

From: Marie T. Giraud [mailto:***Personal Identifiers Removed***]

Sent: Friday, November 15, 2013 6:54 PM

To: Living Water Smart ENV:EX

Cc: Marie T. Giraud

Subject: Input on Water Act Moderization

STREAMHAWKS WATERSHED GUARDIANS

Water Act Modernization
Water Stewardship Division
Ministry of Environment
PO Box 9362 Stn Prov. Govt
Victoria, BC
V8W 9M7

SUBMISSION

To Whom it may concern:

The Submission represents many 'concerned Citizens', including Local Sto:lo Native Bands, basically 'outraged' over the detrimental impact on Environmental Water Flow, into Hatzic Lake. Presently, we are requesting 'support' from Dewdney Area Improvement District, Hatzic Valley Rate Payers' Association, & Networking local Sto:lo Native Bands Members, to administer Hatzic Lake Community Foundation; & after acquiring some more Board Members, we intend to apply to BC Society, & submit 'Objects' (ie. draft a Constitution, bylaws) to CRA. I applying also to Social Impact Investors for additional 'support'. Furthermore I was associated W/Hatzic Valley StreamKeepers dating back to 2003.

Our Environmental Campaign, primarily, has been to promote Environmental awareness, & resolution, to the potential Flood Hazard Crisis, impact on fish habitat, involving Hatzic Lake, & also support & promote Long-Term Maintenance towards Water flow into Hatzic Lake, & as a consequence benefit the Fraser River.

In 1993, significant flooding damaged property, & adversely impacted Fish Habitat, in the multi-million \$ range. Apparently, based on Expert Opinion, 'massive' sediment & silt discharge accumulations resulted from extensive Logging Operations 'above stream' into Hatzic Lake. Expert Opinion also suggest: 'the altering & destruction of delicate intricate ecosystems impacts the ability of natural buffer Zones for Environmental Flow (ie. streams, creeks, etc) to protect against 'extensive' Sed/Silt erosion into water-flow, & detrimentally impact Fish Habitat 'down stream'. The Natural Riparian Buffer Zones were damaged & destroyed from installing Logging roads, & extensive 'clear-cut' logging.

The 'Good News'! Finally after 20yrs, the Twin Flood Pumps are being replaced, Sed/Silt traps being installed, & limited dredging allowed to reduce Sed/Silt impacts on Fish Habitat. Everyone @ the Meeting on Aug 6 appeared extremely happy, & I personally commend this Government, & D.A.I.D for providing an Environmental Resolution.

However, the Costs (ie. price tag) to Tax-Payers range in the multi-millions, not including destruction of Fish Habitat, & 'emotional trauma',etc on the Hatzic Lake Community. Apparently, according to sources, Ministry of Forestry had denied any legal liabilities in 1993, & basically had preferred to transfer to Costs from the Private to the Public Sector.

We, therefore, request Legislation amending the 100year old Water Act, to enable & expand the Powers of MoE to provide the 'Tools' to support long-term Management of Hatzic Lake, & enforce against any Violators.

Plz Note: refer to next Email ie. pg #2 Titled: 'we offer alternative Environmental Resolutions for Legislation:' Thank you for your consideration from Alex Giraud representing Streamhawks Watershed Guardians. (604)870-1440

STREAMHAWKS WATERSHED GUARDIANS

ALTERNATIVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESOLUTIONS

Point #1: Integration of Groundwater, surface water, & Aquifer Management & Regulations

-Groundwater regulates water temperature, & filtrates deleterious substances entering into stream, Wetlands & creeks.

In Fact, Groundwater is a main water source for Draper Creek in Mission, originating from an Aquifer from Abbey mountain. Surface Water sources for streams flowing into Draper Creek originate mostly from Groundwater.

Point #2: Protection of Riparian Buffer Zones

-jurisdiction over Fish & Wildlife Habitat Protect Area, above sea-level, require monitoring on a Provincial Level. not Municipal.

-provide Public W/access to Funding for Expert & Legal Expertize on a case by case basis, concerning any adverse impact on Watersheds, to conduct Environmental Assessments, & include Public investigations & reporting.

-Impliment Penalties against Violators discharging any deleterious substances into Watersheds. In certain Cases, a Legal Opinion may be required to enforce the WSA, & legally impose Fines.

WestCoast Environmental Law offers an Environmental Resolution Fund similiar to this.

-transfer the Fines over, to cover the Costs of enforcing the WSA, to an Environmental Resolution Fund provided by MoE.

Point #3: Forest Practice Board must also adhere to WSA W/Public Investigation & reporting

-Forest Practice Board require an Independent Review Panel, in accordance to WSA, separate from the Forestry Division. For example, Forestry Division are required by law to consult W/Sto:lo on the WSA.

Recently significant rock & land-slides obstructed logging roads along Norris Creek, consequently extensive Sediment/Silt had deposited into streams, watersheds flowing into Norris Creek; & Geo-Tech Engineers are assessing for stability. **However**, we have documentation that confirm these Incidents occur on almost a yearly basis.

Why not administer Geo-Tech Engineers prior to these Incidents, in particular concerning streams, & Watersheds? The answer is obvious: the 'major' costs & profits losses involved!

-Logging Private Operations (ie. Tenders) require oversight from Provincial Levels to enforce the WSA.

Piont #3: Forest Practice Board adheres to WSA

-enforce penalties to non-compliant Private (ie. Tenders) Logging Operations to pursade implimenting Modern-day Forest Practices. For example, implimentation of a chain of Helium balloons W/remote control hybrid electric helicopters Drones to pull them. Currently, Logging Operations conducted on Bear Mountain in Mission appear to be more like @ Times Hiking thru a War-Zone W/Blasting & Extremely loud helicopters flying over. That's even harder to accept, knowing, according to new Mission Major himself, announcing an end to Logging Operations in the Area, due to millions & millions in losses. In Fact, anyone can witness the destruction to the forest, on the way to Stave Falls Dam going down Dewdney Trunk road.

STREAMHAWKS WATERSHED GUARDIANS

Alternative Environmental Resolutions

Points #4: Watersheds, Streams, Aquifers, Groundwater & Creeks, above sea-Level, require regulation by MoE, not DFO, or the Municipality

-DFO mandate is not the same as the MoE. DFO is primarily reactive not Pro-Active, & mostly concerned W/Salmon

@ Sea-Level, & appear to have limited resources to enforce the WSA.

-Permits for work 'in & around' Watersheds must be mandatory from MoE, including on Private Property. Case in Point: The District of Mission will approve of the removal of Streams not mapped or charted (ie. Surface water), & suggest installing Drain-pipes to replace the surface water (ie. classified as a Stream), bury the pipes inside Ground-water, flowing into a Man-hole, thru a drain-pipe inside a gravel road, & flowing thru a protected Riparian buffer-zone, into Draper Creek. The end result appears to be a potential flood Hazard, flowing into Draper Creek, & potential flooding on adjacent properties.

Plz Note: the Modernization of the Water Act will benefit endangered species like the Orcas, & their also their food source. Salmon depend on the Protection of Fresh-water Habitat for their Survival. The Ecosystems are all inter-connected. However, Climate change is warming the oceans, changing the acidity levels, etc. Therefore, we must 'ACT' now, before its too late!

Thank you for your consideration from Alex Giraud. Chairperson W/Streamhawks Watershed Guardians