

**BURNS BOG ECOLOGICAL CONSERVANCY AREA  
SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANEL MEETING  
Tuesday, July 2009 from 4:30 – 7:30 PM  
Metro Vancouver Head Office, 4330 Kingsway, Burnaby BC**

**Draft Meeting Notes**

**ATTENDEES:**

Dr. John Jeglum, Scientific Advisory Panel  
Professor Paul Whitfield, Scientific Advisory Panel  
Allan Dakin, Scientific Advisory Panel  
Mike Brotherston, Corporation of Delta  
Sarah Howie, Corporation of Delta  
Cassandra Counce, BC Ministry of Environment  
*Chair*, Mitch Sokalski, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks  
Greg Paris, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks  
Markus Merkens, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks  
Wendy Warn, Metro Vancouver Regional Park  
Loger Aure, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks  
Heather Sinclair, Metro Vancouver Regional Parks

**REGRETS:**

Dr. Hamish Kimmins, Scientific Advisory Panel  
Dr. Geoff Scudder, Scientific Advisory Panel  
Dr. Richard Hebda, Scientific Advisory Panel  
Jennifer McGuire, BC Ministry of Environment  
Angela Danyluk, Corporation of Delta  
Dr. Barry Smith, Environment Canada

**1.0 INTRODUCTIONS**

**2.0 REVIEW AGENDA & May 19 2009 MEETING NOTES**

**3.0 ACTION ITEMS FROM LAST MEETING**

- None

**4.0 BBCECA RESEARCH STRATEGY DISCUSSION**

- Presentation by Markus Merkens (see Attachment 1)
- The Research Strategy plan has been under construction for some time, with the most recent draft dating from 2006
- The priorities at present are baseline data collection and monitoring, as well as applied research
- The process for selecting/approving research projects must be confirmed, while MV administers the process other related issues need discussion
  - Should research project submissions be solicited, unsolicited, or both
  - Who is eligible to apply and what are the selection criteria
  - One possibility would be to solicit academic interest, but there would need to be funding to interest the academic community
- PW suggests that the integral areas of research (such as hydrology, lagg, and vegetation monitoring) be identified and that this research which needs to be continuously monitored be solicited and well-funded

- PW also recommends tapping into new academics interested in completing long-term bog-related research; in many areas of research one might not see results until 10-15 years into the study
- JJ suggests that there is good value in grad students versus paid professionals; this would allow us to set the budget and timeline and create an appropriate study
- MS confirmed that the current MV budget available for research is approximately \$38,000
  - The budget must receive Board approval each year, the next budget being 2010
  - Hard facts and benefits regarding the need for research is required for Board consideration
  - University research groups and particularly doctoral students require a longer funding commitment, which will not be in place by 2010
- There is, in some cases, a close relationship between research and management (i.e. controlled burn, tree removal, etc) , and therefore between using the research budget and the operations budget (which may enable tapping into other MV budget streams, as well as Delta's budget)
- JJ points out that in Sweden there are many small scholarships available through private endowment funds; there may be people interested in leaving such a legacy to Burns Bog
- For long-term monitoring, MM suggests trying to partner with UVic and/or BCIT, both of which have ecological restoration programs which may be interested in long-term research connected with core educational programs
- Must have a clear picture of what long-term improvement will look like and set targets
- GP suggests trying for increased research funding by highlighting the Bog as a venue for big-issue research such as climate change (however, PW points out that garnering this type of interest often requires a more lengthy historical data set)
  - Could use new technology, such as palynology, isotope analysis, ground penetration radar, core samples, chemical characterization of peat, etc. to establish some historical data
- A database should be created to store all data collected regarding the Bog
  - Issues of standardized data measurement and recording protocols would have to be established
  - A platform would have to be decided upon (i.e. GIS tied to Access, etc.)
  - Requires IT support approval and approval in the 2011 budget
  - ArcGIS software produced by ESRI (Environmental Systems Research Institute) is a common platform used by other agencies
- A communication plan also needs to be developed to communicate Bog-related research findings
  - The communication plan should include the general public, partners, affiliated agencies, scientific publications, and conferences
  - JJ expressed his opinion that the public should be allowed controlled access to the Bog given that it was purchased with public funds; MS responded that this is a definite no-go in the near future as it goes against the stated objectives of the purchase agreement and management plan (may be revisited later on)

- SH indicated that Delta is working on a Bog-related website to engage the public the Bog, which they are hoping to launch in September
- Currently this is being developed only by Delta; should be a collaborative effort with MV
- Will be necessary to sort out the rights to present scientific papers on-line if that is to be part of the website

***ACTION ITEM: Coordinate a day-long workshop with SAP participants to finalize the BBECA Research Strategy (scheduled for Aug. 26, 2009)***

#### **5.0 DRAFT BBECA HYDROLOGY WORKPLAN**

- Presentation by John Jeglum (See Attachment 2)
- Objectives of the Hydrology Pan:
  - Protect the Bog from mineral incursions
  - Regulate Bog water levels
  - Measure water levels
- Elements of the Hydrology Plan
  - Compilation and review of all Bog-related data into a Bog library
  - Internal water level control
  - Determine the water balance
- Need to decide whether or not to berm the bog
  - JJ feels it would be a good idea
  - AD feels that it is unnecessary provided that the data presented by CH2MHill is full and accurate, but more data is needed
  - The key is to prove that the Bog water levels can be managed independently of the outer hydrology
  - The proposed Langemann gate may suffice in separating the inner and outer hydrology

#### **6.0 Fire Breaks (Jurisdiction and Maintenance)**

- Deferred to next meeting

#### **7.0 4X4 Access Routes**

- Deferred to next meeting

#### **8.0 Princess Farms (Remediation)**

- Deferred to next meeting

#### **9.0 Information Items**

- Northern Boundary Management update
  - See Attachment 3
  - Gateway will have four outlets along the northern Bog Boundary, located at 72nd Street, 80th Street, Alexandria, and 96th Avenue (location of the Langemann gates)
  - Still awaiting the irrigation plan from Gateway

#### **9.1 Masters student interested in rewetting experiments in the BBECA**

- Deferred to next meeting

#### **10.0 Meeting Adjourned: Next meeting Tuesday September 15, 2009**