

Watershed Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 28 May, 2003 in the Western Forest Products Meeting Room

Present:

Paul Smith- Gold River Stream Keepers; Jim Mitchell- Village of Gold River/Stream Keepers; Dick Dennison- G.R. Rod and Gun Club; Pat Dennison- WFP; Maureen Ritter- Marine Harvest Canada; Rob Ritter- Visitor

1.0 Paul called the meeting to order at 7:08 p.m.

2.0 Introductions around the table

3.0 Changes/additions/approval of agenda

Add Bill Heidrick's e-mail under correspondence. Agenda approved by consensus.

4.0 Changes or additions to minutes of the previous meeting

Paul commented that the meeting room has been changed to WFP's meeting room and not the Aquatic Center. Jim added that the sentence reading, "The plan is to weight" should read weigh.

5.0 Old business arising from the minutes

Jim asked about Roger's comment seeking groups to help with the WCVI stock assessment. Paul commented that Roger had changed the statement to read, "he will need to have assessment reviewed by peers. Paul went on to say that he did say that he might need help to confirm fish presence in some systems from local groups. Jim commented that this is what the stream keepers is all about and they would be happy to help in any way that they can. Paul asked for changes or omissions from the Terms of Reference adding that this is a work in progress so don't expect to finish it in one sitting. Jim commented that under Guiding Principles the sentence reading "Our guiding principle is to respect the rights of the land and people who" should have "live on and" added at this point. Everyone agreed. Under Participation the sentence reading "All parties with a significant interest in the issues should be involved" should be ended after involved and delete "in the consensus process". Everyone agreed. Also the following sentence that reads "All segments of the community should" add "if they choose" so the sentence reads "All segments of the community should if they choose, have a role as local stewards of aquatic habitat and aquatic resources." Everyone agreed. Under Decision Making the sentence reading "Committee members will make all decisions" should be changed to read, "Committee members will make all decisions according to "Roberts Rules of Engagement". The last sentence in this paragraph should be changed to read, "Quorum is defined as what is in the Society Act or as determined by Roberts Rules of Engagement." Everyone agreed. Some discussion here on whether both have the same number defined. Paul will look into this. Under Changes to Terms of Reference the sentence should be changed to read "These terms of reference may be amended by calling a special meeting and voting by 2/3 of the members at any time." Everyone agreed. There was some discussion on the geographic scope of the committee and it was agreed that the scope should include all of Nootka

Sound including the traditional territories of the Ehattesaht, Mowachaht/Muchalaht and Nuchatlaht First Nations. Paul will work with Pat to design a map showing the boundary lines. Emphasis was placed on making sure that the First Nations did indeed support this. Paul commented that in his experience as a stewardship coordinator, all the bands at one time or another expressed support for a watershed committee and he felt that it was just a matter of protocol to confirm this. Paul will draft up a letter with Roger seeking support and permission to include traditional territories. Everyone agreed that if future meetings don't raise issues than the bylaws/constitution is okay. The letter to Dave Davies was next for perusal. Some changes were made and there was one spelling error. Everyone accepted the letter as changed and Paul will send to Dave and members on the cc list.

6.0 Minutes of previous meeting approved by consensus

7.0 Correspondence

Bill Heidrick's e-mail was discussed and everyone thought that both he and Roger were saying basically the same thing with just different ways of saying it. Their summary is that it was a bad move in the short and long term for water quality in the Zeballos River watershed. Bill also commented that over the winter the Zeballos harbour has been brown for days on several occasions over the winter. Everyone agreed that this is disturbing considering this is when the Steelhead are in the system preparing to spawn. Paul will contact Rick and Craig to see what it being done regarding this matter. Bill also gave us a heads up on Pacific Rim Power having withdrawn their application for access to Zeballos Lake for a hydro facility. They are now looking at the Nomash Valley and over to Tahsis. This opened the door to discussions on similar projects in the Gold River area namely the new proposal next to the Ucona River to drill a tunnel through the mountain. Paul will send a letter to the group involved and ask them to attend our next meeting to give a presentation on their management plans for this endeavour.

8.0 New Business

There was no new business to discuss.

9.0 Action Items

1. Paul and Pat will work together to create a map for the geographical scope of the committee boundaries.
2. Paul will look into the definitions of quorum in the Society Act and Roberts Rules.
3. Paul will work with Roger to draft up a letter seeking support from First Nations on watershed committee.
4. Paul will forward letter to Dave Davies and cc list.
5. Paul will draft up a letter requesting that the power group attend our next meeting to give presentation on Ucona proposal.

10.0 Presentations

There were no presentations.

11.0 Open Discussion

Open discussion revolved around the status of Fuso Enterprises, Grieg Seafood's and the Gold River Chinook Project.

12.0 Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:00 pm. Next meeting is on Wednesday, June 25, 2003 same time, same place.

