

Nootka Sound Watershed Society

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 25 May, 2005 in the Western Forest Products Meeting Room

Present:

Michel Rabu (P)- Gold River Fish Camp; Paul Smith (S)- G.R. Stream Keepers; Pat Dennison (T)- Gold River Resources Ltd.; Jim Mitchell (D)- Gold River Stream Keepers; Dick Dennison (D)- Gold River Rod and Gun; Roger Dunlop- NTC Fisheries; Dave Davies- DFO Community Advisor; Steve Emmonds- Conuma Hatchery; Tim Davies- Grieg Seafood; Jim Murphy- Grieg Seafood; Cam Forbes- Critter Cove; Kim Black- Gold River Fishing Lodge

1. Michel Rabu called the meeting to order at 7:11 p.m.

Michel stated that the meeting will be taped to aid in the taking of minutes. Anyone who objects may leave if they so choose. Michel asked everyone to sign the attendance sheet. Roger Dunlop apologized on behalf of Jamie James for not being in attendance.

2. Introductions around the table

3. Changes/additions/approval of agenda

Michel Rabu asked for changes or additions to the agenda. Three items were added to the agenda. Roger Dunlop added an update on Luna under new business. Paul Smith added some correspondence from Habitat Enhancement Branch. Dave Davies said he would speak to that. Jim Mitchell added a letter from Edwin Blewett forwarded from Dave Lewis under correspondence. Jim Murphy moved to accept agenda, seconded by Jim Mitchell, called to question, all in favour, none opposed, so moved.

4. Changes or additions to minutes of the previous meeting

Michel Rabu asked everyone to read over the previous minutes. Roger Dunlop explained more on salmon enhancement and the sentence that talks about speeding up the cycle from the previous minutes. Steve Emmonds commented on a few issues that would come up. Some discussion followed on the pros and cons of this idea. Dave Davies suggested that this be discussed at the enhancement sub committee meeting. Pat Dennison found a spelling error on page three the word river is missing the r in "Jim Mitchell stated that the Gold Rive Stream". Roger Dunlop commented that on page three where the sentence reads "Roger talked about the structure starting with..." should be followed with "The principles are to be used as a yard stick for measuring your decisions against that are consistent."

5. Approval of Minutes

Jim Mitchell moved to accept minutes, Dick Dennison seconded, called to question, all in favour, none opposed, so moved

6. Old business arising from the minutes

Paul Smith updated everyone on the tabled minutes from February being amended and placed on the website. A copy is also part of our package today. Jim Davis was not in attendance so the membership drive was tabled. Pat Dennison talked about not being able to do anything until the terms of reference are finished. Jim Mitchell talked about talking with the Gold River Secondary School about helping the NSWS to create a monthly newsletter and brochure. Unfortunately they are into exams right now so this will have to

wait until the fall. Dave Davies stated he could supply content to them also. Jim added that the final stewardship education class provided by the Gold River Stream Keepers was a success ending in a field trip to Tlupana River. Roger said that applications have been made for four weir sites in the Gold River watershed. Dave Davies stated that he would like the enhancement sub committee to meet preferably next week to discuss the plans for next falls brood collection for Chinook on the Burman/Gold Rivers. Dave asked for a list of all members sitting on this committee to be forwarded to him so he can set up the meeting date. Dave stated that he hasn't made an application for the net pen lease yet as he wants to make sure that everyone is on side with this. Roger Dunlop replied that he should be going directly to the council of chiefs on this issue. Jim Mitchell asked if we could get a schedule of their meeting dates so we can meet with them. Roger replied that this is something that DFO has to initiate not the NSWS. Jim Mitchell stated that he feels DFO is going down the right path by choosing to meet with the chiefs first and he will go with Dave if he wants. Dave Davies replied that he would rather wait until after the enhancement sub committee meeting to see where everything stands before he meets with the chiefs. Discussion followed on a date and time for the enhancement sub committee. Paul Smith talked about the reply letter from the village passing our request for temporary free moorage at the government wharf. The second letter is a draft letter requesting that the village council waive office rent due at the Jack Christensen building until July at which time we will receive funding from Grieg Seafoods which will allow the NSWS to pay the rent. Pat Dennison pointed out a spelling error in the word herby "e". Discussion followed on the office rent for Jan to July 2005 and who should pay the bill. Why are we paying for an office that doesn't get used more than twice a week? Reply was made that someone has to maintain the stewardship office for the groups to have access to the data and maps etc. Michel Rabu asked about the history leading up to this point. Paul Smith replied that in the beginning he was being paid as a stewardship coordinator in Nootka and Kyuquot Sounds by The Regional Aquatic Management Society (Rams). One of his tasks was to form a Gold River watershed committee if the interest existed. There was interest and the committee was formed using consensus. The idea that evolved from this committee was to create an umbrella group that all other stewardship groups use to make decisions on watershed management. The stewardship office for Nootka Sound was in the Jack Christensen building with Rams (funded by Fisheries and Oceans Canada) initially paying the rent. Once the funding for the stewardship coordinator position expired the watershed committee was not set up yet to maintain the finances of the stewardship office so the Gold River Stream Keepers Society got involved as they had the funding in place to keep the office rent paid until further arrangements could be made. At this time Rams transferred over the assets of the stewardship coordinators office to the Gold River Stream Keepers Society. The two stewardship groups worked to establish Nootka Sound Watershed Society, which would eventually handle the funding needs. Grieg Seafood had agreed to provide the NSWS with the previous funding that was given to the Gold River Chinook Project when it was operating the Gold River Hatchery. This will be implemented in July 05 and was supposed to be used to pay the rent. Michel Rabu stated that he remembered the NSWS committing to the GRSK at the November 3/04 meeting to pay the rent for the stewardship office and that the user groups who used the office would be responsible for all supplies used. The discussion got heated at this time with disagreements over who is

taking advantage of whom and Jim Mitchell left the meeting. Paul Smith stated that he would move everything out of the office and disconnect the phone until we resolve this issue. Roger Dunlop moved to table this issue. Pat Dennison seconded, called to question all in favour, none opposed, so moved. Roger Dunlop also stated that he would find office space for the Gold River Stream Keepers and the stewardship office. Michel Rabu commented that he still hasn't received the lodge owner contact information from Marc Charette and he feels it is time to start knocking on their doors asking for financial support. Some discussion on placing this in the membership committee's to do list. Dave Davies talked about the Occupational Health and Safety guidelines when around net pens. Steve Emmonds talked about DFO policy regarding the Occupational Health and Safety standards. Lots of discussion on net pens and alternatives in case we cannot get a lease in place. Paul Smith moved to table the Coho net pen issue to the enhancement sub committee. Jim Murphy seconded, Pat Dennison asked for a friendly amendment asking DFO for written confirmation that the Coho production is back on, called to question, all in favour, none opposed, so moved. Roger Dunlop updated everyone on the progress of the Terms of Reference and that the only area that is not resolved yet is the Precautionary Principle. Tim Davies of Grieg Seafood went on record stating his disagreement with the revised precautionary principle as it stands. He would prefer to see the one used by the FOA UN or Canada. Michel Rabu moved that we accept the draft Terms of Reference (TOR) excluding the precautionary principle until meeting with the council of chiefs at Tsaxana next month. Seconded by Dick Dennison, called to question, all in favour, none opposed, so moved. Paul Smith reminded everyone that the next meeting will be based on the TOR and be consensus based.

7. Correspondence

All digital correspondence has been sent by email to the members. Contact the secretary if you haven't been receiving the correspondence. Letter from the Village of Gold River accepting our request to waive the moorage fees temporarily. Correspondence from Habitat Enhancement Branch regarding a questionnaire on a strategy for an ecosystem approach to education. Email from Jim Mitchell on a letter that was sent to the mayors' office by Edwin Blewett. This will be discussed under new business.

8. New Business

Tim Davies outlined the mitigation plan for the escaped Atlantic salmon that may be returning to Nootka Sound starting this fall. Grieg will swim the river once in September, October and November. Lots of discussion on how many fish may or may not return this year and the next few years. Members wanted to know if only swimming the river three times in three months is enough to see the fish if they show up. General consensus was that the river should be swam more often to ensure that fish aren't missed and that the swims should be done further upstream also and not just in the lower sections of the river. Roger Dunlop talked about his findings that suggest sonar could be playing a role in Luna's actions of lashing out at boats. Roger gave a power point presentation showing the effects the fish finders are having on Luna's interactions. Roger commented that he would like to see the local sports fish advisory committee work with DFO to close Zucairte Channel to allow Luna the opportunity to hear his pod if or when they show up out front. Roger believes that the sonar is stopping communications that might occur from L pod during the summer months when the recreational fishery is underway. He also believes that the commercial fleet fills in the gaps for two months on either side of

the recreational fishery. Their sonar is even more powerful than the sporties. Roger asked everyone at the meeting who angles during the summer months to voluntarily turn off their fish finders when they don't need them as every little bit will help. General consensus was that fish finders are only needed in tight spots such as reefs or rocks etc and that most sporties probably would comply.

9. Reports

Financial Report- Pat Dennison gave the financial report and moved that the NSWS write a check for the amount of \$2250.00 to the Gold River Stream Keepers Society as per the PIP funding arrangement from a previous meeting. Jim Murphy seconded, called to question, all in favour, none opposed, so moved. Roger Dunlop moved to accept the financial report, Jim Murphy seconded, called to question, all in favour, none opposed, so moved.

10. Presentations

Roger Dunlop gave a slide show on the effects of sonar on marine mammals.

11. Action Items

1. Dave Davies will coordinate the enhancement sub committee meeting date.
- 2 Paul Smith will email Dave Davies a list of members on the enhancement sub committee.
3. Paul Smith will write a letter to the Western Forest Products thanking them for their support for the net pens at Burman River estuary.

12. Open Discussion

There wasn't much open discussion as most members left the meeting.

13. Adjournment

Jim Murphy moved to adjourn at 10:25 pm. Next meeting is on Wednesday, June 22, 2005 same time, same place.