

B.C. *Spartina* Working Group (BCSWG) Planning Meeting Minutes – 2010

June 17, 2010

9:30 – 11 a.m.

Corporation of Delta, Tilbury Room

Meeting Objectives:

- Review of 2009 Activities
- Determine Priorities for 2010
 - Fraser Delta
 - Vancouver Island
- Establish responsibilities for 2010

Meeting Attendees:

Alison Prentice, Friends of Semiahmoo Bay (AP); Becky Brown, MAL/CIPC/GVIPC (BB) – by phone; Brent Barry, IPC HotSpots Crew (BBarry); Cam Bennett, IPC HotSpots Crew (CB); Claire de la Salle, DUC (CD); Jennifer Grenz, GVIPC (JG); Joanne Lawrence, Fisheries & Oceans Canada (JL) – by phone; Kathleen Moore, CWS (KM); Kim Houghton, Corp. of Delta (KH); Kim Keskinen, Port Metro Vancouver (KK); Kristin Maitland, IPC HotSpots Crew (KMd); Lyle, Ducks Unlimited (L); Neil Hollis, IPC HotSpots Crew (NH); Rob Knight, CMN (RK); Tasha Murray, GVIPC (TM); Tim Miron, IPC HotSpots Crew (TMn).

Note-taker: TM

Mapping Results:

Mapping efforts took place from June 7 – 11, 2010. RK: 15 People participated every day except for Friday, with only 5 people. He was pleased with volunteer effort; every day there was at least one volunteer from Friends of Semiahmoo Bay. Lack of info at extreme end of Brunswick Point, Westham Island, and the end of Tsawwassen causeway; there is still a little bit of data to be downloaded from the GPS units from W of Brunswick Point. If you toggle between 2009 and 2010 data from the web, there is not much difference (i.e. everything we worked on in 2009 is still present).

Largest, most consistently dense areas:

- Where Hwy 91 meets Hwy 99, east of 112th
- south of Brunswick Point
- *Spartina patens* in Burrard Inlet, Maplewood Flats

There are fewer clones on North side of Tsawwassen causeway, but still some small areas requiring attention. The GVIPC HotSpots crew went far out on N end of Brunswick Point, but didn't find anything.

We need a lot of human power this year, as there are many small patches mixed in with the native vegetation in the dense areas above.

CD: A drift card study was initiated a few years ago; the goal was to identify shorelines at risk for *Spartina* invasion. Anyone have information about localized currents within the Straight of Georgia?

Action: KM will look into currents chart for Boundary Bay.

RK: Weather events might have just as much influence over drift card distribution.

2010 Funding & Proposed Budget

Confirmed Sources	Amount
Ministry of Environment (MOE)	\$50,000
Port Metro Vancouver	\$25,000
DUC	\$5,000
Total	\$80,000

Proposed Budget Item	Amount
Excavator	\$20,000
Coordination	\$10,000
Crew	\$20,000
Herbicide pilot	\$15,000
Kayak monitoring	\$6,000
Vancouver Island training	\$5,000
Other	\$4,000
Total	\$80,000

As a result of the BC Government signing the Pacific Coast Collaborative, MOE designated \$50,000 towards eradication of *Spartina*. \$15,000 must be allocated towards herbicide trials. Dan Buffet (DUC) and BB will be working on the design model for this project. BB: This pilot project will be overseen by the MOE Ocean and Marine Fisheries Branch; the Acting Manager of the Branch is leading the permitting process. This is the first time herbicide will be used in estuarine habitats in BC. The trials would only happen subject to provincial and federal approvals. BB wants groups to keep in mind areas of priority for herbicide trials.

DUC is doing background research on herbicide use.

KM: Suggested to have an alternate plan if herbicide use is not possible. She also wants to confirm that MOE is liaising with DFO. BB is unsure, but it is assumed that they would be as part of the permitting process.

Action BB & CD will look into how we can spend the remaining \$35,000 of the MOE contribution.

Ministry of Agriculture and Lands' involvement in the project this year is provision of expertise and technical support for field trials through BB. She is also committed to volunteer for a day of removal and will also be monitoring research sites.

DC: There is much concern over the use of herbicide. The working group will be consulted throughout this process. Action on the ground is pending approval.

Limitation of Port Vancouver funding is that kayak monitoring in Port area be included (\$5-6,000 allocated for this).

Background on kayaking methodology from RK: "People from Puget Sound" have been running a kayak monitoring program for a number of years through a coordinated volunteer

effort. RK & CD met with program coordinator who is available to help get the program going in BC. Resources such as training materials and methodology already exist.

Vancouver Island Training:

Training will be done by RK & Gary Williams.

Manual Removal Plans:

July 12 – 16:

- BC Conservation Foundation (3-person crew working on *Spartina* full-time for 2 months)
- Corporation of Delta crew (4 people, 2 ATVs)
- GVIPC HotSpots crew (5 people)
- DUC (4 people)
- CWS (minimum 3, for 3 days)
- Possibly adjacent Regional Weed Committee Coordinators & BB (3 people, for one day)
- Friends of Semiahmoo Bay (1 person)

SNaP & SHaRP crews will be out on July 21 at Mud Bay.

RK: There is intense circulation of things from Brunswick Point, so it makes sense that this area would be a priority (more potential to spread, it is on the fringe of the infestation). Group decided to start Day 1, 2 & 3 at Brunswick, and depending on progress, do Day 4 & 5 at 112th.

BB: 112th might be a good spot for herbicide trials.

RK: We will use the *Spartina* listerve to keep in touch with groups participating in removals.

Seed Cutting:

Sunday, August 22: AP will lead a group from Friends of Semiahmoo Bay

August 23 – 27: GVIPC HotSpots crew and others available

September 7 – 10: GVIPC Hotspots crew and others available

Excavator

Excavator work will be done during a separate time from manual removals.

Action CD will let the team know excavator dates. KH needs to let Delta Mayor & Council know. CD will let Tsawwassen First Nation know.

Now that Tsawwassen First Nation is their own nation, they should be invited to sit on our committee.

RK & KM agree that there have been impacts in areas where excavator was previously used – change in drainage patterns, impact on biofilm, etc.

Action CD is working with Excavator Company to find a smaller machine to minimize impact.

Air boats probably have the least impact.

Disposal:

Arrangements have been made with the Rail Company to haul away material alongside rail lines.

In past years, *Spartina* bagged and incinerated. We have previously discussed having bins at Brunswick Point & 112th for the *Spartina* season. Metro Vancouver has approved to have bins placed at Brunswick Point & Delta Heritage Airpark.

Action CD will confirm with Metro Vancouver about the bins and their ability to remove them at the end of the year.

Coordination:

CD is responsible for general coordination but suggests that a part-time coordinator be hired to coordinate the kayak program, excavator and other project components.

Action RK & CD will have chat about divvying coordination, timing, etc.

Permits:

FREMP approval still hasn't been received. Tom Blackbird is working on it and will let the rest of the group know when it is approved.

Action CD will look into additional permit for excavator.

Other Items:

A boat motoring tour on Gulf Island being planned by CD for later this year.

KM: Canadian Air Boards are manufactured in BC; don't know of any company to rent air boats from the Lower Mainland, but possible to bring one down from Interior.

CD requests that partners record time and costs associated with participation in the project according to the following categories: Science & Evaluation, Outreach, Mapping, Removal, Expenses.

Action CD will update calendar with *Spartina* events. Please view calendar updates at www.spartina.ca.

June 21 update:

For clarification, the leads for the *Spartina* program are as follows:

- 2010 Program Coordinator – Rob Knight
- Overall Coordination – Claire de la Salle
- Science/Evaluation
 - Herbicide Pilot– Dan Buffett
 - Burrard Inlet Covering Program – Rob Knight
- Mapping – Rob Knight
 - Kayak Monitoring Program – Rob Knight
- Removals – Rob Knight
 - Disposal - Markus Merkens
- Cross Border – Claire de la Salle
- Vancouver Island Program – Melissa Noel/Claire de la Salle