

Okanagan
TRAIL RIDERS 

771 Torrs Road,
Kelowna, B.C. V1Y 1B4
Ph. (250) 878-9111
Email – ken.umbarger@okanagantrailriders.com

Lakeview Irrigation District
2570 Bartley Road,
Kelowna, B.C. V1Z 2M8
Attention: Mr. James Moller

February 7, 2006

Re: Meeting February 6th 2006 / LID Office

Dear James,

Thank you for the opportunity to meet with you and explore areas of commonality between LID and OTR. We appreciate your stated desire to work with our group to insure a managed approach is achieved with respect to protecting the watershed. It is my understanding that we agree on the following areas we can move forward together:

1. Ideally a network of sustainable trails should be developed within the Bear Creek RMZ given the likelihood of increased pressure over time on the area;
2. Sensitive areas should be identified together and addressed as a priority based on available scientific data and where necessary future data;
3. Education of riders should be a key emphases of the management process and OTR should continue our efforts in this regard;
4. Government should take the lead in enforcing the protection of the watershed and in our case responsible off-road riding practices;
5. Other managed riding areas should be considered by government to lessen the riding pressure on the Bear Creek Area;
6. Riders should be encouraged to ride in areas of the RMZ further away from the LID intake and sensitive areas yet to be properly identified;
7. Government should become more involved in the protection of the watershed and the management of the RMZ. This will be a key objective for both parties. We discussed OTR's direction in pursuing funding through the Direct Access program for key initiatives. We also discussed the importance for government to ratify the proposed Coalition ORV legislation in its entirety so the tools to achieve the above objectives will be available in the long term. We also discussed OTR's request to have enforcement in the area for a minimum of four Sundays between now and June as a start. We presently have a verbal commitment for a

- conservation officer to be in attendance on April 2nd 2006. OTR's key concern is to mitigate the potential of a motorcycle accident on Bear Lake Main along with enforcing responsible riding practices.
8. The media have often misconstrued both parties intended message in order to foster a war. Care should be given to insure future media releases are solution oriented and preferably non-confrontational.

With respect to item 2 above you indicated specifically your concern with the following:

- a) LID's water intake area and motorcycle activity therein;
- b) A specific trail leading from the MX track to the intake area;
- c) Degradation around the 8km staging area.

While it is my understanding Don Dobson has viewed the 8 km staging area perhaps we could include our consultants in prioritizing this concern. We agreed to go view these three problem areas directly as soon as your time permits. Towards this end we agreed that time is of the essence given the spring riding season is quickly approaching.

You indicated that you would not object if the government elected to close the area entirely for off-road motorcycles but that was not your intent. I stated clearly that OTR is, and always will be, strongly opposed to any consideration of a decision to close the Bear Creek RMZ. While our positions differ on this issue, there are many areas we can agree on. We suggest making a concerted and collaborative effort to affect these common objectives. Perhaps a good starting point could be our on-site inspection of the sensitive areas which you have concerns. We suggest Don Dobson be in attendance as well as our consultants. Please let me know how soon you could arrange this and I will coordinate our end on a priority basis.

Once again I wish to sincerely thank you for your time in meeting with me. Please feel free to reply with any clarifications and or additions you may have to this letter of understanding. In closing, let's work together with action in 2006 so the watershed we all care about will remain protected.

Yours truly,

Ken Umbarger
President
Okanagan Trail Riders Association

CC: Mike Reed, RDOC Directors, Terry Mac Donald, Dean McKinley, Barry Penner, John Glaspie, Don Dobson