

**Delegation:** Barb Riordan, Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society

**Summary:** The Mid Vancouver Island Habitat Enhancement Society is a streamkeepers group dedicated to the recovery of wild pacific salmon through habitat restoration and community engagement. Funding for habitat restoration comes through grants from several Foundations. Since 2002, over \$1,000,000 of fish habitat restoration work has been completed in the Englishman River watershed. Approximately 90% of that work has been on restoring riparian areas. Riparian areas are constantly being degraded by human activities which leads to habitat destruction. MVIHES also conducts water quality monitoring in the Englishman River Watershed. We have seen instances of how development degraded the water quality required by salmon which led to us completing restoration work to rectify the problem. Maintaining good water quality in rivers and creeks requires the ecological functions of wetlands, floodplains, and riparian areas remain intact. Protecting those areas from human disturbance is key to healthy salmon habitat in our rivers.

**Action Requested:** We are asking the Board to pass Director Wallace's motion listed under Regional Growth Strategy Amendments in the Agenda.