

# Nootka Sound Watershed Society

## Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 30 June, 2004 in the Western Forest Products Meeting Room

### **Present:**

Jim Mitchell (D)- Village of Gold River/Stream Keepers; Paul Smith (D)- Stream Keepers; Stewart Adams (D) Streamkeepers; Chris Erikson- Gold River Resident; Jay McCool- Grieg Seafoods, Jim Murphy- Grieg Seafood's; Jennifer Koch- WFP;

### **1.0 Jim Mitchell called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.**

Jim asked everyone to sign the attendance sheet.

### **2.0 Introductions around the table**

### **3.0 Changes/additions/approval of agenda**

Two changes under business arising are: domain registration for society and FIA funding update from Jim Mitchell. Chris Erikson moved to accept agenda, seconded by Paul Smith, called to question, all in favour, none opposed, so moved.

### **4.0 Changes or additions to minutes of the previous meeting**

Jim asked everyone to read over the previous minutes. There were no additions or omissions.

### **5.0 Approval of Minutes**

Jim Murphy moved to accept minutes, Stewart Adams seconded, called to question, all in favour, none opposed, so moved

### **6.0 Old business arising from the minutes**

Jim Mitchell updated everyone on the Forest Investment Account (FIA) funding for Big Bend Creek. He talked about receiving \$3900.00 from the FIA and \$12,000.00 from Ministry of Transportation and Highways (MOTH). Jim will be looking for a crew of 4-5 volunteers to do 4-5 days of work in the first two weeks of August (tentative). Chris Erikson asked if we had all the necessary permits and applications in place. Jim replied yes Sean Wong of MOTH was handling it. Paul Smith talked about the Elk River Riparian Project and the need for volunteers in September when the project is slated to go. He will contact everyone before then. He would also like to see the stewardship education class at Gold River Secondary get involved somehow. Paul also talked about the salmon enumeration project being expanded to include some larger systems that DFO cannot monitor this fall because of cut backs. He has coordinated a workshop and some volunteers to help in this. Chris Erikson questioned whether we should be doing this or applying political pressure on Ottawa to provide the necessary funding as he sees a bad precedent being set for the future. There was some discussion on the pros and cons of doing this and everyone agreed that it is necessary, as we cannot afford to lose the data that would not be collected until the political pressure worked and we all know that this would take a few years. We will continue to apply political pressure and voice our concerns over DFO neglecting their mandate. Jim Mitchell stated that he is hopeful that the shore keeper's assessment will go ahead in August, providing he can get the members to come out. Jim also commented that the storm drain marking didn't happen because of the elementary school not getting going on it. Hopefully we can do

this at a later date. Paul Smith talked about the Oktwanch River issues raised and DFO's comments that there was still access from the Beaver Ponds into the main stem. Discussion followed on the removal or alteration of natural spawning habitat to create man-made structures (side channels etc.) that haven't been proven to work yet. Paul Smith commented that some are working fine and others were a failure and that it takes time to determine the benefits or lack thereof. Everyone agreed that because of the extensive costs involved in side channels that we should be making sure the success of them before we invest. Paul Smith talked about looking for funding to register our own domain name so we can avoid hosting the web site on the stream keepers domain. Jim Murphy commented that he would approach Grieg Seafood's to donate the \$70 required for two years of registration. Paul Smith will set it up and be reimbursed for the costs of registering. Sportsman Fishing Adventures will donate server space for the domain in kind similar to the stream keeper's domain. Paul Smith commented that once he has it set up we will have our own domain address (nootkasound.org) and it will be easier to maintain. Everyone thanked Paul Smith for this. Jim Mitchell talked about the other communities in the area not being able to access the FIA funding because of a lack of capacity. There was \$12,000.00 available for each community and we shouldn't be overlooking applying for the excess funds that are not applied for.

#### **7.0 Correspondence**

Paul Smith talked about all email now being forwarded to the members to cut back on printing costs. There was email from Chris Hilliar (DFO) regarding a letter sent to Emcon Services (highways) reminding them to use the Comox-Strathcona Sensitive Habitat Atlas when working around fish and fish habitat. Also from Chris Hilliar was an email on the establishment of a new bank back east to serve the needs of NGO's.

#### **8.0 New Business**

Under new business, Stewart Adams talked about receiving a phone call from Dave Davies (DFO) regarding the collection of this falls brood stock from the Burman and Gold Rivers. Dave stated that the Gold River Chinook Project has informed him they will not be ready to handle the incubation/rearing of the Chinook eggs/fry/smolts this fall. Therefore, Dave will be transferring the responsibilities to the Nootka Sound Watershed Society in partnership with the Conuma River Enhancement Facility. Dave would like to see the society form a sub committee to coordinate this and he mentioned that there would be limited funds available from DFO for fish food etc. This was received with excitement from everyone and discussion followed on holding a directors meeting to set up the sub committee and discuss our next steps. Directors meeting will be July 13, 2004 at 7:00 pm same place as the regular meetings. Jim Mitchell commented that this is very important step for the society and hopes that all user groups will get involved to ensure there are no problems.

#### **9.0 Presentations**

No presentations.

#### **10.0 Action Items**

1. Jim Mitchell, Paul Smith and Jamie James will coordinate the stewardship education class for the Elk River Riparian Project in September.
2. Paul Smith will coordinate the workshop for salmon enumeration with DFO sometime in late August or early September and let everyone know.

3. Paul Smith will register our new domain name once funding is received from Grieg Seafood's.
4. Jim Mitchell will coordinate the shore keeper's assessment of Tuta Beach.

**11.0 Open Discussion**

Stewart Adams asked about the progress of the Ucona River Power Project. Jim Mitchell replied that they are still dealing with the archaeological study on the site and will update us as soon as they can.

**12.0 Adjournment**

Jim Murphy moved to adjourn at 8:42 pm. Next meeting is on Wednesday, September 29, 2004 same time, same place.