

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
DECISION NOTE**

Date: June 14, 2012
File: 280-20
CLIFF #: 171976

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Environment

ISSUE: Realignment of the Ministry 2012/13 working budget

BACKGROUND:

As a result of budget pressures, executive and staff have undertaken a realignment of the ministry budget to match funds with operational priorities, and ensure the consistent treatment of overhead costs across the Natural Resource Sector (NRS).

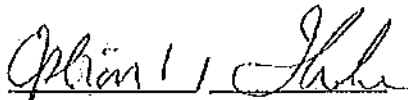
The impetus for the change is due to continued budget pressures and the need to fund key priorities. The budget re-allocation was designed around the following key assumptions:

s.13, s.17

DISCUSSION:

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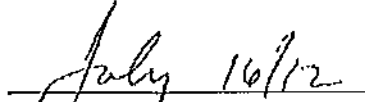
s.13, s.17



DECISION & SIGNATURE

Terry Lake

Minister of Environment



DATE SIGNED

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Prepared by:

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Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM	CM	July 12/12
DMO		
ADM	DB	07/11/12
Dir./Mgr.	MI,	06/15/12
Author	KH	06/14/12

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

July 5, 2012
File: 76780-35/CRD
CLIFF/tracking #: 171921

PREPARED FOR: Jim Standen, Assistant Deputy Minister

ISSUE: Anticipated submission of the Cariboo Regional District's amended Solid Waste Management Plan for Ministerial approval.

BACKGROUND:

The Cariboo Regional District's present Solid Waste Management Plan was approved in 1997 then subsequently amended in 1998, 1999, 2000 and 2001. The plan was fully implemented and in March 2010, the Cariboo Regional District initiated a comprehensive review. They have now completed stage 3 of their review and anticipate submission of an amended plan to the Ministry for approval in September 2012.

s.13, s.17

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ADM	JS	July 6/12
Exec. Dir.	JLM	July 6/12
Dir./Mgr.	CAC	July 5/12
Author	DB	July 5/12

1 of 1

**CORPORATE SERVICES FOR THE NATURAL RESOURCE SECTOR
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: July 5, 2012
File: 280-20
Cliff #: 171924

PREPARED FOR: The Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Environment

ISSUE:

To provide the Minister with background information supporting the release of the 2011/12 Public Accounts tentatively scheduled to be released on July 12, 2012.

BACKGROUND:

In 2011/12, the Ministry voted appropriation was not exceeded. However, questions may be raised publicly with respect to ministerial spending, travel expenditures, purchasing card payments and government transfers. Ministry specific spending details within the Public Accounts are disclosed in the Consolidated Revenue Fund Supplementary Schedules and Detailed Schedules of Payments.

DISCUSSION:

MINISTRY'S OVERALL FINANCIAL PERFORMANCE:

The Ministry generated a surplus of \$0.197 million. Capital spending was \$0.533 million under budget.

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Salaries

The Public Accounts will disclose salary payments made to Ministers, OIC appointees, and all non-OIC appointees who received \$75,000 or greater.

The salaries for ministry employees earning more than \$90,000 were reviewed. All salaries appear reasonable and consistent with established compensation levels.

Travel

Employee travel costs of \$5,000 or greater and all travel costs for the Ministers and Deputy Minister are published in the Detailed Schedules of Payments. Reported ministerial travel costs are as follows:

Minister	Travel Costs	Explanation
Terry Lake Minister of Environment	\$92,737	Ministerial Travel
Murray Coell Minister of Environment	\$ 328	Ministerial Travel

The following 11 Ministry employee's travel costs exceed \$20,000 in 2011/12:

Employee	Travel Costs	Explanation
Tyler Keith Business Services Manager Environmental Management Branch	\$37,495.30	AMS project meetings at various locations NRAC meeting in Kamloops FSJ interviews/OCG training Land Remediation meetings Employee paid airfare Vancouver Team Conference
Brian Murphy Executive Project Director Environmental Assessment Office	\$35,353.98	Includes airfare of \$26,882.98 and expenses of \$9,691.98 Federal/Provincial Clean Energy meetings BC HYDRO/CEAA Site C meetings Local Government/Industrial Sector Site C meetings First Nations Site C meetings Canadian Energy Forum BC Power Symposium Speaker Evergreen Line Tour Wind Power meetings
Tim Lesiuk Executive Director Business Development/Chief Negotiator Climate Action Secretariat	\$34,860.09	Vancouver meetings with Minister Climate Action Working Group Canadian Institute Natural Gas Symposium Calgary Natural Gas meeting Western Climate Initiatives meetings in Montreal, Toronto, and San Francisco Washington, DC, North America 2050 Group meetings
Christopher Hamilton Executive Project Director Environmental Assessment Office	\$27,756.12	Includes airfare of \$20,675.78 and expenses of \$8,329.64 First Nations Proponent meetings

Employee	Travel Costs	Explanation
Tracy James Project Assessment Manager Environmental Assessment Office	\$25,150.68	Includes airfare of \$18,713.01 and expenses of \$7,093.67 Meetings with First Nations Third party and external review meetings Ajax Working Group meetings Morrison site visits Water quality meetings KSM mine site tours Natural Gas Conference
Barry Farynuk Chief Superintendent Provincial Operations Conservation Officer Services	\$24,953.68	Various meetings across the province Courses/workshops Kelowna EAB Hearings Victoria Audit Sunshine Coast Interviews Richmond/Fort St John
Katheryne Slater Project Assessment Manager Environmental Assessment Office	\$20,861.69	Includes airfare \$18,486.51 and expenses of \$2,638.44 First Nations meetings in Fort St John/ McLeod Lake Site C Working Group
Thomas Bell Regional Director Southern Interior Region - Kootenay/Okanagan	\$20,567.67	AGM BC Parks Kelowna Term as A/Director (Exec Director) Long Service Awards First Nations meetings Cranbrook/Penticton Vancouver meetings/workshops Various meetings in Victoria Relocation
Alfred Todd Air Audit Technician Environmental Sustainability and Strategic Policy Knowledge Management Branch	\$20,146.60	Audit trips
Christine Houghton Director Parks Visitor Services Branch	\$20,133.01	Golden Ears Park 100 event Mt Washington West Coast AGM BC Parks meetings various locations Volunteer Strategy Workshop Compliance and Enforcement Workshop Tourism Conferences, Whistler, then Penticton for the Sovereign Lake Volunteer Workshop NCLA Convention Prince Rupert Caribou Bowron Circuit
Sabrina Loiacono Executive Assistant Ministers Office	\$20,128.65	Minister's Office

Government transfers (\$25,000 or greater)

Supplier payments of \$25,000 or greater will be published in the Detailed Schedule of Payments. The amounts are made up of the combined total payments made by all ministries. Ministry payments were reviewed for reasonableness.

Other Supplier Payments (\$25,000 or greater)

The schedule of other supplier payments was reviewed. All suppliers were found to be appropriate and amounts were reasonable.

Visa/MasterCard Purchasing Card Payments

An addendum of purchasing card payments is included in the Public Accounts. In 2011/12, the ministry made 16,289 purchases with purchasing cards which amounted to \$3,920,304.09. Based on a review of these, a number of items were identified as questionable and investigated.

Staff Appreciation Awards

In 2011/12, the ministry spent \$41,243 for staff events and awards. The awards include flowers, gift certificates, Public Service Week, holiday celebrations and retirement celebrations.

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Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM	JS for CM -- edits	Jul 6, 2012
DMO	ND for VJ	Jul 6, 2012
ADM	SB	Jul 6, 2012
Dir./Mgr.	ML	Jul 5, 2012
Author	KH	July 3, 2012

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
MEETING INFORMATION NOTE**

July 13, 2012
File: 50400-26/PACK GEN
CLIFF #: 171998

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Environment

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING: July 17, 2012, 4:00-4:30pm

ATTENDEES: Jim Standen, Assistant Deputy Minister, Environmental Protection Division and David Lawes, A/Manager, Community Waste Reduction

ISSUE: Newspaper industry concerns about complying with the Recycling Regulation

BACKGROUND:

Packaging and Printed Paper (PPP) category was added to the Regulation on May 19, 2011. To comply with the Regulation, producers of PPP must have a product stewardship plan to the Ministry by November 19, 2012, and ensure a stewardship program is in place by May 19, 2014.

As per the definition of printed paper under the Regulation, newspapers are captured by this legislation.

Newspapers Canada (NC) is a trade and lobby organization representing over 830 newspapers throughout Canada. Multi-Materials BC (MMBC) is a stewardship agency representing the producers of PPP and is developing a product stewardship program in response to the Regulation.

NC was a member of MMBC, but resigned from the board in April 2012 in order to undertake a feasibility study for potentially developing their own stewardship program independent of MMBC.

NC and newspaper publishers met with Minister Lake in May 2012 to express their concerns about complying with the Regulation. Ministry staff was asked to provide an analysis of the options available following this meeting.

Not Responsive

Contact:*Jim Standen**ADM**Environmental Protection**250 387-1288***Alternate Contact:***David Lawes**A/Manager**Community Waste
Reduction**250 387-3588***Prepared by:***Angie Mallhi**A/Senior Policy Advisor**Industry Product Stewardship**250 953-3407*

Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM		
DMO		
ADM		
Dir./Mgr.	DL	July 13/12
Author	AM	July 13/12

July 15, 2012, Briefing Note for:

MoE CLIFF #: 172188

Minister Steve Thomson, Forests, Lands and Natural Resources

Minister Terry Lake, Environment

Bill Bennett, MLA Kootenay East

Prepared by: Richard McCleary, McCleary Aquatic Systems Consulting on behalf of ShadyBrook Resort


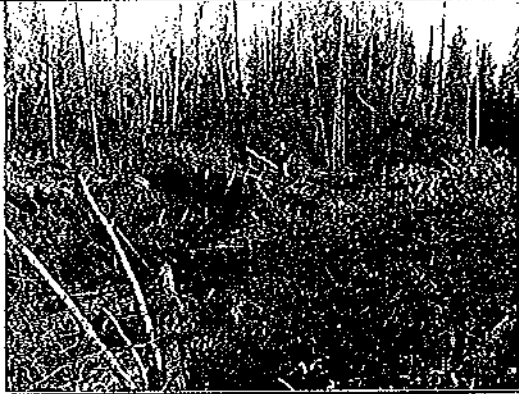

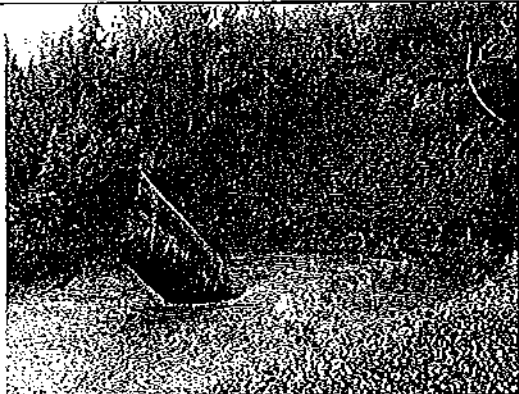

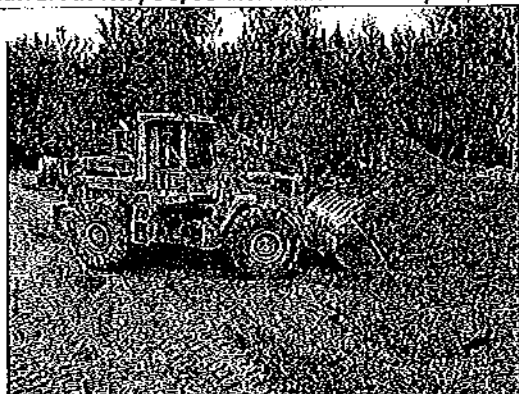
Overview of Problem:

- A rare erosion event along Windermere Creek is mobilizing massive quantities of sediment that are being transported from the site for a 5 km distance to Lake Windermere causing extensive damage to businesses, personal property, and infrastructure including highways.
- Only a fraction of the sediment that is stored along the stream has been eroded to date. Without intervention, the erosion could continue for a decade or more before the site starts to naturally stabilize.
- Since the problem was first identified, the options for intervention have become more limited and much more costly as the gully deepens and continues its upstream migration.
- Radiometric dating of wood from the bottom of the gully indicated that this level of erosion has not occurring for at least 2,000 years.

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Here are some ways to visualize the quantity of sediment that is involved:

Descriptor	Total erosion as of June 11, 2012	Total sediment available
Cubic meters	24,000 m ³	750,000 m ³
Dump truck loads (8 m ³)	3,000 loads	approx. 100,000 loads

Number of times to fill Pothole Park (33,000 m ³)	Almost once	Almost 25 times
Windermere Creek After the Erosion		
		
Standing in bottom of gully June 11, 2012.	View of gully in wetland area on June 11, 2012.	
		
Upstream view at Hwy 93/95 on June 26, 2012.	Culvert at Hwy 93/95 after failure on July 15, 2012.	
		
Excavator removing sediment from Windermere Creek in ShadyBrook Resort on July 15, 2012.	Front end loader moving sediment in Shadybrook Resort on July 15, 2012.	

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Map of Windermere Creek between Windermere Loop Road and the gravel pit upstream from the eroding site.

Additional Background Information:

Terminology:

Alluvial fan: a wide area along a valley where sediment naturally deposits over time. **Note:** the landform where the erosion is occurring in Windermere Creek is an alluvial fan.

Gully: a trench with steep unstable walls created by the erosion of a stream. **Note:** The gully erosion in Windermere Creek is an extremely rare type of event. Sediment has been accumulating on the fan for more than 1,800 years (wood from bottom of gully aged to 1,790 years).

Landslide: the movement of a mass of material down a slope. **Note:** the erosion event in Windermere Creek is not a landslide.

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I am an Invermere resident and available to answer any questions regarding Windermere Creek:

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July 20, 2012, Update:

- Mike Dubois is the owner of Shadybrook Resort on the east shore of Lake Windermere. Windermere Creek flows through the resort and annually deposits bed load on the alluvial fan on which the resort is situated. In year of heavy deposition or high stream flows, Windermere Creek will jump its banks and flood the resort.
- One of FLNRO's authorizations managers is meeting with Mike Dubois (Shadybrook Resort owner) on site Monday morning. Regional FLNRO staff paid much attention to Mr. Dubois and recognize there is an issue and are working to solution. s.22
- Shadybrook Resort is lobbying for government intervention and management of Windermere Creek.

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**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

July 16, 2012
File: 280-20
X Ref: 171603
CLIFF/tracking #: 172003

PREPARED FOR: The Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Environment

ISSUE: Release of Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation (OBSCR) policy assessment

BACKGROUND:

Ministry of Environment (MoE) has sought to proactively involve stakeholders in the development of proposed changes to the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation (OBSCR) through a stakeholder reference group and involvement of staff from the Ministries of Forest, Land and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) and Agriculture (MAgri) on the regulation team. In 2010, a second Intentions Paper outlining proposed changes to the OBSCR was posted for public consultation. The key proposed requirements for open burning under a new regulation are outlined in Appendix A, attached.

Over one hundred responses were submitted from industry stakeholders, health authorities, community groups, individuals, and staff from MFLNRO, MAgri, and MoE. A summary of comments can be viewed at http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/codes/open_burning/index.htm.

The main concerns expressed by communities, government and industry stakeholders were:

1. Small scale forestry operations (largely woodlot owners and community forests) that fell within the Primary Smoke Sensitive Zone felt the restrictions (set-backs and burn times) would be too onerous and costly.
2. Small scale agricultural operations in this zone had the same concerns.
3. Fire hazard abatement and community protection would be constrained leading to unacceptable risks.

Comments supporting increased restrictions to (or elimination of) open burning and smoke release in primary smoke sensitivity zones were received from municipalities (Councils, staff and fire departments), regional health authority staff and "clean air" groups (from various regions of the province), as well as from individual respondents.

An update note was posted online in May 2011 outlining some changes to proposals for the regulation in response to the comments provided by stakeholders. The proposed regulation now has improved flexibility to accommodate local conditions for smoke management.

Drafting instructions are complete and a legislative drafter has been engaged. A new OBSCR could be introduced for the fall 2012 burn season and fully implemented in 2013.

In the fall of 2011, MoE also commissioned a policy assessment to highlight costs and benefits of the proposed OBSCR in comparison with the status quo regulation.

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Approved	Initials	Date
DM	CM	July 24/12
DMO	VJ	July 23/12
ADM	JS	July 19/12
A/Director	CJ	July 16/12
Manager	GO	July 16/12
Author	RF	Apr 5/12

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
MEETING INFORMATION NOTE**

July 16, 2012
File: 280-30
CLIFF/tracking #: 171999

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Environment

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING: July 19, 2012

ATTENDEES: Minister Lake, Perry Schmunk, Mayor of Tofino, and representatives from Alberni-Clayoquot Regional Direction

ISSUE: Tsunami debris in Ucluelet and Tofino

BACKGROUND:

The March 11, 2011 tsunami in Japan resulted in an estimated 1.0-1.5 million tons of wood, plastics and other buoyant materials being washed into the Pacific Ocean. This debris is dispersed across a large area, and is moving eastward towards North America.

To date, there have only been a handful of confirmed reports of items from the tsunami reaching the North American shore. However, there are reports of increased volumes of smaller debris washing ashore on Haida Gwaii.

Similar reports have also emerged from areas around Tofino and Ucluelet. Though the reports are not as recent as those from Haida Gwaii, nor are they as high profile (e.g., the motorcycle on Haida Gwaii and the derelict Japanese fishing vessel that passed by).

There is no provincial or federal program in place to deal with regular marine debris along BC's coastline. As such, no single provincial or federal agency has a lead on the issue of Japanese tsunami marine debris. Local government efforts, combined with volunteer support, are sure to figure prominently in any response strategy.

In British Columbia, the Tsunami Debris Coordinating Committee (TDCC) has been established to bring together related provincial and federal government agencies with local governments, First Nations and other stakeholders.

Russell Dyson (CAO, Alberni-Clayoquot Regional District) and Karla Robison (Emergency Program Manager, Ucluelet) are two key local government representatives on the TDCC planning subgroup.

DISCUSSION:

Relevant events from the area over the last eight months include:

- December 2011 – Mayor Schmunk was in the news discussing what he believes to be increasing volumes of Japanese origin debris.
- February 2012 – Ucluelet mayor Bill Irving, Tofino mayor Perry Schmunk, and key staff met with Consul General Hideki ITO from the Consulate General of Japan (based in Vancouver). Discussions centered on: (1) collection of debris; and, (2) protocols for handling debris of significance.
- April 2012 – Bins provided at public works yard for depositing marine debris (reports are that they are being well used).
- April 2012 – A local tsunami debris working group was established (with RCMP, First Nations, and the Vancouver Aquarium included in the membership).
- May 2012 – Letter from Karla Robison to Emergency Management BC requesting provincial membership on local planning committee (Note: instead Karla has been including in TDCC planning subgroup).

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Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM	VJ for CM	July 16, 2012
DMO	VJ -- edits	July 16, 2012
ADM	JS	July 16, 2012
ED	AD	July 16, 2012
A/Manager	JP	July 16, 2012
Author	BVS	July 16, 2012

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
MEETING INFORMATION NOTE**

July 18, 2012
File: 39580-30/CWWMA
CLIFF/tracking #: 172018

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Environment

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING: July 24, 2012, 11:00-11:30am

ATTENDEES: Minister Lake and Garry Habart, Director for Columbia Shuswap Regional District

ISSUE: Columbia River Wetlands and Access

BACKGROUND:

Garry Habart is a Director with Columbia Shuswap Regional District and represents the rural areas surrounding Golden. The Regional District starts about halfway between Invermere and Golden and runs to the north along the Columbia River and then over to Revelstoke and the Shuswap.

The Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) manages the Columbia River Wetlands Wildlife Management Area (WMA) which runs along the riparian areas of the Columbia River from Invermere north to Golden. Generally it has fairly limited access for boat launching and developed facilities. There are a number of smaller trespass issues in the WMA

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There is an unorganized ATV/motocross area near Golden that is in the riparian zone adjacent to the WMA and has been evaluated to have very high species at risk values – FLNRO has applied to obtain a reserve on the site with the concept of moving it into the WMA

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The Ministry of Environment has no current role in reviewing the reserve application or in the decision – prior to the creation of FLNRO, MoE was the manager of the WMA. FLNRO staff have had discussions with local recreation users including the Golden Backcountry Recreation Advisory Committee on trying to identify alternative ATV sites.

Burgess James Gadsden Provincial Park lies approximately 20 km further north on the Columbia River from Golden and north of the WMA and is protected primarily for the management of river wetlands and riparian areas. BC Parks have received no recent requests for improved or changed access in the park – it is managed cooperatively with Ducks Unlimited, has some foot access and due to the nature of the topography and high water levels that occur there it would be very difficult to provide additional access.

DISCUSSION:

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SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

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DM	CM	July 20/12
DMO	VJ – edits	July 19/12
ADM	LH	July 19/12
Dir./Mgr.	TB	July 18/12
Author	TB	July 18/12

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
MEETING INFORMATION NOTE**

July 19, 2012
ARCS: 280-20/BN
ORCS: 56070-00/SCCP
CLIFF/tracking #: 172014

PREPARED FOR: The Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Environment

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING: July 24, 2012; 10:00-10:45am

ATTENDEES: Minister Lake; Kootenay Golf Course Operators

ISSUE: Pesticides

BACKGROUND:

The Special Committee on Cosmetic Pesticides (Committee) presented its report to the Legislature May 17, 2012. The report made 17 recommendations including to ask the golf industry to develop a province-wide certification process, or to modify an existing one, that will ensure a high standard of pesticide use by all golf courses in BC, including the use of Integrated Pest Management (IPM) principles.

DISCUSSION:

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Not Responsive

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Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM	CM	July 20/12
DMO	ND for VJ – edits	July 20/12
ADM	JS	July 20/12
A/Ex. Dir.	TK	July 19/12
Mgr.	DD	July 19/12
Author	BL	July 19/12

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

July 20, 2012

File:

CLIFF/tracking #: 172007

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Environment

ISSUE: Update on *A Collaborative Watershed Governance Accord for BC*

BACKGROUND:

The Collaborative Watershed Governance Initiative under the guidance of the Fraser Basin Council (FBC) has drafted *A Collaborative Watershed Governance Accord for BC* (attached). The Accord encourages government, communities and businesses to work collaboratively for the social, environmental and economic benefit of BC's watersheds.

David Marshall (Executive Director, FBC) is currently attempting to secure support for the draft Accord. According to the FBC, the Accord has received supporting resolutions from the First Nations Summit and the Union of BC Indian Chiefs. Several other organizations have provided their support in principle, including the Council of Forest Industries and the Federal Government (Fisheries and Oceans Canada and Environment Canada). Clean Energy BC, the Mining Association of BC, the Urban Development Institute, the BC Agriculture Council, and the Union of BC Municipalities are currently reviewing the Accord. FBC is also seeking provincial ratification of the Accord in time for a fall signing, potentially in conjunction with the UBCM Convention in late September.

Ministry staff (through Water Protection and Sustainability Branch) participated in the development of the Accord. The Province is currently considering whether or not it should endorse the Accord.

DISCUSSION:

s.13, s.16, s.17

s.13, s.16, s.17

Not Responsive

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Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM	CM	Jul 20/12
DMO	ND for VJ – edits	Jul 20/12
A/ADM	ADale	07/20/12
A/Director	IG	07/20/12
Manager	TW	07/16/12
Author	JV	07/20/12

¹ The Coast Forest Products Association represents the coastal forest industry.

Pages 29 through 31 redacted for the following reasons:

s.13, s.16, s.17, Not Responsive

Reviewed by	Initials	Date
DM	CM	Jul 27/12
DMO		
ADM	LH	Jul 27/12
Dir./Mgr.	BW	Jul 26/12
Author		

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

August 1, 2012
File: 280-20
CLIFF/tracking #: 172568

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Environment

ISSUE: Role and opportunities from Mount Assiniboine Lodge for British Columbia's provincial park system.

BACKGROUND:

Mount Assiniboine Lodge is located in Mount Assiniboine Park, which was created in 1922 as the 5th Provincial Park in the system. In 1991, UNESCO added Mount Assiniboine to the Canadian Rocky Mountain Park World Heritage Site. The Lodge itself was originally built by the CPR in 1928 and is thought to be the first backcountry ski lodge in the province. Between 1929 and 1982, the Lodge was run by Erling Strom (in the later years by his daughter, Siri) who emigrated from Norway and was a ski instructor and guide. Ski touring trips were offered in the spring and hiking opportunities in the summer (supported by horses). The Renner family took over operation of the lodge in 1983 and have offered similar services for hikers and skiers (though support switched from horses to helicopters).

The Lodge is owned by BC Parks.

During its 80 plus year lifetime, the lodge has had several renovation and rejuvenation projects to maintain it in the harsh Canadian Rockies environment where it is situated (2150m elev.). The last major maintenance effort before 2012 took place in 1986, with work on foundation upgrades for all lodge cabins, rot removal, log replacement, a new heating system, a new septic system, and kitchen and bathroom upgrades. Mount Assiniboine Lodge represents one end of a strategically planned spectrum of recreational opportunities within the iconic core area of Mount Assiniboine Park, catering to all budgets and preferences of visitors - these include the Naiset Cabins, the R.C. Hind climbing hut, core area campgrounds, trails and public shelters.

DISCUSSION:

The most recent restoration (2007-2012) of Mount Assiniboine Lodge is now complete and includes a new foundation for the building (levelling the Lodge structures allowing disabled access), life safety emergency access and egress upgrades to meet building code requirements, a micro-hydro system to provide green energy, and a new water treatment system for clean, safe drinking water and commercial kitchen upgrades to meet health requirements. Total restoration costs for the Lodge were \$1.4 million, and \$300,000 was spent on supporting services infrastructure for all park users, such as water, trails and waste disposal.

The Lodge complex is comprised of:

- the Lodge;
- 7 guest cabins;
- The Hind Hut (accommodating 12 climbers on Mount Assiniboine);
- 3 service buildings;
- a shower/sauna wash building;
- 4 staff accommodation buildings;
- 6 pit toilets.

The newly tendered 20 year term Park Use Permit for Recreation Services Delivery for this facility includes operations and maintenance of the Lodge and responsibility for the operations and maintenance of the nearby Naiset cabins, Hind hut, major core area campgrounds, public shelters, core area trails, and helicopter access flight operations. Mount Assiniboine Lodge currently grosses approximately \$1.4 million per year, with funds from the Lodge revenues supporting a wide spectrum of services and maintenance activities in the core area of the park.

The Permit has a "Preventative Maintenance" account (PMA) built into it (\$25,000 + 1% gross revenue, ~\$40,000/yr at estimated 2012 revenues), which can be used to offset maintenance project costs throughout the Park. The Permittee is also required to pay the Province a permit fee of \$500 + 6% Gross Revenue (~\$85,000/yr at 2012 revenues). In addition, the Lodge operators are providing "lease hold improvements" to Provincial facilities in an amount estimated at \$210,000.00 to meet their proposal requirements. Representing the upper end of the facility spectrum within the Park, the Lodge provides an opportunity for older guests who perhaps are no longer able to hike the 25km into the core area of the park, and may also require a level of service above what the Naiset Cabins can provide.

The Renner family continues to have a hand in the management of the Lodge during this newest permit term. Andre Renner, along with business partner (and long time Lodge staff person) Claude Duchesne, will continue the tradition of service excellence at this facility. Through the years, the Renner family have become known as ambassadors and advocates for the Park and have provided service for over 7,000 guests in their previous 28 years of tenure. Andre's sister and former Canadian Olympic cross country skier, Sara Renner, also assists with marketing.

BC Parks is strengthening the web information around the Lodge and its role in the Park on its webpage.

A celebratory opening event will be held August 15th up at the Lodge. Assiniboine Lodge Ltd. and Kootenay/Okanagan Region will be co-organizing the event. Assiniboine Lodge Ltd. is planning to bring media, as well as several (10 or so) long time clients and visitors with significant history around the Lodge, in for the event. As part of regular work occurring in the park, Kootenay/Okanagan staff will be attending the event. Visitors in the park will be contacted and invited to attend the event. The Lodge intends the event to be a short ceremony with cake and tea afterwards.

SUMMARY:

Mount Assiniboine Park and the Lodge in its core area have been outstanding representatives of the BC Parks system since 1928. The revitalization of the Lodge and other facilities in the park's core area will ensure the continuation of a range of services and opportunities at cost levels suitable for a wide range of users. The Lodge in particular provides an outstanding opportunity for older visitors, visitors with a need for a higher level of service, disabled users, and visitors who may not feel as comfortable in a backcountry setting. Revenue from the Lodge and helicopter services supports the maintenance of trails and other facilities in the core area and provides a preventative maintenance fund for repairs of facilities.

Other examples where BC Parks owns a facility and permits or licences contractors to operate include the Alpine Club of Canada for the Kokanee Cabin in Kokanee Glacier Park – although the fees charged are lower, the operation is similar where the permittee maintains trails, campgrounds and other facilities in a core area based on revenue support from a main accommodation facility. There are 80 other Park Use Permits in the system with privately owned structures to accommodate clients (56 out of 80 being guide outfitting and fishing lodges).

Not Responsive

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**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: Aug 9, 2012
Date of previous note: May 17, 2012
File: 280-20
CLIFF/tracking #: 172792

PREPARED FOR: Minister Terry Lake, Minister Blair Lekstrom, Minister Rich Coleman, Minister Michael de Jong, Pat Pimm, MLA Peace River North

ISSUE: Update on Northeast air quality monitoring program and proposed advisory group.

BACKGROUND:

On June 6, 2012, the British Columbia (BC) Government announced the start of a three-year air monitoring and community engagement program in the Northeast. Following on the heels of phase one of the oil and gas health assessment, the air monitoring program is in response to growth in the oil and gas industry and concerns from residents over its potential impact on air quality.

Funding for the first year is more than \$550,000 with contributions from government, the BC Oil and Gas Commission and members of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers.

During the first year of the program, actions will focus on:

- Starting monitoring immediately at priority rural locations in the Peace.
- Funding a co-ordinator to establish a locally based air-monitoring advisory group (Peace Country Air Quality Monitoring Advisory Group) to review air quality data currently collected in the Northeast and determine the scope, plan and design of the broader network requirements.
- Making air quality data easily accessible to the public to help citizens make daily decisions about air quality and their health requirements.

DISCUSSION:

To date, the following steps have been undertaken:

- Purchase of monitoring equipment for 2 -3 sites in the Peace - sites to be established by fall 2012
- Posting of Ministry of Environment air quality monitoring specialist position to coordinate technical components of the project
- Development of draft terms of reference for the advisory group (see attached)
- Development of research and contract proposals for initial assessment in 1st year

After initial conversations with local stakeholders and agencies in the Northeast, a draft list of proposed members for the air advisory group has been produced.

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Participating Government Agencies include:

- Ministry of Environment
- Ministry of Energy and Mines
- Oil and Gas Commission
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Northern Health Authority
- Ministry of Health

NEXT STEPS:

1. Ministers and Northeast MLAs provide feedback on the proposed advisory group membership and draft terms of reference- Not Responsive
2. Identification of invitees to become members of advisory group.
3. Plan the initial confirmation and kick-off meeting in September or October of 2012 where terms of reference and governance will be finalized and a project plan initiated. Facilitation services will be contracted for these meetings.

Not Responsive

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Author	MG	03/08/12

**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
MEETING INFORMATION NOTE**

August 21, 2012
File: 50400-05/Public Enquiries
CLIFF/tracking #: 174151

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Environment

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING: August 28, 2012, 11:45, Rm. 112

ATTENDEES: Minister Lake, Holly Arntzen (Artist Response Team), David Ranson (Executive Director, Environmental Standards Branch), Meegan Armstrong (A/Section Head, Industry Product Stewardship)

ISSUE(S): Artist Response Team requesting funding for the Voices of Nature project

BACKGROUND:

The Artist Response Team (ART) has developed the Voices of Nature School Music Program that teaches children about the environment through eco-songs. Recently heard at the 2012 Recycling Council of BC Conference, children from Voices of Nature school programs often perform at community concerts and special events.

ART is developing a pilot project for Voices of Nature Day, an annual educational and cultural event that will take place at selected Metro Vancouver venues. It is currently seeking three years of funding at \$15,000 per year from each of five industry stewards to support this, as well as the development of a free downloadable school handbook and music/science video. Encorp, which has supported Voices of Nature since 1998, has made the first steward commitment to this project.

ART's President, singer, songwriter and producer has requested a meeting with the Minister to seek matching funds of \$75,000 per year for the Voices of Nature Day project to increase the project's reach throughout the province. ART representatives have not met with the Minister or requested funding previously and no other funding sources have been pursued.

DISCUSSION:

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SUGGESTED RESPONSE:

The Ministry is very supportive of the Voices of Nature program and encourages its ongoing development and promotion. There is no Ministry of Environment funding available to match stewardship agency funds received for the proposal, but there may be funding opportunities available through the BC Arts Council. They can be contacted by calling 250 356-1718 or emailing BCArtsCouncil@gov.bc.ca.

Not Responsive

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**MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT
MEETING INFORMATION NOTE**

Date: August 28, 2012
File: 280-20
CLIFF/tracking #: 176774

PREPARED FOR: Honourable Terry Lake, Minister of Environment,
Honourable Steve Thompson, Minister of Forest, Lands and Natural Resource Operations,
Honourable Norm Letnick, Minister of Agriculture

DATE AND TIME OF MEETING: September 11th, 2012; 3:30 pm-4:15 pm (45 minutes)

ATTENDEES: Honourable Terry Lake, Honourable Steve Thompson, Honourable Don
McRae, Doug Konkin, Jim Standen, Glen Okrainetz, Rebecca Freedman

ISSUE: Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation (OBSCR)

BACKGROUND:

Ministry of Environment (MoE) has sought to proactively involve stakeholders in the development of proposed changes to the Open Burning Smoke Control Regulation (OBSCR) through a stakeholder reference group and involvement of staff from the Ministries of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (MFLNRO) and Agriculture (MAgri) on the regulation team. In 2010, a second Intentions Paper outlining proposed changes to the OBSCR was posted for public consultation.

Not Responsive

Not Responsive

Over one hundred responses were submitted from industry stakeholders, health authorities, community groups, individuals and staff from MFLNRO, MAgri and MoE. A summary of comments can be viewed at http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/epd/codes/open_burning/index.htm.

The main concerns expressed by communities, government and industry stakeholders were:

1. Small scale forestry operations (largely woodlot owners and community forests) that fell within the Primary Smoke Sensitive Zone (PSSZ) felt the restrictions (set-backs and burn times) would be too onerous and costly.
2. Small scale agricultural operations in this zone had the same concerns.
3. Fire hazard abatement and community protection would be constrained leading to unacceptable risks

Comments supporting increased restrictions to (or elimination of) open burning and smoke release in primary smoke sensitivity zones were received from municipalities (councils, staff and fire departments), regional health authority staff and "clean air" groups (from various regions of the province), as well as from individual respondents.

An update note was posted online in May 2011, outlining some changes to proposals for the regulation in response to the comments provided by stakeholders. The proposed regulation now has improved flexibility to accommodate local conditions for smoke management.

Drafting of the revised regulation is underway. Approval of a revised regulation in 2012 would allow the maximum time for education and outreach with stakeholders regarding implementation of the new regulation in advance of the burning season in fall 2013.

DISCUSSION:

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MINISTRY POSITION:

s.13, s.17

Not Responsive

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