

## CULTUS LAKE AQUATIC STEWARDSHIP STRATEGY CLASS March 25, 2015 meeting minutes

Present: Lauren Spilsbury, Owen and Chris Skonberg, Neil Smith, Lewis Kirkness, Gord Spencer, Rodney Philippson, Dave Clyne [Recorder], Darcy Bauer, Christina Toth [Chair]

Guests: Enrique Sanchez, planning forester B.C. Timber Sales, Andrew Boxwell, intern.  
At DFO research lab, 4222 Columbia Valley Highway, Cultus Lake, BC.

### 1. Introductions

### 2. Accept Agenda

January minutes were amended with creek names corrected, and accepted.

### 3. BC Timber Sales – guest speaker

Dave C. introduced topic: some previous resource extraction in logging, a gravel pit washout along with 2009 flood affected fisheries creeks with silt runoff & deposits, resulting in some remedial forestry road work, ditch work, culverts and swales to affected areas. BCTS was invited to explain aspects of current proposal and to answer questions.

**Enrique Sanchez:** Enrique brought various maps of logging zones and operating policy documents for CLASS to review and keep. NOTE: Some documents are attached to this email. He gave an extensive overview of log harvest process:

BCTS is an arm of ministry with mandate to set stumpage fees in its area, the Chilliwack Forest District. There are 1.2 cubic million cu meters of harvestable forest in Chilliwack District, divided among 47 other forestry holders, monitored BC Ministry of Forests.

BCTS is assigned 20% [250,000 cubic meters per year] of the Chilliwack District timber sales [total is 1.2 million cu/m]. The district includes Chilliwack, Squamish and Haida Gwaii forest districts. There are 47 other forestry holders monitored by BC Ministry of Forests.

Forest Stewardship Plan – outlines an area for future activity. Forest Development Unit is part of the Chilliwack Development Unit, which has to meet 11 values set out by Forestry Act in its management [e.g. soil control, water quality, recreation, etc.].

Forest Operating Plan – part of Forestry Stewardship Plan (FSP) reporting goes to First Nation each year by law. Includes safety, environment rules. In addition, BCTS will engage the public when they have operating plans, even though FSP doesn't specifically mandate it. The FSP was approved in 2007 [process started in 2004, which was the only time for public input] for five years but BCTS can get five-year extensions.

Cultus Lake/Vedder Mountain logging zones: Light green area are proposed cut blocks VE117, 116, 120, 121, 202, 123, 118. Purple areas include species at risk.

Harvesting: Planning process – collect, collate public comments for forest technicians, who then apply issues when they map block(s). Prep process can take two years. Surveyed blocks are then auctioned for a minimum bid. Companies must meet criteria to be eligible to bid. Revenues go to provincial government. Accountant establishes base price to cover various costs. BCTS must provide timber harvest to maintain jobs, sector, revenues, taxes, etc. If no bids, blocks are reassessed, and put back on auction with more attractive (valuable) blocks. Environmental Impact Study expense – assessments paid by BCTS are included in price of block. Purple areas include known species at risk areas but this info isn't general public knowledge to ensure protection. Biologists confer with BCTS, logging contractors about SAR to ensure best practices (areas of SAR are not off limits) such as restricted harvesting conditions. When a block is sold, the licensee has up to 4 years to harvest, to take advantage of optimal market conditions. BCTS can also require harvest within a specific time frame. Generally there is no season restriction on Vedder Mountain except with weather conditions, such as heavy rainfall.

Last logging harvest on Vedder Mountain was 2011. No Vedder Mtn. blocks currently on market. After logging is completed, roads are decommissioned by law. Sandy soil helps create the best growing conditions on Vedder in Chilliwack District, but brush also grows fast so replanting must occur soon after

tree harvest to get ahead of brush growth. BCTS must replant, the cost of which is built into the original minimum cost, and re-establish travel into blocks for planting using various transportation methods, such as ATVs.

Healthy logging – FVRD district policy, FSP, Integrated Visual concerns document, with descriptions how to manage is the way that BCTS attempts to manage the forest. Logging should not be visible or easy to see. Helicopter logging has been considered but not used.

Draft Interpretative Forest Plan is the last document to help with protection. Obtain copies of this from Marina Dunn at Ministry of Forests in Chilliwack at [marina.dunn@gov.bc.ca](mailto:marina.dunn@gov.bc.ca)

Marina Dunn is with Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations, Recreation Site and Trails department for the Chilliwack District. She may be able to answer your questions regarding the proposed interpretive forest.

\*Re: logging blocks visible by public.

If requested beforehand, when blocks are sold, the licensee is required to contact with local interested person[s] prior to logging. CLASS will provide BCTS with some local contact names (Gord Spence, Dave Clyne).

BCTS is developing an Interpretive Forest strategy to minimize impact on logging. Other users of forest, such as hikers, mountain bikers, etc. are considered in forest management. District of Mission forest manager Bobby O'Neal is a good person to contact re: interpretive forest. Bob O'Neal, R.P.F. Director of Forest Management, 604-820-3762 or [forestry@mission.ca](mailto:forestry@mission.ca) See also [www.mission.ca/forestry](http://www.mission.ca/forestry)

As a non-profit arm of the Ministry of Forests, BCTS aims to work independent of government by having its own account for revenue to pay wages, development etc., to satisfy the soft lumber sales with USA. Extra revenue goes into B.C.'s general revenue and if it sells timber at a loss, BCTS borrows money from the province to maintain jobs and forestry industry stability.

Landslides and silting – tables for soil condition (from FVRD) are used to propose assessments. Professionals do terrain assessments for the physical layout of block and provide recommendations to be integrated into harvesting plans, i.e. harvest shut down when there are heavy rains. To minimize the impact of logging, the use of hay bales can be installed for filtering run-off. BCTS monitors harvesting with a performance technician to ensure protocols are followed. After last logging project, Vedder Mountain was upgraded to a high-risk logging mountain, so it will be carefully monitored.

Logging contacts. **Proposed contacts: Dave Clyne, Gord Spence, and may be others from CLASS. (Gord Spence took documents to review.)**

#### **4.] Old Business**

**a.] Silt removal plan** – more consultation needed with FVRD. Costs may range from \$50K to \$80K. DFO Dan Selbie may be helpful resource. Dave and Darcy to consult with Paul.

**b.] Lauren** exchanged contacts with Jeanne Hughes of Fraser Valley Invasive Plant Council after last month's presentation to arrange for volunteers for future projects. Hopefully Jeanne's invasive species article will be in the summer edition of the Cultus View newsletter.

**c.] Update: Transcription** of Dan Selbie's Jan. 22 talk on eutrophication in Cultus Lake – Christina 1/3 of the way through. D.Selbie will edit and review. We can publish this with slides etc., when complete. Suggestion: In the future, get a Bluetooth mike for important talks for clear recording.

**d.] UBC Centre for Interactive Research on Sustainability (CIRS)** green building tour – Dave/Darcy to suggest the trip at the April 15 meeting with the FVRD waste water committee.

**e.] Grant-in-aid** – Electoral Area H representative Taryn Dixon will request \$3,000 grant-in-aid from FVRD. Christina will contact Taryn to get update on when it will go before committee. (It will be

discussed at late April FVRD electoral area meeting.) When approved, work to update CLASS website can begin.

**f.] Outreach Strategy** – informal request made to Canadian Wildlife Federation, David Brown on lake funding. Outreach intent is to increase stewardship support, through positive engagement, and sharing information such as Selbie's talk, with locals and visitors through the web site. Need to tell people in 5 different ways to make the message sink in. Build on good relations, assets in community. Ideas: movable signs that could be rotated around the lake in the provincial park, Lindell Beach etc.; interpretative talks about the lake in the provincial parks. Possible speakers, funding support from BC Parks via Joanna Hirner and Rob Wilson.

**g.] Finance** – \$10,055.58 in CLASS account. Managed by Fraser Valley Watershed Coalition. There will be staff changes but FVWC is willing to continue to hold our account since we don't have society status. Leverage dollars instead of spending it when possible. Note: all expenses must have receipts, be recorded on expense claim forms.

**h.] Pikeminnow Derby** – As CLASS is not organizing the derby this year, it should notify community regarding cancellation of the event this year, but inform public the winter fishery continues to remove pikeminnow. Get info from Dave Barrett and Nick Basoc. Press release should have positive tone & offer opportunity for some group to take it over for 2016. Draft will be created and circulated to CLASS members with the aim to approve it at the next CLASS meeting and release at the end of April. Dave C. has contacts, data to share with any group interested in taking it on.

**ACTION** – Christina will write draft a press release and circulate it to today's attendees for input. Include free fishing day on Father's Day weekend. Happy tone. **Done.**

**ACTION:** Dave send thank you card to Protect Our Park [Bob McCrea] for the donation of \$68. **DONE**

**ACTION:** Christina will contact BC Family Fishing site to have CLASS/ PM Derby removed from this year's event listing. **DONE**

**ACTION:** Dave will contact Tara Hiebert, Chilliwack Progress advertising rep, to let her know of the change. **DONE**

**i.] Promontory** – Lauren read out her observations regarding the impact of the development on the local streams. The water flows have been drastically reduced from Walter Creek. A creek can be moved if permits are completed and accepted, etc. Water Wealth did not show interest. Rodney Philippon was thanked for his passion and his attempts to find answers to this matter.

**j.] Thank you cards** – Lauren reported she had 50 colour custom cards printed for \$55.74. Thank you Lauren for your beautiful art work and write up on the back.

Selling cards: could package these with other local pictures/artwork in packages (of 4 or more/) and sell for \$10 with a CLASS button. Also use Lewis' old pictures. Perhaps sell at Cultus Lake Saturday Market.

**ACTION:** Obtain expense claim form, submit to Lance to reimburse Lauren. Add card sales into our outreach plan with merchandising to create awareness for Cultus Lake and for fund raising.

**ACTION:** Lauren will do more research on best ways of marketing this product, as time allows.

## **New Business**

**1.] Marion on leave.** Christina taking over in interim. Marion will always be a resource person. Many thanks to Marion for her wonderful work since the inception of CLASS.

## **2.] Response to Logging Proposal**

**ACTION:** Thank you cards to Enrique Sanchez and Andrew for presentation, information.

**ACTION:** Gord, Dave C. will meet with Angus Allison and draft a response letter. CLASS mission is to protect lake ecosystem. Gord Spence is taking BCTS documents to review with Angus. Angus Allison from Lindell is a retired forester interested in Vedder Mountain logging. Fraser Valley Conservancy – the phantom orchid is on file with them.

### **3.] Cultus Lake Community Association AGM, networking April 4.**

**ACTIONS** – CLASS will be there.

- have buttons, Caring for Cultus booklets, Cultus Lake relief model [Darcy will check with staff to move it on Friday, April 3?]
- Neil, Lauren, Rodney, Lewis will attend, and anyone else. Christina.
- have basket to put people's names on for a draw for Caring for Cultus etc.
- Lewis has the 3 jars with water quality
- sign and cards with meeting times

**4.] FV Invasive Plant Council** – \$5,000 grant received for invasive plant removal (mostly blackberries) along the west shore of Sweltzer Creek this August/Sept. with replanting of indigenous species with resident input. Site visits already underway by CL Parks, FVIPC.

**5.] Waste Management** – FVRD waste water management committee meets April 15 at CL Community Hall. Representatives from around the watershed invited to attend.

**6.] Milfoil** – Darcy: A proposed trial area off a public dock area 20' x 100' to see what is most effective way of managing milfoil in swimming areas.

- DFO diver took video of underwater milfoil infestation last week.
- Method includes mats sunk for 3 months to suffocate milfoil, hand pulling, etc.
- FBC – had workshop with Dr. Madson. At Christina Lake and Nicola Lake FBC, regional district were involved with milfoil management. Work with BC Parks enhancement fund to help in the future along with FVRD.
- CL Park board will apply for permission when Darcy and Dave have paperwork completed. May need CLASS support (letter).
- Lindell is hoping to have milfoil roots removed this year.
- Milfoil management should extent to entire lake, although most work will be closer to shore, not in deeper waters.

### **7.] Future Meetings –**

Evening meeting near end of May 26/27?, with a guest speaker to be determined.

**ACTION:** Chris/Christina: find out times and place for May evening meeting.

### **8.] Smolt numbers:** Dave C. reported an "unofficial" fry count in Cultus Lake.

"Unofficially, the outgoing Cultus sockeye smolt count is higher right now than the whole count for last year."

**9.] Next CLASS meeting is April 29, 9:30 at DFO.** Whew! Thank you to attendees for staying past the usual closing time. It was a long meeting but productive and informative. Thanks Dave for the marvelous notes.

\* Following is section 1.1 of the FPPR that Enrique mentioned.

Forest and Range Practices Act

FOREST PLANNING AND PRACTICES REGULATION (FPPR)

Categories of visually altered forest landscape

1.1 For the purposes of paragraph (c) of the definition of “altered forest landscape” in section 1, the following categories are prescribed, each according to the extent of alteration resulting from the size, shape and location of cutblocks and roads:

(a) preservation: consisting of an altered forest landscape in which the alteration, when assessed from a significant public viewpoint, is

- (i) very small in scale, and
- (ii) not easily distinguishable from the pre-harvest landscape;

(b) retention: consisting of an altered forest landscape in which the alteration, when assessed from a significant public viewpoint, is

- (i) difficult to see,
- (ii) small in scale, and
- (iii) natural in appearance;

(c) partial retention: consisting of an altered forest landscape in which the alteration, when assessed from a significant public viewpoint, is

- (i) easy to see,
- (ii) small to medium in scale, and
- (iii) natural and not rectilinear or geometric in shape;

(d) modification: consisting of an altered forest landscape in which the alteration, when assessed from a significant public viewpoint,

- (i) is very easy to see, and
- (ii) is
  - (A) large in scale and natural in its appearance, or
  - (B) small to medium in scale but with some angular characteristics;

(e) maximum modification: consisting of an altered forest landscape in which the alteration, when assessed from a significant public viewpoint,

- (i) is very easy to see, and

(ii) is

(A) very large in scale,

(B) rectilinear and geometric in shape, or

(C) both.