

## 2. SLIPP Progress Report

SLIPP Program Manager Mike Simpson gave an overview of activities since the last meeting, and presented financial information, including program management costs. An amendment to the budget and work plan was presented, moving up to \$13 000 towards the removal of abandoned, derelict docks (**moved by Paul Demenok, seconded by Darrell Trouton, carried**). Please refer to *SLIPP Steering Comm Mtg Presentation 11sept13.pdf* for the presentation material.

## 3. Presentation and Discussion of Recent Water Quality Results

Gabi Matscha, Section Head, Environmental Quality Section, Ministry of Environment from Kamloops gave a comprehensive presentation on the three year water quality monitoring program delivered through SLIPP. This included the goals of the program, the type of monitoring conducted, financial value and partnerships, and the results from 2011-12. Please refer to *SLIPP WQ Overview\_for SC meeting Sept 11\_2013.pdf* for the presentation material.

## Questions and Answers

- Q - there are lots of people on the water, it would be easy for people that are out on the water to provide water samples for the ministry, can this be done? A - there are many people already involved in shallow water sampling. Existing volunteer groups would likely be interested.
- Q - Blind Bay has plenty of geese, are there tests to see how dangerous the fecal matter that has been detected is? A - yes, but the tests are very expensive and there are time restraints. Each bird is different, it is hard to predict. This is a good guide to tell people when not to swim at beaches.
- Q - What is the optimal duration and intensity of the water quality monitoring? A - after 4 years of intensive sampling you don't need to keep that up. You need to sample key sites on a long term basis and then increased sampling every 4 years. Ministry working on mining types

of things - need to move away from this but will still provide in-kind donation. Will continue to be part of SLIPP or successor. Will continue to look at the tributaries this year, and then less after that.

- Q - would like to see 4 years of intensive monitoring, how to we get 4 years of intensive monitoring? A - MOE will not be able to do this with our current budget and resources. You can have 4 years off but keep a pulse on the key sites. The questioner suggested raising this with MOE at UBCM next week.
- Comment - the province needs to move to mining activity, we are still in the process. Will still deliver more than an off year. The data that we will have is pretty good, the ministry ramped up monitoring prior to the start of SLIPP. We have a lot of data. We can now start a four year cycle.
- Q - was any tributary monitoring of Eagle River done? A - yes, concentrations are not low, but not comparable to Salmon and Shuswap Rivers so better to focus management effort there.

#### 4. Lessons Learned from SLIPP

David asked Steering Committee members to list two things they liked about SLIPP, and two lessons learned or things we want to avoid in a new program going forward (the remainder of section 4 was captured on-screen at the meeting, no objections were noted):

The following were the **successes** or **what worked well**:

- Water quality sampling program
- Derelict dock removal process
- Brought together multiple orders of government agencies (14 different agencies) including first nations, groups and interests together
- High quality of the science to enable better decision making
- The education of the public and the political leaders in the community
- Strength around having industry, business, environmental groups, governments all on the same page, being at the same table
- Improving the mandate of SLIPP
- It is nice to see that there has been work done in the Shuswap
- There has been coordinated enforcement on the lakes
- Helped to focus scarce resources

The following are some **lessons learned** or **things to avoid** in a new program:

- Communication with the public, limited communication
- To many objectives in the action plan, cannot achieve all of them
- The scope was too broad, needs to be concise
- Need more training for compliance and enforcement officers around interaction with the public (*note that this is a provincial government complaint, not relevant to SLIPP*)
- The branding, SLIPP name was being used by provincial enforcement staff, associated with all kinds of issues - need to protect the branding in the future
- Funding and transparency of the program, the mandate needs to be clear
- The dock permitting requirements and process - people do not know what is involved in building a dock etc. - this is a communication problem of another sort
- Disengagement of the Steering Committee through too few meetings in 2011, 2012
- There is misinformation at the agency level - misinformation from FrontCounter BC
- Not all community groups or business sectors were engaged in this process, some groups felt excluded - everyone needs to be included including all three regional districts, municipalities
- This has been a 7 year process - it is logical to adjust the mandate, there has been many changes across the board for all parties involved

- Need equity in funding going forward

## 5. Shuswap Lake Visioning

It was agreed by all steering committee members present that following the three year SLIPP pilot project, any future efforts should be focused with a primary focus on water quality. Responses included the following (the remainder of section 5 was captured on-screen at the meeting, no objections were noted):

- Water quality is the number one issue, there are two rivers that are affecting the water quality in the Shuswap
- Water quality is linked to the other issues on the lake, we can focus on it but it is connected to the environment
- Need to continue with data collection so that you can make solid decisions regarding the nutrient sources; we can move beyond making assumptions and have a valid conversation about what will make positive changes
- If you are looking at water quality you have to look at recreation, shoreline development, agriculture etc. it is all connected
- Need to monitor over time to see where the improvements are happening - we need to look at remediation as well, we need to address the sources as well as monitor
- Focus the scope of this group, define the mandate and don't allow scope creep
- Need to have a representative from the Ministry of Agriculture, we need meaningful input for this process
- Water quality is a subject that has a naturally broad scope; look at what we can do now
- We need to know when/how to hand off an issue to the appropriate agency - a recommendation from a group is more powerful than an individual.

When asked what you envision as success in 5 years, responses included the following (captured on-screen at the meeting, no objections were noted):

- No algae blooms and no nutrient spikes
- Would like to see other orders of government (other agencies) at the table ie. Mining - this is being downloaded to local governments
- Effectively working with all orders of government, land owners, business operators, etc. Effectively communicating with all groups - Strengthened collaboration and cooperation
- Fair financial partnership between partners
- No boil water advisories, no beach closures
- An engaged group of educated residents (on water quality issues)
- Work done to minimize the impacts of agriculture on water quality
- The province should have an increased financial contribution
- Not have algae blooms caused by anthropogenic inputs/uses etc.
- This is a local issue, this is the water that we drink, funding from local and provincial governments
- Recognize the contributions of groups and organizations/agencies that are happening
- Have everyone working together
- New sewage treatment facilities in the north and south Shuswap
- Know that this was a collaborative process across the entire watershed
- There are people/groups that can do the work and contribute
- For this to be known as the best source of science for the entire watershed

See *Shuswap Watershed Water Quality Program TOR.doc* for how the comments on future vision, as well as what is envisioned as success five years from now, have been incorporated.

## 6. Shuswap Watershed Water Quality Program

The content of a Shuswap Watershed Water Quality Program, including objectives, the balance between guiding/reporting/recommendations and actions/on the ground work, and content around human safety was discussed. Responses included the following (the remainder of section 6 was captured on-screen at the meeting, no objections were noted):

### What - *The Shuswap Watershed Water Quality Program*

- Needs to be watershed wide if there is going to be buy-in from North Okanagan

### What should the key objectives of the program/project be? - Discussion

- Educate and communicate to the public regarding water quality
- This project needs to be directly connected to a local government, with partnership and funding from the other two; there needs to be assigned responsibility.
- Coordinate all the activities in the watershed related to water quality (*some commented that this was too broad*)
- Currently we coordinate water quality monitoring, data collection and analysis
- We want to maintain & enhance the quality of the water in the Shuswap watershed so that we can:
  - Support sustainable development
  - Keep the lake swimmable
  - To have clean potable water
  - Support tourism/business
  - Health and safety of residents
- An objective needs to be measureable - there are water quality guidelines. We can set objectives, they have to be based on science; objectives then have to go through a stakeholder process and be reviewed by the government. In the interim, we can use existing water quality guidelines.
- We need to set the water quality objectives
- If we are going to move into activities on the ground we need to be clear about that.
- We need to have something in place to deal with recommendations, we need to be able to implement actions
  - Disagree - implementation is how we ran into problems during the pilot
- Implementation could be carried out by the partnering regional districts. This group could make the recommendations and report out as to what had been accomplished
- This is a local government responsibility - there are things that we need to do and not simply hand everything off to the provincial/federal agencies
- It would be dangerous to rely on the agencies to do all of the work
- There are other organizations that can contribute to water quality work and there are many programs that are effective that are not immensely expensive
- Education and advocacy is a good role for a group like this

### Should we guide and report or conduct work on the ground? - Discussion:

- People are tired of discussions and data collection, they want to see action on the ground
- There are action items for local governments to do
- Can we continue with what SLIPP already does and identify short term quick wins in the future?
- Can we connect with action oriented groups and support their work
- Could we advocate for groups that are doing work that is consistent with the mandate/mission statement
- We need to be flexible enough that we can look at getting work done on the ground as well
- No further diversion from the Shuswap

- Could the CSRD create a committee to look after this work? Most of the watershed lies within the CSRD boundary and anything that this group comes up with would have to be approved by the CSRD board.
- If we go that route we lose possible funding opportunities that can be obtained by a third party and it is important to have the public involved at the table. The public can take part in a local government committee.
- Can look at different management models as a part of the “how” separately

**Do you see safety as being a part of this program mandate? - Discussion:**

- We are all concerned about safety, this group should not be involved with it
- There has been less RCMP/enforcement presence on the Shuswap. The joint enforcement that was coordinated by SLIPP was an improvement; the increased presence has resulted in better behaviour on the Lake.
- North Okanagan RD guided the RCMP/enforcement locations to smaller lakes in the Region; 100% non-compliance was found on smaller lakes previously not regularly enforced.
- We have not identified what “safety” means; safety could be an education role, not enforcement. We should coordinate and collaborate with enforcement officials but not be a part of enforcement.
- Safety of people on or in the water - an education component can be a part of the mandated of the program/project

See *Shuswap Watershed Water Quality Program TOR.doc* for an outline of the proposed program.

**7. Stakeholder Engagement Strategy**

The extent and nature of the process to enable local stakeholders to comment and add input to the vision and content of a possible Shuswap Watershed Water Quality Program was discussed. Responses included the following (the remainder of section 7 was captured on-screen at the meeting, no objections were noted):

**Stakeholder engagement strategy - Discussion:**

- Rene’s area will continue to support this process
- Can raise this at community meetings
- RDNO, TNRD, CSRD, RCMP, agencies (federal/provincial) - we need to learn who the partners are and how they want to be involved
  - Watershed groups , farmers, other stakeholders- we need to find ways to communicate and collaborate with groups/individuals
- Identify the values that you want represented at this table then we can know who should be at the table
- The messaging to the public needs to be consistent - clearly articulated water quality program proposal before we bring it or present it to any group or the public
- Key for engaging First Nations, we need to present at Chief and Council meetings and present on the mandate etc.
- TOR, Vision, Mission statement, mandated needs to be prepared
  - This will need to be signed off on a draft stage and then presented to the public at meetings
- The City of Salmon Arm has a highly engaged environmental committee - they need to be informed
- Bring this watershed group/mandate to other groups and present to them directly
- ACTION: form a list of key groups to communicate with
- Budget

- We have a contingency of approximately \$40,000 that we could move forward on stakeholder engagement with
- We need to figure out how to communicate with seasonal residents

See *Developmental Period Plan.doc* for the draft stakeholder engagement strategy, as well as a proposal to continue water quality monitoring, and a budget to support these activities.

## 8. Next Steps

The following were agreed to by consensus (i.e., no objection noted) as next steps resulting from today's meeting:

- Mike and Tracy to draft a terms of reference for the Shuswap Watershed Water Quality Program, and circulate to SLIPP Steering Committee for feedback
- Mike and Tracy to draft a stakeholder engagement strategy/developmental period plan, and circulate to SLIPP Steering Committee for feedback
- Create separation from the SLIPP pilot project by letting SLIPP run its course and end in March 2014, and don't specifically name a new organization to follow it - this needs stakeholder engagement in 2014
- Explore funding options for developmental year 2014, and options for 2015
- Spring 2014, create a summary document of the SLIPP pilot project including financial expenditures, and present to the public

## 9. Evaluation of the Meeting

The following were the comments about the meeting:

- Good discussion, positive meeting, happy to see something move forward and working together for something we can all support beyond the three year pilot project
- Make sure the economic component and importance of water quality is not forgotten
- Good facilitation by David, and good ongoing work by the various ministries and Mike and Tracy at Fraser Basin Council
- It's been a difficult process, but it's been necessary to voice concerns and issues
- MFLNRO is happy to support these grassroots initiatives going forward

**Next SLIPP Steering Committee Meeting** - no date set, (post-meeting, it was tentatively scheduled for late October - to be confirmed through email to all SC members). Location TBD.

1:00 PM Adjourned

## Attendance

Steering Committee members	
Paul Demenok (Chair)	Columbia Shuswap Regional District Director - Area "C"
Nancy Cooper (Vice Chair)	Mayor of Salmon Arm
Ron Anderson	Mayor of Chase, Thompson Nicola Regional District Director
Peter Milobar	Mayor of Kamloops, Thompson Nicola Regional District Director
Rhona Martin	Columbia Shuswap Regional District Director - Area "E"
Bob Missegheers	Columbia Shuswap Regional District Alternate Director - Area "F"
Ray Nadeau	Public Advisory Committee representative
Jackie Pearase	North Okanagan Regional District Director - Area "F"
Rene Talbot	Columbia Shuswap Regional District Director - Area "D"
Darrell Trouton	Mayor of Sicamous

<b>Other attendees (for at least a portion of the meeting)</b>	
Greg Kylo	MLA, Shuswap
Charles Hamilton	Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Chief Administrative Officer
Andrew Petersen	Ministry of Agriculture
Marcin Paschinski	Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Parks and Recreation Leader
Gerald Christie	Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Development Services Manager
Hamish Kassa	Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Environmental Services Coordinator
Peter Jarman	Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Finance Manager
Gabi Matscha	Ministry of Environment, Environmental Quality Section Head
J. Ivor Norlin	Interior Health Authority
Jamie Felhauer	Salmon River Watershed Roundtable, Chair
Liz Winter	Gardom Lake resident
Gord Robertson	Shuswap Waterfront Owners Association
David Marshall	Fraser Basin Council (FBC)
Mike Simpson	Fraser Basin Council (FBC)
Tracy Thomas	Fraser Basin Council (FBC)