

**Cheakamus Ecosystem Restoration Stakeholder Team
Meeting #4
Thursday July 6, 2006
6 to 9 pm
District of Squamish Council Chambers
Meeting Summary**

Participants

Representative/Individual	Organization
Bob Baker	BC Wildlife Federation
Pete Caverhill	BC Federation of Fly Fishers
Kevin Damaskic	Squamish Downtown Neighbourhood Association
Victor Elderton	North Vancouver Outdoor School
Shaun Hollingsworth	BC Wildlife Federation
Brian Klassen	Independent
Randy Marchant	Independent
Deb McBride	Independent
Doug Morrison	Squamish Streamkeepers
Brian Niska	Whistler Angling Club
Pete Plathan	Independent
Edith Tobe	Squamish River Watershed Society
Tony Toth	BC Wildlife Federation

Members of Cheakamus Ecosystem Restoration Steering Committee present:

- Normand Pellerin – CN
- Tom Bell – Ministry of Environment

Members of Cheakamus Ecosystem Restoration Technical Committee present:

- Chessy Knight – District of Squamish
- Luanne Patterson – CN
- Greg Wilson – Ministry of Environment

Others resource persons present:

- Bryan Ludwig – Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC
- Tom Watson – Triton Environmental
- Peter Frederiksen – Triton Environmental

Meeting Facilitator: Tom Sadleir - Cornerstone Planning Group

Note-taker: Vikram Singh - Cornerstone Planning Group

Communications

The following communications materials were provided to all participants:

- Meeting Agenda
- May 26, 2006 Stakeholder Team meeting summary
- Draft Stakeholder Team Terms of Reference
- Project Suggestion Form: Deb McBride re: Squamish Estuary Waterflow Enhancement
- Emailed proposals: Jack Cooley (absent) re: Blasting Elaho Boulders; Lower Reach 8 Cheakamus Side Channel Spawning Transformation
- Summary of Cheakamus Ecosystem Recovery Plan (Triton Environmental)
- Cheakamus River Steelhead Fish Culture Program July 2006 Update (Ministry of Environment)

Adoption of Meeting Notes

May 26, 2006 meeting notes were adopted as circulated.

CERTC Website

It was noted that the new Cheakamus Ecosystem Restoration Technical Committee (CERTC) website is now live at www.certc.ca

Cheakamus Ecosystem Recovery Plan

Tom Watson of Triton Environmental provided a presentation regarding the framework of the Cheakamus Ecosystem Recovery Plan, which is currently in draft form before CERTC. The presentation detailed the impact assessment, data collection methods, uncertainties, recovery targets and species, recovery methods and future activities.

Issue was raised as to how Triton was compensating for an acknowledged information gaps present in baseline studies. It was noted that public knowledge was being sought to enhance the understanding of the pre-spill state of the river regarding certain species.

Cheakamus River Steelhead Fish Culture Program

Greg Wilson, CERTC member (Ministry of Environment) provided a brief update on the Cheakamus River Steelhead Fish Culture Program. It was noted that 20 adult steelhead were spawned May 18 – June 1, 2006, producing 10 families and 45,500 green eggs. The fry were moved to troughs during June and will be moved to a grow-out site by October 2006. Selection of the grow-out site will depend on a number of logistical factors related to maximizing program success.

It was noted that a monitoring program would be set up to oversee the success of the fish culture program. The Request for Proposals (RFP) for this position would be posted on the BC Bid (government procurement) website shortly. Cornerstone Planning Group agreed to update the CERTC website with a link to the RFP when it becomes available. It was indicated that a candidate for this monitoring position would be chosen by the end of July 2006.

A Stakeholder Team member inquired as to the nature of the release strategy. It was noted that no single strategy had been decided upon and that several different strategies were currently being considered. A member questioned the particulars of the tagging of juvenile steelheads, and it was noted that adipose clipping would be used, along with an additional, yet undecided, method of tagging.

Members also enquired as to the success of in-river steelhead spawning. The MoE stated that it is highly difficult to spot their spawning activities, but early signs indicate that the spawning is going very well.

Proposals Discussed

Proposition of culverts in the estuary in order to increase water flow, quality and fry survival rates - Deb McBride

Deb added to her proposal that floodgates be added to the culverts. Discussion ensued. No issues were raised with her proposal and it was decided that it was to be sent to CERTC.

Proposals Submitted

Blast Elaho Boulders - Jack Cooley

Lower Reach & Cheakamus Side Channel Spawning Transformation - Jack Cooley

Jack Cooley (absent) emailed the two indicated proposals, which he asked be addressed at the meeting. However, the proposals require additional information before they are tabled, discussed and passed on to CERTC.

Study Limiting Factors to Fish Production in Upper Cheakamus River - Paul Beswetherick

Provide Fish Ladder Over Daisy Lake Dam - Paul Beswetherick

Remove Barriers to Fish Movement up Cheakamus River - Paul Beswetherick

These proposals were received through a member's proxy after the meeting and will be emailed to the Stakeholder Team and CERTC for discussion.

The facilitator committed to forwarding an electronic copy of the project suggestion form to all team members. CN indicated they would develop a mechanism for responding to proposals.

Terms Of Reference

CERTC proposed additional clauses to the draft Stakeholder Team Terms of Reference, in areas of the team's role and the frequency of team meetings for 2006. CERTC suggested that the Stakeholder Team adopt the Terms of Reference if deemed acceptable. After discussion regarding the advisory nature of the team, CERTC response to team

motions and proposals, and the role of the public, a motion to adopt the Terms of Reference was carried unanimously.

The Stakeholder Team Terms of Reference will be posted on the CERTC website (www.certc.ca) once accepted by CERTC.

Public Meeting

Discussion ensued on the format, location and date of the August 2006 public event. CERTC proposed that an open house/presentation/Q&A event take place August 17, 2006 in Squamish, at a location to be determined in consultation with the District of Squamish. Clarification is sought on the role of the Stakeholder Team at the event.

Other Business

Members enquired as to the extent of recovery efforts thus far. CERTC responded by stating that work had began on the Paradise Valley/North Vancouver Outdoor School, on sidechanneling and rewatering projects and on the Wilson Slough Reconnection (although activity was dependent on the tides). A fish recovery report was to be published and distributed shortly by the Ministry of Environment. A benthic environment report is also being drafted. The reports will be posted on the CERTC website (www.certc.ca) and the Stakeholder Team so notified.

A member requested a summary document detailing all Cheakamus River enhancement projects during the past 30-40 years. CN stated that something similar to this would be put together, with the help of the Ministry of Environment. CERTC was also encouraged to ensure the effective dissemination of current recovery effort information.

The efficacy of CN's compensation program was questioned and program information was requested, including claim totals and compensation paid to date. CN stated that a report of this nature, respecting individual privacy, would be prepared for the next meeting.

Meeting Adjournment