

**Cheakamus Ecosystem Restoration Stakeholder Team
Meeting #6
Thursday February 28, 2007
6:30 to 9:30 pm
Howe Sound Inn and Brewing Company
Meeting Summary**

Participants

Representative/Individual	Organization
Gord Addison	Office of Joan McIntyre, MLA
Jack Cooley	Squamish Streamkeepers
Gary Cotter	North Vancouver Outdoor School
Carl Halvorson	North Vancouver Outdoor School
Steve Hanson	BC Federation of Fly Fishers
Shaun Hollingsworth	BC Wildlife Federation
Brian Klassen	South Coast Steelhead Coalition (Squamish Chapter)
Julianne Knoll	Squamish Angler Association
Josh Korman	UBC
Roman Lehocky	Independent
Randy Marchant	Independent
Deb McBride	Independent
Dag Meyer	Squamish Anglers Association
Doug Morrison	Squamish Streamkeepers
Dan O’Kane	Squamish Angler
Peter Plathan	Independent
Gil Sage	BC Federation of Fly Fishers
John Schleiner	BC Wildlife Federation
Edith Tobe	Squamish River Watershed Society

Media

- Cathryn Atkinson – Squamish Chief/Globe and Mail

Cheakamus Ecosystem Restoration Steering Committee

- Normand Pellerin – CN
- Randall Lewis – Squamish Nation

Cheakamus Ecosystem Restoration Technical Committee (CERTC)

- Chessy Knight – District of Squamish
- Don McCubbing (Instream Fisheries Research) – representing Ministry of Environment

Other Resources

- Peter Frederiksen – Triton Environmental
- Tom Watson – Triton Environmental
- Jim Feeny – CN

- Kellie Svendsen – CN
- Caroline Melville – Instream Fisheries Research
- Jason Ladell – Instream Fisheries Research

Meeting Facilitator: Tom Sadleir – Cornerstone Planning Group

Note-taker: Vikram Singh – Cornerstone Planning Group

Communications

The following information materials were provided to all participants:

- Meeting Agenda
- CERTC meeting summary, January 9, 2007
- CERTC Responses to Stakeholder Team Questions from 6 December 2006 Meeting
- Cheakamus Ecosystem Recovery Fund application form
- Cheakamus River Steelhead Fish Culture Update, February 2007

SUGGESTED ACTION ITEMS

The following items were lifted from the meetings notes as requiring follow-up or response:

For Stakeholder Team

- input sought on steelhead smolt release points on the Cheakamus River
- input sought on the Draft Recovery Fund application form
- input sought on the 2007 timing of a public event
- completed project suggestion forms are sought
- completed Recovery Fund application forms are sought

For CERTC/individual CERTC members

- add “Tenderfoot Creek culvert replacement” to list of projects for further investigation in 2007/2008
- add “Side channel conversion ½ km upstream from the Bailey Bridge on river left” to list of projects for further investigation in 2007/2008
- include dates, where possible, when updating Recovery Plan in 2007
- provide contact for broodstock collection volunteer anglers
- initiate projects supporting Coho as numbers are down all along the west coast
- investigate use/storage of plentiful large woody debris on the river
- advertise public events on local radio station “Mountain FM”
- contact two individuals (Mike Stanford and Mike Melnychuk) regarding possible projects
- allow for up front money to aid volunteer organizations and for paid coordinators of Recovery Fund projects
- Section D of the draft Recovery Fund application form should include BC Hydro as a reviewer where existing BC Hydro projects may be impacted by new proposals
- remove of black oily sludge in estuary rail yards

Adoption of Meeting Notes

December 6, 2006 Stakeholder Team meeting notes were adopted without further comment. These notes are available online at www.certc.ca.

CERTC Meeting Summaries

No comments were made regarding the January 9, 2007 CERTC meeting summary. CERTC meeting summaries, with the latest information on Cheakamus ecosystem recovery activities, are available online at www.certc.ca.

CERTC Responses to Stakeholder Team

The following comments were received regarding the CERTC responses in the document *Stakeholder Team Questions From 6 December 2006 Meeting* as provided at the meeting and available on the CERTC website at www.certc.ca.

Question #2

Noted that steelhead broodstock collection in 2006 began too late. Contact requested for broodstock collection volunteer anglers.

Question #7

Discussion took place regarding the status of the Cheekye Bridge apron removal project and the related bridge stability concerns of CN engineering.

Question #8

Discussion took place regarding the decision not to proceed with a side-channel re-watering project at KM11, including concerns with project stability, safety and equipment access.

A lack of projects dedicated to the recovery of Pink and Coho Salmon was noted. Specifically noted, projects supporting Coho should be initiated as numbers are down all along the west coast.

Project Proposals

Question #1

Discussion took place regarding re-watering Lower Reach 8. Comment made that risk of project failure could be reduced significantly. Others deemed the earth and refuse removal required to be unnatural.

Question #2

Noted as a straight-forward project. Rationale for response on the basis of targeted species was questioned. Question also raised as to whether the area had been investigated as fish-rearing habitat for Steelhead. The resource team was unaware of any sampling that had been conducted on Swift Creek.

Question #8

CERTC encouraged to investigate use/storage of plentiful large woody debris in river.

Question #10

Re-watering of Evans Creek was reiterated as a priority. Squamish Nation noted they support such a project.

Other Discussions

Question #1

Noted that the August 17, 2006 public information session was poorly timed and promoted. Use of local radio station "Mountain FM" recommended to improve notification. Advertisement in other local and Lower Mainland newspapers was also recommended. CERTC seeks input from the Stakeholder Team regarding an appropriate timing for a 2007 public event.

Community Legacy Fund

The omission of the request in the CERTC response document for a Community Legacy Fund was noted. CN responded that currently there are sufficient programs in place and planned for the recovery of the Cheakamus River ecosystem. CN also noted that the motion to establish a Community Legacy Fund lacked any explanation on where the money would go, who would manage it, or why the money was required. The Stakeholder Team noted that mechanisms/organizations were in place to manage and effectively utilize these funds for recovery programs that include community involvement. CN reiterated that remediation of damage done to the Cheakamus River is being undertaken and that blanket grants are not viable; specific programs with specific objectives are required.

Cheakamus Ecosystem Recovery Fund Application Form

It was noted that Section D should include BC Hydro as a reviewer where existing BC Hydro projects may be impacted by new project proposals.

Concern was expressed with the per-year funding aggregate total of \$400,000.

Concern was expressed with the perceived lack of up front money for projects, as often required by volunteer organizations; also with the apparent inability to pay a project coordinator.

Interest was expressed in funding graduate student work on the Cheakamus. Discussion ensued on the request for funding for graduate students' programs on the Cheakamus.

Individuals (Mike Stanford and Mike Melnychuk) were recommended for contact regarding possible projects.

Mechanisms for applying for compensation were also discussed.

Steelhead Update

Instream Fisheries Research, representing the Ministry of Environment, gave a short presentation on the Steelhead culture program.

The presentation noted that criteria are being developed to determine program success.

Discussion focused on:

- rationale for collecting 10 broodstock pairs
- rationale for choosing 20,000 as the number of steelhead to be released
- collection protocols (report upcoming)
- available juvenile data collected in Brohm Creek; use of archived data
- release points on the Cheakamus (further Stakeholder Team input is sought)
- release location(s) for smolts in excess of the 20,000
- possible angler retention of clipped fish upstream and related requirement for regulation
- hatchery water temperature changes
- monitoring program and sampling requirements

Other Issues

Interest was expressed in gates or valve intakes being installed on tributaries to protect fish from future spills. The possibility of estuary culvert gates was also discussed. Removal of oil sludge tracked through the estuary by trains was requested.

Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, April 25, 2007.

Meeting Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.