



Steering Committee

Meeting Summary
February 1st, 2013
Salmon Arm City Hall

Meeting Objectives

1. Elect a Steering Committee Chair and Vice-Chair
2. Provide an update on SLIPP progress
3. Discuss 2013 SLIPP priorities and seek feedback

Meeting Outcomes

- Larry Morgan was elected Chair, and Nancy Cooper was elected Vice Chair of SLIPP Steering Committee
- Interest was expressed in more frequent meetings of the Steering Committee, and more involvement in setting the direction of SLIPP
- Support was expressed for water quality monitoring program, but concern expressed in delay of reporting and an interest in raising awareness of need for sewer infrastructure
- Support was expressed for foreshore restoration/sustainable development activities, but concern was expressed with communication methods and transparency of restoration site selection
- It was agreed that effective communication that SLIPP is a coordinating process/organization, separate from provincial and federal responsibilities for compliance and enforcement, is a priority
- Support was expressed for the recreation management strategy
- Support was expressed for addressing abandoned boats, continuing with the removal of abandoned, derelict docks, and the development of an objective, transparent process for foreshore restoration activities

Please refer to *SLIPP Steering Comm Mtg Presentation 1feb13.pdf* for the presentation material from the meeting referred to in this meeting summary.

1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda and Previous Meeting Summary

Mike Simpson welcomed everyone and recognized the Secwepemc territory. Introductions were made around the room. The agenda was accepted as presented.

The meeting summary from January 31, 2012 was reviewed on screen, and was approved (moved by Rhona Martin, seconded by Jackie Perease).

ACTION #1: Tracy to send out the Steering Committee notes from the last meeting and the Sicamous narrows management plan from the 1980s to the Steering Committee members

1. SLIPP Steering Committee

All local government representatives present confirmed that they are appointed to the SLIPP Steering Committee for 2013.

Larry Morgan was nominated as Chair of the SLIPP Steering Committee, and agreed to by consensus by those present. Nancy Cooper was nominated as Vice Chair of the SLIPP Steering Committee, and agreed to by consensus by those present.

ACTION #2: FBC to follow up with public advisory committees and confirm appointment to the Steering Committee for 2013

ACTION #3: FBC to follow up with first nation representatives and confirm appointment to the Steering Committee for 2013

ACTION#4: FBC to follow up with technical team representatives and confirm appointment to the Steering Committee for 2013

2. History of SLIPP - Mike Simpson

A brief history of SLIPP was presented, including the development and implementation of a Strategic Plan was completed in 2008 with the following vision and goals:

Vision: Working together to sustain the health and prosperity of Shuswap and Mara Lakes

Goals:

- Development that respects the environment as well as economic and social interests
- Water quality that supports public and environmental health
- Desirable recreation experiences that are safe and sustainable

Those present added the following comments to the history of why SLIPP was created: moratorium on sewage going into the lake and water quality/drinking water; restoration of the shoreline; high levels of foreshore development including application for 1200 boat slips around the lake in one year; very little coordination and communication between agencies and local governments; a houseboat tour helped bring the problems to the forefront; seeing them brought everyone to together to work on the issues on the Shuswap.

3. SLIPP 2012 Progress & Q3 Report Review

Please refer to *SLIPP Steering Comm Mtg Presentation 1feb13.pdf* for presentation material from the meeting on progress from 2012 on the topic areas that SLIPP addresses. Copies of the SLIPP 3rd Quarter Report to December 31, 2012 were distributed.

Administration and Budget - discussion raised the following comments:

- Large funding contributions from other sources - eg. Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation (HCTF) awarded \$195,000 for 3 year Shoreline Restoration Project (2010/11 to 2012/13 fiscal years)
- In-kind contributions from federal and provincial governments on technical matters
- Budgets and expenditures are tracked in quarterly reports - any unused amounts are carried forward
- Ministry of Environment (MOE) provides funds to SLIPP by way of staff time, lab costs, coordination; do not know the in kind donation from other agencies but can account for hard cost from MOE
- Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO) contribute staff time, mapping, technical support

- Old Town Bay court award funds were awarded to FBC in spring 2010, \$70, 000 are fully dedicated to SLIPP, have been used for some restoration activities and to support website development
- For 2013/14 the FBC has sourced \$25,000 of Living Rivers Trust Fund (LRTF)

ACTION #5: FBC will share budget tracking with SC including in kind donation from partnering agencies

ACTION #6: FBC will confirm details of HCTF funding agreement

ACTION #7: FBC to quantify all other funds that are provided to SLIPP from other agencies

Discussion on Communication and Outreach activities raised the following comments:

- The website and communication is paid for by the court award funds
- FBC partnered with Invasive Species Council of BC in 2012 to deliver SLIPP materials to boaters on Shuswap, Mara, Adams and White Lakes

ACTION #8: FBC to request that quarterly reports be added to board/council agendas when distributing them by email.

ACTION #9: FBC to follow up with Conservation Office, RCMP and Shuswap Tourism to see if SLIPP can send materials to Calgary boat show in March

Compliance and Enforcement/Foreshore Restoration - discussion raised the following comments:

- There is concern that the general public thinks that SLIPP is supporting the regulatory agencies rather than the land owners, and that there is a general lack of communication with land owners.
- Need to communicate that SLIPP isn't enforcing legislation, the agencies are doing this. SLIPP is a coordinating process/body, and has no authority. The message needs to go out; this will be controversial no matter what. The decision making process needs to be taken care of by the agencies. Agency regulations are moving these things forward, we need to explain this but we are not in charge of this.
- There was a lot of discussion around the foreshore restoration plan, how it is communicated and how sites were selected for restoration
- Concern about spending gas tax funds to support what could be considered by the public something that the agencies should pay for it themselves
- Difficult for the public and waterfront owners to comprehend how they could have a boat launch/retaining wall/dock for 40 years and then be told that it is illegal.
- Everything SLIPP does will have foreshore implications. There will always be landowners upset. The first year will always be rough. No one likes enforcement that affects them. The majority of Shuswap waterfront owners are in support of this program. Everyone wants clean water whether waterfront owners or not. People that are impacted directly are never going to be happy. There are people that are supportive. When this first happened, everyone was happy to have things move forward. There is science behind it. Need to improve the communication. Don't stop the program because we worded a letter poorly. Everyone decided to use their gas tax funds. There are other options for funding outside of gas tax funds. There are ways to fund this straight out of the taxes or service delivery.
- Support was expressed by the Steering Committee for the development of a DFO-led Prioritization Tool that will objectively and transparently assess the biological and

operational criteria for foreshore restoration. A five year plan would also be developed that prioritizes which sites are identified for restoration and when.

- The public don't understand why groynes are not good, they like sandy beaches. Good to go out with biologists to get information. People don't think about the effect that their decisions make on other people's property or on habitat etc.
- People at White Lake have asked for SLIPP involvement as a part of this watershed

ACTION #10: FBC to set up a separate meeting to get together with the technical teams, positive direction on the compliance and enforcement piece/foreshore restoration piece.

Removal of Abandoned Derelict Docks - discussion raised the following comments:

- Only derelict, unclaimed docks that could not have an owner or property identified were targeted for removal, and were then prioritized for removal based on safety impacts, habitat values, level of impact, logistical considerations, and cost
- A total of 25 docks and associated structural debris was removed and disposed in November and December 2012, with cost sharing from HCTF, Old Town Bay court award funds, local government funds, and Canoe Forest Products (formerly Federated Coop) made an in kind donation
- It was agreed that the removal of these abandoned docks is nothing but positive
- There are other areas that are interested in log/debris clean up around the lake
- Swansea point permanent residents clean up the beaches. We cannot take SLIPP funds to clean up every little beach, it would be too expensive. We may be able to provide land fill for free for those people that clean up debris on the beach
- Canoe Forest Products does a cleanup related to forestry/logging - SLIPP may be able to coordinate a cleanup process

ACTION #11: Bob Harding will send out contact information for Canoe Forest Products

Water Quality Monitoring - Gabi Matscha's presentation raised the following key points (see *SLIPP Steering Comm Mtg Presentation 1feb13.pdf* for more details):

- The coordinated water quality monitoring program eliminates duplication by small water purveyors, first nations, government agencies and saves money.
- Cash contributed by SLIPP per year is \$115 759, and this leverages cash contributions of \$281 402 by other agencies and organizations (ratio of 2.43 to 1)
- The 2011 Water Quality Report has taken a long time; the SLIPP water quality program is innovative, new programs always have a learning curve, the 2012 report will be faster.
- The partnership is really helping, DFO could not do as much monitoring without SLIPP

Discussion on water quality monitoring raised the following comments/clarification:

- MOE looks at seepage into the lake, this is happening in some areas. there is seepage, we can flag these - that information is available - Gabi can provide this
- CSRD ground water testing will be linked, not entered into the data base yet but will be included in the SLIPP water quality report
- Support was expressed for continuing the water quality monitoring program, but concern expressed in delay of reporting and an interest in raising awareness of need for sewer infrastructure

Sicamous Narrows Inventory Project - Keith Weir's presentation raised the following key points (see *SLIPP Steering Comm Mtg Presentation 1feb13.pdf* for more details):

- Sicamous Narrows was identified as an inventory project for new compliance and enforcement officers based on level of occupation of the land, the significant increase in number of foreshore structures in recent years and suspected non-compliance, accessibility, and known resource values
- 65 structures were measured including characteristics such as dimensions, water depth, type of use, number of slips, sedimentation and impediments to water flow and fish migration
- Of the 65 structures, 27 structures were found to have no authority, 38 had some level of authority to occupy Crown land
- Of the 38 tenured structures, 12 were found to have low impact, 13 moderate, 22 high impact to the environment (one structure was not inventoried)
- 11 unauthorized structures on the west shore of the narrows were posted with instructions to apply for approval. Front Counter BC has been contacted by 8 dock owners. (the railway is the upland owner)
- On the east shore of the narrows, 20 tenures are expiring in the next 5 years. Data collected during this project will be used during the tenure renewal decision process. Detailed discussion will need to occur between various government agencies and First Nations, regarding tenure renewal of structures that don't or can't meet management objectives
- Data collection is complete and attempts are being made to gain additional compliance through communication
- Firms that conduct environmental assessments in the narrows have expressed interest in gaining access to the inventory data
- Annual rent reviews can now be calculated, using the most recent information.

Discussion on Sicamous Narrows raised the following comments:

- It was agreed that the Steering Committee should watch and monitor the Sicamous Narrows inventory project, but that the lead participants should remain District of Sicamous and MFLNRO since this is primarily a compliance and enforcement issue

ACTION #12: FBC will send out a copy of the 1985 Narrows Plan to the Steering Committee

Recreation Management Strategy - Mike's presentation raised the following key points (see *SLIPP Steering Comm Mtg Presentation 1feb13.pdf* for more details):

- Mike Simpson has been the project management lead since May 2012, when Sarah Evanetz went on maternity leave
- Peak Planning Associates, Sydney Johnson (instructor at Thompson Rivers University) and John Hull (professor at TRU) are developing the recreation plan
- The recreation management strategy is on track and on budget
- 2012 activities involved collection of background data, a recreation intercept survey of 723 people at boat launches, online surveys of residents and those connected with SLIPP, and key informant interviews.
- Next steps include: Complete analysis of research data; meetings with public advisory committee and technical teams in late winter and spring; prepare draft recreation management plan and seek feedback; finalize by November 2013

Discussion on recreation management raised the following comments/clarification:

- Any communications with parks/tourism people? Yes, key informant surveys
- Support was expressed for continuing the recreation management strategy work
- SLIPP funding meeting last month
 - Foreshore restoration complaints and having someone not working in the area were two problems
 - Fraser Basin Council managing the program is not official yet

4. SLIPP management for 2013

Larry and Rhona summarized the meeting held January 9, 2013 of the local governments that fund SLIPP, confirming funding of the third year of the pilot project. Local government elected officials heard concerns in 2012 about foreshore restoration activities, and communication and administration/management concerns led to asking FBC to manage the program in 2013. A management agreement is currently being negotiated.

ACTION #13: Mike/Tracy to acknowledge Ian McGregor and Sarah Evanetz's contribution with a certificate and/or gift of appreciation from Steering Committee

Mike Simpson noted that the goals and approach of Fraser Basin Council is to provide impartial facilitation and secretariat support to the Steering Committee, helping them reach agreement on what SLIPP should do and how to do it.

The following was agreed to by the Steering Committee:

- Increased involvement and communication of the Steering Committee, including quarterly meetings, half-day in length and in person
- Emerging issues should be brought to the attention of the Chair, Vice Chair and FBC staff
- Chair and Vice Chair of the Steering Committee are the spokespersons for

5. Priorities and work plan for 2013

- We are entering year three of a three year pilot project
- The restoration piece and a communication plan need to be looked at
- There has been a Freedom of Information request made from the Shuswap Waterfront Owners Association (SWOA) regarding the selection process of the initial 55 properties selected for restoration
- Abandoned boats should be a SLIPP priority
- Boat removal by the provincial government is budget dependent
- There is support for the recreation management plan, there should be close coordination with the CSRD planning department
- Water quality program is important along with communication and an education piece for the public,
- Add liquid waste management/sewer systems to upcoming priorities, but not funding support. SLIPP could raise the profile of the need for sewer systems and addressing septic system input to the lake
- SLIPP can support other efforts on the Shuswap going forward, it would carry a lot of weight with all agencies on board
- SLIPP All Committee Meeting - should schedule this meeting later in the year (not April) to accommodate seasonal residents. Possibly for July?

ACTION #14: Heidi Frank will send information regarding the boat removal process that she recently went through with the federal government

6. Initial thoughts for SLIPP beyond 2013

- Unused funds could be used to conduct an analysis of the Okanagan Basin Water Board - not sure if this is a direction that is good for the Shuswap yet
- What is the vision of SLIPP? Will SLIPP take over for 14 agencies or remain a cloak over top of them, need adequate funding and the right people around the table; this seems like a very long term idea. Is there will to go forward from the partnering agencies?
- Need to see the water quality reports and survey results before doing any planning or making decisions beyond the three year pilot
- Need to establish the focus of SLIPP, terms etc.
- Happy that FBC has taken over the management of SLIPP, need to work diligently throughout this year and then move into future decision making
- Consider rebranding SLIPP after the pilot is complete; too much money, time, effort to take on right now, and much of the public still don't recognize SLIPP
- We should figure out what to do before the end of the pilot to avoid a gap
- This is a whole watershed, not just about Shuswap Lake

7. Next steps

ACTION #15: Tracy Thomas to send out all presentation material from today's meeting to Steering Committee

ACTION #16: Tracy Thomas to look into Technical Team membership and make sure that Marty Mclean is receiving SLIPP communications

ACTION #17: FBC to develop communication plan for SLIPP

ACTION #18: Tracy Thomas to cc Steering Committee members regarding all SLIPP committee meetings

Next SLIPP Steering Committee Meeting - post meeting, emails suggest Friday March 1, 2013

1:05 PM Adjourned

Attendance

Carolyn Black	Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Deputy Manager of Corporate Administrative Services (portion of meeting)
Nancy Cooper (Vice Chair)	Salmon Arm - Mayor
Paul Demenok	Columbia Shuswap Regional District Director - Area "C"
Heidi Frank	District of Sicamous - Chief Administrative Officer
Charles Hamilton	Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Chief Administrative Officer (portion of meeting)
Bob Harding (Guest)	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
Rhona Martin	Columbia Shuswap Regional District Director - Area "E"
Gabi Matscha (Guest)	Ministry of Environment
Peter Milobar	Thompson Nicola Regional District Director, City of Kamloops Mayor

Larry Morgan (Chair)	Columbia Shuswap Regional District Director - Area "F"
Ray Nadeau	Shuswap Water Action Team (by phone)
Jackie Perease	North Okanagan Regional District Director - Area "F"
Mike Simpson	Fraser Basin Council (FBC)
Rene Talbot	Columbia Shuswap Regional District Director - Area "D"
Tracy Thomas	Fraser Basin Council (FBC)
Keith Weir (Guest)	Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations