WELCOME

Yankee Girl
Remediation Thoughts . . .

Risk . . . Assessment
No vegetation.
Toxic odors.
Heavy contamination.
Eerily unnatural.
PROJECT HISTORY

1998, SWSS, partners and volunteers activate a bull trout radio telemetry project..

Aerial tracked to determine spawning and over-wintering habitat.

Also GPS tailings sites
PROJECT HISTORY

June 2000 to … SWSS conducts 14 tours to bring awareness of YG Tailings.


SWSS/Community activates Coconut Telegraph.

Nov. 2001: SWSS activates/helps with additional Ministry sampling


Oct. 2002: YG Remediation "Restore Cyanide Flats?" News article - SVN.

Mar. 18, 2003: MSRM memorandum to Kathy Eichenberger – communication … “via the Salmo Streamkeepers Society”

**May 14, 2003: DFO issues Directive to Province to “include options for site stabilization and evaluation of pros and cons associated with possible options.”

June 17, 2003: 5 core samples taken SWSS/Bill Duncan. Shows lower tailings to contain more toxins and some gold.

Nov. 21, 2003: Yankee Girl Restoration Fundraiser Dance. (Fun_raiser) YG Tailing’s remediation options revolving powerpoint presentation.

Whole time to present: Numerous Kitchen Table mtg’s. and coffee babble mtg's take place.
The Environmental Impact Assessment Report revealed a host of contaminants.
“In terms of human exposure… YG tailings… pose a risk to humans through inhalation and dermal (skin) exposure to contaminants.” (p. 6)

• “Elevated levels of arsenic, cadmium, lead, silver and zinc concentrations exceeding… standards of the Contaminated Site Regulation.”
• “Cadmium/lead… demonstrated to have a high leachate potential.”
• Comparison to leachate quality standards of the Special Waste Regulation… qualify as special waste.”
• “The elevated concentration of arsenic in the soil also qualifies the residues as special waste.”
“This … information indicates a potential for the Yankee Girl tailings to impact the aquatic ecosystem of the Salmo River, downstream water users, recreational users of the site and the community of Ymir.”
Create Partnerships:
SWSS, Ymir Community Association, Ministry of Sustainable Resource Management, Water, Land and Air Protection; First Nations, Youth, Columbia Kootenay Fisheries Renewal Partnership, Department of Fisheries and Oceans; Ministry of Transportation and Highways; Ministry of Energy and Mines; Watershed Planning Team and Technical Team of the Salmo River Watershed-Based Fish Sustainability Plan, Chamber of Mines, RDCK; Village of Salmo; local industry (Cominco,CPC), other community groups and individuals.
To balance our commentary, we now present the view of an "uninformed source".
Community Lead?

- No real attention was given to a request from SWSS to play a lead/partnering role in YG remediation.
- Only reasons why community couldn’t participate were given.
- None how we could participate!
Partnership Hopes Continue!

- “Switch Points” poorly understood relationship erosion points evolved.
- Credibility questions.
- Sincerity?
- Motivation?
- Process?
Eliminate “Switch Points”

- There were a number of SP’s that led to misunderstanding and community frustration.
- Sometimes simple, sometimes complex.
- Using a community approach to advertise a Gov’t. Mtg.
- Unwillingness to support a facilitated community Mtg. to give Gov’t what they asked for.
- Coming to a mtg - privacy was requested.
- No att’n to consensus inquiry’s prompted by a impromptu KT mtg. …
Terrible T’s

• Transparency.
• Translation - those guy’s spoke in restricted codes.
• Timely.
• Troops!!
• TRUST. Who’s interests were being looked after.
What Can We Do?

- Change things - Help / teach Gov’t. / consultants to dance, synchronize with community.
STREAMLINE

• Advocate for a process that incorporates work that has already been accomplished.

• Incorporate the ‘DUCK Approach’ - ‘if it walks like a duck, talks like a duck then it’s probably toxic tailings…

• In our case The ‘Inventory’ the WFSP and the Robyn Roome Assessment Report.
Develop a simple community-based procedures manual that includes:
1. Safety considerations/training.
2. Site Investigation Techniques.
3. Community Consultation guide.
4. Simple sampling procedures.
5. Remedial options assessment chart.
And 6&7&8&9…. To meet needs as identified.
STREAMLINE

- Provide training equally to NGO/Gov folk that want it to keep $ down.
- Prioritize training based on ‘Hot Spots’ and capacity/wants.
- Assess practicality for economies of scale...
- Provide support!
How to be Inclusive

- Let the lead go where it came from.
- Ask for help - take & give guidance.
- Support facilitation - don’t dominate it. (the Feb. 07 Mtg……)
- Always take a community-based perspective (the poster issue……)
- Offer considered opportunity based on knowledge.

- PARTNER don’t dominate.
Enviro / Aquatic Ecosystem Health

- Take an area based (watershed) perspective.
- Strategize Big Picture even when shouldered with site specific Orders.
- Look for ways to increase the ‘biological bang for the buck’ even when dealing with human health issues - they’re related!

40+ sites identified, Yankee Girl priority.
Environment/
Aquatic Ecosystem Health

• Do not ignore existing documents like the SWSS WFSP, they’re the foundation for ‘Biological Bang for the Buck’.
• Lead us to getting more for less. Win/Win/Win/Win/Win.
Inventory of Mine Tailings and Ponds in the Salmo Watershed

Report researched & written by Lisa Hembuch
November 2000
Edited by Gerry Nellesign

Photo:
Old Hickey Ditch tailing site on the Salmo River near Rossland, BC. This site was last used to dispose of tailings in the late 1800s.

Salmo Watershed Streamkeepers Society
• Realize: The job is too big for GOV’T alone (4000 + sites - The Province June 13/08).
• Empower Community: What if we were actually supported?
• Use the ‘Big Picture’. Question 1 offs.
• Drop ego’s, learn to share info/knowledge
• Shoot for Multiple Win scenarios.
• Realize: Community/GOV’T wants the same thing, to rid themselves of CS’s.
How Do We Make Things Better, Get More Done?

Spend More Money?
Pay People More?
Get More Specialized?
Work on More Gov’t (other) Support?
Keep Info longer and closer to your chest?
Retain Skill sets?
Provide Direction not Guidance?
Shouldn’t We Ask Ourselves?
• Are we just putting our head in the sand by not supporting community?
DEVELOP A PILOT

• To engage community as an equal partner.

• Develop a review/assessment ‘accountability’ matrix WITH community to assess benefits, draw backs

• Matrix should lead to recommendations for future community/gov’t/consultant action
DEVELOP CRITERIA

With COMMUNITY

- To assess community capacity
- Rank the will of community to participate effectively
- To determine administrative capacity
- To see if community can partner operationally
- Budget effectively.
- Understand material needs
- To manage, move and shape material into an admirable product
ECOURAGE PROCESSES

- That allow community to communicate project phases, outcomes, benefits and drawbacks.
- Present community as meaningful partners.
- That develop knowledgeable leaders to continue reshaping CS’s.
- To retain ownership for shaping the ‘Place Where We Live’.
What are the BENEFITS

- You come from a place that looks for what community can accomplish, not what they can’t do.
- Gov’t, Consultants and Community alike reap rewards.
- The common good is accelerated - more Contaminated sites get reshaped.
Now, where would them varmints be hangin' out on a day like this?
Independent Review?
Is Bro I.A.N. Here?
Timely info Sharing?
D.A.D. Here? (Decide Announce Defend)
Independent Review?
? Support for Community Voice
How ‘bout Sister L.O. ?
Meaningful Community Participation?
Now where would them varmints be hangin’ out on a day like this?
TITLE

- Text.