

Nicola Lake Planning Process

2013/14 - Q4 Final Report to March 31, 2014

Overview

The focus of efforts in the fourth quarter, January 1, 2014 to March 31, 2014, include meeting with the Nicola Lake Steering Committee (NLSC) and continuing to implement the action items in the Nicola Lake Action Plan (the Plan).

This report includes three sections: 1) a progress summary of activities completed in the reporting period, 2) a financial status for the three month period and fiscal year, and 3) a preview of planned activities for the next quarter, April 1 to June 30, 2014.

The next report will be provided in July 2014 for activities in Q1 of 2014/15.

1. Progress Summary

This progress summary describes the major activities that took place during the reporting period.

Planning & Administration

- Application for summer student funding through the Canada Summer jobs program
- Application for Interior Salish Employment and Training Society (ISETS) funding for summer students in cooperation with the Nicola Tribal Association
- Submitted application for \$25 000 to World Wildlife Fund “Community Water Fund” – not approved
- Coordination and facilitation of NLSC meetings
- Website maintenance www.nicolaplan.ca
- Communication with all orders of government (including first nations), stakeholders, interest groups

The following is the status of the actions associated with each of the goals identified in the final version of the Nicola Lake Action Plan, dated June 20, 2013.

Goal 1 – Control Invasive Species in Nicola Lake

- Request for proposals drafted and sent out to contractors for the fisheries utilization assessment
- Proposals were received and reviewed for the fisheries utilization assessment; the contract was awarded to Trinton Environmental Consultants Ltd.
- Met with representatives from the Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure regarding permission for roadside signs

Goal 2 – Improve or maintain water quality in Nicola Lake

- Ongoing water quality monitoring and data collection by the Nicola Lake Stewardship Society volunteers, in cooperation with Ministry of Environment
- Shoreline erosion control work at Monck Park is now complete

Goal 3 – Education and Awareness

- Development of Education and Awareness Outreach Technician job description and advertisement of the positions
- Working toward having local Girl Guides (or other group) plant trees at Monck Park

Goal 4 – Sustainably manage multiuse lake recreation

- The recreation survey report ([Nicola Lake and Area Recreation Survey Report](#)) is complete and available on the the Nicola Lake webpage

Goal 5 – Sustainably manage lakefront and foreshore development

- There has been no development on this goal during the third quarter – education around foreshore development will be included in the outreach information delivered this summer by Outreach Technicians

2. Financial Status

This section covers the TNRD and City of Merritt contributions, and identifies other funding sources used in the delivery of the Nicola Lake Action Plan. These funds are in addition to an estimated \$15,000 in contributions by local, provincial and federal government partners through in-kind donation.

2013/14 Funding

| Type | Description | Amount |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| Secured | Gas Tax Funds (TNRD and City of Merritt) | \$134,478.84 |
| | BC Parks – Parks Enhancement Fund | \$4,500 |
| | Teck – Highland Valley Copper | \$3,000 |
| | Provincial Trust Fund (Fraser Basin Council) | \$12,138 |
| | Living Rivers Trust Fund (Fraser Basin Council) | \$5,000 |
| Subtotal: | | \$159,116.84 |
| In-kind | Volunteers | \$10,000 |
| | Agencies | \$5,000 |
| Subtotal: | | \$15,000 |
| Total Funds: | | \$174,116.84 |

2013/14 Expense Summary

| Description | Q1 & Q2 | Q3 | Q4 | Total |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Water | \$0.00 | \$12,016.13 | \$12,300.00 | \$24,316.13 |
| Education & Awareness | \$12,024.41 | \$0.00 | \$0.00 | \$12,024.41 |
| Recreation & Development | \$100.00 | \$5,242.88 | \$0.00 | \$5,342.88 |
| Planning & Administration | \$22,159.24 | \$12,897.30 | \$12,628.82 | \$47,685.36 |
| Subtotal: | \$34,283.65 | \$30,156.31 | \$24,928.82 | \$89,368.78 |

Balance at March 31, 2014 is \$69, 748.06 consisting exclusively of TNRD/City of Merritt funds.

3. Q1 Activities 2014/15

The following section includes an estimate of planned activities for April 1 to June 30, 2014 based on the action items in the Nicola Lake Action Plan:

Meetings, the Planning Process and Administration

- Nicola Lake Steering Committee meeting in June 2014
- Review of action items in the Plan and moving them forward
- Communication, maintenance of www.nicolaplan.ca
- Financial management and tracking, liaison with consultants and partners

Goal 1 – Control invasive species in Nicola Lake

- Receive completed fisheries utilization assessment
- Sample invert species in EWM infested areas that have been identified for selective diver removal (2014) to help determine the effect(s) that EWM removal may have on invert populations (Thompson Rivers University – honours student thesis)
- Communicate with potential contractors for EWM control work, and explore operations experience with Columbia Shuswap Regional District, Okanagan Basin Water Board, and the TNRD
- Hire summer students to operate mobile boat wash station around Nicola Lake and area to raise awareness about aquatic invasive species and preventing their spread

Goal 2 – Improve or maintain water quality in Nicola Lake

- Collect data and draft a public report on water quality in Nicola Lake
- Identify significant sediment sources in Nicola Lake and tributaries

Goal 3 – Education and Awareness

- Develop education and information, media releases, and awareness of the plan and actions
- Print and install invasive species signage at designated locations at Nicola Lake
- Hire summer students to deliver information on education objectives listed in the Plan, around Nicola Lake and area

Goal 4 – Sustainably manage multiuse lake recreation

- Work with NLSC to decide on next steps for this goal

Goal 5 – Sustainably manage lakefront and foreshore development

- Display examples and explanations of shoreline health on the Nicola Lake webpage