

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

February 9th 2006

HAND DELIVERED

Regional District of the Central Okanagan

1450 KLO Road, Kelowna, B.C.

Attention: Chairman Arron Dinwoodie

Re: Meeting on January 23rd 2006 at the Westside Board Office

Dear Mr. Dinwoodie,

Thank you for the time you allotted to the Okanagan Trail Riders (OTR) Association at the aforementioned meeting. In particular I would like to personally thank you for the constructive comments and direction you provided. During and after the meeting, it was evident that you are a fair and capable leader, which is the same sentiment one hears on the street.

As we discussed during the meeting, OTR has historically been the voice representing off-road motorcycle enthusiasts throughout the Okanagan Valley. Some points that we hope you heard from our presentation were:

- 1) As demonstrated during the LRMP process and other venues, OTR has proven itself to be a solution oriented conduit between off-road motorcyclists, all levels of government and the community at large. We strongly believe OTR deserves the right to be included in discussions, meetings, and relevant correspondence dealing with land issues that relate to the sport of off-road motorcycling. As an established and focused group, we can provide constructive comments and suggestions to deal with various land issues. We have shown in the past we can work collaboratively with various groups to obtain a common goal.
- 2) We must be abundantly clear that OTR is, and always will be, opposed to any consideration of a decision to close the Bear Creek Recreation Management Zone

- (RMZ). We believe that with proper management of the RMZ, it will be sustainable and will be a model that the rest of the province will admire and copy. As you may be aware of, this RMZ was established during the last LRMP through a consensus based process where all stakeholders (including the RDOC) within the watershed were represented and actively participated in the consensus process.
- 3) OTR provided yourself and other Westside Directors with facts and information that bring into question claims made that off-road motorcycles are presently causing <u>any water quality</u> problems to any significant degree in the Lambley Creek watershed. We shared with you a news article dated December 5th 2005 in which Mr. Ken Christian Director of Interior Health Authority (250-851-7309) dismisses LID claims that RDOC apparently considered as fact. I have since talked to Mr. Christian and he has confirmed the quote by J.P. Squire (as noted in the newspaper article) as accurate. In our view much more analysis remains to be done to identify and quantify the relationship between off-road motorcycle riding and water quality issues in various watersheds. Since OTR does not have the means to complete a technical analysis of all the issues, we have recently engaged two highly qualified and specialized consultants to work with OTR on all of these issues.
- 4) During the meeting we also discussed the issue of the noise emanating from the motocross track that is located in the Lambley Creek watershed. We discussed the history of the track and that the Kelowna Dirt Bike Club (KDBC) controls the operations at the motocross track. The KDBC is a completely autonomous and legally separate entity from the Okanagan Trail Riders Association. We hereby recommend all correspondence and complaints related to the motocross track be forwarded to the current KDBC president Mr. Chad Sinclair (chad.s@shaw.ca). By copy of this letter I recommend Mr. Sinclair provide you with his complete contact information so in future he receives an opportunity to respond as he deems appropriate. OTR will fully consider any future request by KDBC to advocate on their behalf as we fully support this facility and the social and economic benefits it provides our community.
- 5) Since OTR is a stakeholder within the Lambley Creek watershed, we would like to review any proposed or future development in or around the RMZ. We encourage all residential growth in the area providing a covenant is filed with Land Titles under section 219. The covenant should expressly acknowledge the RMZ and any existing issues, including but not limited to "Noise", impacting the subject development.
- 6) OTR fully supports the RDCO Board of Directors recent decision to have the appropriate government agency enforcing protection of the Lambley Creek Watershed, specifically responsible off-road riding practices. OTR supports, as does Lakeview Irrigation District, the opening of any managed and sustainable off-road riding areas thereby reducing the pressure on any one area.
- 8) OTR fully supports and encourages responsible family motorbike riding in the appropriate environment. We have successfully organized and conducted Family Fun Day events in the Lambley Creek watershed that allowed numerous families to be part of the motor biking experience. If you gauge success by participation and smiles on the little ones faces, then the family fun days appeared to be a huge success. Our vision is to encourage family riding in a safe and managed motorbike riding area for both present and future generations.

9) OTR supports your recommendation to facilitate a workshop on this issue in the near future.

OTR hereby requests that the RDCO directors rescind their support of Lakeview Irrigation Districts letter dated November 17th 2005. We believe this letter did not reveal all the scientific facts required to make an informed decision nor did it address the social and economic impacts to the community that would result from eliminating motorcycle recreation from the Lambley Creek watershed. We argue that supporting the closure of any other recreational facility within the community would require considerably more analysis and discussion from stakeholders. Why should supporting the closure of some 30,000 hectares to the sport of off-road motorcycling be taken any less seriously? We hope that this minor item can be addressed at your next board meeting. After your meeting, we would appreciate if you could kindly advise the undersigned of the outcome of our request. We also respectfully request that OTR be given an opportunity to address the board personally at a meeting of all the Directors to present our response to the Lakeview Irrigation District letter dated November 17, 2005. Meanwhile OTR intends to work collaboratively and in good faith with LID, the government and others on the above water quality and land management matters. Weather permitting we intend to demonstrate our commitment to the Lambley Creek Watershed with action in the near future.

Thank you again for the meeting and I look forward to your reply.

Yours truly,

Ken Umbarger

President

Okanagan Trail Riders Association

CC: James Moller, Ken Christian, Rick Thorpe, RDOC Directors, Dean McKinnon, Terry MacDonald