

**BURNS BOG ECOLOGICAL CONSERVANCY AREA
SCIENTIFIC ADVISORY PANEL MEETING, NOTES
Tuesday, February 19, 2013 – 3:30 – 5:30pm
Arbutus Meeting Room, Parks West Area Office
130-1200 West 73rd Avenue Vancouver BC**

Attendees:

Mitch Sokalski (Chair), Metro Vancouver
John Jeglum, Scientific Advisory Panel
Markus Merkens, Metro Vancouver
Sarah Howie, Corporation of Delta
Karen Golinski, (*via conference call*) Scientific Advisory Panel
Greg Paris, Metro Vancouver
Mike Brotherston, Corporation of Delta
Paul Whitfield, (*via conference call*) Scientific Advisory Panel
Wendy Warn, Metro Vancouver

Guest:

David Murdock, Director of Burns Bog Conservation Society

Regrets:

Richard Hebda, Scientific Advisory Panel
Loger Aure, Metro Vancouver
Dan Moore, Scientific Advisory Panel
Ken Brock, Environment Canada
Allan Dakin, Scientific Advisory Panel
Scott Barrett, Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations

Meeting started at 3:34 pm

1.0 Introductions

2.0 Review October 30, 2012 Meeting Notes

3.0 Review Action Items from October 30, 2012 Meeting:

Item 9.0 – Culverts Crossing the SFPR Alignment

All under construction at the moment. MV has asked for a tour of the site to go over the crossings in the next three weeks. Mike Brotherston will arrange for a tour.

4.0 Scientific Advisory Panel Topics

4.1 Research Strategies

4.1.1 Vegetation Monitoring 2013 (Attachment 4.1.1a & 4.1.1b)

Beginning to see a trend in Salal cover in both the pine forest section, as well as in zone B, there is an increase in sphagnum over time, presumably in response to the increase in the moisture in the soil caused by the ditch blocking. No data on water level close to the plots to confirm this. Sphagnum tenellum is declining in zone E in the last three years. Thomas Munson will be coming out this year to do sampling. There will be an increase in the number of plots to include the ones that Angela Danyluk established in the burn zone two years ago. Data will be collected and

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submitted to MV for a detailed analysis for the next 2 years for a total of 10 years of data. Nested plot approach suggested by John Jeglum where small plot is expanded to a larger size. Karen Golinski suggested putting in more plots instead of making them bigger. Paul Whitfield asked how much change is detectable with the current data set. Sarah Howie mentioned that there could be a comparison done between the vegetation plots and the water level data.

Action: Next SAP meeting to look at some of the non-Bog species. Markus to work with Karen on facilitating multivariate analysis (ordination) of the data

4.1.2 Flux Monitoring Stations Project

Dan Moore suggested bringing a student on this coming September. SAP accepted the proposal. There is an issue with calibrating the flux monitoring stations. Dan has access to two towers that could be deployed in the Bog. Part of putting the flux monitoring stations in the Bog is to find out what the differential evapotranspiration rates are for the different types of vegetation communities that are present in the Bog. Pine sphagnum community and pine forest around it are two dominate types of communities in the landscape that should be the focus for the first iteration of flux monitoring. Plan is to cover 6-8 different vegetations across the Bog. Karen Golinski mentioned that there is a group studying sphagnum globally and they are interested in having measurements taken where there are towers nearby. Paul Whitfield commented that there is a need to be more specific on goals. John Jeglum attempted to formulate two questions to be answered:

1. Characterize evapotranspiration of Burns Bog to more closely characterize the water model.
2. Put in place a system for documenting climate change

Action: Markus follow up with Dan Moore and the potential student

4.1.3 Flow Monitoring

MV purchased enough for 6 flow monitoring stations and has identified 9 or 10 sites with Sylvain back in October 2012. First focus is on the site at the North West corner of the Vancouver Landfill, measuring the flow going through the Bog ditch which is capturing a lot of the water in the South West corner of the Bog. A berm will need to be installed in the southeast corner to ensure that all the water is being directed to the monitoring stations. Prior to installation there will need to be a survey of the perimeter ditch to confirm the water levels and which way the ditches are flowing. Survey crew is going out there tomorrow to do a survey of the ditch and then Sarah and Markus to move forward with installing the monitoring at that site. Data to be collected at regular intervals to ensure that machines are working properly and to get more frequent feedback.

Action: Sarah to send out copy of tour sites and summary to Paul

4.1.4 Hyperspectral Analysis

Olaf Niemann was unable to distinguish differences in the hyperspectral signal between some fairly distinct communities in the center of the Bog and at the edge of the Bog. Data can be used to stratify the Bog with a combination of the hyperspectral analysis and some ground truthing in the Bog.

4.1.5 Controlled Paste Application to Birch Trees in the Bog

Markus spoke to Mycologic , the producers of this product. They are interested in entering into a more detailed study of the use of this biocontrol agent for a hardwood control in a Bog application. Markus indicated that BCIT students may not be best suited for the level of research that needs to be conducted and suggested a graduate student with a more complex study design would be more appropriate. Mycologic is interested in starting this and student could probably be brought on this year.

4.2 Management Plan

4.2.1 Public Open House 2013

Confusion last year with many people thinking the Open House was related to the MK Delta application. As the MK Delta application was recently submitted, the same confusion may occur. Public Open House date will be deferred.

5.1 Operational Updates

5.2 Knotweed

Last year treated a section of knotweed along the 80th alignment with herbicide. Water sampling was conducted for 5 two weeks periods post treatment. No indication of any effects on the water was determined. Water sampling has since been stopped. Monitoring of knotweed will continue in the New Year. Follow up actions may be necessary should it re-emerge.

5.3 MV Operations Update

Staff is continuing to do security patrols of the perimeter of the Bog and liaison with various groups. Continue to review applicants for access to the Bog. This year we are at 8 project leads and with that a total of 67 applicants. There has been a staff change; Joe Soluri is the new Park Operator. MV is currently working with Delta for rental of the Animal Shelter as a service yard for BBECA operations.

6.0 Other Business

Wendy is retiring at the beginning of April. This is Wendy's last SAP meeting. We wish her well and thank you for her contributions. With her retirement, recruitment will commence to fill her position.

7.0 Next Meeting Date - Tuesday, April 9, 2013, 3:30 pm – 5:30 pm

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