

Watershed Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 28th February 2001 in the Ridgeview Motel Hospitality Room

Present:

Paul Smith- R.A.M.S.; Chris Erikson, DFO/ Conuma Hatchery; Tom Hopkins, DFO/Conuma Hatchery; Bryan Hebden, BC Hydro; Roger Dunlop, Nuu-chah-nulth; Jim Fiddick, G.R. Rod and Gun; Maureen Plecas, G.R. Smolt Co. Ltd.; Dick Dennison, G.R. Resident.

1.0 Paul called the meeting to order at 7:10 p.m.

2.0 Introductions around the table

3.0 The agenda was approved by consensus

4.0 Minutes of the previous meeting were approved by consensus

5.0 Old business arising from the minutes

Jim couldn't find the ortho photos for 1958 or 1965, but he did get the ortho photos for 1995. Paul talked about the Record's willingness to do an article on the watershed committee but not an interview. Paul asked if everyone would like to write one paragraph on the watershed committee for the next meeting. Paul contacted Kevin Somerville on behalf of Chris and Kevin has stated he will attend the March meeting. Paul handed out the 8x10 map of the boundaries for the G.R. Watershed Committee. Paul is still trying to acquire a copy of Derek Tripps Overview for the Gold River.

6.0 Correspondence

Paul talked about the letters from the Nootka Sound Residents Association concerning the Hart Lake landfill site. Paul talked about the letter from BC Hydro calling for proposals for Bridge Coastal and Wildlife Restoration Program.

7.0 New Business

Tom asked about the status of the ad in local paper and the protocol for answering replies. Paul responded that the ad would be answered by phone or e-mail. Paul talked about the approval of the Terms of Reference for the West Coast Aquatic Management Board. Maureen asked how someone or some organization gets a seat on the board. Paul will find out and get back to the committee. Roger talked about the field trip with our proposal committee and Russ Doucette (DFO) and Doug Poole (Contractor for DFO) to view the Canton, Hutchinson, Lower Conuma and Sucwoa projects. He stated that both Russ and Doug agreed that the Sucwoa River project isn't a good project for Hrsep funding, but the Canton, Hutchinson and Lower Conuma were excellent projects. Paul talked about these projects being good for the Stream Keepers to get involved in, as there is a lot of volunteer work that can be done. Roger talked about the Mowachaht/Muchalaht Chinook tagging program for this year and he will be seeking funding from FsRBC for the program. Will the G.R. Watershed Committee support this? Tom asked Roger to explain the benefits of this program. Roger stated that it gives us hard data to work with on the migration patterns of Gold River Chinook. Consensus was reached to write a

letter of support for the program. Paul talked about a fry capture/recapture-marking program for Hutchinson Creek to establish a baseline of data to work with before restoration work commences. Jim asked about the water diversion dam at Leigh Creek for the Conuma Hatchery and the lack of water below it. Chris stated that area has always been subsurface during low summer flows even before the intake was installed. Roger asked if we should support proposals to FsRBC for funding the same projects that the proposal committee applied to Hrsep for? Consensus was for the proposal committee to move ahead with proposals to FsRBC.

8.0 Action Items

1. Paul to find out about the nomination process for seats on the West Coast Aquatic Management Board.
2. Paul to write a letter of support for the Mowachaht/Muchalaht on the Chinook tagging program.
3. Paul will contact Craig Whiteman to talk about Moelp's recommendations and concerns with Elk/Heber watersheds around Steelhead and Trout.
4. Paul will also ask for Moelp's views of stream fertilization.

9.0 Presentations

Bryan Talked about BC Hydro's Bridge Coastal and Wildlife Restoration Program funding. Bryan recommended looking at the website and giving Carol Lamont a call to run your ideas by her. Bryan talked about partnerships with other sources of funding for projects. Roger asked if some funding to re-establish the Heber diversion would come from this fund? Bryan responded that no this funding is to do with footprint issues. ie; look at the enhancement/restoration possibilities to offset the diversion problems.

10.0 Open Discussion

Roger talked about a Tstaluck Protection/Restoration Trust fund to be set up through the treaty process.

11.0 Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:45 pm. Next meeting is on Wednesday March 28/01 same time, same place.