

**Cheakamus Ecosystem Restoration Stakeholder Team  
Meeting #13  
Tuesday May 27, 2008  
6:30 pm  
Howe Sound Inn, Squamish, BC  
Meeting Summary**

Caroline Ashekian	District of Squamish
Paul Carlucci	Pique News Magazine
Victor Elderton	North Vancouver Outdoor School (NVOS)
Ed George	British Columbia Wildlife Federation
Carl Halverson	NVOS/Squamish River Watershed Society
Catherine Jackson	Squamish Environmental Conservation Society
Randy Marchant	Independent
Deb McBride	Independent
Scott Melville	Independent
Doug Morrison	Independent
Lyle Wood	Streamkeepers/Squamish Angling Club

Regrets: Jack Cooley, Gil Sage, Steve Hanson, Bev Cochrane

*Cheakamus Ecosystem Restoration Steering Committee (CERSC)*

- Randy Lewis – Squamish Nation

*Cheakamus Ecosystem Restoration Technical Committee (CERTC)*

- Peter Woods – District of Squamish (DoS)
- Luanne Patterson – Canadian National Railway Company (CN)
- Greg Wilson – Ministry of Environment (MoE)

*Resources*

- Peter Frederiksen – Triton Environmental (Triton)
- Don McCubbing – Instream Fisheries
- Caroline Melville – Instream Fisheries
- Sarah Weddell – CN

*Invited Speaker*

- Pat Slaney – PSLaney Aquatic Science Ltd.

Meeting Facilitator and Note-taker: Tom Sadleir – Cornerstone Planning Group

A meeting agenda was provided to all participants.

It was noted that the March 27, 2008 Stakeholder Team meeting summary had been adopted and posted at [www.certc.ca](http://www.certc.ca). The CERTC April 8, 2008 meeting summary was also noted as having been posted, as were the following reports and other documents:

- Smolt Release Strategy for Spring 2008
- P.O.S.T Acoustic Tracking of Steelhead Smolt, 2007
- Benthic Invertebrate Recovery Monitoring Program, 2005
- Cheekye River fish passage improvement project, 2007
- Cheakamus River Km 6.5 side channel re-watering project, 2007
- Cheakamus River Km 6.5 side channel re-watering project, presentation by Triton Environmental to River Restoration Northwest (RRNW) design symposium

### **Stakeholder Team**

An update on the CN Cheakamus Ecosystem Recovery Fund (CERF) projects managed by the Squamish River Watershed Society will be provided at the next Stakeholder Team meeting.

Questions and comments were received from the Stakeholder Team, with responses from CERTC members and other resource persons, as follows:

- Interest in two proposals being investigated to purchase land in the Squamish River estuary for habitat protection and public use (update provided by CN and District of Squamish)
- Interest in extending the steelhead fish culture program - MoE committed to two years, now completed; MoE stressed the need to evaluate results of the current program before committing to an extension
- Coded wire tagging of hatchery raised chinook salmon in 2007 and 2008.

### **CERTC Items**

Updates were provided for the following recovery projects and activities:

- Wilson Slough reconnection project - DoS has assumed responsibility for the Wilson Slough culvert and the gate was open and operational as of May 26, 2008.
- KM 8 side channel re-watering project – channel was opened on May 14 (pipe intake), and May 16 (surface water intake). CN/ Triton circulated a series of photos for review by attendees showing the re-watered side channel at various stages of construction and different water levels.
- fish culture programs (Tenderfoot Creek Hatchery - TCH)
  - Steelhead - released 8,731 smolts on 5 May 2008, average weight 79.2 grams
  - Chinook - released 36,790 reared fry from the “summer chinook” on 2 May 2008, average weight 9.1 grams and released 30,682 reared fry from the “fall chinook” on 14 May 2008, average weight 7.24 grams for a total release of 67,472 Cheakamus River chinook.
  - Coho - released 7,697 smolts on 23/24 April 2008, average weight 18.7 grams, and 33,978 smolts on 6 May 2008, average weight. 20.2 grams for a total release of 41,675. Coho smolts were released to the upper Cheakamus River at road end (i.e. km 14.5)
  - Pink salmon – released 464,417 fry between 1 February and 10 April 2008 downstream of the RST’s - there was no rearing of pink salmon fry in 2008

- fish culture program (Fraser Valley Trout Hatchery - FVTH)
  - Steelhead - released ~8,000 smolts (final numbers not yet available) between May 1 and May 20, 2008 at various locations as per the smolt release strategy. It was noted all of the steelhead juveniles from the fish culture program (TCH and FVTH) were adipose clipped for identification purposes
- steelhead fish culture program (Greg Wilson (MOE) provided an overview of the *Smolt Release Strategy for Spring 2008* and the findings of the *P.O.S.T Acoustic Tracking of Steelhead Smolt, 2007*).
- new Cheakamus Ecosystem Recovery Fund (CERF) project – Peter Woods (DoS) provided a brief overview of the Carson Place Culvert replacement project – District of Squamish has received funds to replace the existing culvert to further improve “flushing” and water quality in Wilson Slough
- proposed Phase II of lower Cheakamus River large woody debris (LWD) placement – MoE and British Columbia Conservation Foundation (BCCF) are currently investigating opportunities for installing an additional 7-10 LWD structures in the Cheakamus River in 2008.
- Char enumeration program – a brief update on the char enumeration program was provided by Instream Fisheries.

A presentation was provided by Pat Slaney of PSlaney Aquatic Science Ltd. on Brohm River historical data, current habitat assessment findings and the potential impact of the Garibaldi at Squamish Project. Questions and comments focused on the proposed resort development and interest in more data collection on Brohm River. For more information on the presentation please e-mail [pslaney@shaw.ca](mailto:pslaney@shaw.ca)

### **Next Meeting**

A brief discussion took place regarding the date of the next Stakeholder Team meeting. With one exception, no objection was voiced to resuming meetings in September. As a result, the next meeting was scheduled for Thursday, September 25, 2008 at 6:30 pm at the Howe Sound Inn and Brew Pub.

### **Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 pm.