

NORTH SHORE STREAMKEEPERS

Minutes - Meeting of March 13, 2007

Present (17): Hagen Hohndorf, Karen Munro (Co-chairs), Joyce Mathieson, Graham Knell, Bob Gelling, Shawn Hollingsworth, Brain Comey, Doug Hayman, Jan Lander, Sandie Hollick-Kenyon, Bob Parrott, Terry Bragg, Janet Dysart, Gillian Panton, Dick Pearce. Ron den Daas, Richard Boase.

Regrets: ZoAnn Morten

DFO Community Advisor's Report (Sandie Hollick-Kenyon): **Workshop 2007 - Stewardship in Transition** will be held in Williams Lake May 18-20, 2007. This biennial gathering of streamkeepers provides an important opportunity to familiarize yourself with many relevant issues. A chartered bus will be available for transportation from the Lower Mainland. Full details, registration forms and an accommodations guide can be found at <http://workshop.pskf.ca>. Fish trapping on **Upper McKay Creek** will take place on March 15. The sale of Cleveland School land by the District School Board may impact a tributary of McKay Creek. The **Seymour Hatchery** is undertaking telemetry and acoustic tagging of steelhead and coho as a method of following their migrations and of assessing the accuracy of fish counts. **Funding** is available for fish-related projects from Environment Canada. Details may be found at www.ec.gc.ca/edf-fde.

Hastings Creek (Hagen Hohndorf): Several members present commented on the effect of fallen trees on the course of Hastings Creek, including threats to the foundations of some homes and the development of an overflow at Donovan's Pond, and asked Richard Boase about the plans of the District for correcting these problems. Richard said that, unless human safety or property was at risk, the resources available to the District do not permit it to deal with such problems as urgently as the public might wish. Rather, the policy is to monitor watershed hydraulics, erosion and vegetation problems over time and to tackle improvement of all aspects of a stream and riparian area together such as by an Integrated Stormwater Management Plan (ISMP). The latter approach is more cost-effective.

The District's Subdivision and Development Control Bylaw addresses stormwater impact associated with larger developments. However the bylaw does not address the hydrological performance of single family homes and lots. No such policy or bylaw exists for single family dwellings which represent approximately 80% of the District's housing and building permits. Therefore, to address watershed health, new directions must be taken in the design and construction of single family dwellings.

An extensive discussion followed and the group agreed that a future meeting should focus on the development of a cooperative approach between the North Shore Streamkeepers and the District. The idea of a brainstorming session was proposed to evaluate the present status of Hastings Creek, particularly in Hunter Park. At this meeting, ideas and information about Hastings Creek could be exchanged between NS Streamkeepers and the DNV that would prove very useful to the ISMP process. Hagen Hohndorf, the Hastings Creek coordinator, agreed to work with Richard Boase to organize such a meeting.

Hagen reminded members that smolt trapping will occur April 13 and 14. The participants will meet at Chaucer and Fromme at 5:00 pm on Friday to set the traps and at 10:00 am on Saturday to identify and count the smolts.

Municipal Report - North Vancouver District (Richard Boase): Richard was asked to comment on the District's present policies regarding riparian setbacks in light of the possible sale of the Cleveland School property to a developer and the potential interference by the development with McKay Creek. He commented that until a specific proposal for review is submitted to the District it is hard to be specific. He did say that, based on his knowledge of the small stream, a setback of 5 metres would most likely satisfy the current regulatory system.

He further reported that a past Council had established the current standards for review of riparian area development, which includes the Environmental Protection and Preservation Bylaw and Environmental Review Committee (ERC) with a representative from the Department of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO). This process meets the intent of the new Riparian Area Regulation (RAR). The DNV is currently examining its strategy for complying with the RAR while affording the DNV additional measures not covered by the RAR to protect ecosystems. One possibility is the use of the Official Community Plan and Development Permit Areas.

Currently, developers or home owners may be required to hire a Qualified Environmental Professional (QEP) consultant whose recommendations are

reviewed by the DNV and DFO via the ERC. Under the RAR process the QEP needs to only file his report electronically to Victoria. The local government will be unable to provide any comments on the report; if the QEP definitively states that there are no harmful alterations, destruction or disruption of habitat, the development can proceed.

In case of renovations or rebuilding on existing properties, the DNV uses the approach of no extensions any closer to the stream than those of the existing structures, but does not define the kind of vegetation or land use next to the stream. Karen Munro agreed to draft a letter to the District on behalf of the North Shore Streamkeepers that asks DNV to be more prescriptive in its definition of acceptable land use and riparian enhancements within the stream setback area (e.g. commitment to plant native vegetation rather than introduced species and ensuring no structures are placed in the setback).

McKay Creek (Terry Bragg): The production of fry in the new hatchery has been very successful thanks to the continuous commitment of the volunteers from the North Shore Fish and Game Club. Most fry have been released but some have been reserved for the **Adopt-a-Fish event** to be held in Edgemont Village March 17. The annual **McKay Creek cleanup** is scheduled for April 28th in McKay Creek Park on Welch.

Karen Munro announced that she and ZoAnn Morten had applied for several grants to remove **Invasive plants** from McKay Creek Park, to educate the public about the methods of removal of invasive plants and to replant the park with native species. Applications have been sent to Evergreen Foundation (Home Depot grant), Pacific Salmon Foundation and the Coho Society. Support from the City and District of North Vancouver has been provided in writing. In addition, the City has provided a planting plan for Heywood Park. A meeting will take place March 31 to form an action plan. Contact Karen for information.

Finances (Terry Bragg): The present balance is \$4410.08. The purchase of liability insurance is pending and a new cheque form is required.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 8, 2007 - 7:30 pm
District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver

IMPORTANT AND USEFUL INFORMATION

Fisheries Violation Reporting: 604-666-3500

General Coordinator: Karen Munro 604-988-4072, karen-munro@shaw.ca, www.nssk.ca

Secretary: Dick Pearce 604-987-9604, rhpearce@interchange.ubc.ca

Pacific Streamkeepers Federation: ZoAnn Morten 604-986-5059
pskf@direct.ca or www.pskf.ca

North Shore Streamkeepers Web Site: www.nssk.ca

District Web Site: www.dnv.org/Services/Environment/ District Information
Phone: 604-990-2410

Community Advisor: Sandie Hollick-Kenyon 604-666-0743, HollickSa@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Hastings Creek: Hagen Hohndorf 604-708-9094, fnh@shaw.ca

McKay Creek: Terry Bragg 604-985-7272, terrybragg@shaw.ca Maplewood
Creek: Blair Wilson 604-929-2025

Morten Creek: ZoAnn Morten 604-986-5059, zmorten@shaw.ca,
<http://members.shaw.ca/mortencreek/index.html>

Roche Creek: David Cook 604-924-0147 cokeco@hotmail.com

Seymour River: James Weger 604-640-9690, jamesweger@shaw.ca
<http://www.seymoursalmon.com/>

Mosquito Creek Stewardship Society: 604-986-6715 www.mosquitocreek.org,
www.urbanstreams.org