

**KETTLE RIVER WATERSHED MANAGEMENT PLAN
STAKEHOLDERS ADVISORY GROUP
MEETING #1**

**Thursday, May 3, 2012
6:30 p.m.**

**Grand Forks Seniors Hall
Grand Forks, BC**

The following are focal points and action items from a Kettle River Watershed Management Plan Stakeholder Advisory Committee meeting held at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 3, 2012 at the Grand Forks Seniors Hall, Grand Forks, B.C.

Participants

- Lorri Harpur, West Boundary Agriculture – Kettle River Stockmen's Assc.
- Roly Russell, East Boundary Agriculture – Grand Forks & Bndry Regional Ag. Society
- Tyler Hodgkinson, InterFor
- Fred Marshall, Small Business Forestry – West Boundary
- Darryl Arsenault, Alternate for Paul Plocktis, Tourism – Big White Resort
- Sarah Winton, Tourism/Small Business – Regional Chamber of Commerce
- Earl Lehmann, Recreation – Kettle Valley Wildlife Association
- Steve Babakaiff, Sion Improvement District
- Jenny Coleshill, Granby Wilderness Society
- Brenda LaCroix, Christina Lake Stewardship Society
- Sonny Banjac, Alternate for Paul Manson, Energy – Powerhouse Developments Inc.
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- John Jewitt, Mining – Boundary Mining Association (President)
- Fred Elsaesser, Nursery – Advance Orchard Co. Ltd.
- Peter Shiltin, Alternate for Peter Regenber, Industry - Roxul
- Victor Lockhart, Beaverdell Resident
- Larry Jmaiff, Resident at large
- George Dagg, Resident at large
- Gary Schierbeck, Resident at large
- Michael Zimmer, Resident at large
- Kathy O'Malley, Resident at large
- Dick Dunsdon, Resident at large
- Grace McGregor, Electoral Area 'C' Director
- Irene Perepolkin, Electoral Area 'D' Director
- Bill Baird, Electoral Area 'E' Director
- Brian Taylor, City of Grand Forks
- Nipper Kettle, City of Greenwood
- Marguerite Rotvold, Village of Midway
- Mark Andison, Director of Planning and Development, RDKB
- Maria Ciardullo, Senior Secretary, RDKB – Meeting Recorder

Regrets:

- Mike Hooge, Small Business Forestry – East Boundary
- Paul Plocktis, Tourism – Big White Resort
- Murray Knox, Grand Forks Irrigation District
- James Pepper, First Nations – Okanagan Nation Alliance
- Peter Regenber, Industry - Roxul

1. Welcome & Introductions

Grace McGregor, RDKB Electoral Area 'C' Director and Chair of the Stakeholders Advisory Committee welcomed all the participants and thanked everyone for attending. The participants introduced themselves.

Chair McGregor announced an amendment to the agenda – Election of Vice-Chair for the Stakeholders Advisory Committee.

Chair McGregor called a first time for nominations of Vice-Chair. Steve Babakaiff nominated Kathy O'Malley and Tyler Hodgkinson seconded the nomination. Kathy O'Malley accepted.

Chair McGregor called a second time for nominations of Vice-Chair. Marguerite Rotvold nominated Bill Baird and Irene Perepolkin seconded the nomination. Bill Baird accepted.

Chair McGregor called a third time for nominations and there being none, asked the 2 nominees to leave the room so a vote could take place. A vote by a show of hands occurred and Bill Baird was elected as Vice-Chair of the Stakeholders Advisory Committee.

The floor was turned over to Mark Andison, RDKB, Director of Planning and Development. Mark thanked everyone for attending and remarked briefly on the history of the Watershed plan. He also spoke about the establishment of the Terms of Reference and the development of Phase 1 – being the technical advisory phase and Phase 2 being the planning phase which included hiring a watershed co-coordinator – Graham Watt. Mark then introduced Mr. Watt and turned the floor over to him.

Mr. Watt gave a brief introduction of himself and gave an overview of the agenda.

2. Agenda – Review and Confirm

The election of Vice-Chair was added to the agenda and it was:

Moved: Marguerite Rotvold/Sec'd: Brenda LaCroix

That the agenda be adopted as amended.

3. Review Terms of Reference for Kettle River Watershed Management Plan and draft Terms of Reference for Stakeholder Advisory Group

Mr. Watt presented a slide-show which covered the following topics:

- About the Watershed
- Terms of Reference
- Phase I Technical Assessment
- Phase II Purpose
 - Provides guidance to authorities
 - Provides recommendations/actions on water supply/use; protect ecological function; increase understanding; promote water conservation.
 - Planning Principles
 - Scope
 - Types of Recommendations – water quantity/quality; habitat & riparian
 - Role of the plan

Issues & Questions raised:

- USA consultation
- Group members are very interested in receiving the technical advisory report before the next meeting
- Make an intranet site available for committee members.
- Federal Government consultation

4. Round Table – Expectations of Planning Process and Scope

The discussion covered a variety of topics. In-depth notes appended.

- Need for lobbying the Province for more commitment to watershed planning;
- Implications of changes to the Water Act for local watershed planning. Timeline?
- Authority and role of plan; limitations;
- Use of plan by RDKB
- Establishing partnerships for long term benefits
- Key issues raised: future water sustainability; requirements for storage; aquifer protection; healthy water ways; limiting land use impacts on hydrology and water quality; overall water management

5. Overview of Draft Work Plan

Mr. Watt continued with the slideshow presentation on the work plan and monthly/yearly timelines. He discussed the establishment of the Stakeholders Advisory Committee

Terms of Reference, objectives and targets, prioritizing issues, solutions and strategies and finally engagement and implementation.

It was suggested that due to the vast amount of information presented and to give everyone time to digest it all, Committee members are invited to phone or email Mr. Watt or Grace McGregor with any comments or ideas they wish to share. The intranet forum was mentioned as a way to share opinions as well.

Issues and Questions raised:

- How is the public going to be informed? Through media – newspapers, radio, websites. There needs to be transparency and public engagement;
- Agendas and minutes posted on the website.
- When will Phase I technical advisory report from Summit Environmental be available? Possibly June 2012.
- Issues raised
 - Keep the future in mind regarding implications on water supply (eg. floods and droughts)
 - What is the impact of the number of resource users of the watershed;
 - Drought and water storage;

6. Stakeholder Advisory Group Draft Terms of Reference

What is the Stakeholder Advisory Group's role and responsibilities?

- Advise;
- Prioritize;
- Identify;
- Link to community.

Steering Committee is comprised of the 6 RDKB Boundary Directors who make executive decisions and who also sit on the Stakeholder Advisory Committee.

Communicate with alternate members so they are well informed should they need to attend a meeting.

7. Defining Ground Rule Commitments

The members discussed having open communications with respect, understanding and politeness. Disagreements should be aired at the meetings when issues come up. The issue of having "one-voice" for the media was brought forward, so that information is clearly communicated. Use scientific facts for explanation when available.

Agendas will be made available 1 week prior to the meetings and the minutes will be made available within 1 week after the meeting. Upload the agendas and minutes to the website so everyone is informed and up to date.

Apply for Grants as soon as possible to avoid gaps in future progress.

8. Meeting Scheduling

It was generally agreed upon that the 1st Thursday of each month would be the date for meetings. The June meeting requires a different date because of the Rural Summit in Grand Forks that week. It was suggested there should not be a meeting in August and possibly in December.

Next SAC Meeting

The date for the next meeting is dependent upon receiving the Technical Advisory report from Summit Environmental. The report is expected to be completed in June, 2012. Possible meeting dates will be sent out to all members for consideration. At this meeting Summit Environmental will be presenting their report. A light dinner will be provided.

9. Adjournment – 8:30 p.m.

Motion to adjourn.

Moved: Bill Baird

Action Registry	Who?	Result
Meeting #1 May 3, 2012		
1.1. Prepare press release / story to increase awareness about planning process	Watt + Steering Committee	
1.2. Finalize SAG Terms of Reference	Watt + Steering Committee	
1.3. Prepare feedback form on website for further stakeholder expectations for plan	Watt + Steering Committee	
1.4. Follow up with Summit Environmental for date of final product and potential presentation dates	M. Andison	
1.5. Identify potential meeting dates for June meeting and circulate meeting request to Group	Watt	
1.6. Prepare "knowledge base" – watershed knowledge and affiliations of Advisory Group members, TAC and other stakeholders/public	Watt + all Group members	
1.7. Follow up with MoE representative on potential implications of Water Act & current timeline	Watt	

Round Table: Hopes & Expectations¹

- “That the information from experts and the values and priorities of citizens result in behaviour change in industrial practices by ranchers, miners, foresters, farmers, etc., whether or not Provincial and Federal governments fully buy in.”
- “We need to have assurance that the results of this guidance plan will be incorporated in decision making at different levels of Government...” “What will be the results of a plan when the local government doesn’t have authority over licencing and allocation?”
 - Federal – Federal government representatives (DFO, Environment Canada, Canadian Wildlife Service, others) have interests in the watershed. Some representatives have participated in the Technical Advisory Committee in support of the Phase 1 plan.
 - Provincial – Provincial representatives from Agriculture, Environment, and FLNRO participated in the TAC and have provided significant in-kind support in terms of technical studies, information and feedback on the Phase 1 study. They are supportive of the planning process but can’t yet provide assurance about *how* results will be used.
 - There will be a role for lobbying by municipalities, public and other organizations to get the Province to play a stronger role in watershed management
 - Municipal – Where the RDKB has jurisdiction the input from community-based advisory groups strongly informs and has considerable influence in statutory planning and bylaws, assisting the Board and councils in decisions about the future of the community. This plan or some of the outputs from the planning process (goals & objectives) could be incorporated in upcoming Official Community Plans
- “What role will the new Water Act have in shaping watershed management? Is it supportive of our work, or will we be able to influence its implementation with our work?”
 - There is still uncertainty about how the water act modernization will affect the interests in the watershed. Suggestion to follow up with MoE for direction.
- “Effective plan that will get the Kettle River off the endangered rivers list”
- “Plan needs to address flooding concerns and riparian protection – we need a well-managed watershed”

¹ Original comment or question in round table has the high level bullet and is put in quotes, but are not verbatim. Discussion/responses to the comment are summarized thematically in sub-bullets

- “Needs to address risks of groundwater contamination due to improperly abandoned wells – we need to keep our aquifers pristine. Organizations like the GF Aquifer Protection Society need to continue and have their work implemented”
- “Expect that this planning process will develop partnerships which could provide long term benefits”
- “Don’t limit the scope too much – be comprehensive in the issues addressed and use time / additional resources to meet the information needs of all issues addressed”
- “need a plan that can address water supply issues connected to drought – can we address needs for more storage with this plan”
 - Plan could certainly identify needs and considerations for storage under a variety of future development scenarios
- “Planning process needs to embody continual information building with continuity and feedback, using the extensive knowledge of people around the table” “Use science wherever possible to support understanding issues and making recommendations”
- “Implementation will depend on having funds from all levels of government – we will need to start funding development now and also fund studies to fill information gaps.
- “How will we (our organizations, businesses) use and advance this plan?”
 - [Grand Forks] we hope that it will help address how surface water supply will be able to be used in the future, in terms of storage (i.e. Granby River)
 - [Granby Wilderness Society] We hope it can help inform habitat management by different parties. We can provide information to the planning process on priority/critical habitat areas, for instance Lewis’ Woodpecker.
 - [Intefor] Many of our activities have large impacts on water resources, flow patterns and water quality. We operate within the guidelines for managing forests in large watersheds to mitigate streamflow effects. We have taken initiatives to protect water quality but there are conflicts with other land users (range)
 - [Seabreeze/Cascade] We are representing the interests of the hydro power project, recognizing it addresses the important needs of sustainable and renewable energy in the area. We are also concerned about the role of climate change in influencing future flows