

**BURNS BOG ECOLOGICAL CONSERVANCY AREA
SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANEL MEETING, MEETING NOTES**

**Monday, June 20, 2011 – 5:00pm – 7:30pm
Tilbury Meeting Room, Delta Municipal Hall
4500 Clarence Taylor Crescent, Delta BC**

Attendees:

Mitch Sokalski (Chair), Metro Vancouver
Markus Merkens, Metro Vancouver
Wendy Warn, Metro Vancouver
Maria Bacani, Metro Vancouver
Sarah Howie, Corporation of Delta
Mike Brotherston, Corporation of Delta
Dr. Richard Hebda, Scientific Advisory Panel
Paul Whitfield, Scientific Advisory Panel
Ken Brock, Environment Canada
Ken Meeks, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Regrets:

Loger Aure, Metro Vancouver
Greg Paris, Metro Vancouver
Jennifer McGuire, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations
Alan Dakin, Scientific Advisory Panel
Dr. John Jeglum, Scientific Advisory Panel

Meeting started at 5:30 pm

1. INTRODUCTION

2. REVIEW AGENDA AND FEBRUARY 15, 2011 MEETING NOTES

3. ACTION ITEMS FROM PREVIOUS MEETING

- a. Item 3.4 - Research Strategy (January meeting)
 - Markus, Richard, Alan and John attended this meeting in Victoria.
 - Water balance model is a priority within the research strategy. Any additional research would be incidental and not funded directly by the BBCEA unless it provided data related to the water balance model.
- b. Item 5 – 2011 Vegetation Monitoring Report
 - Will continue same aspects of vegetation monitoring this year, Thomas Munson was retained to conduct the work in the bog to be incorporated in the database. Markus will explore alternate methods of sphagnum height growth monitoring.

4. BUSINESS ARISING FROM COUNCIL WORKSHOP

4.1 Northern Boundary Drainage Management

- seek council direction/ recommendation for getting more flow monitoring data. Gateway provided insufficient data to the Associated Engineering hence a formal request will be sent to Gateway and Fraser Transportation Group to get together and provide current data and information to the consultants.

5. ASSOCIATED ENGINEERING PROJECT

- Richard suggested that a water balance model should be developed for the part of the bog adjacent to the north side to control the water level at 96th
- Monitoring should be included in their terms of reference i.e. how much water is coming out of the bog into the ditch every year? How much water is going to be yielded over the year?
- Markus suggests that if the outflow can be monitored at an appropriate level by designing a drainage system that is flexible enough to cover the range at possible outflows which can be adjusted afterwards.
- What is needed is a tool that will help determine where to block ditches and what is the change in retention

ACTION: MB and MM to follow up with consultant for additional data and the model that needs to conform to this work

6. USE OF HERBICIDES WITHIN BBECA

- Need to control Japanese knotweed at very specific places in the bog
- The most effective means of knotweed control is through use of herbicides by stem injection at the right time of the year
- 3 years of treatment and 98% control
- MV Parks is using this method in other areas of the Park System to control knotweed
- Sites along 80th corridor, quite far in, on the hog fuel
- MV Policy is to use herbicide when it is necessary, not encumbered in the Burns Bog Ecological Conservancy Area Management Plan
- Corp of Delta by-law prohibits cosmetic pesticides but there is exception for infestation
- Ensure explanation is ready in case of inquiry from public
- Create documentation to make use for others i.e wetlands

ACTION: MM will discuss strategy with John Jeglum as treatment has to happen before the end of August or September

7. PLANNING FOR WORKSHOP ON BBECA WATER BALANCE MODEL RESEARCH

- As a follow up to January meeting in Victoria, purpose is to come up with criteria and parameters that need to be focused on to finally assemble the water balance model
- This workshop will help determine what needs to be done, where, and the kinds of data that need to be collected, what needs to be installed to facilitate data collection and estimate the cost it entails. Get graduate students to work on this and gather the data hopefully to start next year
- Workshop attendees are Paul Whitfield, Sarah Howie, Richard Hebda, Allan Dakin, John Jeglum, Markus Merkens, Sylvain Jutras
- Note that workshop has to be scheduled within the 2nd week of July, Richard will be away after the 3rd week and won't be back until August 8

ACTION: Maria to arrange date of workshop

8. FURTHER TREE RING ANALYSIS

- Further work on Tree Ring analysis derived from the last meeting are: harvest of initial trees on longer transect into the bog or fire break research
- Need to determine when they start to accelerate their growth

ACTION: Markus will check with Dr. Lori Daniels which technique should be applied and a possibility of a long term partnership with the UBC Tree Laboratory

9. UPDATE ON BBECA DATA BASE DEVELOPMENT (see attachment 1)

- Most data are in access or excel file hence the need to develop a standard format that can be used in the future for different disciplines

10. UPDATE ON PRINCESS FARMS LAGG (see attachment 2)

11. OTHER BUSINESS – LOGGING AT SHERWOOD FOREST

- John Jeglum, Alan Dakin, Richard Hebda would like to register their concern about the logging that is going on at Sherwood Forest and particularly registering their concern about not wanting the peat body impacted
- Delta, or whomever may have a role in upholding the covenant should hold whoever is responsible, accountable for impacting the bog. This issue was discussed during Workshop with Council. Corporation of Delta has no authority in this matter, property is private farm land.
- Removal of trees is in clear contravention of the guiding statement of the bog as it impacts the ecological integrity of the bog

12. NEXT MEETING DATE - Tuesday, September 6, 2011, 4:30 pm – 7:30 pm
Arbutus Meeting Room, Parks West Area Office
130 – 1200 West 73rd Avenue, Vancouver