

Nootka Sound Watershed Society

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 31 March, 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)- Stream Keepers; Jamie James (D)- Mowachaht/Muchalaht; Dick Dennison (D)- Gold River Rod and Gun; Tom Pater- Regional District Comox Strathcona/Area G; Dave Davies- DFO; Brian Tutty- DFO; Tom Cleugh- Sigma Engineering; Stephanie Eagen- Sigma Engineering; Domenico Iannidinardo- WFP; Jay McCool- Grieg Seafoods, Jim Murphy- Grieg Seafoods; Pat Dennison- Gold River;

1.0 Paul called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

Paul asked everyone to sign the attendance sheet.

2.0 Introductions around the table

3.0 Changes/additions/approval of agenda

Jim Mitchell added the PFRCC report under new business. Paul Smith added Sigma Engineering under presentations. Jim Murphy moved to accept agenda, Jim Mitchell seconded, called to question, all in favour, none opposed, so moved.

4.0 Changes or additions to minutes of the previous meeting

No changes or additions.

5.0 Approval of Minutes

Jim Mitchell moved to accept previous minutes, seconded by Stewart Adams, called to question, all in favour, none opposed, so moved.

6.0 Old business arising from the minutes

Paul Smith updated everyone on our status as a newly registered society under the "Society Act" and that we will now be using "Roberts Rules of Order" instead of "Consensus" to make decisions. Paul added that he has updated our web site at <http://www.grstreamkeepers.com/GRWC/Index.htm> and will continue to do so. Jim Mitchell updated everyone on the Big Bend Creek project and that we will be working with Dave Clough to start the next phase. Jim also stated that the Dunlop Creek Coho indicator fence would be in place shortly as we've been given confirmation by Steve Baillie (DFO) again this year to install it. There will be one more education class at the high school on the harvesting impacts to salmon in Nootka Sound presented by Jamie James. Jim also commented that his directors and members of the Gold River Stream Keepers Society have given him the green light to secure a hatchery site for the Gold River stock if or when it is needed and hopes that this society would support this also. Pat asked Jamie James about the status of the fish screw project. Jamie replied that it would be coordinated shortly. Dave Davies provided a copy of the DNA Dendagram to view in regards to the composition of Gold River DNA. Dick Dennison asked if the production in Robertson Creek rose prior to 1986. Dave commented that he doesn't think so. Apparently there was a substantial stray rate of Sockeye in Muchalat Lake in the 80's was the comment followed by these were determined to be of Robertson Creek origin. Dave could not confirm this but will look into it. Jim

Mitchell commented that it would be nice to have some numbers to go with the dendagram. Dave will get them for Jim. Paul Smith talked about the possibility of someone from WLAP coming to our next meeting to discuss the Steelhead issues in Nootka Sound. He will confirm for the next meeting. Everyone looked over the draft letter to WFP for errors or omissions.

7.0 Correspondence

No correspondence.

8.0 New Business

Jim Mitchell talked about the presentation in Campbell River by the Pacific Fisheries Resource Conservation Council in response to their damaging report on hatcheries. He stated that the whole report lacks credible data to back up their recommendations. He went on to say that there are some serious flaws in the report and it definitely doesn't provide a positive position on hatcheries. Tom Pater clarified that this was a report commissioned by them not written by them. Jim replied that the 9-hour presentation was a slap in the face to stewardship groups who are heavily involved in salmon enhancement.

9.0 Action Items

1. Dave Davies will try and find data on Sockeye strays into Muchalat Lake and the numbers to go with the DNA dendagram.
2. Paul will confirm WLAP's attendance at the next meeting to talk about Steelhead issues.
3. Brian Tutty will send an email copy of his power point presentation on IPP's that we viewed tonight.

10.0 Presentations

Brian Tutty presented his power point show on how DFO determines whether to allow a new IPP to exist in a watershed. Some points noted were "DFO doesn't support the transfer of water between basins." "The intake and tail race should preferably be upstream of fish populations if it's in a migration corridor." Dave Davies asked about Trout and their impacts. Brian replied that preferably they should be above all fish habitat including Trout. Tom Pater asked what a diversion reach is. Brian explained by drawing a diagram on the board (point of intake to where water returns is the diversion reach). Dick Dennison asked who is responsible for monitoring the construction phase to ensure that all criteria are met. Brian replied that an independent contractor like Dave Clough for example, would monitor the work and has the authority to shut it down if need be. The contractor would report to the owner and DFO. They have to be credible like Registered Professional Biologist etc. DFO has the final say as to who the contractor is. Dave Davis asked what happens when the summer low flows dictate the water. Brian stated that the IPP would shut down. Jim Mitchell asked if the monitor of the construction phase could alter plans arbitrarily. No was the reply, the work is stopped and fixed. Jim Mitchell asked who would over see the new guidelines being crafted once they are in place. Reply was that the Province would have the hammer. Tom Cleugh talked about Sigma Engineering's IPP on Meares Creek. Dick Dennison talked about the changes made to the development plan that weren't made apparent at the public presentation. The penstock was changed, which caused siltation to enter Muchalat Lake during heavy rain events. Paul Smith commented on his disappointment around the amount of garbage that wasn't being removed. Tom answered by saying that the contractor who they used is responsible for both and has been dealt with. Over the entire project is very

environmentally friendly and has little impacts. Dick Dennison replied that maybe now it is, but he would like to see Sigma or their contractors are more careful and responsible during construction phase of the next IPP in the Nootka Sound area. Paul Smith thanked both parties for their excellent presentations and feedback.

11.0 Open Discussion

Lot's of discussion on the presentation by DFO and Sigma on IPP's.

12.0 Adjournment

Jim Mitchell moved to adjourn at 9:51 pm. Next meeting is on Wednesday, April 28, 2004 same time, same place.