

## **Friends of Covehead and Brackley Bays. Policy on River and Water Crossings**

**FCBB Mandate.** The FCBB is concerned with the health and sustainability of the Covehead-Brackley watershed area. Its mandate is to create a watershed area that is healthy: one which nourishes the land and water, one which is sustainable to native flora and fauna, and also balances the interests of residents, including those working in aquaculture, forestry, agriculture, and tourism.

**Crossings:** One issue of continuing concern is that of river and water crossings. Such crossings can, if improperly built or maintained, prove a significant barrier to fish, and contribute to the increased accumulation of silt. From time to time FCBB staff are asked for advice and or assistance with the construction and/or maintenance of river/water crossings. FCBB will not contract to build or contract to make improvements to bridge or crossing structures, but will assist in the following ways (1-8).

1. FCBB staff shall monitor river and water crossings, noting the condition of the structure the water flow, and evidence of siltation.
2. Where a structure at a crossing is in need of maintenance, is restricting the movement of fish, or causing increased siltation, FCBB staff shall identify the most appropriate remedial action.
3. Where the crossing structure requires maintenance or replacement, the land owner shall be notified, and remedial action discussed.
4. *FCBB will only provide services for the official property landowner. Recommendations and suggestions provided by third parties / property leasers / property renters will be discussed with the property owner and the appropriate corrective actions will be taken based on the property owner's recommendations and in accordance with provincial and federal regulations.*
5. FCBB staff will not approve any river crossing structure, but will refer the land owner, or person building or maintaining the structure, to the appropriate provincial authority and its permit requirements. Decisions on such structures remains a provincial government responsibility.
6. The FCBB Board may, at its discretion, authorize its staff to assist any land owner in the repair and maintenance of a river or water crossing. Such crossings must comply with provincial permitting requirements, and must be approved by the appropriate provincial authority.
7. FCBB is not responsible for the costs of replacing or improving river crossings but if available FCCB will aid landowners in identifying outside sources of funding for river crossing construction
8. The FCBB Board and FCBB Staff members are not responsible for future maintenance and/or damages related to or resulting from any crossing construction.

Approved Board Meeting 30 August, 2017