

From: [Rowlands, Conrad](#)
To: [DeFord, Darren FLNR:EX](#)
Cc: [Francis, Dave G FLNR:EX](#)
Subject: RE: Discussion with s.22
Date: Friday, December 18, 2020 8:56:26 AM

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Good morning Darren,

Thank you for your response. I understand that the Ministry has been involved extensively with residents at West Lake from site visits to actually issuing permits to remove debris. I have encouraged them to contact FrontCounterBC in order to have further debris from the stream removed and cleaned up.

Thanks a lot.
Conrad.

Conrad Rowlands

Constituency Assistant for Prince George - Valemount

☎ Phone: 250-612-4181 Toll free 1-866-612-7333

☎ Fax: 250-612-4188

✉ E-Mail: Conrad.Rowlands@leg.bc.ca

✉ Address: 1350 - 5th Ave., Prince George, BC, V2L 3L4

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From: DeFord, Darren FLNR:EX <Darren.DeFord@gov.bc.ca>
Sent: Thursday, December 17, 2020 10:03 AM
To: Rowlands, Conrad <Conrad.Rowlands@leg.bc.ca>
Cc: Francis, Dave G FLNR:EX <Dave.Francis@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: FW: Discussion with s.22

Hi Conrad, thanks for the email.

Water Stewardship staff have been onsite multiple times meeting with West Lake residents and Parks staff and have also been engaging the water licence holder to advance the beneficial use of the water licence and works. FLNR Ecosystem Biologists reviewed the notification for removing some wood debris in the stream channel, and would still be the contacts through FrontCounter BC for removing further material from the stream channel including beaver debris if the residents decided to pursue that. FLNR or ENV do not undertake debris removal and stream channel maintenance activities, but anyone is invited to apply to do so.

Water Stewardship staff have been engaged and responsive and residents have been advised of the process for applying for a Section 11 Changes in and About a Stream Approval. I understand constructive discussions have occurred with the folks below and others to describe the steps required which include hiring a qualified professional to assess the issue, to determine options and pros and cons of lowering the water levels (e.g. seasonal risks of sending water downstream into an already saturated system, fish kill potential, nutrient management, oxygen levels, etc etc). Water Staff have also described the requirement to include the lake association and other residents to ensure any action taken does not negatively impact the lake levels, water quality, fisheries, or other lake characteristics in the short, medium, and longer term.

Once again, we are seeing high water levels in all our lakes and streams throughout the region as a result of a very wet year which is causing problems for many people. I have had staff look downstream of West Lake (Beaverly Creek) into the receiving wetland complex and it is also showing very high water levels where the basin is essentially full. I understand the water is not rising at West Lake, it has dropped a few inches in the last few weeks, is within it's natural fluctuation range and is now freezing up a few inches higher than it did last year.

Let me know if there's any other information I can provide, take care,

Darren DeFord
Water Section Head
Omineca Region – Prince George
250-561-3444

From: Rowlands, Conrad <Conrad.Rowlands@leg.bc.ca>
Sent: December 16, 2020 11:23 AM
To: DeFord, Darren FLNR:EX <Darren.DeFord@gov.bc.ca>
Subject: RE: Discussion with s.22

[EXTERNAL] This email came from an external source. Only open attachments or links that you are expecting from a known sender.

Good morning Darren,

Recently I have been contacted by residents at West Lake worried about rising water levels. I have been asked to share these concerns with the Ministry. I understand you have been working with residents and assisted in removing a log jam that was plugging up the creek. I have been contacted again, below is an email from s.22 regarding the management of an older Weir. They also mentioned a beaver damn about 50 yards from the cleared log jam that could be having a significant impact on water levels and proper drainage that I am sure you are aware of. Would removal of the damn be under FLNRO or Environment? I am also wondering if the refurbishment/replacement of the Weir could have an impact on better controlling water levels at West lake and if it would be a feasible undertaking?

Thanks!
Conrad.

Conrad Rowlands

Constituency Assistant for Prince George - Valemount

☎ Phone: 250-612-4181 Toll free 1-866-612-7333

☎ Fax: 250-612-4188

✉ E-Mail: Conrad.Rowlands@leg.bc.ca

✉ Address: 1350 - 5th Ave., Prince George, BC, V2L 3L4

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From: s.22
Sent: Monday, December 14, 2020 3:11 PM
To: Rowlands, Conrad <Conrad.Rowlands@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Discussion with s.22

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: s.22
Date: December 14, 2020 at 10:49:39 AM PST
To: Morris Mike <charlotte.groot@leg.bc.ca>
Subject: Fwd: Discussion with s.22

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: s.22
Date: December 12, 2020 at 8:11:14 AM PST
To: s.22
Subject: Fwd: Discussion with s.22

Hi s.22 . This is a response I got back from s.22 after telling

him of our conversation last night. If we are able to get a meeting with the MLA,^{s.22} would be happy to join us.
s.22 has done a lot of research on this and has a lot to offer.

----- Forwarded Message -----

Subject:RE: Discussion with^{s.22}

Date:Sat, 12 Dec 2020 15:32:12 +0000

From^{s.22}

To:^{s.22}

Good morning,

I share his frustration and completely agree with him. The responsibility is solely that of the Ministry...full stop! We would not be in this position today if the Ministry had done their job by:

1. **Managing and enforcing** the requirements of water license holder for the past 20+ years to keep the weir functioning to allow for measured flows at critical times of the year. A functioning and maintained weir, which includes the **entire stream channel above it PLUS a certain distance out into the lake** as Andrew from BC Parks mentioned) would not have allowed the natural sediment buildup that we now see. This sediment buildup has reduced the overall flow and capacity of that portion of the channel by probably 30%-40%.
2. **Managing and maintaining** the section of the stream between the weir and the West Lake road bridge. Again, no management, maintenance, or enforcement on behalf of the Ministry. This section has been neglected for the past 20+ years allowing debris buildup due to uncontrolled growth of trees in and around the stream channel and uncontrolled beaver management. All of this contributing to the reduction in capacity and flow through a very important section of the stream during high water events.

The Ministry has done an outstanding job of mis-managing and washing their hands of all responsibility and are inclined to “pass the buck” and make excuses and put the blame on the “inactive” water license holder for the condition that we now see in that section of the stream yet it the Ministry that has full control and responsibility for managing the resource that sits on crown land. Crown land is the responsibility of the crown and not the public or residences of West Lake. And when a group of concerned lake residences offer to take on the initiative to get work done

that should have been done by the Ministry in the first place, the Ministry makes it so miserably difficult with all their bureaucracy and negativity. They deliberately describe and make the process so unattractive so as to deter anyone from proceeding ahead.

The plain and simple fact/truth is the Ministry, over the past 20+ years, has failed to do their job managing and maintaining the stream section either through their own resource management and/or via the water license holder, and for that, they should/will be held accountable for any property damage that may occur this spring and in the years to come as I'm not confident the work required to address the problem will get done if left solely to the Ministry and water license holder. The "proof is in the pudding" as they say...just look at the past 20+ years performance.

You can share this with s.22

Regards,

s.22

From:s.22

Sent: Friday, December 11, 2020 8:04 PM

To:s.22

Subject: Discussion with s.22

s.22 called me to find out how we were making out. I brought him up to date but I could tell he was shaking his head. He thinks we should elevate this a bit higher and he was going to contact the MLA. He'll keep us posted on anything that comes from that discussion. He feels quite strongly that it's the gov't that should be responsible for getting this work done to save properties and lakeshore. I agreed with him but in the absence of any action or commitment from them we were prepared to go it on our own. I told him we didn't have any cost estimates yet but should have them by the end of next week (consultant's estimate). So....it doesn't hurt to have another person lobbying gov't and s.22 probably has some pull there.

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