

SUNSHINE COAST REGIONAL DISTRICT

ROBERTS CREEK (AREA D) ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION

July 15, 2019

RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE ROBERTS CREEK (AREA D) ADVISORY PLANNING COMMISSION MEETING HELD IN THE ROBERTS CREEK LIBRARY READING ROOM LOCATED AT 1044 ROBERTS CREEK ROAD, ROBERTS CREEK, B.C.

PRESENT:	Members	Mike Allegretti Nichola Kozakiewicz Cam Landry Marion Jolicoeur Heather Conn Danise Lofstrom Gerald Rainville
ALSO PRESENT:	Electoral Area D Director Recording Secretary	Andreas Tize (Non-Voting Board Liaison) Vicki Dobbyn
REGRETS:	Member	Bill Page
ABSENT:	Members	Dana Gregory David Kelln Alan Comfort Chris Richmond

CALL TO ORDER 7:17 p.m.

Andreas Tize, Electoral Area D Director chaired the meeting in the absence of the chair.

AGENDA The agenda was adopted as presented

MINUTES

Roberts Creek (Area D) APC Minutes of May 13, 2019 were approved as circulated.

The following minutes were received for information:

- Egmont/Pender Harbour (Area A) APC Minutes of May 29 and June 19, 2019
- Halfmoon Bay (Area B) APC Minutes of June 25, 2019
- Elphinstone (Area E) APC Minutes of June 25, 2019
- West Howe Sound (Area F) APC Minutes of June 25, 2019
- Planning and Community Development Committee Minutes of May 9 and June 13, 2019

REPORTS

BC Timber Sales (BCTS) Operations Plan 2019-2023

Key points of discussion:

- It was noted that on page 48 of the report that it states “The slopes of Mount Elphinstone above the highway in Electoral Areas D and E (BCTS Elphinstone Map Sheet) are not considered by the Province to be within a Community (drinking) Watershed as there is not a community water intake in this area. Many individual properties in this area depend on water from creeks or groundwater for drinking water. Without Provincial protections in place for surface and ground water quality, these licensees may be vulnerable to the impact of upstream resource activity.”
- It was also noted that on pages 79-81 of the report it is recognized that there are 380 registered users above Sunshine Coast Highway but that the actual number is much higher and registration is not a requirement. The concern is that with all these properties depending on this water supply it is still not designated as a Community Watershed, with the protections that would come with this designation, as there is not a “community water intake.”
- The report refers to “potential” concerns of residents, however, it should be “vital” concerns as “potential” minimizes the harmful impact of logging in this area.
- The number of licences may be much higher than stated in the report as many landowners are not aware of the requirement to register and there are hundreds of unregistered wells. The report states that registration is not required but APC members have been told that in the Water Sustainability Act it is required. Regulations may be different for domestic use versus commercial use.
- APC members agree with the recommendations of the Area E APC on page 70 of the report.
- Upper Roberts Creek doesn’t fit the definition of a Community Watershed because it doesn’t have a community intake, but it is in effect a watershed and should have this designation. This is especially an urgent concern given the water supply situation on the coast and climate change.

Recommendation No. 1 *BC Timber Sales (BCTS) Operations Plan 2019-2023*

The Roberts Creek Advisory Planning Commission recommends that Upper Roberts Creek be designated as a Community Watershed.

Recommendation No. 2 *BC Timber Sales (BCTS) Operations Plan 2019-2023*

The Roberts Creek Advisory Planning Commission supports Recommendation No. 1 of the Elphinstone Advisory Planning Commission in support of protecting drinking water quality, SCR D does not support logging in Community Watersheds.

- It makes sense. Water is life.
- Water is essential and becoming more and more important as the climate shifts.
- We have to make sure all of our community watersheds are protected as we move forward.

Recommendation No. 3 *BC Timber Sales (BCTS) Operations Plan 2019-2023*

The Roberts Creek Advisory Planning Commission supports trail protection strategy Option 2 BCTS redesigns proposed blocks with substantial buffers to protect the aesthetic and habitat values that the trail promotes.

AND THAT BCTS and SCR D discuss opportunities for BCTS to invest in the sustainability of Suncoaster Trail and access roads for example, funding bridge(s) at Vinebrook, phase 2.

Recommendation No. 4 *BC Timber Sales (BCTS) Operations Plan 2019-2023*

The Roberts Creek Advisory Planning Commission supports the following recommendations:

1. The SCR D does not support logging license A91376 located on District Lot 1313, which should be reserved for environmental protection as per ongoing discussions with the Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development and the Sk̓w̓xw̓ú7mesh Nation;
2. A strategy for the protection and/or restoration of trails surrounding cut blocks G041C4F6 (West Sechelt), G042C4F8 (Mt. Elphinstone), G043C3ZJ (Mt. Elphinstone), Licence A93884 (Mt. Elphinstone) G043C3ZH and G043C3ZP should be confirmed with local trail groups;
3. Public safety measures be implemented to communicate forestry activity to recreational users, including signage posted on all recreational trails leading to cut blocks, specifically G041C4F6 (West Sechelt), G042C4F8 (Mt. Elphinstone), G043C3ZJ (Mt. Elphinstone), Licence A93884 (Mt. Elphinstone) and G043C3ZH and G043C3ZP;
4. In support of monitoring and protection for marine life near logging activity, SCR D recommends that BCTS commission eelgrass mapping in coastal and tributary areas near proposed logging activity in Jervis Inlet - Hotham Sound, Deserted Creek, Brittain River, as well as coastal and tributary areas of Howe Sound near proposed logging activity - Rainy River, McNair, McNab and Potlatch Creeks, and that the mapping data be shared with the SCR D;
5. Ensure that both shíshálh Nation and Sk̓w̓xw̓ú7mesh Nation are consulted and that all harvesting-related activities undertaken comply with the Heritage Conservation Act; and that action be taken on these recommendations.

AND FURTHER THAT SCR D's position on logging in Community (drinking) Watersheds be conveyed to the Ministry of Forests Lands Natural Resource Operations and Rural Development to request that a clear limit of zero risk to drinking water quality and quantity be established including:

6.
 - a. Define a drinking water protection strategy for proposed forestry operations that has the goal of achieving zero turbidity, zero sediment and zero pathogen input to nearby creeks or streams from forestry activities;
 - b. Establish a monitoring and data sharing program.

7. The forest in the Coastal Douglas Fir Biogeoclimatic Zone be removed from the Timber Harvesting Land Base.

ELECTION OF CHAIR

Mike Allegretti was acclaimed as Chair of the Roberts Creek Advisory Planning Commission.

Gerald Rainville was acclaimed as Vice-Chair of the Roberts Creek Advisory Planning Commission.

DIRECTORS REPORT

The Director's Report was received.

NEXT MEETING Monday, September 16, 2019

ADJOURNMENT 8:20 p.m.