

File: 550-01

June 10, 2021

Chair and Directors
Regional District Board

As the Electoral Area A Director, I was recently notified by Mosaic Forest Management of their plans to restart logging in the Langley Lake watershed, which provides the Union Bay community with its drinking water. The watershed is quite small, as is the lake, as per the appended image below. In the past, logging activities led to water quality issues both at the lake and for the Union Bay water system.

Mosaic's rationale is that with the new Union Bay Water Treatment Plant now online, that it would be fine to restart harvest activities as early as this June. The company is proposing to harvest two cutblocks, but acknowledged the intent of an expanded scope of activity in the watershed over the coming years.

In return, I expressed concern, particularly as the Comox Valley Regional District (CVRD) is just about to take over management of the Union Bay water system. I also suggested that the CVRD could work with the company on a conservation plan for the watershed, but that this is not likely to happen overnight. Meanwhile, there is a broader opportunity to join with other communities on Vancouver Island who are struggling with similar issues, and I propose that we get together as a group, and with the Province, to consider how to best move forward with drinking watersheds conservation in the future. Locally, in addition to Langley Lake both Comox Lake and Allen Lake remain vulnerable to Mosaic's priorities. As a result, I would request the board to consider the following two motions:

- 1) THAT Comox Valley Regional District board write to Mosaic Forest Management requesting that the company suspends its harvesting activities plans in the Langley Lake watershed until 2023;

AND FURTHER THAT between now and then the Comox Valley Regional District invite Mosaic Forest Management to work together to explore a watershed conservation plan for the Langley Lake watershed.

- 2) THAT Comox Valley Regional District board plan for, and invite relevant Vancouver Island jurisdictions and the Province to a sharing session and discussion on how to best manage public drinking watersheds on Vancouver Island.

Sincerely,

D. Arbour

Daniel Arbour
Director

Enclosure – Overhead picture of Langley Lake, taken June 8, 2021. Photo credit Bob Ell.

Overhead picture of Langley Lake by Bob Ell

