



# THOMPSON-NICOLA

REGIONAL DISTRICT

The Region of BC's Best

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## Notes of Teleconference Meeting re: Stump Lake Water Levels Wednesday, May 27, 2020

**PRESENT:** TNRD Electoral Area (EA) Director David Laird and EA "N" Director Herb Graham  
MLA Jackie Tegart, MLA Assistant Lori Pilon  
City of Merritt CAO Scott Hildebrand  
City of Merritt Corporate Officer Sean Smith  
Upper Nicola Indian Band (UNIB) Chief Harvey Mcleod  
Guichon Ranch Judith Guichon; Frolek Cattle Company;  
Ministry of Transport (MOT) Infrastructure District Manager Trent Folk  
MOT Area Manager Brad Bushill  
FLNRO Section Head Trevor Bohay  
FLNRO Nicola Lake Water Manager Sarah Simon  
FLNRO Dam Safety Manager Darren Bennett DFO Barry Zunti  
EMBC Senior Manager Andrew Morrison  
TNRD CAO Randy Diehl  
TNRD Emergency Supervisor Kevin Skrepnek  
TNRD Community Services Ron Storie  
Stump Lake Residents Doug West, Randy Bourne, Spencer Bass, and Les Hobson

**ABSENT:** Paul Usher Ducks Unlimited

A quick introduction of stakeholders was completed.

Director Laird opened with comments on having a respectful, productive meeting.

### 1. Current History of Stump Lake and high water was provided

- Rise and falls in water every 20-25 years anecdotally
- First subdivision approved around 1974
- Lake highly prized for angling kokanee/trout and it has a higher than usual pH
- 2 inflows, one at Palmer Meadows (managed dam) the other at Fraser Meadows
- Water levels started rising in 2016 – started affecting accessory buildings and some habitable dwellings in 2017
- Has a natural outflow into Nicola Lake at southwest end
- Interior Health was apprised of the septage issue 1n 2017 / 2018
- There is an ongoing compliance and enforcement case to determine who has dug a trench and tampered with natural rock outflow

### 2. Stake Holders presentation (Borne/West)

- Have not seen high water like this since 1920's (anecdotally)
- Survey from 2018 indicated that the water would have to come up 1.7m to spill (which has now occurred)
- Several buildings have been already written off, without doing something before the fall potentially 2 more building will be destroyed beyond salvage
- A number of septic beds have been impacted since 2017 / 2018 which has degraded water quality
- Domestic water lines now have 3 feet of water over them
- Elected officials were implored to act before the fall

**MUNICIPALITIES:** Ashcroft | Barriere | Cache Creek | Chase | Clearwater | Clinton  
Kamloops | Logan Lake | Lytton | Merritt | Sun Peaks

**ELECTORAL AREAS:** "A" "B" "E" "I" "J" "L" "M" "N" "O" "P"

### 3. Summary of investigation into possible mitigation opportunities (TNRD / FLNRO)

Details in May 01/2018 KWL report

- Do Nothing Option
- Pumping Option, short term and expensive at \$450,000
- Syphoning Option very costly at an estimated \$3 million
- Excavation to lower the lake (Further Details in July 18 TNRD letter to all property owners on Stump Lake
  - Section 11 Excavation of an Earthen Structure
  - Pursue Water Storage License

TNRD has previously viewed the solution as a local service area, Director Laird views this is a provincial issue

### 4. Discuss potential solutions

- Provincial ministry representatives were asked to source any information from existing ministry records on Stump Lake and forward any studies or information found to [rstorie@tnrd.ca](mailto:rstorie@tnrd.ca)
- Residents suggest excavating the outflow to create a controlled spill would best serve them
- Guichon Ranch indicate that they have currently been unable to push out water fast enough in last 3 years which has never been the case
- FLNRO suggests that all solutions must adhere to legislated requirement / dams must be operated safely
- DFO feels that increased water levels have been beneficial as long as ph and alkalinity don't affect fish adversely

The provincial ministry's need to have information from the Consultant's report and plan on how to address current high water on Stump Lake. This needs to be completed, before any implementation of any plans occurs.

### 5. FLNRO Processes

- FLNRO suggests that any solution would need to come in the form of an application to FLNRO, such as a water license application. Such an application would typically require a study to support any solution leading to control of water
- FLNRO states that any license must be held by a consortium of those whom the license benefits, i.e., either the residents themselves OR the TNRD, (IF the residents agree to a Service Area). The licensee would be responsible for costs of the application, designing and building whatever structure is decided upon, and maintenance in perpetuity. Because parts of a solution would need to be on land not belonging to the licensees, (the control structure and channel on Frolek lands), the licensee would need legal agreements with Frolek Cattle Company.
- FLNRO would act as the Regulator. FLNRO would accept an application (through Front Counter BC), consult with all stakeholders (downstream affected parties, ecosystems, DFO, First Nations) as required by the Water Sustainability Act. Then based on the responses from those parties, coupled with an assessment of the benefits and risks of the project, rule on whether the project could go ahead. These applications take a minimum of 140 days once a complete application is received (complete means that the application contains appropriate studies and engineered design, plus comment from the proponent's biologist regarding environmental mitigation).
- Neither FLNRO nor another arm of the Provincial government will undertake an engineering solution to remediate flooding at Stump Lake. This is the responsibility of the residents around Stump Lake. This stance is consistent throughout the Province. As riparian rights holders, the resident of Stump Lake enjoy certain rights such as right of access to the water; however,

those rights come with risks and the costs to mitigate those risks are borne by the property holder.

#### 6. Elements around the Scope of the Report

- EA Laird asked provincial ministry's if any funding was available to complete up stream / downstream study  
MLA Jackie Tegart and David Laird TNRD Director will ask for funding to complete water impact study
- Report to encompass downstream user concerns (UNIB, City of Merritt, Ducks Unlimited, Guichon Ranch, TNRD and others)
- Would address outflow on the North end of the lake
- Report must adhere to the Nicola Watershed Management Plan  
<https://www.nwcrtb.ca/water-use-management/>
- Establish a minimum water spill level
- Is discharging water North an option (this was discussed and turned down without documentation in 2018)
- City of Merritt suggested spills would have to occur outside the freshet window
- Consider additional storage options on (Palmer Meadows) other catchments?
- Consider impacts of septage
- Consider licensing and who will hold it
- Complete inventory of accessory buildings / habitable dwellings (see Report May 4 2020) potentially impacted by flood
- Set measurable and obtainable costs and timelines for excavation and water storage
- TNRD Ron Storie to be operational point person for this file