

2012 Jan 5 Board Meeting Minutes

Commenced at 7:30 p. m with Karen Munro, Zo Ann Morten, Janet Dysart, Miles Hogan, Ron den Daas, and Jan Lander present; location: Janet Dysart's house

Purpose of meeting:

Short-term planning and longer term strategic planning on stream and riparian concerns. We agreed on the agenda emailed by Karen and a couple of agenda items were added. Proceeded through list as follows:

1. GUEST SPEAKERS FOR 2012

- **Ken Ashley**, consultant and instructor at BCIT, to possibly talk about “what makes a good estuary” (related to Ken's proposed project at the mouth of MacKay Creek.
ACTION: Ron agreed to contact Ken to invite him to talk. (preference is May 16 meeting) – confirmed by Ron January 7.
- **Patrick Lilley**, consultant for Raincoast Environmental, who are doing the Hastings Cr Watershed study, to talk about findings at the end of the study and relationship to storm water management planning (Hastings Cr. Group will meet with him early in the study, too).
ACTION: Hastings Cr. group to discuss during initial meeting with consultant.
- **Mark Brown**, is District Forester and Board Member of the Invasive Plant Council (preference is for March 21 meeting);
ACTION: Miles agreed to contact Mark to talk about this and ask about the status of Tree By-Law and/or invasive plant removal.
- **Janet Dysart**, to present a report from the January “Shutting out Invaders” conference given by Invasive Plant Council of B.C.
ACTION: Janet to identify a speaker from IVPBC for a later meeting.

2. DISTRICT AND CITY TOPICS

2.1 Communication through District Environmental Protection Officer

Richard Boase has advised us he needs to have requests for topics at NSSK meeting two weeks prior to the meeting, to allow him time to contact relevant staff for information. We need to prioritize the topics for the meetings, so we have time for the full agenda. Urgent and time sensitive questions, and request can be sent via e-mail.

ACTION: members should contact Karen three weeks before the meeting so she or Jan can contact Richard about District topics.

- For January meeting, Karen emailed Richard to request he update us on two items: 1) introduce the District project on Hastings Creek biodiversity and ecosystem assessment study – also maybe the consultant Raincoast Ecology, Patrick Lilley and 2) discuss plans for storm water management for the new developments in lower Lynn watershed.

Richard said he would attend the meeting and discuss the first item, but that there is nothing to update on the second item.

- For Hastings watershed study, NSSK will want to discuss with Richard our anticipated role with Raincoast Ecology. Typically, consultants value the input of stewardship groups and we are happy to share knowledge based on almost 20 years on involvement in the watershed. We can provide data on populations of fish and other wildlife, creek behaviour, habitat issues, ideas and priorities for habitat compensation projects, ongoing maintenance concerns (e.g., clearing blockages, handling of downed trees for LWD). NSSK would want a copy of the Raincoast report and to have input on prioritizing constraints and opportunities for the watershed.
- Riparian Setbacks – NSSK is concerned about development plans for properties along the creeks and would like DNV and CNV to provide notice when these plans are submitted; we would also like to comment on the plans. Too often, we find out about these plans too late to make meaningful comment, or feel our concerns are not respected.
- **ACTION**: Karen to make a request to Richard and Angela that NSSK be given notice of such applications.

Angela (City) has not requested advance notice, but she might appreciate advance about topic requests prior to a NSSK meeting.

ACTION: Karen to make a request to Richard and Angela that NSSK be given notice of such applications.

2.2 Strategic Planning

NSSK is interested in several environmental issues in the District and City, and contributed to the DNV OCP. It makes sense to develop a coordinated approach (priority issues, longer term items), and to strengthen relationships and NSSK profile with staff and Councils beyond the environment staff (as appropriate to the issue). With the DNV OCP soon to be implemented with various by-laws, it is important to remind Council and staff that the most frequent comment of respondents to the OCP surveys was about protection of our natural environment, and that our mandate is very similar to the District's in this regard. Also, CNV is starting the OCP process.

ACTION: Identify residents of City who are NSSK members and encourage them to attend, Karen to ask Angela if NSSK group can be identified as a stakeholder at OCP meetings.

This sounds like a strategic plan! Such a plan will also help us focus our efforts and mark progress on our concerns.

Link to OCP: <http://www.dnv.org/article.asp?c=1023>

Link to DNV Parks and Open Spaces report: <http://www.dnv.org/article.asp?c=1096>

LONG TERM OBJECTIVE – to be involved in development of by-laws and policies related to OCP implementation and environmental policies (e.g., trees, riparian areas, storm water planning, rezoning of land near streams), not just at the end, and to continue to emphasize the community's stated values of cherishing the natural environment on the North Shore. Miles suggested we advise DNV and CNV that NSSK as stakeholders expect to be consulted, or, at a minimum be notified when bylaws are being enacted.

ACTION: Karen and Zo Ann to draft an email and circulate to Board members before January 18 meeting.

Increasing NSSK profile with District and City (the following steps were identified to help in confirming our identity as a valued group to be consulted during development of by-laws and policies, beyond general public consultations or at final draft):

- **More frequent attendance at Council meetings.** Have one person commit to review council agenda and notify the group of upcoming environmental topics. (Bob G already does this, and has said he will continue do this); and, one to attend Council meetings (District on first and third Monday; City, council meeting on first Monday and Public Hearings on third Monday) (several people can share this responsibility, and when appropriate, comment at the Council meeting)
- **ACTION**: ask at January 18 meeting for volunteers for Council meetings.
- **Invite Mayors and Councillors to NSSK meetings regularly.** Send a copy of NSSK meeting agenda to them a couple of weeks before the meeting, inviting them to attend, along with a list of meetings for the year and any special topics or guest speakers.
ACTION: Jan, secretary to do this.
- **Make more frequent and regular presentations at Council meetings.** We have done this sporadically in the past, but a regular commitment would be good (e.g., four times a year for the 2 minute period allowed all citizens). This would remind council and staff of our ongoing activities and health/value of our streams, which are actually a form of implementing the OCP in themselves, and the importance of citizen action in protecting natural area. Short topics each time, adapted to the District or City (e.g. spawner surveys, invasive plant management, storm drains, riparian habitat, public involvement, year-end report).
ACTION: develop a presentation and find someone to present at February Council meetings on results of spawner surveys (4-6 slides, with photos). Presentations can then go on website, Also volunteers for subsequent presentations in 2012.

3. EVENTS FOR 2012

- 1) **Lower Mainland Green Team** – May 12, 2012 in collaboration with Friends of Hunter Park. Typically focus on removal of invasive plants or planting. Not sure how many will attend. Will need to tailor list of activities suitable for this active bird breeding season to avoid disruption. Zo Ann has offered to do a bug survey that day. Hastings Group streamkeepers will be conducting the annual smolt survey that day, should it still be in the `window` when smolts are in the creek, as creek water conditions vary and the smolts choose when to leave the creek; trapped on May 1, 2010 and April 9, in 2011) Will need to watch stream conditions to see if smolt survey should be earlier, but can still trap for cutthroat trout and fry of the year on May 12.
ACTION: Janet D to discuss suitable invasive plant removal activities for spring while at the January IVPCBC meeting.
- 2) **Lynn Valley Days** – May 26 - would be nice to be organized so it is not a surprise and involve more streamkeepers.
- 3) **Coho Festival** – some planning ahead as to who, when, and what, will be presented. Invoice Metro Vancouver for previous services at the walk.
- 4) **Rivers Day** – has focused on Mackay Creek in recent years, would be good to hold on another creek.
- 5) **Heywood Park Community Art Project** – planning underway with NSSK working group, local schools, and Artist for Kids Trust. Project aimed for after spring break – April – March 2012. This timing should work with fry release activities at the New Heywood Park Hatchery. **ACTION:** Ron and Karen to discuss ideas with City. NSSK volunteers will be invited to assist with project activities

4. Public Relations

WEBSITE. Members are interested in updating the website and Pat Morten will be happy to continue working with us. We just need to provide ideas.

ACTION: small group to meet with Pat to develop ideas for design and then bring to NSSK at March or May meeting.

- Want to be able to update easily with news on upcoming events and post event photos, with stream information, etc. (not just depend on the bulletin board)
- E.g., if we want to focus on the protection of riparian setbacks - we can post information about habitat values, importance to stream function in the 30 m zone, and risks to private property associated when developed too close to creek.
- We have lots of information, photos, posters, etc. that can go on website – will just take a bit of time to organize.

- Highlight our values and what we care about.
- Add a member`s page to post working documents (lists of speakers, projects, etc)
- Power point presentations from Council meetings.
- Links to other groups.
- Wild Chance and Facing the Challenge are now on line and will be made easily available on website – <http://vimeo.com/29190784>

Christmas Tree – at Lynn Valley Village. Lynn Valley Community Association had its first annual Christmas tree fundraiser with many associations and businesses participating. The idea has been put forward that we sponsor and have a NSSK tree Dec 2012. Another profile raising suggestion! Time to start collecting ideas and those special pieces throughout the year for decorating it.

BRANDING – develop a consistent look to power point presentations, letters.

ACTION: Karen and Zo Ann to work on templates, all to consider developing a tool (web based) e.g., survey, petition, quotes from scientists and streamside residents, `stewardship oath` on valuing streams and streamside habitat). This would allow residents an opportunity to document their beliefs and support District OCP vision and NSSK mandate.

5. GRANTS – Pacific Salmon Foundation \$9,000 Grant.

There are some terms (regarding intellectual property, data and project ownership) that board members think should not apply to the smaller organizations and groups like NSSK.

ACTION: Miles will review terms and conditions and Karen will contact PSF with questions before we sign the Participation Agreement.

Meeting adjourned, 9:50 p.m.