

Draft

Watershed Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 29 January, 2003 in the
Aquatic Centre Meeting Room #1

Present:

Paul Smith- WCVI/AMS; Chris Erikson-DFO; Doug Swift-DFO; Domenico Iannidinardo-WFP; Tim Davies-Grieg Seafoods; Jim Mitchell-G.R. Council; Pat Dennison- G.R. Resident.

1.0 Paul called the meeting to order at 7:09 p.m.

2.0 Introductions around the table

3.0 The agenda was approved by consensus

with Jim stating that the power point presentation is on Stewardship/Stream Keepers and not the HCSP.

4.0 Minutes of the previous meeting

Chris stated that the sentence "Chris sampled all " should read Chris sampled some".

5.0 Old business arising from the minutes

Paul talked about the letter to the province and Bowater concerning the foreshore and stated we still haven't received a reply even after talking to Doug Berry over the phone to get his email address. Jim suggested carbon copying Stan Hagen and Rod Visser. Pat asked who would be responsible if Bowater sold the property. Jim replied that the new owners would take over the foreshore lease. Tim asked if Bowater had to put up a security bond for clean up in the lease document. Jim replied that there should be. Jim asked about the letter to DFO. Paul handed out letters to everyone on thanking DFO/Conuma Hatchery and Western Forest Products for their support and asked for input. Doug commented on the style of the letters and suggested a few changes. Some discussion on spelling and if anyone was missed in the letters. Letter is good to send with changes. Domenico updated everyone on the upper Hutchinson Creek Urban Salmon Habitat Program assessment with roughly 10 volunteers, Dave Clough and himself. They assessed 1600 meters and now Domenico has enough data to get analysis and report finished. He will be working with Dave Clough to get this finished. Chris asked how close the road access was to both lakes in the upper watershed, we may be able to look into the feasibility of damming the lakes to increase water volume if we have access. Domenico stated that it runs along the ridge. Paul asked if we could get some topographical maps of the area for our files. Pat will pass along this request to Owen. Jim asked Tim about data on the metabolism of SLICE. Tim stated that he had brought a report on this issue and stated it is also on the web in a pdf format. Paul stated that he will put the report on our web site (grstreamkeepers.com/GRWC/Index.htm). Tim commented that both Ivermectin and Emamectin are used on land in cabbage and tomatoes, etc. They make an assumption that 10% is not metabolized. Jim asked how long this 10% would last on the ocean floor. In the last test they did, it showed that

it would be greater than 100 days. The levels they were finding were right around the levels of detection allowed. They found trace amounts in mussels within 100 meters of the farm in 7 days. After a month it was only found in mussels 10 meters from the farm. Once again the levels were right around the levels of detection allowed. Ducks that eat mussels will have an extremely high tolerance level. Jim asked about prawns. Tim commented that there is an ongoing study by Steven Cross of Aqua Metrix Research. You would have to eat 1 kg of mussels per 1 kg of body weight per day to exceed the recommended daily intake. They did sampling out 100 meter from the farm site on this. Tim stated the report talks about impacts to fish swimming by the farm. 70-80% of compound would come from uneaten feed. There was no observable levels found on a strain of mice and provided 100 fold safety factor for humans. Thanks Tim. Paul talked about the Conuma Off Channel Project and it's status plus the problems in finding funding for the project. Paul discussed the hydrology assessment and asked if anyone would like a copy of the report they should let him know and he will email it to them. Paul also has a draft copy of the proposal on the off channel to Western from Mel Sheng if anyone is interested. Jim commented that we should be writing a letter thanking DFO for writing this proposal and for moving this project along. Paul will do this for review at next meeting. Paul talked about the Gold River Watershed Management Plan and the length of time this process will take. Paul will try and put together a power point presentation on some guidelines to implementing and developing a plan. Jim asked about public input and First Nations. Paul stated that this is part of the process but further along in the process according to the guidelines that he has read through from the province and other mgmt. plans. Paul went on to say that he thought it was a good idea to write a letter to Jamie James identifying our idea for his comments and possible support. Everyone agreed, so Paul will draft up a letter for review at the next meeting. Chris talked about the otolith sampling done on Gold River Chinook last fall by the hatchery. From records dating back to 1982 DFO looking at coded wire tags (cwt) from Chinook recovered in the Gold (24 cwt's), of the 24 read, 11 were from Robertson Creek Hatchery and 8 originated from the Gold River Chinook Project the others were from 5 other hatcheries. This shows a bit of history of Robertson Creek fish in the Gold River. This past fall, volunteers along with the Gold River Chinook Project captured 154 adults from the Gold River watershed. There were two fish with missing adipose fins, one from the Muchalat and one from the Gold. The heads were taken and the cwt's read. Both were from the 1998 Robertson Creek brood, reared and released in the spring of 1999. Sixty fish were transported back to the hatchery to ripen and 50 otoliths were taken once they were spawned and milted. These otolith samples were then sent to the Pacific Biological Station (PBS) in Nanaimo. Forty-nine of the 50 were read and 45 were shown to be Robertson Creek fish. Chris stated that this isn't 100% conclusive yet. A question was asked about the Conuma fish and were there any Robertson Creek fish found among the samples there. Chris replied they were almost all otolith marked Conuma Fish. Paul asked when the last year was that the Gold River Chinook Project otolith marked their fish. Chris replied in 1996. Jim asked if there has ever been a marking program on wild stocks to compare stray rates. Chris stated that he believed Dennis Crabtree of PBS did one years ago in Nootka. Paul asked about the comparison of both

estuaries having mill sites located on them. Chris commented that this is being discussed within DFO. Pat talked about Steelhead with cwt's also being caught in the Gold during 1988-1989 and these were also from Robertson Creek. Some discussions followed on the status of the Gold as a wild Steelhead system and the implications this presents. Some discussions also took place on how this data would affect the province's stand on Steelhead run timing in relation to lake fertilization and mixed stock fisheries if there was evidence showing that the Steelhead weren't as wild as everyone thought. It was agreed that this was another can of worms that would be discussed at a later date.

6.0 Minutes of previous meeting approved by consensus

7.0 Correspondence

Paul talked about the correspondence from Rory Glennie on the Hart Lake landfill. Jim commented that he has a copy of the 1990 closure plan by Pacific Forest Products if anyone is interested. Jim talked about what hasn't been done at the site as far as clean up i.e. ditches, batteries, waste etc. Jim stated that Bowater can't even list all the waste that has been put into the site and he doesn't know how they can put forward a closure plan on the site without this data. The residents association is still pushing this issue and the village is interested. Paul talked about the letter from Mark Kenny on where Western is in relation to the foreshore waste in front of the log sort. Jim commented that there is a report that shows if they stir up the bottom it will cause more damage. Paul talked about the letter from Warren Warttig on the sea lice issues in the Broughton Archipelago and his apologies for not being able to attend our meetings like he used to. Tim commented that he worked in the area mentioned and said the data is general as there wasn't sea lice on every fish. Jim asked if there were any studies done on sea lice before fish farms came to the area. Reply was not that anyone has heard of.

8.0 New Business

Paul talked about the watershed management planning process that is going on in the Somass watershed in Port Alberni. He commented that Phil Edgell the stewardship coordinator there has invited him to sit in at the meetings once they begin in March if he's interested. Paul stated that he will go and if anyone else is interested in going with him let him know. Paul is working on a power point presentation on watershed management planning to present to the committee hopefully for the next meeting or the one after. He is also trying to find copies of the provinces guidelines on watershed management planning for the next meeting.

9.0 Action Items

1. Paul will write a letter to DFO thanking them for the proposal and support of the Conuma Off Channel Project.
2. Paul will write a letter to Jamie James (Mowachaht/Muchalat) asking for support and ideas for Gold River Watershed Management Plan.

10.0 Presentations

Jim Mitchell gave his power point presentation on stewardship, Stream Keepers activities and the future in Nootka Sound.

11.0 Open Discussion

There was no open discussion due to the power point presentation length.

12.0 Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:34 pm. Next meeting is on Wednesday, February 26, 2003 same time, same place.