

why it came down," he said. Because there was no snow above, Jordan believes the high water table caused the release of the material.

Jordan said there were warning signs – a large amount of debris in the creek, muddy water, the creek flow stopping and starting again – and local residents were trying to communicate their concerns to the appropriate people. Eventually, an email found its way to Bill Wells, a soil scientist living in Kaslo and former resident of Johnsons Landing. He forwarded the email to his contacts at FLNRO, but the person he addressed it to was out in the field and he did not get it until the slide had happened and it was too late.

A press release from FLNRO states that the slide was reported to government at 10:56 am and staff was dispatched within 30 minutes. Jordan said the ministry first dispatched Dwain Boyer, hydrological engineer and head of water stewardship at FLNRO. "He has more experience than anyone else," said Jordan. Boyer did not know if it was safe to work on the site or not, so he called Jordan. Jordan was in the field and could not get to the site until 6 pm. When Jordan arrived, he declared the area of interest to search teams safe to work in as long as a spotter was stationed at the north end of the ridge at the bend in the creek.

Jordan said his main job up to now had been providing geotechnical services to the search parties, telling them when it was safe to work. When the site dries out in perhaps a month, he will start working with Dwain Boyer and Doug Nichol on a geotechnical investigation of the slide and perhaps the precursory signs. The report, expected to be completed in four