

Watershed Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 31st January 2001 in the Ridgeview Motel Hospitality Room

Present:

Paul Smith- R.A.M.S.; Chris Erikson, DFO/ Conuma Hatchery; Murray Watkinson, WFP; Jim Fiddick, G.R. Rod and Gun; Maureen Plecas, G.R. Smolt Co. Ltd.; Dick Dennison, G.R. Resident; Ken Frost, G.R. Resident.

- 1.0 Paul called the meeting to order at 7:07 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 with the following changes:** The Oktwanch River was added to the sentence beginning with "Consensus was reached to put these projects on"
- 5.0 Old business arising from the minutes**

Paul talked about his discussions with Dave Turrene of Mainroad Contracting North Island about the culvert under the road in front of Mainroad and Conuma Excavating yards. Dave has stated he will look at ways to improve fish access the next time he's in the area. Chris suggested asking for baffles to be put into the culvert. Dick asked about the status of Hart Lake. Paul replied that the Nootka Sound Residents Association has struck a sub committee to look into the management plan by Bowater to monitor and cap off this site. Paul accepted a request to sit on this sub committee and will keep everyone informed of progress. The Nootka Resource Board has also written a letter to Moelp asking for information on the status of the site. Paul will inform everyone as to the response or lack thereof. Murray asked what has been dumped at this site? Dick replied, "Everything" ie: dark liquor, white liquor, asbestos, etc. Dick asked about the status of Hutchinson Creek project. Paul replied that Hrsep applications have been completed and sent in by Dave Clough and Warren Warttig on the Rod and Gun Club's behalf for a side channel identified in the prescriptions. Rod March/Glen Wilson (WFP) have expressed interest in partnering with FsRBC to work on the system projects identified in the prescriptions as soon as they receive a copy of the prescriptions for FRBC. Maureen asked about the status of the Tahsis Watershed Committee. Paul replied that he is still trying to get interested residents to contact him to provide input. He has an ad in the next issue of the Record asking for input from them. Dick asked if there was any new information on the Heber/Crest diversion. Paul replied no. Paul talked about his difficulties in identifying the 71 priorities in Derek Tripp's overview. He is still trying to track down a copy of the complete report. Murray suggested he contact Arlene Thompkins (Moelp) to request a copy of the overview with all maps and mylar overlays etc. The funding proposal sub committee formed at the last meeting met on Jan. 15/01 to go over Hrsep applications for Canton Creek/Sucwoa River projects identified at the last meeting. At that time Steve

requested a map of the watersheds in Nootka Sound that have fish bearing streams in them. It was agreed that Paul would bring a map to the next sub committee meeting to help in identifying potential projects.

6.0 **Correspondence**

Paul talked about letters of support sent in to Hrsep on behalf of the watershed committee on various projects. He asked if there were any objections to his writing these letters of support without calling a meeting to discuss them. Maureen replied that these were projects discussed at the last meeting so she could see no reason to call a special meeting. Everyone agreed.

7.0 **New Business**

Maureen asked whether Paul could acquire or create an 8*10 map of the Gold River Watershed Committee boundaries. Paul will look into this. Murray asked if the visitors guide map by WFP would be of any help. Paul will bring one to the next meeting to discuss. Dick asked about the Shore Keepers Instructors training that Paul took in Ladysmith. Paul gave a brief overview of the training and his plans to involve local Stream Keepers and residents etc. who are interested in the training. Paul also talked about a program called Stream Team, which fits nicely with the Stream Keepers program although it's designed for students at the high school level. The idea is to create a program that gives work experience and credits towards graduation. Paul has contacted the principals of the schools in the area to determine interest. Chris talked about how all the side channel projects were geared towards Coho and Chum. We need to start looking at main stem projects to improve and support Chinook stocks as well. Murray asked what types of work was Chris looking at. Chris replied that we might have to start satelliting smaller systems identified with stock concerns ie: fish enhancement/restoration. Maureen asked what systems does the Conuma Hatchery satellite now? Chris responded that the Conuma Hatchery enhances the Deserted River, Canton Creek, Tlupana River and Sucwoa River. Maureen asked if the results were there to support these initiatives. Chris replied yes. Chris also talked about the volunteer effort by the local Sports Fish Advisory committee and Rod and Gun Club members that has allowed the hatchery to take Chinook brood stock from the Tlupana and Sucwoa Rivers. Without the volunteers there would be no Chinook brood stock taken as the money has been cut from the budget. Both these rivers have declining Chinook numbers and play an important part in the local sports fishery management plans. Murray asked if there was a need for riparian enhancement in these main stems for Chinook enhancement. Chris replied yes but substrate is more crucial to Chinook production. Fisheries and Oceans Canada is looking at identifying all Chinook production streams in the Nootka Sound area based on historical counts and local information. Murray asked if decreased population were due to lost habitat or ocean survival. Chris responded that it's a combination of the two along with over fishing. Chris expressed concerns over the logging plan for the Quadra Saddle above the Conuma River and its close proximity to the slough by the hatchery. Murray recommended contacting Kevin Somerville for more information. Maureen suggested writing an article or requesting an interview with the Record newspaper to give the local residents some information on the watershed committee to try and create more interest. Maureen also recommended that we ask the Conuma Hatchery and Gold River Chinook Project to give separate presentations to the committee on their roles in the

community and place these in the paper to attract more local residents to our meetings. Maureen also stated that Paul could give a presentation to the Nootka Resource Board at their meeting in Tahsis to give information to the residents there on the benefits of forming a watershed committee.

8.0 Action Items

1. Jim Fiddick to acquire 1958 ortho photos from WFP.
2. Paul to contact Moelp to ask about acquiring a complete copy of Derek Tripp's overview.
3. Paul to contact the Record to inquire about interview/article on watershed committee.
4. Chris to contact Kevin Somerville (WFP) to inquire about Quadra Saddle logging issues.
5. Paul to try and create an 8x10 map of watershed committee boundaries.

9.0 Meeting was adjourned at 8:28 pm. The next meeting is on February 28/01 same time, same place.