

# GOLD RIVER WATERSHED COMMITTEE

## MINUTES FOR JUNE 28/00

IN ATTENDANCE: PAUL SMITH, ROGER DUNLOP, STEVE EMMONDS, GRAHM HUES, AND CHRIS ERIKSON

Meeting called to order at 7:22 pm. Introductions followed. There was one addition to the agenda: Roger to give brief update on Crest Creek Diversion study. Agenda accepted by consensus. Minutes of previous meeting read by all. Steve was concerned that consensus decision-making did not include motions on the table. Paul will look into this to confirm whether this is correct protocol. Paul stated that he attended the Wild Salmon Policy/Sep review forums in Campbell River and Port Alberni and found that most of the questions and comments were similar in nature. Everyone was reminded to fill out the questionnaire to be sent in to FOC. Steve talked a little about the questionnaire and a SFU website about the Sep review. Steve was concerned that the Target Reference Points were vague when compared to the Species at Risk Act (Sara) and when Sara kicks in around the Limit Reference Point. Sara is still being worked on. Discussion then moved to the prioritizing of local watersheds based on local knowledge and the tables created by Paul from the FOC and MOELP tables. Roger talked about how the funding is being shifted from small watersheds to larger ones based on criteria like water licenses, steelhead runs, salmon importance etc. Roger suggested that we define our own criteria for ranking watersheds in our own area in line with the Wild Salmon Policy. Every one agreed. Some criteria discussed were: Prevention of extinction, conservation, protection of sports fishery, and how much logging has gone on in the watershed. Everyone agreed that this should be discussed further when there is a full meeting. Some of the salmon stocks of concern identified were Burman River Pinks, Tsowwin River, Sucwoa River and Mooyah River Chinooks. Steve suggested prioritizing should begin by listing all rivers by watershed inlets and identify species, then figure out population. How does logging affect these watersheds? How does salmon harvesting affect these watersheds? Roger stated that once we identify these watersheds we should focus our efforts on upslope stability, hydrology, and large woody debris (lwd) from the riparian area. Some of the watersheds discussed for prioritizing included the Sucwoa River, Canton River, Tsowwin River, Mooyah River, Klepte Creek, Silverado River, Houston River and Jacklah River. Roger stated that Derek Tripp prioritized 77 sites in the 1:20,000 GOLD RIVER RECONNAISSANCE LEVEL FISH AND FISH HABITAT INVENTORY document. Possibly enhancing Chinook stocks in the Oktivanch River was something that the watershed committee could work with the Gold River Chinook Project on. It was agreed that the committee should look at establishing watershed management plans for the Gold and Sucwoa Rivers. Step one might be to identify who is doing what in these watersheds. Action item: Paul will put together a detailed list of the watersheds mentioned above for prioritizing at the next meeting. Paul stated that maybe a good project for the local stream keepers group would be to work with the Conuma Hatchery to determine fry population in the Tsowwin River. Everyone agreed. The previous

minutes were approved by consensus. Paul talked about the letter of support he wrote on behalf of the watershed committee to Fisheries Renewal BC (FsRBC) for the Rod and Gun Club's application for funding to look at why Hutchinson Creek dries up in the summer. Paul also talked about the projects that were funded in our area by FsRBC. They are: Zeballos Hatchery New Building Project, Mooyah Side Channel Project and the Hutchinson Creek Project. Paul also talked about the Guise Creek Bioengineering Assessment being half funded by FsRBC on the assurance that Paul will try and get Weyerhaeuser and Western to help fund the other half. Hopefully this will lead to a partnership between the forest companies, Nuchatlaht First Nation and the watershed committee. Roger mentioned that the Malksope River and Easy Creek projects in Kyuquot Sound were also funded. Roger gave a brief [update on Crest/Heber diversion study for the CRWUP process. Hydro will fund a series of in stream incremental flow transects to estimate the quantity of fish habitat at various flow levels and then try to assess and impacts of the water diversions on habitat and migration. Similarly, thermographs \(recording thermometers\) will be deployed at five locations to see if the diversions may influence temperatures downstream on the Gold, particularly in the vicinity of the Heber confluence pool staging area. Mowachaht/Muchalaht volunteered to deploy the thermographs and assist in measuring stream stages at the in stream flow transect sites, which will be established by a consulting firm contracted by Hydro. Alf Leake at BC Hydro is looking after the organizing. Mowachaht/Muchalaht hope that the information will be useful in assessing whether or not it is cost effective and beneficial to Heber/Gold fish to restore all natural flows back to the Heber.](#)

Graham mentioned that the new regional forester for our area is Murray Watkinson. Gerry Fraser has moved over to Interfor. Some of the things going on with Western right now are spacing and pruning in their area. Graham was asked if he could get an overview of the logging to commence this year in the cut block between Western's shop/yard and Hwy. 28 for the next meeting. There was some discussion on the importance for Coho in the creek running through the cut block. All agreed that the Stream Keepers Group would assess the creek before logging commenced. Steve mentioned that Brian Pearse would be heading the watershed management division in FOC. They're forming a watershed group to develop policy and overall goals and objectives. Consensus was reached by all to hold the next meeting on September 27/00 due to an anticipated lack of participation during the summer. Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 pm.