



Steering Committee

March 1st, 2013

Meeting Summary at 18 March 2013
Columbia Shuswap Regional District office

Meeting Objectives

1. Seek feedback and endorsement on 2013/14 work plan
2. Share financial status of SLIPP expenditures to date
3. Seek feedback on timing and approach of All-Committee meeting

Meeting Outcomes

- Support was expressed for foreshore restoration/sustainable development activities, including three scheduled projects in spring 2013, but concern was expressed low levels of public support, communication methods and transparency of restoration site selection
- Clarity was provided that the enforcement of provincial and federal legislation is not negotiable, and not the role of SLIPP
- Clarity was provided that funds are available for landowners to voluntarily participate in a fully funded restoration program that requires landowner support
- District of Sicamous, MFLNRO and DFO will meet to discuss siltation, the need for dredging, and the inventory of docks and structures in Sicamous Narrows
- Information on SLIPP expenditures in 2011/12 and 2012/13 to date was shared
- Feedback on the 2013/14 work plan was captured, and the work plan endorsed
- SLIPP All-Committee meeting will proceed in spring, with public outreach sessions in summer

Please refer to *SLIPP Steering Comm Mtg Presentation 1mar13.pdf* for the presentation material from the meeting referred to in this meeting summary.

1. Welcome, Introductions, Agenda and Previous Meeting Summary

SLIPP Steering Committee Chair Larry Morgan welcomed everyone and turned the meeting facilitation over to Mike Simpson. Introductions were made around the room, including members of the public who observed the meeting. The agenda was accepted as presented, with the exception of scheduling a question and answer period for the public, and adding a discussion of a role for SLIPP in dredging of Sicamous Narrows.

The meeting summary from February 1, 2013 was reviewed on screen, and was approved (moved by Paul Demenok, seconded by Jackie Pearase). All action items were either completed or included in today's agenda, with the exception of the following:

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

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

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

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

ACTION #17: FBC to develop communication plan for SLIPP

2. Foreshore Restoration Activities in 2012

Steve Matthews, RPBio, introduced himself as a consultant who has been working with SLIPP since spring 2012 to help deliver the foreshore development/restoration program and the water quality/waste management program. Steve noted that he recently retired from the provincial government where he was a fisheries biologist for over 30 years.

Please refer to *SLIPP Steering Comm Mtg Presentation 1mar13.pdf* for presentation. **Key points about the current foreshore restoration program** that Steve covered included the following:

- Involves only Crown land below the high water mark
- Involves older unauthorized/untenured structures (i.e., contravening provincial or federal legislation) as newer structures are actively enforced by provincial C&E officers
- Whether structures are authorized/tenured is not a SLIPP decision, and is non-negotiable, as something either complies with legislation or it does not
- SLIPP has accessed \$195 000 over 3 years from Habitat Conservation Trust Fund (HCTF) to pay for planning, coordination, and full financial support for restoration - this is voluntary for individual landowners and requires full landowner support
- Primary goal is to restore fish habitat, but other considerations include public safety and access, logistical considerations

The Steering Committee reiterated their support from the Feb 1, 2013 meeting with the development of a new scientific, objective and transparent prioritization tool, the development of a 5 year plan for restoration, and support for the derelict, abandoned dock removal program.

The Steering Committee provided the following feedback and direction for foreshore restoration:

- Proceed with the 3 sites (2 private and CSRD Robinson Creek park) this spring if landowners are clearly on board and supportive
- Need clearer separation of federal and provincial agencies roles from SLIPP, and to avoid SLIPP being perceived as “leading the charge” on enforcement of provincial and federal laws
- All agencies need to share information to avoid Freedom of Information (FOI) requests
- Need to have the public on side and supportive, and some clear wins on restoration; more public engagement on foreshore restoration issues is supported
- Consider a reverse process, where landowners come to SLIPP for financial support after they are served notice of a non-compliant/untenured structure, not the current process
- Have to address all types of structures including large boat launches, but consider doing more derelict, abandoned dock removal compared to boat launches based on cost-benefit analysis and volume of success/numbers of structures removed
- Engage the public to identify potential derelict, abandoned docks for removal (follow up on tenure would be required)

ACTION #1: Distribute existing scientific information/reports on specific fish species habitat requirements and what is known specifically about Shuswap and Mara Lakes.

ACTION #2: Determine ownership of the foreshore prioritization tool, if development costs shared.

ACTION #3: Foreshore restoration technical team to consider to invest more effort in derelict, abandoned dock removal and groynes rehabilitation, rather than boat launches.

Sicamous Narrows

Separate from the general discussion on foreshore restoration, the issue of siltation in Sicamous Narrows and the need for dredging was raised. Mayor Trouton expressed frustration at the costs for consultants to prepare reports and the federal and provincial agency discretion on approvals on docks and structures. He stated the impact of these decisions on the local economy and the houseboat industry, and that there is too much emphasis on fish and fish habitat with insufficient data or scientific evidence. He stated that very few Sicamous residents support SLIPP, and that a residents' coalition is being formed to push back against SLIPP and the federal and provincial agencies. Mayor Trouton stated that there is interest in dredging portions of Sicamous Narrows and that the District of Sicamous is encountering frustration with federal and provincial agencies in how to get approvals for this. It was also noted that Sicamous gets its water from Mara Lake, and that significant impacts have been experienced due to the flooding in 2012; when is SLIPP going to address the issues in the larger watershed?

After some discussion about whether SLIPP could play a role to address these issues, Pete Lishman suggested that the federal and provincial agencies initially should meet with District of Sicamous. If after that first meeting there is an impartial role that SLIPP can play, then a role will be discussed.

ACTION #4: Pete 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.

3. Financial Summaries to date

Mike provided a summary of categories of expenditures to date (please refer to *SLIPP Steering Comm Mtg Presentation 1mar13.pdf*) for the local government contribution of \$335 000 per year. The numbers presented do not include in-kind time, or other sources of funds such as Old Town Bay court award funds. An annual report for 2011/12 fiscal year ending March 31 is being prepared.

4. 2013/14 Work Plan

Mike presented on-screen and provided paper handouts of the draft work plan dated 21 Feb 2013. Feedback was sought on each category of the work plan. Some comments made include the following:

- *Foreshore development* - still need to identify some derelict, abandoned docks, and will consider using the public as mentioned in section 1 above
- *Water Quality* - 2012 report will be out in mid to late 2013; 2012 flooding will skew data
- *Recreation* - work is proceeding, would like to see sharper focus on survey result interpretation, and consider no-wake zones
- *Compliance and Enforcement* - use of funds to coordinate agencies was questioned; however CSR staff suggested there was value in SLIPP providing coordination to enable meetings.
- *Education and Outreach* - need public debrief in June 2014 on what was achieved by SLIPP; some suggested this needs to occur sooner, however not all reports will be complete
- *Administration, Meetings, Reporting* - as SLIPP enters the third and final year of the pilot project, all expenses will be reconciled with the 3 year total contribution of \$1.005M.

ACTION #5: Pete Lishman to follow up with Bob Harding of DFO and determine agencies capacity to coordinate and deliver on SLIPP goals for coordinated enforcement, or whether external coordination support from SLIPP is needed.

ACTION #6: Mike to look into cumulative effects assessment in the SLIPP strategic plan and whether it was included in the work plan for the 3 year pilot project.

ACTION #7: Schedule a public debrief session for the public in June 2014 on what was achieved by SLIPP over 3 years

Please see *SLIPP Workplan and Budget 2013_14 at 5mar13.pdf* for the updated version, incorporating the comments made.

5. SLIPP All-Committee Meeting

Pros and cons of scheduling the all-committee meeting were shared (please refer to *SLIPP Steering Comm Mtg Presentation 1mar13.pdf*), and a compromise of having the spring meeting take place, as well as hosting several public open houses in the summer aimed at seasonal residents, tourists, to both share information on SLIPP and seek feedback. These summer open houses could be in conjunction with other CSRD information, such as docks and buoys or other related information.

(Post-meeting, tentative dates for the spring all-committee being considered include Tuesday April 23 or Wednesday April 24.)

ACTION #8: FBC to finalize a date (by mid-March), book a venue, and coordinate the agenda and speakers for the all-committee meeting.

6. Public Question and Answer Period

Members of the public had an opportunity to express their opinions and ask questions about SLIPP, foreshore development and restoration activities and legislation, and the role of SLIPP. Of particular note, Bo Wilson, President of Shuswap Waterfront Owners Association, stated that it was not apparent to him before today’s meeting that the SLIPP funding program was voluntary.

Next SLIPP Steering Committee Meeting - late May or early June; date to be determined in May

1:00 PM Adjourned

Attendance

Steering Committee members or alternates	
Nancy Cooper (Vice Chair)	Salmon Arm - Mayor
Paul Demenok	Columbia Shuswap Regional District Director - Area “C”
Heidi Frank	District of Sicamous - Chief Administrative Officer
Pete Lishman	Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Rhona Martin	Columbia Shuswap Regional District Director - Area “E”
Larry Morgan (Chair)	Columbia Shuswap Regional District Director - Area “F”
Ray Nadeau	Public Advisory Committee representative, (by phone)
Jackie Pearase	North Okanagan Regional District Director - Area “F”
Rene Talbot	Columbia Shuswap Regional District Director - Area “D”
Darrell Trouton	District of Sicamous - Mayor

Other attendees	
Jim Leiper	Member of public
Steve Matthews	Matthews Environmental Consulting, consultant to SLIPP
Bob Misseghers	Shuswap Waterfront Owners Association (SWOA)

Marcin Pachcinski	Columbia Shuswap Regional District
Gord Robertson	Shuswap Waterfront Owners Association (SWOA)
Mike Simpson	Fraser Basin Council (FBC)
Tracy Thomas	Fraser Basin Council (FBC)
Bo Wilson	Shuswap Waterfront Owners Association (SWOA)