

Notes from the Thursday March 16 Meeting of the Scientific Advisory Panel

Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area

Attendance

SAP members: Richard Hebda (by phone), Allan Dakin, Geoff Scudder, Hamish Kimmins, and Bob Peart

Planning Team Members: Greg Paris, Verne Kucy, Tom Bell

Guests: Sarah Howie

1. Notes from the January 19, 2006 meeting were accepted.
2. The agenda was approved as distributed.

3. Discussion of the Lagg Workshop

Members concurred that the Lagg Workshop notes reflected the meeting. Feedback was provided to Bob; he will correct/edit them, and then distribute to attendees and post them on the Burns Bog website. Members felt that the workshop was worthwhile and were clear that it is important to build on the energy from that meeting. Perhaps the results weren't as solid as expected, however members felt that maybe they were too optimistic in their expectations. It was also clear at the workshop that this is an enormous, long-term project and that there are very few if any similar restoration examples to use as a learning guide.

After discussion there was agreement on the following next steps and actions.

- a) Developing a systematic, detailed list of desired attributes or general characteristics of the lagg. There was discussion of evaluating existing perimeter conditions (eg. ranking on a scale of 1→10) in relation to current ability to function as a lagg (hydrological, hydrochemical, ecological);
- b) At the April SAP meeting members will begin the process of 'walking around the Bog'. Using the desired attributes as a guide, the condition of the Bog's lagg around the entire edge will be evaluated. This process should identify the gaps and provide a sense of 'what is missing from location to location'.
- c) Solutions would then be proposed that would achieve a described, desirable lagg zone and whether a diffuse or sharp transition zone would result.
- d) Based on this information, priorities would be set regarding which perimeter locations would be most productive and important for restoration.
- e) From this a budget would need to be developed.

ACTION: Bob to finalize the Lagg Workshop notes and distribute.

ACTION: Bob to develop a draft list of desired attributes for feedback from SAP members prior to the next meeting.

There was brief discussion about the LLEMS presentation that Hamish made at the workshop. It was decided that as good a system as it is, presently it is premature to apply it to the Burns Bog situation. The cost to implement would be about \$150,000. In the future it could serve as an excellent communications tool for bog restoration work.

4. South Fraser Perimeter Road

As requested the Gateway Program January/February 2006 Discussion Guide was distributed. The review of this document resulted in the following comments:

- SAP members feel there needs to be improvement regarding their discussions with Gateway about various configurations for the proposed South Fraser Perimeter Road.
- Guidelines relevant to the buffer functions of water chemistry, hydrology and potential dust need to be developed.
- Members were briefed on Gateway's present hydrological investigations and sampling. In addition to their present work they were encouraged to collect precipitation data and sample the ditches in relation to water quality and flow data. Members also wanted assurance that the data being collected was tied into consistent elevation measurements. The results from this data will lead to the ability to develop water gradients.

ACTION: GVRD/Delta to provide this request by SAP members for additional information to Gateway for their consideration.

ACTION: Bob to invite Gateway representatives to the April Planning Team meeting.

5. Research and Monitoring Strategy

All agreed to the goal of having a research and monitoring strategy approved at the June 2006 meeting. The framework of this strategy would cover the following points:

- Purpose of research and monitoring --- what do we need to know and what do we need to do
- Timing
- Budget
- Rationale for why we need to conduct restoration
- Priority Setting

To achieve this goal the following timetable was agreed to:

April SAP Agenda

- Lagg/Bog Perimeter Discussion
- First Cut draft on Research and Monitoring Strategy. Key sections are
 - Monitoring --- what is there and how is it changing over time.
 - Invasive Species
 - Wildfire
 - Hydrology and Water Levels
 - Forest
 - Lagg

May SAP Agenda

- Wildfire Strategy
- Close to final draft of Research and Monitoring Strategy

June SAP Agenda

- Finalize Research and Monitoring Strategy

ACTION: Bob to do a first cut draft for the April meeting.

6. Update on Previous Agenda Items

- a) Wildfire Strategy Members were told that GVRD and Delta are actively working on a draft outline plan with maps.

ACTION: GVRD/Delta to bring a draft Wildfire Strategy to the May SAP meeting for SAP's advice.

- b) Contour and Elevation Mapping. Delta informed SAP members that a firm has been hired to conduct the work and that the information will be available late August/early September. The hyperspectral survey won't be conducted because of the cost.

ACTION: Delta will bring the contour and elevation information to SAP when it is available.

- c) Dr. John Jeglum. Members were informed that Dr. Jeglum has been appointed an ex-officio member of SAP.

7. Term of the Scientific Advisory Panel

Panel members feel that there is still some critical oversight work for them, so the Panel should not disband in June 2006. Members agreed that the only research that should be conducted in Burns Bog in the near future is that research relevant to restoration and the upcoming research strategy.

Members felt that they would be comfortable meeting 3-4 times a year to follow through on:

- Research and Monitoring Strategy
- Lagg Restoration
- South Fraser Perimeter Road Location
- Advice to GVRD & Delta

ACTION: Bob to include SAP's terms of reference on the next agenda of the Planning Team for discussion.

NEXT MEETING: Thursday April 16, 2006. 430pm. GVRD Offices.