

Watershed Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 28 February 2002 in the Ridgeview Motel Hospitality Room

Present:

Paul Smith- R.A.M.S.; Steve Emmonds-DFO; Chris Erikson-Conuma Hatchery;
Kevin Somerville-WFP; Clayton Smith-WFP; Jim Fiddick-G.R. Rod and Gun;
Coleen Zimmer-G.R. Resident; Maureen Plecas- G.R. Resident; Dick Dennison- G.R.
Resident.

1.0 Dick (chair) called the meeting to order at 7:07 p.m.

2.0 Introductions around the table

3.0 The agenda was approved by consensus

Paul added some correspondence under #7 to the agenda.

4.0 Minutes of the previous meeting

There were no changes or additions.

5.0 Old business arising from the minutes

Dick asked why the Pink enhancement presentation was postponed to a later date, as he didn't recall discussing this at the last meeting. Paul replied that it was in the correspondence from Dave Davies and DFO decided it was best to wait until issues with Bowater and Gold River Chinook Project were dealt with. At this time it was agreed to discuss action items under old business. Paul talked about the letter to Doug Swift on ZZ Creek and the reply from Sigma Engineering. Dick asked how the public was going to be made aware of the public input forum on March 02? Paul will look into this. Paul handed out the summary of fish inventories on the tributaries of the upper Conuma River. Jim mentioned a wetland in Q29 that held a lot of fish. Chris talked about the heli transport of Steelhead into the upper Conuma River in the past.

6.0 Minutes of previous meeting approved by consensus

7.0 Correspondence

Letter from Western Forest Products (WFP) on the Watershed Restoration Plan (WRP) for the Muchalaht/Oktwanch Rivers watershed was discussed. Chris mentioned that a potential problem exists for the Oktwanch River to encroach on the road about one or two km before upper bridge. Steve asked how much spawning gravel is in the Oktwanch River? Chris and Clayton replied, lots. Steve commented that if there is a lot of spawning habitat in the river than there must be a nutrient problem in Muchalaht Lake and the stream fertilization would probably not be as effective as the lake fertilization would. Clayton questioned the lack of nutrients in the lake because of its size. He commented that there must be other limiting factors i.e.: over harvesting. Steve stated increasing Sockeye populations would add nutrients and improve other stocks i.e.: Chinooks, Coho, Chum, etc. Clayton asked if the upper Muchalaht River supported a Sockeye escapement. Everyone replied yes.

8.0 New Business

There was discussion on the agenda format and changing it somewhat. Action items should be discussed right after old business.

9.0 Action Items

1. Paul will make changes to Agenda.

10.0 Presentations

Clayton Smith of WFP gave his presentation on the Forest Development Plan for Nootka Sound.

11.0 Open Discussion

Dick asked Clayton if they've added any new blocks to the plan. Clayton replied yes in the upper Heber River watershed. Paul asked if any deactivated roads would be reactivated. Answer was yes for the winter show. A cut block next to Hutchinson Lake will be logged in 2006 tentatively. Paul asked about buffers next to lake and stream. Clayton replied that there would be the required buffer next to the lake and stream. He mentioned that most of the problems with sediment into Hutchinson Creek comes from the road running parallel to it. There was some discussion on the blocks in the Leigh Creek watershed and across from the hatchery by the slough.

12.0 Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:35 pm. Next meeting is on Wednesday, March 27/02 same time, same place.