

Watershed Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 29 May 2002 in the Ridgeview Motel Hospitality Room

Present:

Paul Smith- WCVI AMB; Doug Swift-DFO; Chris Erikson-DFO; Dick Dennison-G.R. Resident;

1.0 Chris (chair) called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

2.0 Introductions around the table

3.0 The agenda was approved by consensus

4.0 Minutes of the previous meeting

The title states the minutes are for May 29 instead of April 24. Also the date for the next meeting should have read May 29, 2002 instead of April 24, 2002.

5.0 Old business arising from the minutes

Paul talked about Coho Indicator fences and handed out spreadsheet of data for both. Some discussion followed concerning the lack of water flow in Hutchinson Creek and ways to mitigate this. Removal of concrete weir might be an option to release bed load behind it. Concerns here that bed load might end up in Gold River. Doug stated that Mel Sheng should be asked to take a look at the creek to determine the solutions. Paul commented that the letter on the foreshore waste in front of Bowater's mill site has been sent to the Province, and cc'd to Bowater, DFO, NTC, and Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nations. Doug reiterated that DFO was never involved with the foreshore lease. Dick talked about being involved in the last time they cleaned up the beach and it was a mess then. Paul stated that he had received a letter from Stock Assessment concerning the installation of the Coho fences and forwarded to Rod and Gun and Stream Keepers. Paul said that Stock Assessment stated that they would continue to monitor fry population densities on Dunlop Creek as they have in the past. Paul still hasn't heard back from Charlie Jancsik (Canfor) about plans for Upper Oktivanch River. Doug asked about the Lord Creek assessment dates for this spring. Paul commented that the Gold River Stream Keepers would be starting this in June. Doug requested that he be contacted to determine whether he could tag along. Some discussion followed on the size of the dam on Lord Creek and the bed load behind it.

6.0 Minutes of previous meeting approved by consensus

7.0 Correspondence

The spreadsheets on Coho Indicator Fences.

8.0 New Business

Paul talked about the upcoming Storm Drain Marking exercise with the local elementary school. He stated that the Gold River Stream Keepers Society would be creating a kit to be used in our area. The tentative date is June 7/02 for the exercise. Paul informed everyone that the web site is complete, but when he went to upload into server, he found out that the web creation software was not recognised by the server. Paul will re-do with different software. The address is www.grwatershedcommittee.bravepages.com. Dick

asked if the Conuma Hatchery would be taking same number of Chinook this fall. Chris replied that it is still up in the air right now. Doug stated that major changes are in the cards for hatcheries in BC. Paul commented that he too has heard that hatcheries will see more budget cuts.

9.0 Action Items

1. Paul will contact Mel Sheng to determine steps necessary to have him inspect lower Hutchinson Creek bed load issues.
2. Paul will keep trying to contact Canfor (Charlie Jancsik) about their plans in Upper Oktwanch in relation to Western Forest Products' WRP.

10.0 Presentations

There were no presentations.

11.0 Open Discussion

There was some discussion (speculation) on the hatchery budget cuts and where that will leave the Conuma Hatchery program.

12.0 Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40 pm. Next meeting is on Wednesday, June 26, 2002 same time, same place.