

Notes from the Thursday January 19, 2006 Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Panel

Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area

Attendance

SAP members: Richard Hebda, Allan Dakin, Geoff Scudder, Hamish Kimmins, Bert Brink, Bob Peart

Planning Team Members: Greg Paris, Marcy Sangret, Ken Brock

Guests: Hugh Fraser, Sarah Howie, Paul Whitfield

1. Notes from the November 17, 2005 meeting were accepted with one minor correction. A corrected version will be posted on the Burns Bog website.
2. The agenda was approved as distributed.
3. Delegation from the Delta Farmers' Institute (DFI) in relation to the December 7, 2005 correspondence from Cranwest Farms Limited Partnership. Bruce May and Robert Butler led the delegation. Their correspondence outlined a suggested alignment along the west side of Burns Bog for the Gateway South Perimeter Road. DFI presented their points, followed by a discussion with SAP members. Key discussion points were:
 - DFI believes there are advantages to both Burns Bog and Cranwest if the road is aligned on their property right adjacent to the Bog. There would be impact on Burns Bog, but by consolidating the resulting 'orphaned' properties there would be an 8-1-mitigation acreage gain.
 - This alignment would create a berm that may assist with controlling Bog water level/drainage.
 - Regardless of location the western highway alignment will impact the Bog and Cranwest; DFI believes that we have mutual interests and that their proposal constitutes a 'win-win'.
 - Gateway will need to conduct a water drainage plan for this portion of the proposed road, as the road alignment must not interfere with the Bog's water management.
 - The closer the road comes to the Bog the more acute an issue it is, especially in relation to water quality, water quantity, hydrology/drainage and air contamination.
 - SAP members said they don't have enough information at this time to determine whether this proposal is a good idea or not --- "we don't know". SAP needs more data --- both surface and sub-surface.
 - There is vital connection with the western lagg, which still isn't understood.
 - SFPR is gathering hydrology information now --- will the data coming from this research assist with this discussion? If not, should there be amendments to their current testing plots?
 - DFI asked SAP members if they were open to the land transfer proposition that would result from this alignment --- SAP responded that if it was shown to us that the Bog would benefit from this approach we would have to consider it.
 - Two issues are critical to examine: one, the legal matter related to the Covenant and its commitment to protect the Bog; and the other was science and the need to know/understand the effect that this alignment would have on the functioning of the Bog. A comparative analysis of western alignment options is required *vis a vis* their effect on the Bog.

ACTION Because of the strong link and hydrological connection between Cranwest and the Bog, DFI specifically asked SAP to request SFPR to gather the necessary data and conduct an assessment of alignment options. For SFPR to undertake this work they would require authorization to enter the Bog because of the Covenant. SAP responded that they don't have that authority, but if the data is collected and brought back to them they would consider it. SAP's concern is the future ecological integrity and functioning hydrology of the Bog so any discussion that may impact the Bog is of interest to SAP members.

ACTION DFI was invited to send 1-2 representatives to the mid-February Lagg workshop.

4. February Lagg Technical Workshop

- As background Bob distributed a summary of all Lagg related discussions from previous SAP minutes, and copies of portions of Greg McDade's Burns Bog Ecosystem Review Report that directly referred to the Lagg.
- Attached is the draft agenda that resulted from the SAP discussion.
- It was agreed that the following would be invited to participate: Planning Team members, SAP members, Ducks Unlimited, Terasen, Vancouver Landfill and various other experts as requested by SAP members.
- It was agreed that the following would be invited to attend: Don DeMill, Adam Snow, Steve Zuliani, Burns Bog Conservation Society, Delta Farmer's Institute, Gateway Program.

5. Update/Status of Previous Agenda Items

- Approval has been granted for the South Fraser Perimeter Road to conduct hydrological testing within Burns Bog. SAP members requested an update at their February meeting. The approval was granted based on the conditions discussed at a previous SAP meeting.
- The wildfire strategy discussions are proceeding between Delta and GVRD in preparation for an update at SAP's March meeting.
- Confirmed that the March meeting will focus on developing an overall research and monitoring strategy, that includes invasive species and furthering our lagg conversations. Funding parameters will need to be discussed.
- Post-fire monitoring is underway as coordinated by GVRD. At this point the focus is photography only.
- At the February meeting Hugh Fraser will update SAP members on the process for obtaining contour and elevation mapping, including estimated costs.

6. Next Meetings

February 16 230pm. Immediately following the SAP Lagg workshop and field trip.

March 16 430pm 4330 Kingsway. 2nd Floor Boardroom. GVRD

**Burns Bog Scientific Advisory Panel
Technical Workshop on Restoring the Hydrological Function of the Burns Bog Lagg**

AGENDA

February 15-16 2006

University of British Columbia
Forest Science Centre
2424 Main Mall
Room 1222

PURPOSE

- Discuss how the original lagg characteristics of Burns Bog might be restored and whether such a goal is achievable.
- If we want a properly functioning lagg 100 years from now ---- how do we get there?

OUTCOMES

- Outline a concept and principles to create ecological values and water levels related to a functioning lagg, that does not flood neighbours. Specifically, what are the ecological technical elements of the Burns Bog lagg in relation to:
 - Hydrology
 - Water quality and quantity
 - Wildlife
 - Plants
- Describe the science related to the lagg more thoroughly and get a sense of how establishing a lagg would be done and whether it is possible.
- Describe what a properly functioning lagg would like --- what would be the ideal, what are the problems/opportunities, and where are our gaps in knowledge.
- Discuss whether a lagg can be restored all the way around the Bog (approx 35 km) --- and whether it is best located within the boundaries of the current Bog property or not.
- Specifically define where the present lagg is specifically located --- and if not possible what are the gaps of knowledge in order to enable this definition.
- Determine a sense of what restoring the lagg might cost
- Develop a decision-making tool to assist with required next steps and future actions.

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 15

900AM	Bob Peart	Introductions, Clarification of Purpose, Approval of Agenda
915AM	Bob Peart	Brief Background on Status of Burns Bog
930AM	Invitees	<u>Definitions and Science</u>
(Short Break at 1000AM)		What is a raised bog? Why is a lagg important? Water, Hydrology, Ecological Characteristics of a lagg Current Configuration of the Burns Bog lagg Current Drainage Flow Pattern Ideally what is the Burns Bog lagg?

1100AM	All	General Discussion with Public Attendees
1130AM	Bob Peart	Summary
NOON	Audrey Pearson	Introduction to Camosun Bog and its lagg
1230PM	All	Bag Lunch and Tour of Camosun Bog
145PM	Invitees	<u>Case Studies</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rithet's Bog --- Richard Hebda ▪ Ducks Unlimited --- Lagg as habitat for waterfowl ▪ European Perspective --- John Jeglum
230PM	Invitees	<u>Reality Check.</u> Can we do this within the current landscape context? What are the consequences if we can't restore the lagg? What might be the costs? Implementation --- are there priorities? Can we do it all? The urban and highway interface
330PM	Short Break	
345PM	All	Summary Scope of Challenge Role of the Public Priorities and Next Steps
430PM	Hamish Kimmins	LLEMS Demonstration (Local Landscape Ecosystem Management Simulator)
500PM	Thanks	

THURSDAY FEBRUARY 16

745AM	Breakfast	Town and Country Inn
845AM		<u>Field Trip:</u> Burns Bog Lagg --- location to be determined
1PM	Lunch	Town and Country Inn
230PM		<u>Regular SAP Meeting:</u> maximum one hour (agenda to be distributed prior to the meeting)

