

Responses to False Creek Watershed Society Water Issues Survey
Sent to Candidates for Vancouver Mayor, Council, and Park Board
(Election Date 19 November 2011)

Tuesday 15 November 2011

Table of Contents

1	Introduction and Responses Summary.....	1
2	[Response 1] Council candidate Bill McCreery (NPA).....	1
3	[Response 2] Mayoral candidate Menard Caissy (independent).....	2
4	[Response 3] Park Board candidate Casey Crawford (NPA).....	2
5	[Response 4] Council candidate Chris Shaw (DeGrowth).....	2
6	[Response 5] Park Board candidate Freyja Pri Toor (independent).....	2
7	[Response 6] Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver (Mayoral, Council candidates)	3
8	[Response 7] Vision Vancouver (Mayoral, Council, Park Board candidates).....	3
9	[Response 8] Council candidate Grant Fraser (independent).....	3
10	[Response 9] Council candidate Terry Martin (NSV)	4
11	[Response 10] Park Board candidate Stuart Mackinnon (Green)	4
12	[Response 11] Mayoral candidate Suzanne Anton (NPA).....	4
13	[Response 12] Coalition of Progressive Electors (Council, Park Board candidates).....	5
14	The 13 Questions in the FCWS 2011 Survey of Election Candidates	6

1 Introduction and Responses Summary

The purpose of the False Creek Watershed Society (FCWS) is to advance the education of the public about the rich natural and human history of Vancouver's False Creek watershed and to increase understanding of our common environmental problems (see www.falsecreekwatershed.org).

FCWS sent a survey about water issues to 2011 election candidates for Vancouver Mayor, City Council, and Park Board. The full text of the survey can be found at www.falsecreekwatershed.org/images/FCWS_Candidate_Survey_Final.pdf. The survey's 13 questions are listed at the end of this document.

This document lists the responses of those individuals and parties that replied to the survey. Three political parties submitted group responses: Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver (NSV), Vision Vancouver (VV), and Coalition of Progressive Electors (COPE). Non-Partisan Association (NPA) mayoral candidate Suzanne Anton submitted a response, as did two other NPA candidates, and individual candidates from NSV, DeGrowth, the Green Party, and two independents.

The answers by NSV, VV, and COPE were "Yes" to all questions (with qualifications in a few cases), except that VV replied "Not Sure" to 9. Do you support the Vancouver Water Opportunities Advisory Group being revived? Suzanne Anton did not give Yes/No answers to the individual questions but said in her response that "Protection of our False Creek Watershed is very important to many communities across the region and particularly the City of Vancouver" and, if elected, "will be accessible to you and would seek an early opportunity to meet, review and analyze the issues you have raised in the survey."

Park Board candidate Freyja Pri Toor (independent) and COPE provided extensive comments in their replies.

2 [Response 1] Council candidate Bill McCreery (NPA)

Bill McCreery sent FCWS an e-mail saying the following:

I would like to clarify that I do not have the time at this point in the campaign to do the due diligence necessary to review all of the extensive work your organization has done on this important issue as well as the reports you have referenced below. I can say that I am generally sympathetic to your objectives, and look forward to continue working with you to help you achieve them.

I was the Park Commissioner representative on City Council's False Creek Planning Committee Chaired by Alderman Walter Hardwick in 1973 to 74. As such I was involved in the original planning of both the south and north sides of False Creek. One of the 1st things we did was to close down the sewer outfalls into the Creek. We did extensive water and subsurface soils analysis that allowed us to define a large part of our environmental policies. We were also concerned about surface and creek bed drainage into the Creek as well. However, we did not take this that far. Consequently, I'm very pleased to see your group taking this on."

3 [Response 2] Mayoral candidate Menard Caissy (independent)

Menard Caissy sent FCWS an e-mail saying he would produce a response to the survey, and later sent a Word document and PDF containing the survey, but neither seem to have contained survey responses.

4 [Response 3] Park Board candidate Casey Crawford (NPA)

Casey Crawford sent FCWS an e-mail saying the following:

Thank you for taking the time to send me this information.

I can say that I support your organization's purposes and initiatives you've outlined in the introduction of the document.

However, the questionnaire delves into very specific programs and draft and completed plans regarding an area I have not had the opportunity to research.

I do not believe I am qualified to answer these questions.

As a candidate for Park Board Commissioner, I recognize that there are hundreds of areas of interest to Vancouverites, and I am endeavouring to learn as much about these areas before the election. I feel you are asking questions that require a great deal of time to fully understand the background.

I hope you can accept this response - and trust that I will learn more about your organization and your goals as soon as time allows.

5 [Response 4] Council candidate Chris Shaw (DeGrowth)

Chris Shaw sent FCWS a completed survey. He replied "Yes" to all 13 questions.

6 [Response 5] Park Board candidate Freyja Pri Toor (independent)

Freyja Pri Toor sent responses to all 13 questions. She replied "Yes" to all 13 questions and added comments to the following questions (material in square brackets supplied by FCWS):

1. [Green infrastructure] We need more public education and engagement in our Green Infrastructure because that is what Eco-density is about learning to live in harmony with Nature.
2. [Supporting salmon] With salmon comes more diversity of mini-ecosystems along the whole length of the Fraser River. It is extremely important that we get on this Ecological Health Action Plan right away before it is too late.
3. [Acadia Creek] this is a step in the right direction, more doing than saying.
4. [Oil tankers (Burrard Inlet)] We should not be allowing any oil tankers coming directly into our Burrard Inlet as we do. The entire lower mainland would be affected if one of these oil tankers were to have a spill, our shoreline is only now slowly recovering from the disasters of the 1980s.

5. [Oil pipeline flows] This expansion is not even for the benefits of Vancouver or even the residents of BC. We should be looking for more environmentally friendly solutions rather than crude oil for our consumption and need to move from place a to b.
6. [Stormwater management etc] The public needs to more educated on our storm drains and where the water goes and how it effects our ecosystem. There are still an astonishing number of people pouring all sorts of chemicals and other hazardous materials, like oil, paints, household cleaners, down our storm drains and not even realizing where it is going.
7. [Yellow fish on storm drains] More education is required and if that means putting yellow fish signs everywhere so that the general public are aware that the fish in and around our city get affected.
9. [Water Opportunities Group] Being on the Ocean as we are, It is unbelievable that we do not have more access to our Water. This is another extremely important issue that needs to be looked into and I am all for reviving the Vancouver Water Opportunities Advisory Group as a volunteer organization with minimal funding provided.
12. [Surface water on False Creek Flats] Sustainability should be the number 1 priority well ahead of land use which is just for big developers.
13. [Wetlands on Flats] The wetlands would create a more habitable environment for both humans and Nature to co-exist together in harmony.

7 [Response 6] Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver (Mayoral, Council candidates)

Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver (NSV) sent responses to all 13 questions on behalf of their one mayoral candidate (Randy Helten) and four Council candidates (Nicole Benson, Marie Kerchum, Terry Martin, Elizabeth Murphy). NSV answered “Yes” to all 13 questions, with a slight qualification in its answers to the final four questions:

10. [Inland surface water] Yes, depending on funding and staffing capacities.
11. [Past surface water (daylighting creeks)] Yes, depending on funding and staffing capacities.
12. [Surface water on False Creek Flats] Yes, with community consultation and approval.
13. [Wetlands on Flats] Yes, with community consultation and approval.

8 [Response 7] Vision Vancouver (Mayoral, Council, Park Board candidates)

Vision Vancouver (VV) sent responses to all 13 questions on behalf of their one mayoral candidate (Gregor Robertson), seven Council candidates (Geoff Meggs, Raymond Louie, Andrea Reimer, Tony Tang, Kerry Jang, Heather Deal, and Tim Stevenson) and five Park Board candidates (Aaron Jasper, Sarah Blyth, Constance Barnes, Niki Sharma, and Trevor Loke). VV answered with “YES” to 11 of the 13 questions. The two questions where VV did not answer “YES” were the following:

9. [Water Opportunities Group] Not Sure.
11. [Past surface water (daylighting creeks)] YES Comments: When opportunity presents itself.

9 [Response 8] Council candidate Grant Fraser (independent)

Grant Fraser sent FCWS a completed survey. He replied “Yes” to questions 2, 4, 5, 7, 10 and “No” to questions 1, 3, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13:

Question	Region	Question summary	Response
1	Metro Vancouver	Green infrastructure	No
2	Metro Vancouver	Supporting salmon	Yes
3	Metro Vancouver	Acadia Creek	No
4	Metro Vancouver	Oil tankers (Burrard Inlet)	Yes

5	Metro Vancouver	Oil pipeline flows	Yes
6	Metro Vancouver	Stormwater management etc	No
7	Vancouver	Yellow fish on storm drains	Yes
8	Vancouver	Shoreline restoration etc	No
9	Vancouver	Water Opportunities Group	No
10	Vancouver	Inland surface water	Yes
11	Vancouver	Past surface water	No
12	False Creek Flats	Surface water on Flats	No
13	False Creek Flats	Wetlands on Flats	No

Grant Fraser added:

Further Comments (if Any)

My answers have little meaning as I am not familiar with most of this topic.

10 [Response 9] Council candidate Terry Martin (NSV)

Terry Martin sent FCWS a completed survey, containing his own personal responses. He replied “Yes” to all questions except 13 (neither Yes nor No given as a response) and added comments to the following questions:

1. [Green infrastructure] The public should always be consulted, and the opinions taken into account in all City decision-making, before any decision is taken on plans put forward by those who work in the bureaucracy.
6. [Stormwater management etc] Absolutely!
8. [Shoreline restoration etc] While sitting as the Chair of Vancouver’s Board of Variance, on several occasions, the Board (and I) ruled on issues relating to preservation of the foreshore, always voting to protect our foreshore.
13. [Wetlands on False Creek Flats] Would wish to participate in a public consultation process before answering this question, although I am prone, always, to working toward the preservation and restoration of natural habitat.

Further Comments (If Any): Neighbourhoods for a Sustainable Vancouver is committed to community consultation, fighting climate change, and preservation and restoration of the natural environment.

11 [Response 10] Park Board candidate Stuart Mackinnon (Green)

Stuart Mackinnon sent responses to all 13 questions. He replied “YES” to all questions and added a comment to the following question:

12. [Surface water on False Creek Flats] YES IF THE WATER WAS CLEAR

12 [Response 11] Mayoral candidate Suzanne Anton (NPA)

David Hurford of the NPA forwarded FCWS the following e-mail from Suzanne Anton:

Thank you for the opportunity to respond to the issues you have identified in your candidate survey. Protection of our False Creek Watershed is very important to many communities across the region and particularly the City of Vancouver.

Vancouver’s NPA has a long track record of promoting sustainable development and environmental stewardship. These decisions by NPA Councils over the years have helped make Vancouver one of the greenest and most livable cities in the world. This approach will continue under our administration and protection of the False Creek Watershed will be a top priority for us.

The NPA also has a long track record of securing partnerships with senior levels of government on a wide-variety of issues ranging for housing and transportation to crime prevention and protection of our urban environment. This will continue in our NPA administration. Many of the solutions to the issues you have raised require co-operation and coordination of various departments and levels of government. We will apply this track record of collaboration to protection of the watershed – particularly as it relates to fish conservation.

Our NPA platform also includes a comprehensive commitment to improving citizen engagement at City Hall. As Mayor of Vancouver, I will be accessible to you and would seek an early opportunity to meet, review and analyze the issues you have raised in the survey.

Thank you again for taking the time to contact me and I look forward to seeing you soon.

Suzanne Anton

13 [Response 12] Coalition of Progressive Electors (Council, Park Board candidates)

The Coalition of Progressive Electors (COPE) sent responses to all 13 questions on behalf of their three Council candidates (RJ Aquino, Tim Louis, and Ellen Woodsworth) and two Park Board candidates (Brent Granby and Donald Greenwell-Baker). COPE answered “YES” to all 13 questions and supplied the following comments:

1. [Green infrastructure] COPE believes that public engagement is one of the key components to building a better, greener and cleaner future for everyone. The public engagement process will allow residents to actively take part in creating solutions together and solutions that are unique for each community. Public engagement also engages residents to start thinking consciously about making a difference in their communities.
2. [Supporting salmon] We cannot afford to lose our streams in Metro Vancouver. We must protect them from being threatened or endangered by being strong advocates of our urban streams, the Fraser River and coastal areas. The eight broad goals identified above are critical to protecting the spawning and rearing of habitat. COPE will work to expand the work already being done by individual municipalities start working across boundaries to craft regional responses, particularly for transit, waste, water, and regional renewable energy. COPE will continue to be an advocate of ecologically and environmental initiatives that provide endangered habitats in our city.
3. [Acadia Creek] COPE supports the objectives of protecting Acadia Creek located in Pacific Spirit Regional Park because we believe we must preserve our parks and green space for present and future generations. We support your efforts to protect the Park, enhance access to high quality natural habitat for Coho, engage students in ecological health initiatives and restoring the salmon habitat. However, UBC Endowment Lands are not within the jurisdiction of the City of Vancouver. Your concerns should also be heard by the UBC Board of Governors and Ida Chong, the Member of Legislative Assembly and Minister of Community, Sport and Cultural Development since Pacific Spirit Park is within the area that she represents.
4. [Oil tankers (Burrard Inlet)] COPE believes that natural habitats should be protected and preserved. The presence of oil tankers on the Burrard Inlet would put marine life, natural habitat and residents at risk.
5. [Oil pipeline flows] Vancouver Harbour should be preserved and protected. Oil pipelines do not belong around the Harbour because it puts residents at risk as well as surrounding natural habitat.
6. [Stormwater management etc] COPE is a supporter of “Vancouver 2020: A Bright Green Future”. COPE City Councillors provided input in the document and are strong advocates for building a greener and cleaner future for all. As we move to a new, climate friendly future, we need to keep in mind the social challenges this move involves and ensure that no one is left behind.
7. [Yellow fish on storm drains] Yes, we believe that yellow fish should be depicted on every storm drain in the city to be mindful of what goes into our storm drain and to know that we are connected to our ecosystem and we must protect our urban water streams.
8. [Shoreline restoration etc] COPE supports the Vancouver 2020 Greenest City Initiative and we support the restoration of shoreline and inter-tidal zones and the improvement of water quality in English Bay, Burrard Inlet, the Strait of Georgia and the Fraser River. We support the maintenance of clean water ways, streams and rivers in our city.

9. [Water Opportunities Group] COPE supports the advocacy for clean water systems in our city, but we believe that there should be a “Made in Vancouver” solution to protect our urban water streams. COPE is interested in looking at ways to preserving the waterfronts and streams in our cities.
10. [Inland surface water] COPE supports the City of Vancouver Blueways program because it recognizes that streams are an important and valued natural resource in our city. The Vancouver Blueways is important agent of advocacy for preserving our ecology
11. [Past surface water (daylighting creeks)] COPE support the City of Vancouver Blueways program and we are interested in how it can protect surface water in our city.
12. [Surface water on False Creek Flats] COPE supports the idea of re-introducing surface water to False Creek Flats as part of the development of policy direction for the Eastern Core. This is an important initiative for preserving and maintaining a valuable water source.
13. [Wetlands on Flats] COPE is very interested in exploring the idea of re-introducing some wetland areas in the False Creek Flats area. We are interesting to working with you in the future to learn more about wetlands and the preservation of our streams and water ways in our city.

14 The 13 Questions in the FCWS 2011 Survey of Election Candidates

This candidates’ survey consists of thirteen questions contained in three parts:

Part I: Water Issues in Metro Vancouver

1. Do you support Project 15: “Building Public Engagement in Green Infrastructure” in Metro Vancouver’s Ecological Health Action Plan (Draft -July 12, 2011)?
2. Do you support the eight broad goals that would help to achieve “Supporting Salmon in the City” in Metro Vancouver’s Ecological Health Action Plan (Draft -July 12, 2011)?
3. Do you support Project 4 Enhancing Acadia Creek in Metro Vancouver’s Ecological Health Action Plan (Draft - July 12, 2011)?
4. Do you oppose expansion of the number of oil tankers using Burrard Inlet?
5. Do you oppose expansion of oil pipeline flows around Vancouver Harbour?

Part II: Water Issues in the City of Vancouver

6. Do you support the actions for stormwater management and on-site rainwater capture and re-use referred to in Vancouver 2020: A Bright Green Future?
7. Do you support putting yellow fish on every storm drain in the city and making sure people understand what this yellow fish means?
8. Do you support the actions for shoreline restoration, advocacy for improving water quality, and advocacy for improvements to the Iona and Lion’s Gate wastewater treatment plants referred to in Vancouver 2020: A Bright Green Future?
9. Do you support the Vancouver Water Opportunities Advisory Group being revived?
10. Do you support the scope of the City of Vancouver Blueways program being expanded to include surface water that is inland and not just coastal, i.e., waterbodies (such as creeks and lakes) as well as waterfront?
11. Do you support the scope of the City of Vancouver Blueways program being expanded to include surface water that existed in Vancouver in the past, not just surface water that is present, e.g., old creeks that might be daylighted?

Part III: Water Issues in the False Creek Watershed

12. Would you approve of the idea of re-introducing surface water to False Creek Flats and its watershed as part of the development of policy directions for the Eastern Core?
13. Would you support the idea of re-introducing some wetland areas to the False Creek Flats as part of the development of policy directions for the Eastern Core?