

Guardians of the Nicola Lake and Watershed Society

Meeting Minutes – September 9, 2025

Location: Via Teams

Attendance

- John Arnold
 - Peter Schmidt
 - Dawne Tomlinsonb
 - Lisa Schlagintweit
 - Dan Emerson
 - Brent Pascall
-

1. Membership

- **John** requested to see the members list.
 - **Dawne** shared the spreadsheet and explained the process for becoming a full member.
 - **John** emphasized the need to grow membership for credibility and influence; suggested sending the list to the executive and developing strategies to increase membership.
 - **Lisa** will confirm Lakeshore numbers.
 - Membership goal set at **400 members**.
 - **Dawne** noted the importance of membership beyond revenue, highlighting credibility with decision-makers.
 - **John** suggested direct, personal outreach (“cold calls”) rather than group messages.
 - **Discussion on Thank Yous:**
 - **John** asked how to recognize members and donors.
 - **Dan** suggested personalized thank-you emails.
 - **Dawne** confirmed there are **102 paid members** and that donations will be tracked on the website.
-

2. Jack Ranch Update

- **Peter** reported uncertainty around Jack Ranch, now under the Upper Nicola Indian Band.
 - **Dawne** noted she would bring this up in the upcoming meeting with Brian Holmes.
-

3. Level 3 Water Testing

- **Dawne:** Ministries are delaying. The Merritt Herald plans to run a story on ministry inaction, which may add pressure.
 - **John:** Clarified equipment and trainees have not yet arrived from the ministry.
 - **John** raised concerns about lake access due to low water levels and freezing conditions.
 - **Dawne:** Six volunteers are ready to proceed once ministry supplies and training..
-

4. Contact Lists & Stakeholders

- **John:** Need to clarify stakeholder contacts and authority lines (fisheries, environment, federal/provincial). Too much misinformation exists on who enforces regulations (e.g., cattle in riparian zones).
 - Questions raised: Which government department issues water orders?
 - **Dawne:** Suggested engaging the Cattlemen's Association. Dawne will provide a nutrient management summary next meeting
 - **Peter:** Shared contacts at Sagebrush (Chris Hood, GM; Neil Pelon, Greens Superintendent). Dawne will contact them.
-

5. Projects – Educational Signage

- **Dan:** Upper Nicola is already creating signage; asked what GONLW's signs should include and where they should be located.
 - **Lisa:** Spoke with Frank Rizzardo—good resource for sign making. Stressed signs should **educate, not police.**
 - **Discussion:**
 - Possible partnership with Interior Health.
 - **QR codes** proposed for multilingual information and resources?
 - **John & Dawne:** Agreed coordination is required before proceeding.
 - **Motions:**
 - Dan moved to proceed with signage project pending Upper Nicola Indian Band approval.
 - Motion seconded and carried. Dawne to confirm with UNIB.
-

6. Treasurer's Report – Brent

- Balance: **\$3,250** in bank, with \$1,000 to be deposited.
 - \$600 from donations.
 - \$2,100 from memberships.
- Current total: **84 paid members (as of Sept 8).**
- Some donations are untraceable.
- Need to reimburse expenses:
 - Perry: \$181.44

- Dawne: \$76
 - John: \$100 + \$30
 - Dawne: \$96 USD for Gamma platform (newsletters and visuals for website)
-

7. Next Steps

- **John:** Will meet with Dave and Herb (TRD) to explore pilot projects, access to technology, and possibly retaining specialists. Questions include how to share and collect data.
 - **Dawne:** Realistically, little financial support from government expected—progress will require **public pressure and credibility**.
 - **Dawne:** Will continue pursuing TNRD grant-writing opportunities.
 - **Motions:**
 - Lisa moved to approve next steps; seconded by Peter. Motion carried.
-

8. Other Business

- **Newsletter:** Lisa to target third week of September for release.
 - **Fiscal Year:** Brent proposed April 30 as year-end.
 - **AGM Mechanics:** Discussion tabled.
-

9. Next Meeting

- To be scheduled in three weeks, depending on UNIB meeting timing.
-

10. Adjournment

- Motion to adjourn by Dan; seconded by Brent.
- Meeting concluded.