

NORTH SHORE STREAMKEEPERS

Minutes - Meeting of September 14, 2010

Present (19): Karen Munro, chair, Joyce Mathieson, Ron den Daas, Bob Gelling, Greg Jovick, Jan Lander, Doug Hayman, Ed Walls, Richard Tak, Bonny Brokenshire, Dick Pearce, Bob Parrott, Brian Comey, Miles Hogan, Angela Negenman, ZoAnn Morten, Sandie Hollick-Kenyon, Tacha Hyde, Richard Boase.

Regrets: Terry Bragg, Janet Dysart

Seymour River and Hatchery (Ed Walls): Steelhead smolts were released in May, 10,000 in Lighthouse Park and 16,000 at the West Vancouver DFO Laboratories. The aim was to confirm the impression that many smolts are lost in local waters. Coho smolts were released in May, June and July. In this case, the objective was to determine whether or not the more mature fish from June and July survive better. Fish of the summer steelhead run are coming in but in small numbers. About 35 pairs of adult coho are present in the Seymour River now. Some of the wooden weirs in the steelhead channel have been replaced with concrete weirs. On World Rivers Day, September 26, 10am-2pm, Metro Vancouver is running a habitat restoration project on the Seymour, in partnership with Seymour Hatchery. Volunteers are invited to help restore salmon habitat.

Municipal Report – North Vancouver City (Angela Negenman): The chair welcomed the newly appointed Environmental Technician for the City. Construction will begin on the first stage of implementing the Parks Master Plan in Heywood Park in March 2011. A corporate plan for the reduction of greenhouse gases has been established, with reductions of 15% by 2020 and of 50% by 2050.

DFO Communiy Advisor (Sandie Hollick-Kenyon): The poor weather September 12 drastically reduced attendance at the Coho Festival. Air Cadets worked very effectively with volunteers on the Coho Walk. The North Shore Streamkeepers were a major presence in Ambleside Park. Many homeless people have been camping near North Shore streams. If they are encountered during stream walks, their presence should be reported to Sandie, but it is better not to approach them. Health and safety note – don't go where you don't feel safe. Subsequent discussion led to Richard Boase's comment to report new camps to him, and he will forward the information to appropriate social service agencies.

Pacific Streamkeepers Federation (ZoAnn Morten): The North Shore News called Zo Ann about someone who had reported that garbage from the Superstore was blowing over to Seymour River, and wanted a response from the streamkeepers. ZoAnn said that the source was likely individuals visiting the river rather than material blown in from the parking lot. She told reporters that healthy riparian zones act as buffers between human activities and the stream. ZoAnn attended a meeting in Kelowna about modernizing the provincial Water Act, which regulates water use, water licences, and activities in and about streams. Watch for opportunities at <http://livingwatersmart.ca/> to provide input. The May 2011 SEP Community Workshop is being organized by a group in Campbell River; details to follow. The PSkF and NSSK organized work parties for a Katimavik team of young people in North Vancouver, thanks to networking by Caroline Jackson of the City of North Vancouver. The group had several projects including invasive plant removal in Hunter Park (coordinated by Janet Dysart) and Heywood Park, storm drain marking, and displays at a local mall during their three weeks in North Vancouver.

Municipal Report – North Vancouver District (Richard Boase): The stream-related projects for 2010 are mostly complete. A degraded wooden culvert was slip-lined (replaced) with an HDPP pipe at the Coleman Creek crossing on Church Street. The work resulted in a notable impediment to fish passage that the DNV is working to resolve. Here is a link to an online presentation on the process of slip lining and the impacts to fish passage (a little technical but very interesting). <http://www.maine.gov/mdot/interagency-meetings/pdf/2005/Handouts/June/Slip%20Liners2.pdf>

Work on Lynn Creek has been completed; five 5-boulder clusters and two log structures have been installed downstream of the Keith Road bridge on the left bank of the creek. Funding provided by the Habitat Conservation Trust Foundation. Mosquito Creek Evergreen Basin infrastructure near the low flow drain was improved for worker safety. The edge of Capilano Road, where the new retaining structure was built has been cleared of invasive plants. New habitat for local maidenhair fern communities has been prepared adjacent to the retaining structure.

An accident at DNV Fire Services, Montroyal station, resulted in fire fighting foam entering storm drains and thence Mosquito Creek. DNV Environment subsequently sampled the water and found depleted oxygen and dead fish further downstream. A follow up meeting with Fire Services resulted in a commitment to review practices for foam deployment with emphasis on keeping foam out of the storm drain system.

The DNV has completed a research project using direct application (stem injection) of herbicide (RoundUp) into the stems of Japanese knotweed. There were numerous trial sites around the District. A report on the effectiveness of the trial is available through the DNV Parks Dpt.

Finances (Karen Munro): The two accounts have been combined back into one with a current balance of \$2680.11. Recent expenses include payments for film production (Mackay Creek Ecology Community Art Project), incorporating the group, and printing for Katimavik group. Some expenses related to the Mackay Ecology project remain to be paid. A volunteer treasurer is still needed badly.

Hastings Creek (Doug Hayman): The coordinator read a report of Hunter Park activities provided by Janet Dysart. Katimavik, a group of youth from all parts of Canada, after an introduction to Hunter Park ecology, worked in the park from August 4 to 13 pulling invasive plants. ZoAnn Morten introduced water testing procedures. The event was publicized in the local press. On October 9th, Mayor Walton will dedicate the official new sign at the Chaucer Street entrance and volunteers will be invited. The sign dedication will be followed by a weed pull organized by Graham Knell and Janet. A volunteer list for spawner surveys, which will begin soon, was begun: additional volunteers should contact Doug Hayman. A training session will be held October 9 in Hunter Park, meeting at Chaucer and Fromme at 1:00 pm after the plant pull. Plans will be made to repair the wooden fish ladder in Donovan's Pond, with funds (\$1500) donated by the organizers of a volunteer event for Event Planners at a local conference, combined with DNV resources. The ladder should be repaired before the spring outmigration of smolts from the pond. Sandie and Hastings volunteers will examine the stream blockages identified in surveys this summer.

Lower Mackay Creek: No report. Sandie Hollick-Kenyon mentioned that spawner surveys should begin in mid October, for chum in the lower creek, and that there will be a chum egg take at the Alouette River, too (North Shore Fish and Game Club.

Upper Mackay Creek (Ron den Daas): The film documenting The Mackay Creek Ecology Community Art Project entitled WILD CHANCE was well received in a preliminary presentation. With a little further editing, partly based on suggestions made during the preview, it will be presented to the public in the District Hall December 2nd at the opening of a Streamkeeper's display/exhibition in the foyer of the hall to remain till January 26th 2011. The North Shore News has offered to become the exclusive print media sponsor for the exhibition and film screening which consists of 2 1/8 page (2 col.x6") ads – value \$1,209.84. The film is also being scheduled for presentation at the CNV and possibly West Van Council as well as to other environmental groups and organizations. Streamkeepers who have been working with other streams were urged to prepare displays which communicate the group's activities for the exhibit. A meeting will be held October 19 to complete planning. Spawner surveys will begin mid Oct. in Upper Mackay Creek Thursday mornings 9am.

Morten Creek (ZoAnn Morten): A new floor has been installed in the hatchery and aluminium lids constructed for the incubation boxes. A chum egg collection from the Alouette River is planned; volunteer helpers would be welcome.

New Business

Rivers Day – September 25, 10 – 12 (ZoAnn Morten): The NSSK project this year will be a cleanup of the lower reaches of Keith Creek between the two bridges (Highway 1 and Keith Road). Garbage and invasive plants will be removed, bug counts will be demonstrated; refreshments will be provided. Meet at Bridgeman Park

Progress Report on Official Community Plan Submission to Council (Karen Munro): A draft document has been developed consisting of a 1 ½ page letter and 4 pages of commentary on the statement of policy directions. There was general agreement that Karen and ZoAnn had prepared a concise, relevant and effective document. Some felt that to emphasize the need for concrete actions the letter might include a concise list of goals for the community. Others expressed the view that the OCP should define programmes needed to achieve community goals, not specific items such as bylaws or personnel. 'Resources will be found to found to achieve goals sought by the community.' A final document will be prepared by early October, based on these and any additional comments received by Karen before Oct. 1.

Brochures (Karen Munro): The present print run of the brochure is nearly exhausted. Copies were circulated with a request to forward suggestions for revisions to Karen.

Next Meeting

**Tuesday, November 9, 2010 7:30 pm
District Hall, 355 West Queens Road, North Vancouver**

North Shore Streamkeepers Phone Line: Call District system at 604-990-2255, go to Environmental Services under option 7, and then to North Shore Streamkeepers under option 4.

IMPORTANT AND USEFUL INFORMATION

Fisheries Violation Reporting: 604-666 -3500

General Coordinator: Karen Munro 604-988-4072, karen-munro@shaw.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 <http://disc.yourwebapps.com/Indices/232171.html>

District Web Site: [www.dnv.org/Services/Environment/District Information](http://www.dnv.org/Services/Environment/District%20Information)

Community Advisor: Sandie Hollick-Kenyon 604-666-0743

HollickSa@dfo-mpo.gc.ca

Hastings Creek: Doug Hayman 604-987-0434, pastoys@shaw.ca

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

Upper Mackay Creek: Ron den Daas, ecosystem@shaw.ca

Morten Creek: ZoAnn Morten 604-986-5059, zmorten@shaw.ca

<http://morten-creek.pskf.ca>

Seymour River: Ed Walls 604-288-0511

seymoursalmonidvolunteer@hotmail.com

or www.seymoursalmon.com/