

NORTH SHORE STREAMKEEPERS

Minutes - Meeting of March 17, 2009

Present (14): Karen Munro (chair), Bob Gelling, Nigel Fisher, Joyce Mathieson, Matt Casselman, Doug Hayman, Jan Lander, Bonny Brokenshiire, Brian Comey, Graham Knell, Dick Pearce. Caroline Jackson, Richard Boase, Ron den Daas

Regrets: Sandie Hollick-Kenyon, ZoAnn Morten, Terry Bragg, Hagen Hohndorf, Thibault Doix.

Municipal Report - North Vancouver District (Richard Boase): Richard and Erika have been working with the DNV Engineering Department on the preparation of proposals for 2009 **capital and operating projects** in or near streams. The Upper McKay Creek debris basin will require maintenance in the form of alder removal and sediment clean out. One of the ideas being considered is replacement of the alders with **willows** which will provide a source for bio-engineering plant materials when harvested in the future. The DNV is continuing to explore the possibility of **nutrient enrichment** in lower Lynn Creek. The DNV has collected data that indicates lower Lynn may be nutrient deficient. However, there are information gaps that, if filled, could suggest that nutrients are not currently limiting fish productivity. Several members expressed concern about the fertilization experiment and would like to see more evidence of need and benefit before it is approved. Nevertheless, the DNV, with the best interests of Lynn Creek in mind, are interested in pursuing this as a trial and will be continuing to work with specialists from both the private sector and the province. A similar project on the Seymour River has shown both positive and inconclusive results. Karen Munro noted that the goal of the trial would be to influence fish abundance and that this should be studied in detail. The Streamkeepers offered to help by fry trapping and other assessments. Sandie Hollick-Kenyon should be contacted for a permit and is a possible source of additional traps. Richard noted that the DNV is unfortunately saddled with the responsibility to control flooding by the removal and management of the **gravel** bed load; this is impacting the creek. **Public access** to the stream is a major contributor to the degradation of fish habitat.

Municipal Report – North Vancouver City (Caroline Jackson): The **bridge** over McKay Creek near Capilano Mall is being redesigned and will be replaced. A renewal plan for **Heywood Park** is being developed; the hatchery location may be reconsidered. The current **Parks Master Plan** needs to be reviewed, particularly the possibility of acquiring unoccupied natural areas. Small **grants** will be available for parks and environmental projects; applications are due April 17. "The leachate pump near Keith Creek has been repaired.

Finances (Karen Munro for Terry Bragg): The balance in the environmental account is \$770.04 and in the general account is \$13,427.79. The bulk of the latter funds are encumbered for work on Upper McKay.

Seymour River (Matt Casselman): The final estimate for 2008 **coho** escapement is 1600 ± 400 . Adult **steelhead** radio-telemetry continues (3rd year) with 14 summer-run and 4 winter-run currently tagged. The **POST project** continues for 2009 (4th year) and will include 120 acoustically tagged steelhead smolts, vaccinated smolts, and 5000 smolts to be released in West Vancouver. A smolt fence has been set-up in **Maplewood Creek** to enumerate out-migrating chum.

Hastings Creek (Hagen Hohndorf by e-mail): Coho **smolt trapping** is planned for Friday April 17 and Saturday April 18 to be organized by Hagen. Janet Dysart has arranged a native plant clear out for **Hunter Park** on April 4th from 10 am to 1 pm with the help of Graham Knell who has arranged to supply tools, gloves tarps and garbage bags; 25 Korean students will participate; NSSK volunteers will be most welcome. The **Hastings Creek brochure**, developed by Jan Lander and Bonny Brokenshire, has been well received at one event and will be mailed to 1100 homes in the neighbourhood in advance of spring volunteer activities; funds to cover postage are available from the Streamkeepers account.

McKay Creek (Brian Comey): The annual **clean up** will be held April 25, meeting at 10 am by MacKay Creek Park opposite Capilano Mall. The **release of fry** from the Heywood Park hatchery, maintained by the North Shore Fish and Game Club, will involve students from Norgate School and will take place on March 21. The remaining fry will be placed in the stream below the beaver dam close to the railroad bridge. The dam is believed to hold the fry upstream where they are consumed by resident cutthroat trout. A method of transporting the fish to the stream below the dam is being investigated. Alternative solutions to the dam problem were discussed at length.

Upper McKay Creek (Ron den Daas): Ron den Daas attended '**State of the Salmon conference**' which supported NSSK values such as protecting salmon bearing streams. The opening address was delivered by David Suzuki. Participants were from all over the Pacific Rim including David Anderson, former Canadian federal minister of the Environment, and closing remarks were from Mark Angelo. (See <http://www.stateofthesalmon.org/conference2009/>). The **McKay Creek Ecology Community Art Project** continues to develop. Seminar/workshops are being offered to local community groups and schools. Local naturalist Jennifer Swanston has been hired to discuss native plants to community groups. Selected artists will engage the community with the project: Sharon Kallis works with various projects in Stanley Park and the lower Mainland

using creative strategies to approach invasive plants , Jody Broomfield, first Nations sculptor interested in supporting salmon enhancement of McKay Creek, creator of First Nations pole and salmon sculptures situated at the corner of McKay Ave. and Marine Drive; Ron den Daas, artist involved with exhibiting on environmental issues and author of McKay Creek Project. The Launch event for the McKay Creek project on Sept. 26th and/or 27th 2009 is being organized with the support of the City of North Vancouver. Possible activities include outdoor art installation, salmon barbeque, presentation booths, dance and music presentations and unveiling of project. (See <http://ecosystem.shawwebspaces.ca/>)

McKay Water Quality Study (Karen Munro): This project is now complete and a formal report is being prepared for release.

Morten Creek (Doug Hayman): The chum fry have been released and 6300 coho eggs will be ready for release in two weeks. The lid of the water storage tank has been repaired. The floor will be replaced and a water diversion valve will be installed for use when the hatchery is idle.

Next Meeting

Tuesday, May 12, 2009- 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. Message board is at
<http://disc.yourwebapps.com/Indices/232171.html>

District Web Site: www.dnv.org/Services/Environment/ District Information

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

Hastings Creek: Hagen Hohndorf 604-465-6305, fnh@shaw.ca

McKay Creek: Terry Bragg 604-985-7272, terrybragg@shaw.ca

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

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

Seymour River: Matt Casselman 604-288-0511

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