

## HOWE SOUND COMMUNITY FORUM

### REPORT: Workshop on Vision and Values – Provincial Cumulative Effects Framework (CEF)

May 2, 2014, 10:00 – 4:00 pm

Gleneagles Golf Course, West Vancouver

Hosted by The Future of Howe Sound Society

**Note:** This report, prepared by Susan Abs, Eclipse Consulting Ltd., presents key discussion points, along with clarifications added by Provincial staff. See additional details in the PowerPoint presentations, posted at [www.futureofhowesound.org](http://www.futureofhowesound.org).

**GOAL:** To explore the next steps with the Province on a process to manage important values in Howe Sound, including identifying a common vision, values and goals.

#### OBJECTIVES:

1. To review key initiatives and events in Howe Sound related to our work today.
2. To decide how the Forum will continue to work with the Province on managing important values for Howe Sound, including a Forum structure and process for moving forward.
3. To review vision, goals and values information in plans and policies of Forum organizations that can be incorporated into emerging planning and management initiatives in the Sound.
4. To identify which goals and values might be addressed through the Provincial Cumulative Effects Framework for Howe Sound, and which through other initiatives.

**PARTICIPANTS:** 34 participants, including local government officials and staff from 10 communities, and community observers. (see Appendix A)

#### AGENDA

Time	TOPIC
10:00-10:45	Introduction, updates & Reaffirming Howe Sound Community Forum Principles
10:45-11:15	Results from Howe Sound Aquatic Forum, April 2014
11:15-12:00	HSCF Organization for CEF participation & going forward
12:00-1:00	LUNCH
1:00-1:25	Refresher on BC Cumulative Effects Framework
1:25-1:40	Future of Howe Sound Forum, April 2013
1:40-2:15	HS Community Forum members: vision, goals and values in policies and plans
2:15-3:30	Provincial CEF and HSCF goals/ values
3:30-4:00	Next Steps

#### 1. Introductions & Forum member updates

- Members shared updates from their communities.
- Members agreed that there is a need for continued information-sharing on Howe Sound local government and community events & activities related to planning and management. Agreed more “ownership” and commitment by member communities to hosting the meetings is needed going forward.

#### 2. Reaffirming Howe Sound Community Forum Principles for Cooperation.

Ruth Simons presented a review of the Future of Howe Sound Society in assisting the local government Forum meetings and an update on the local government resolutions approving the 2013 revisions to the HSCF Principles for Cooperation. Those revisions have been reaffirmed by:

- GVRD – Chair Greg Moore; SLRD – Chair Garry Nohr; SCR D – Chair Patricia Heintzman; District of West Vancouver – Mayor Michael Smith; Bowen Island – Mayor Jack Adelaar; Town of Gibsons –

Mayor Rowe; Village of Lions Bay – Mayor Brenda Broughton; Gambier Island Local Trust Committee – Chair David Graham; District of Squamish – Mayor Rob Kirkham.

- Still pending as of May 2<sup>nd</sup>: Resort Municipality of Whistler, Squamish Nation.
- The revised document was signed by the representatives present at the meeting.

### **3. Results from Howe Sound Aquatic Forum, April 12th, 2014**

Jenn Burt presented an overview (presentation attached) of process and results for the successful Aquatic Forum, which was attended by a number of elected officials. The full report will be posted at [www.sustainablehowesound.ca](http://www.sustainablehowesound.ca)

**Discussion:** Jenn was complimented on the success of the Forum. There were questions and explanations about the invitation list and proceedings.

### **4. HSCF Organization Going Forward**

Ruth Simons presented a flow chart of progress on discussions regarding comprehensive management planning to date, and next steps. **(PDF attached)**. The presentation included a suggestion for how the Forum could organize itself in the next phase of Comprehensive Management Planning for Howe Sound, including participation in a Howe Sound Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) that may be led by the Province. It was suggested that the Forum follow a process similar to what they used to develop the Air Quality Management Plan.

Ruth also proposed a possible governance/collaboration model for broader Howe Sound management planning activities (see diagram in PPT), including a “Coordinating Body” to develop contact lists/list serves; logistics and administration; calendars and scheduling; and a website/s.

**Discussion:**

- The proposed HSCF planning sub-committee could be based on the Air Quality (AQ) Sub-committee, formed in 2002 to prepare an AQ Management Plan. Designated representatives from local governments and other stakeholder groups met, then reported back to the larger Forum; first developing a high-level set of values, then detailed plans. The BC MoE provides some funding (\$20,000/year), with the rest from local governments, and a consultant did the technical work. The AQMP is now managed by the Sea to Sky Clean Air Society.
- Members discussed resourcing options for a Forum sub-committee:
  - Regional District resources; e.g., draw on knowledge of Forum members; get staff to gather existing documents/info.
  - Consider a staff working group. It could start with identifying area “values” for a CEA and other initiatives.
  - Forum member could make financial contributions, based on population.
  - Forum could seek outside funding, e.g., Community Grants, Real Estate Foundation.
- There’s a need to define who will be the eventual decision-makers re: any plan that emerges.
- It’s important to involve groups that can “actualize” things, e.g., Islands Trust, MOE, FLNRO.
- Q: “If we (Forum) endorse a plan, what would be the role and participation of the provincial and federal governments?” A. (FLRNO) The dialogue [among all parties] on various initiatives will need to continue throughout these processes.

**Conclusions:**

- Members agreed that it’s important to act on current momentum to get the Province to commit with staff and resources. (Should also move slowly enough to ensure that everyone is on board.)
- The Forum will not form a sub-committee at this time. They will continue to work on the CEA and other initiatives as a “committee-of-the-whole”, but may consider other options at a later stage, especially if a CEA is initiated.

## 5. Refresher on BC Cumulative Effects Framework (CEF)

B.C. Ministry of Forests, Lands and Natural Resource Operations (FLNRO) staff Kai Elmayer, Jeff Juthans and Steve Kachanoski presented the CEF, focusing on Step 2, Values Definition. (**Presentation attached**).

### **Key Points:**

- The *CE Framework (CEF)* is a package of policies, procedures and tools to conduct CE assessments. A *CE Assessment (CEA)* is the specific assessment being explored for Howe Sound.
- A CEA could cover areas of Howe Sound not currently covered by LRMPs, but which have defined landscape-level objectives for specific values. It would span over three of FLNRO's "Resource Districts": Sea to Sky, Chilliwack and Sunshine Coast.
- Potential outcomes of a CEA are: a better understanding of the current condition of selected values, current pressures, and areas where pro-active management is needed to address trends. The CEA can increase understanding of management options – for government decisions and private sector proposals, e.g., by influencing early choices on location and design. In cases where increased risks to values are identified, strategic responses could include targeted management or planning measures, e.g. new/revised objectives for specific values or application of specific planning tools.
- The CEF was developed and tested through pilots on the land base but there is interest in testing it in marine environments. This may be done on larger scale as part of implementing the Marine Planning Partnership (MaPP [www.mappocean.org](http://www.mappocean.org)) and other BC projects, and possibly on a smaller scale in Howe Sound.
- The CEF is designed to be transparent; the results of a Howe Sound CEA would be made available to governments, First Nations, stakeholders and interest groups at each step.

### **Discussion on CEF:**

- Compliments to Province for sending staff; also need to ensure that First Nations are present.
- Community values should be reflected in values chosen for assessment, e.g., Sunshine Coast has priorities related to protected areas – only 3% is currently covered.
- East Howe Sound has very little planning in place.
- The Province acknowledges that the strong interest and expertise of the HSCF is a good foundation for a possible pilot CEA. The HSCF can continue to communicate what matters to them, and provincial staff will report back to the Ministry as to whether there is alignment between Province CEF values and HSCF/other community values.
- FLNRO will develop the CEA internally but needs to do reality checks with local governments and organizations. They also hope to draw on NGO expertise, e.g., research and monitoring, and will explore innovative partnerships/processes, including how to address marine values.
- The Province needs clear idea of "who we're working with", who's involved, and what the issues are. HSCF should keep them posted on what internal structure/process they envision for the pilot and who the main contacts will be for communicating progress and organizing next steps.
- The HSCF will be informed about results at each step (selection of values, outcomes of the assessment, recommendations for potential management responses). They can provide input and circulate information to others. In previous similar projects, small subgroups, i.e. technical working groups, were formed with members from various partners. They helped prepare information and guide the process, and then reported back to the broader forum/community.
- Q. A Briefing Note from FLNRO on what's required of the HSCF and their staff during a CEA would be useful. A. This will be discussed once the scoping phase is completed.
- Federal government involvement is key and should be pursued by Sept. to be in 2015 budget.
  - To get the attention federal attention, the Forum must show "benefits to the nation" – e.g., "how would you explain it to a federal minister or secretary?"

- They are more likely to get involved in a process that's already moving forward.

**Discussion on Values:**

- The values discussion will need several iterations/feedback loop.
- “When deciding on values to include, we need to specify ‘what are we measuring?’ Are the values usable, understandable? Will they work for us? Will they be effective?”
- Q. How many values can be included in the CEA? A. This will be explored through scoping and shared with the HSCF. Participation by partners could add capacity and breadth to the assessment.
- FLNRO presented a very draft list of marine “value components”, noting that it will be refined considerably through research and consultation. It may include “nested components”, such that one value covers multiple concerns, e.g., “foreshore” values may be included in “estuaries”.
- Provincial marine responsibilities include, but are not limited to, MPA (marine protected areas); network development, contributing to healthy communities through conservation, social, and economic actions; and tenuring economic activities in the foreshore and sea bottom.
- A HSCF member flagged a potential misinterpretation in a PPT slide which noted that the Province’s management approach would become less flexible and more intense if increased risks to a specific value were identified, i.e., as the risk to a value goes up, “management intensity” increases. She suggested that maybe “heavy managing” is not what you want.
- Q. How does a CEA address specific proposals already underway? A. The scoping exercise will help determine when results will be available for decision-making. The results of the CEA can be applied to the present local and regional situation and into the future. It will provide a context for considering proposals and show how the current situation is viewed by various stakeholders. This information will provide decision-makers with an understanding of options and limitations in the current landscape as they make decisions on proposals (it’s a “decision aid”).
- A CE assessment is proactive in that it can include recommendations for broad issues that need a strategic response.
- FLNRO staff asked the question: “Where is the pain?” in Howe Sound, as part of identifying key areas of concern that might help them identify possible values for inclusion in a CEA. Forum members brainstormed the following lists; however, they are incomplete and don’t necessarily represent consensus views. The lists will be refined by adding issues identified in other reports and further discussion:
  - (Partial) List of “where’s the pain” (key issues in the area): Garbage travelling to and from an incinerator at Port Mellon; LNG tankers and port; logging on Gambier; gravel mine at McNab Valley, including additional barges; barge and tanker traffic, including pollution and wake from more boat traffic.
  - (Partial) List of values:- air quality; water quality; recreation; fishing; restoration of ecosystems; proposed biomass; biodiversity; estuaries; the need to build on 40 years of clean-up; economic priorities for each sector, e.g., tourism, industry; providing land for industry.

**6. Results of Future of Howe Sound Forum, April 2013**

Ruth summarized the results of the Future of Howe Sound Forum as a reminder of common values identified by the various stakeholders. These can be added to the ongoing list of values and issues.

**7. HS Community Forum members: goals and values in current policies and plans**

Facilitator Susan Abs showed PPT slides on values information that’s already available for assessment and planning in Howe Sound. **(Presentation attached)**. The CEF and other initiatives can draw on four complementary sources that include list values, goals and issues in the area:

1. Howe Sound Community Forum – Principles for Cooperation
2. Results of the Future of Howe Sound Forum, April 2013
3. Results of the Howe Sound Aquatic Forum, April 2014
4. Plans and Strategies of Howe Sound Community Forum members

Susan also presented a “rough cut” summary of topic #4 that she compiled from reviewing official community plans, regional growth plans and First Nations land use plans retrieved from the Internet.

**Discussion:**

- Forum members found the summary to be a good start that can be refined through inclusion of other sources, further synthesis, and integration with the documents above.
- More clarity is needed on what is meant by “values” in the Provincial CEF. (Note: Other environmental assessment frameworks use the term “valued ecosystem components” or V.E.C.’s to refer to key elements to be assessed.) FLRNO will consider options, including changing the slides to read “value components” instead of “values”.
- The values in the CEF will be compared with goals and values listed in local, regional and First Nations plans and other regional documents as part of the scoping exercise and the selection of values for a Howe Sound CEA. The latter can use be used to derive values for the CEA.

**8. Next Steps**

- There was consensus for moving forward past “exploring” the option of a Cumulative Effects Assessment for Howe Sound to confirming commitment to a CEA and defining and organizing local participation.
- Q. Forum members would like clarity from the Province on whether or not they’re doing a CEA and what more is needed from them. A: The Province is committed to implementing the CE framework and will conduct CE assessments “as part of their business”. “There is an opportunity for Howe Sound stakeholders to participate in the early implementation phase of the CEF and help fine tune the application of CE assessments for the coastal and marine environment.”
- FLNRO will work through its internal processes and report back to Howe Sound Community Forum.
- FLNRO will summarize the case for a CEA, based on the Forum’s expression of interest, Forum meeting notes, and materials provided by HSCF and other initiatives.
- The next step – internal to the provincial government – is scoping for the CEA, including a review of what data is available and can be used; confirming ongoing resourcing; drafting a Terms of Reference; and exploring local participation and levels of interest among potential partners.
- HSCF will create a mini “briefing group” of staff: Jan Hagedorn (Gambier Island trustee) will take the lead.
- The next Forum meeting will be Friday, September 12<sup>th</sup>. Host community and location to be determined.
- Values identified in various Howe Sound community planning documents and meeting reports will continue to be compiled.

**Discussion:**

- There are many models and tools; the underlying questions are “What are the goals? What resources are available to address them?”
- A CEA may cover only a sub-set of values and current issues in Howe Sound – other processes may be needed to address additional needs and priorities.
- Various initiatives are emerging in Howe Sound; new collaborative structures will develop as needed. People should place trust in the emerging processes.