



Coquitlam River Watershed Strategy

Kwikwetlem, known as “Red fish up river.” A living river that reveals its spirit.

Coquitlam River Watershed Strategy – Phase IV Roundtable Transition Planning Meeting

1 INTRODUCTION

One of the conclusions of Phase III of the Coquitlam River Watershed (CRW) Strategy was the striking of an interim group to help pull together a CRW Roundtable: “The Transition Team will meet one evening in November and help plan and host a community meeting in the new year that will establish the Coquitlam River Watershed Roundtable. Then the Transition Team will disband.” This report summarizes the results of the November 2010 meeting – the launch of Phase IV of the CRW Strategy.

At the start of the meeting Margaret Birch of the City of Coquitlam welcomed attendees, and gave the good news that the CRW initiative has been invited by Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program to submit a proposal for Year 5 funding.

Julie Gardner of Dovetail Consulting facilitated the meeting and Devon Knight and Dave Peterson of Devon Knight Events organized the meeting and took notes.

Julie Gardner produced this meeting summary. In the interest of maintaining momentum towards establishing the CRW Roundtable and informing upcoming meetings, this summary has been produced without the benefit of a review by meeting participants.

Participants

Julie reviewed the process by which meeting participants were chosen. This involved intensive communications by phone and email with representatives of governments and organizations who had been active participants in earlier phases of the CRW Strategy. Clusters of non-government organizations conferred amongst themselves and put forward individuals representative of their area of interest.

Participants in the November 24th meeting were:

City of Coquitlam (Staff)	Steffanie	Warriner
City of Coquitlam (Staff)	Margaret	Birch
City of Coquitlam (Staff)	Bill	Susak
City of Coquitlam (Council)	Brent	Asmundson
City of Port Coquitlam (Staff)	Allen	Jensen
City of Port Coquitlam (Council)	Sherry	Carroll
Kwikwetlem First Nation Technical Advisor	Craig	Orr
Metro Vancouver Watersheds	Dave	Dunkley
BC Hydro	Judy	Dobrowolski

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Fisheries and Oceans Canada	Maurice	Coulter-Boisvert
Consultant to aggregate industries	George	Turi
Blue Mountain Motorcycle Club (Trail recreation)	Tom	Adlington
PoCo& District Hunting and Fishing Club	Norm	Fletcher
Generation Maintenance	Gordon	Lewis
North Fraser Salmon Assistance Program	Tony	Matahlija
Maple Creek Streamkeepers	Dianne	Ramage
Tri-City Green Council	Elaine	Willis
Fraser Basin Council, Fraser Salmon/Watersheds	Jessica	Hawkins
Quadra Consultants	Mike	McPhee

Those who would have liked to join the meeting but couldn't were Blair Chisholm, who works in real estate development, and Ed Taje of the BC Ministry of Natural Resource Operations. The Ministry of Environment has indicated their interest in the CRW initiative; however representation could not be provided at this time.

A participant observed that in future having several representatives of a government at a meeting of this type could give the appearance of dominance by government representatives.

[*Post-meeting observation by Julie:* The extra involvement from the City of Coquitlam in this meeting was related to the good opportunity the meeting provided to bring City representatives up-to-date, given that the meeting was at the start of Phase IV, and held in City Hall. The City of Coquitlam has provided a very high level of in-kind support to the CRW initiative from the outset – illustrating its strong interest in the initiative. City of Coquitlam participants, other than Margaret Birch, generally acted as observers unless called on by the facilitator or a participant to join in the discussion.]

2 REVIEW OF AGREEMENTS FROM PHASES II AND III

Throughout the meeting, Julie drew attention to relevant aspects of the Roundtable agreed to by participants in Phase II and Phase III. To maintain the integrity of the process and accountability to the many people who have participated in reaching these agreements, this meeting built on these previous agreements rather than re-visiting them. The agreements from Phases I and II are reflected in a report which was circulated to all meeting participants, and has been posted on the CRW Strategy website for some months (www.coquitlamriverwatershed.ca). It is called a *Strategy to Establish a Coquitlam River Watershed Governance Structure*.

It was noted that the Mission for the Roundtable had not yet been solidified, though the drafts from Phase III provide the key wording that the Mission statement will draw on. A concern was raised that there is still a lack of clarity in direction for the new Roundtable (e.g., the tasks it will take on), but at the same time, we should not be overly prescriptive, giving the Roundtable a chance to sculpt its own direction. The understanding that the Roundtable must pursue the Vision and Shared Values of the watershed which have been front and centre since Phase II, and that it must adhere to a set of Guiding Principles agreed on in Phase III, was felt to provide adequate direction for now.

3 BENEFITS OF THE ROUNDTABLE

Participants were asked to reflect on “how the sector you come from will benefit.” Ideas contributed on post-it notes are at the end of this document (section 6). Many benefits were listed, all consistent with the Vision, Values and Principles. One participant listed “no benefit” but this viewpoint was not further explored.

A discussion prompted by George Turi looked ahead to contemplate “whether this Roundtable will be the principal entity for the watershed.” Was it expected that other organizations would fold in, or continue to operate in parallel? And if they remain in existence, how can we ensure that everybody is pulling in the same direction? Some points made in this connection, and on the topic of benefits of the Roundtable, were as follows:

- Julie pointed out that existing groups would not be told what to do by Roundtable. They might fold in – or not; Roundtable performance which proves its value would help them make this decision as things unfold. In addition, you wouldn’t be welcome at the Roundtable if you did not believe in the Vision.
- Tony Matahlija felt that enhancement people now do not connect with the Coquitlam River Advisory Council (CRAC), and also that a government supported stewardship program did not adequately involve the community, implying that the Roundtable could improve on these experiences. While most people in the meeting here today are already working together, the Roundtable will help communication among independently operating people.
- Maurice Coulter-Boisvert commented that any agency would go to the Roundtable to communicate, and to get a broad audience. Information would be available to all. Like a Web site, it could be a place where you can post information about what you are planning to do – permit applications, for example.
- Norm Fletcher emphasized the importance of fully open, inclusive participation.
- Gordon Lewis provided an example of complexity of the sector interests: Though aggregate extraction is noisy (he lives nearby), the industry has provided hatchery and other benefits. The Roundtable will provide opportunities for better communication with industry.
- Dianne Ramage pointed out that the Roundtable will proceed by trial and error. Success will breed success. Participants should make a commitment to stick with the process as it evolves – somewhat like a marriage. Julie reinforced Dianne’s point, asking participants to think of it as an experiment. The Roundtable should be a place where ongoing assessment and evaluation of what works and what needs improvement can take place.
- When asked to comment by a meeting participant, Councillor Asmundson observed that the Roundtable could contribute in areas such as monitoring and making recommendations to implementing agencies.

4 ROUNDTABLE CORE COMMITTEE FORMATION

Much of the meeting was used to work out how the Roundtable Core Committee could be formed, since this is the essence of getting the Roundtable up and running. The community meeting in 2011 will share in this task, and for that open meeting to proceed efficiently, the many participants expected to attend need to be presented with a proposal for consideration.

Role of the Core Committee

Julie reviewed the agreed-on role of the Core Committee, noting that its function is largely administrative. The Core Committee reports to, and is accountable to, the Roundtable. It serves the open and inclusive Roundtable; energy should come from the larger Roundtable.

The Core Committee provides continuity, direction, coordination and oversight. It should ensure the Roundtable remains accountable to the watershed vision, guiding principles, etc., but it does not choose the actual projects that the Roundtable will undertake, likely through working groups (though the Core Committee can help facilitate selection of projects).

The Committee hires the Roundtable Coordinator, who reports to the Core Committee (i.e., not to the Funders Group). The Core Committee manages Roundtable funds. One of the Core Committee will act as the “banker,” holding funds from various sources in trust for the Roundtable (as the City of Coquitlam has done to date).

Members of the Core Committee will be a subset of people from the Roundtable with leadership abilities. They will be representative of sectors of interest in the watershed – sector representation is a priority. Inclusion of watershed government representatives is a given, i.e. the City of Coquitlam, the Kwikwetlem First Nation and the City of Port Coquitlam.

Participants in the November 24th meeting acknowledged that there will have to be Working Committees of the Roundtable, as well as the Core Committee – based on a suggestion from Jessica Hawkins.

Relation between funders and the Core Committee

The proposed structure of the Roundtable from Phase III has a “Funders Group” with some overlap in membership with the Roundtable to act as liaisons.

Participants made an array of suggestions, some contrasting. One was that funders should be at arm’s length from the Core Committee so as not to have undue influence over the activities of the Roundtable. Another was that funders would require representation on the Core Committee in order to ensure accountability for how their funding contributions are used.

A participant pointed out that there are likely to be two different types of funding – unrestricted (e.g., could be used for projects or administration) and targeted (i.e. funds contributed for specific uses). It was emphasized that continued funding for the salary of the Coordinator is critical; yet it is generally easier to get funding for specific projects than for staff.

Participants in the meeting included representatives of some current funders. When asked whether they would require representation on the Core Committee, views ranged from “yes,”

to “definitely not,” to “on the Roundtable but not the Core Committee.” A participant observed that a broad base of funding would help the Roundtable preserve its independence.

Size of the Core Committee

All agreed that the Core Committee has to be a small size for efficiency. A key question was how to structure the representation of sectors, while keeping the size of the committee manageable.

Craig Orr observed that, for this kind of probably non-paying and time-consuming administrative work, the few serious players are likely to be a self-selecting group. He suggested a straw poll – “who here would be interested, and could serve as a base group which would then fine-tune the Core Committee membership?” Approximately 5-6 participants raised their hands when Julie posed the question.

Participants agreed to work with a suggestion from Dianne Ramage that we set a working number – 11 or 13, determine how many slots are “givens,” and then figure out how to choose the remaining members so that a small number of members can effectively represent a larger number of sectors of interest. She further noted that the size and composition of the Core Committee can change over time, as some sectors might be more relevant in certain years, as the issues change. At the same time meeting participants acknowledged that members would see out their term, providing continuity.

Sector representation

Earlier in the meeting, Julie had emphasized the multiple sectors of interest in the watershed, governmental and non-governmental, and displayed a poster that participants in a Phase III meeting had used to picture the array of sectors of interest in the watershed, color-coded. Councillor Carroll also distributed a map showing the complex array of jurisdictions in the watershed, which the Roundtable can help coordinate.

This report notes above, under “Role,” that sector representation is a priority for the Core Committee. Participants agreed with another priority emphasized by Gordon Lewis, that the Core Committee membership should be balanced.

Norm Fletcher suggested that in some cases, one person may have to end up representing 3-4 of our currently defined, multiple constituencies. It was agreed that clustering sectors to share a representative could be considered.

Julie presented a slide with a list of candidate institutions and organization types:

- CRW Partners, each to have a seat [City of Coquitlam, City of Port Coquitlam, Kwikwetlem First Nation]
- Regional Government
- Utilities
- Federal Government
- Provincial Government
- Aggregate Industry
- Real Estate Development
- Outdoor Recreation
- Fishing and Hunting
- River Monitoring

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- Fish Enhancement
- Streamkeepers
- Other Stewardship Groups
- Regional NGOs
- Education and Culture

There were a few observations on the composition of the Transition Team – which is essentially a first try at sector representation. A correction was made, to the effect that the North Fraser Salmon Assistance Program would be more appropriately referred to as a habitat restoration interest than a representative of enhancement. It was suggested that the “Education/Culture category needs work.” One question was whether naturalists were represented at this meeting.

Councillor Carroll commented that Fraser Health, mental health services, is another relevant sector interest, given their interest in the Riverview Hospital lands. In this respect, participants contemplated whether, if Riverview’s relevance to the Roundtable is about land use more than mental health, what does that imply?

Watershed Advocacy was suggested as another interest but the idea was tabled based on Julie’s suggestion that this role would emerge within the Roundtable if appropriate.

There was discussion about representation “at large” or a representative of the general public. This overlapped with the idea that ratepayers associations could be added to the sector list.

Recommendations on make-up of Core Committee

In Phase III it was agreed that the Core Committee selection process would give each sector the opportunity to advance a representative. To a large extent, this obligation has been met through the careful process leading to the striking of the Transition Team. Though the Transition Team is a temporary group, to fold after the inaugural Roundtable meeting in 2011, that community meeting will be given a great head-start from the process used to gather sector representatives to the Transition Team.

Julie urged meeting participants, in their discussion of how to assemble the Core Committee, to push themselves to agree on an approach. The structure, along with other aspects of the Roundtable, can evolve, adapt and learn over time. The initial Core Committee could alter its membership, change itself, as long as it gets agreement on these changes from the Roundtable.

One suggestion was that representatives in each category should include one delegate and two alternates. This was not fully discussed, and the possibility of one alternate (or, less likely, no alternates) remained.

Participants in the meeting agreed on a working list of members for the Core Committee. Strategies for securing members were also agreed on. Below, sectors and the means of getting them represented on the Core Committee are outlined.

Government and industry:

- City of Coquitlam: To decide on its representative
- City of Port Coquitlam: To decide on its representative

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- First Nations (Kwkwetlem; and it was noted that Tsleil-Waututh Nation representatives have expressed interest): To decide on own representative
- Fisheries and Oceans Canada: Has decided on a representative and alternate: Maurice Coulter-Boisvert and Matt Foy.
- Provincial government: In this transition phase, unclear which agency(ies); Steffanie Warriner offered to assist Julie with seeking appropriate representation, possibly from Stewardship or Environmental Quality divisions.
- Industry: George Turi offered to help ensure a representative from the aggregate industry is put forward.
- [It was unresolved whether real estate development would also be represented.]
- Utilities: Judy Dobrowolski is willing to sit on the Core Committee as a BC Hydro representative. Since the utilities have different interests/roles and do not regularly communicate it was not resolved how utilities other than BC Hydro might be involved.
- Regional government: Meeting participants were keen to have Metro Vancouver represented on the Core Committee. Dave Dunkley said they might not put a representative forward to the Core Committee and rather might join in the Roundtable as appropriate, but he recognized the support for having Metro on the Core Committee.

Sectors made up of non-government organizations:

- Outdoor Recreation (trails): Participants welcomed Tom Adlington's offer to seek an appropriate representative.
- Naturalists/Streamkeepers/Stewards: Dianne Ramage volunteered to facilitate a process to seek an appropriate representative. Meeting participants noted that having one representative cover these three groups may not meet the objective of balance, and so it was agreed that 3 positions would be available for a range of NGOs: stewardship, enhancement/ monitoring/ restoration and salmon.
- Residents/at large/ Ratepayers Associations: Participants asked Margaret Birch to seek an appropriate representative, using records of involvement in city processes.

5 NEXT STEPS

Participants discussed further meetings to tie up loose ends, and preparations for the community meeting to convene the Roundtable in 2011.

Identifying Core Committee representatives for Government and Industry sectors

As part of her consulting work for the CRW Strategy, Julie Gardner will assist with communications to get a full set of prospective Core Committee nominees identified for governments and industry for presentation at the Community meeting in 2011.

Preparatory meetings

Participants agreed on additional meetings to deal with items that there was not time to cover in this meeting. Preliminary descriptions of these meetings follow.

Meeting to discuss other parts of the Roundtable Terms of Reference

One meeting (likely in January) would be useful to address remaining items related to Roundtable Terms of Reference and Administrative Tasks. Ideally, this one would include Core Committee nominees.

Section 5.3 of the Strategy to establish a CRW Governance Structure states that the Roundtable will have to generate various remaining terms of reference to supplement those already developed (e.g. Values, Vision), possibly including:

- decisions on any loose ends regarding elements of the new body's structure (e.g. establishing sub-committees if appropriate)
- finishing the guiding principles and mission statement, building on working drafts
- setting guidelines for operations such as: meeting frequency, meeting rules, norms of behaviour, details of consensus decision-making, chairing, minutes/recording and reporting
- defining responsibilities of members

These terms of reference will mainly be dealt with by the actual Core Committee once it begins to meet after the inaugural Roundtable meeting, and so do not have to be entirely developed in the short term.

Meeting about potential Roundtable Activities

Another meeting (likely in January) would review possible Roundtable activities. This meeting would generate a proposal for start-up projects for consideration at the community meeting. Participants could include all who attended the Transition Team meeting, and any new Core Committee nominees. Julie's review of the detailed records of discussions from Phases I and II (also put forward in Phase III), generated the following possible activity categories:

- Coordinating watershed players
- Coordinating information
- Education
- Stewardship
- Monitoring
- Planning

Non-government organization (stewardship etc. groups) meeting

Dianne Ramage generously agreed to organize a meeting of interests from groups including naturalists, streamkeepers and stewards, as well as other organizations particularly interested in salmon, such as those involved in enhancement and restoration. Monitoring was also mentioned as a possible area of interest to include. Participants in this meeting, to be held in December, 2010, will seek agreement on three appropriate representatives for the Core Committee.

Roundtable/Community meeting

This community meeting planned for early in 2011 is essentially the inaugural meeting of the new CWR Roundtable.

It was agreed that the meeting would be an all-day Saturday meeting, likely in February or March. February 10-11 has to be avoided due to a significant conflict.

Margaret Birch, Devon Knight Events and Julie Gardner will explore dates and find a location for the meeting.

6 “HOW THE SECTOR YOU COME FROM WILL BENEFIT”

This section supplements section 3, on Benefits of the Roundtable.

Participants were asked to reflect on “*how the sector you come from will benefit.*” Ideas contributed on post-it notes are recorded here, verbatim. Note that Councillor Sherry Carroll also distributed a map showing inter-jurisdictional responsibilities in the watershed.

Our sector will benefit, through respectful collaboration and interaction, with the ability to communicate the environmental needs, be heard and achieve needed actions. We will see accountability increase. Elaine Willis, Tri-City Green Council

A clean sustainable environment for people and wildlife and maximum sustainable stocks of fish. Norm Fletcher, PCDHFC

Desired outcomes

- Improved communication
- Improved river health
- Enhanced public involvement and decision making
- Improved planning outcomes
- Sustainable salmonid populations
- Improved harmony and common understanding
- Fewer surprises

Opportunity to achieve initiatives to the benefit of the watershed and surrounding communities that would otherwise be unattainable without the collective efforts of stakeholders working as partners.

Sharing of information among interests in the watershed; a focal point for information on the CRW

While I represent the upper watershed primarily, we’re interconnected (upper and lower watersheds) and need each other. For example, from an environmental services perspective, the roundtable provides an opportunity to assess environmental services throughout the watershed to ensure they are valued properly.

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(Process to get members to incorporate the various processes in the watershed.)

Secure public access. Sustainability – a recreation model for future generations.

A clearer understanding [of the] role the aggregate industry has in the community. Encourage continued stewardship

Government – Better inter-jurisdictional communication; improved knowledge of actual work being done.

To coordinate funding proposals

- Coordinated approach
- Prioritize projects
- Strategize about future objectives

An opportunity to be heard, but more importantly an opportunity to listen to stakeholders in the watershed. Allen Jensen, Port Coquitlam

One stop shop of local knowledge about the watershed. Efficient and effective approach to engage a broad range of stakeholders on BCH [Hydro] initiatives in the watershed.

Information sharing on issues around the river.