

## Nootka Sound Watershed Society

### Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday, May 31, 2006 at Txsana

Present: Roger Dunlop (VP)-NTC, Jennifer Koch (S), Jim Davis-Moutcha Bay, Cam Stewart, Deb Clemenson-VOT Councillor, Seaton Taylor, Dave Davies-DFO, Jim Haggetery-Resident, Pat Dennison (T)-Gold River Resources Ltd., Dick Dennison-Gold River Rod and Gun Club, Tim Davies-Grieg Seafood BC Ltd., Jim Murphy- Grieg Seafood BC Ltd.

1. Roger called meeting to order at 7:06 pm
2. Additions to agenda-
  - Tim Davies-compensation project (old business)
  - Seaton Taylor-CPUE and terminal run size decision making (new business)
  - Jim Davis-Coastal Land Plan (new business)
  - Dave Davies-enhancement plan and money-funding proposal
  - Pat Dennison-signing authority-Financial reports.
3. Minutes from last meeting-changes-
  - “Diane was awarded \$3500 through pacific Foundation” Donations from WFP and rod and gun never used-truck and gas. Change to “\$3500 awarded through Pacific Foundation.”
  - Minutes of April meeting adopted with physical attachment of Rogers notes from March meeting to minutes where he read out MMFN letter to inform the NSWS.-updated on Website June 6, 2006.
4. Operating Procedures-where to post minutes.
5. Business Arising From Minutes
  - **Terms of Reference**-numeric ranking through goals and objectives. Determining scores for projects against society’s objectives. Effective for management decisions. NSWS – interest in adopting this method?
  - Distribute for adoption of **Terms of Reference** finalized (but not distributed\_ in April or May 205. Roger will distribute by e-mail.

-**Action item**-circulates approved minutes, add to agenda to ratify terms of reference.

- **Habitat Compensation-**
  - **Roger** suggested set up structured decision making process for project evaluation by numerically rating each option/proposal against board objectives. TOR for judging project and development proposal merit against Boards terms of reference objectives. Roger noted he was in conflict of interest with Grieg Seafood.
  - Tim Davies-apologies for not attending previous meeting. Muchalaht south farm-harmful alteration or destruction. Tim Davies requesting input and suggestions for fishfarm HADD compensation projects. Muchalat South originally monitoring and mitigation rather than HADD authorization. After operating for a while decided they would be more

comfortable with an authorization. Want to adjust cage configuration from seven abreast to stagger them and spread them apart to spread out habitat impacts and to deal with algae blooms. Lessens intensity of impact to habitat. Based on experience with other two farms having HADD authorizations Grieg has opted to go the HADD route. Came to the board for additional ideas. There was a Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nations submission to DFO and ideas from the board. Mowachaht/Muchalaht correspondence mentioned through DFO consultation process and letter via Roger from Maquinna.

Had done rocky reef work near the Hanna Channel navigation buoy but had limited success so looking for something different instead. Will expand Muchalat South site compensation efforts to include HADD compensation for other two farm sites.

Tim related that on east side of Vancouver Island we contributed to which Baikie Island project by City of Campbell River and Nature Conservancy reclaimed and planted for salt marsh. A 3 ha area at 80m depth impacted compensated with 400m<sup>2</sup> salt marsh banked at Baikie Island. Intertidal zone compensation for footprint here for our farms (3) would be about 1000m<sup>2</sup>.

Could be projects for fish lodges or WFP-Kevin Sommerville contacted. Salt marsh habitat projects-1000 square meters. Wary about debris removal. Debris may show up again. Would be undertaking some ROV surveys to look at some areas. Habitat compensation could be 'banked' with adequate extra areas to compensate for damage by developments that might be required to compensate boat ramps and with forestry log dumps and sorts, and storage areas, for general examples.

Discussion of sedge channels building. Salt marsh areas easy to access and monitor-2<sup>nd</sup> in terms of biodiversity only to eel grass. Reduce upland elevations to sedge elevation.

Tim suggested the top of Head Bay near the area which is going to be a Magnetite mine.

D Davies: have you considered a stream project?

Tim: Habitat people at DFO prefer marine compensation project.

Focus will be a place to find a salt marsh area in one of the estuaries and will also look in the Head Bay area,

Discussed magnetite mine and small scale of that operation. Also there was a large marble/limestone mine proposal for Hisnit Inlet coming up. Mooyah estuary could be a salt marsh project but after examination the potential was not great. Tahsis River estuary was suggested. MMFN would prefer the Muchalaht Inlet, but don't have much time. 1000m<sup>2</sup>

would cost about \$50,000 to build. Could split it up into several sites but lose efficiency in logistics. Suggestions of Jacklah estuary and east side of the Gold River for sites were made. Excavate distributary channels in sedge areas for Chinook fry. Concerns on permitting times.

Project must be designed to last for the time of the tenure. Given five year tenure and does not have to be permit. Concerns about getting equipment into Gold estuary. Tim thought the Head Bay log dump area seemed like good idea as beside the road, can dam a channel, excavate and then flood it after construction and then planting sedge plugs.

Tim going out tomorrow to look at the different areas. Will follow up by e-mail on his findings.

Suggestion in Galiano Bay as old road, Roger noted that was archaeological site of the Mowachaht village of 'Kiptsihl'.

BC Timber sales now own the south side of the Inlet and it was noted that BC Timber sales has FIA funds.

Baikie Island is a habitat bank, two mining companies that might want to do work. Maybe this group should search out other areas. City of Campbell River owns so they look after the land, covenant on the property.

Need for a slate of new projects for the board to recommend  
Could use Grieg resources to ID some priorities but would not end up having habitat built.

A suggestion was made to invite Mel Sheng of DFO to help with discussion in September.

Jim Davies suggested highlight some preferred projects

Bill suggested go back to our terms of reference, make up our list and then follow those avenues, A-B-C, and should be able to go to any areas in Nootka Sound with restrictions for local people to certain areas to be looked after, and takes away from Tahsis to do restoration to be done locally, and get FNs sort out so not restricted.

**We need to find money to direct it.**

5. **Dance and Dinner**-wait to talk to Steve-keep at 50 people in Tahsis. No idea when, last year it was in September. Table for now. Deb Clemenson to follow-up. 20 year award from Dave Davies for Tahsis enhancement group will be presented.
6. **Signs for lodges** owners-needs some work-urgency to get signs out by July 1, 2006. Dave Davies did not receive sign digitally. Need application forms and logo stickers with sign to attract funds. Jim Davis to work on.

7. **Directors Liability Insurance:** – Pat contacted Dianne Ramage and was referred to Zoanne Morton for Directors Liability, different membership services for Streamkeepers, to become a member for individual \$15 membership. Dave has 30 other groups and it's through bulk insurance all over province. Just pay group membership to join the federation. Covers volunteer activities and directors. Pacific Streamkeepers Federation through Spears and Company, and need a list of members.

All agreed to motion. Tim moves we sign up. All were in favour. So moved. Pat will take out the insurance for the NSWS.

8. **Habitat Restoration-Canton, Conuma** side channels- WFP approached by Dick Dennison about FIA options. Invite Graham Hues to future meeting to discuss FIA funding. In November meeting invite certain individuals, Graham Hues, Mel Sheng, and Dave Clough, to discuss restoration projects.-**Action Item.** Roger mentioned Oktwanch Riparian and Twaddle Creek slides were a high priority. All watersheds on Nootka Island were prioritized for restoration by Derek Tripp through Roger and Gerry Fraser prior to WFP Ltd. Roger can get these papers from his office.

9. **Correspondence**

Burman net pen feeder: a letter is needed to supplier. We paid full value for second hand material –paid ~\$3500.00 for the feeder. Its jus plastic pipe with encrusted with Barnacles and some scraps of aluminium pieced together. We paid more than Conuma paid last year for a new one. We should write back to them and ask about it from Michel and hatchery as they arranged it.

**Action Item**-write a letter of complaint regarding fish feeder, 2<sup>nd</sup> hand versus new fish feeder. Deb Clemenson to write letter-e-mail for approval and send, don't bring to next meeting,

10. **New Business-**

- Seaton Taylor: CPUE (Catch per unit effort) relationship to Conuma terminal run size:

Regression at the fourth Week July CPUE gives an  $r^2$  value of 0.95 gives the total terminal run size for Conuma. What we want to do with it we are not sure. Comments: what happens if the CPUE what do we do, may involve management decisions

this summer? We will try this out to make decisions. If CPUE is really low will we reduce or have closures? This will close commercial side first. Cheaper alternative to test fishing. Will use real time data entry, need more money for ht data entry to have the information the next morning. Cannot tell by CPUE in the first week of July can get an idea an idea in the first week but not certain 85% of the time.

Creel survey need to cover aerial flights with boat based counts

Sites are Critter Cove , one in Tahsis, Charter patrolman does on-water interviews incomplete trips. Bill never interviewed in 3 years on water.

Pat volunteered to do interviews at Cougar creek. Roger noted he had talked to the Christiansens that operate the gas dock at Yuquot and they were willing to collect creel data.

Dave Davies noted he has heard the West Coast of the Queen Charlotte island fishing is very good presently.

**Action:** Seaton will talk to Alistair Thompsons about an advisory conference call based on CPUE at some date in late July for a decision around the fishery proceeding, reducing or opening commercial catch is abundance is adequate..

Roger mentioned PSC Southern Endowment Fund and Northern Endowment Fund deadlines are coming up for proposal submissions. Board should consider projects there. Northern fund may fund some enhancement where NC fisheries intercept southern origin stocks.

- **Coastal Land Use Plan**-5 year marine management areas-Nootka Sound. Jim Davis. Not refenced to NSWS, Gold River. Plan made and sat on shelf. Should follow up. Any additional work to plan should come through the NSWS. Here is the Plan what do you think. **Action Item**-Jim Davis to draft letter.
- Operating Procedures-Jim Murphy, Roger Dunlop, Pat Dennison, -sub-committee. **Action Item-form group and form operating procedures by fall 2006, draft by next meeting.**

## 11. Reports

Financial Reports-Pat Dennison

Signing authority-Pat moves to Roger to get signing authority and sign up at the TD bank in CR. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Bill.-all in favour. Roger to take minutes to bank to sign on.

## DISCUSSION

-Enhancement Report-Still have 6500 Muchalaht River fish in pens-will keep another 10 days, Tlupana Chinook were 9 to 14 grams (water temperature?) and 50K fish, Burman River let go last Friday 3.67 grams and released at 6.9 grams for two weeks. Getting Eggs and put into Muchalaht Lake net pen. Lower Gold fish all contaminated. Wier in upper gold. Going to put fence in Oktwanch.-Add to agenda for June.

Streamkeepers-Dave Davies PSF application. How much to give out? To who?

Streamkeepers?

-Agreement with Hatchery??? Coho Program? Dave asking Bruce to have finished by June.

Action Item-fill out Application Form JK.-completed at meeting  
Website-Conuma River-bad link-Gold River Watershed Committee-XXX?. Conuma should find out who put the link on the Conuma website. Deb to bring to Steve's attention.

-Put some of the fish back into the net pen even if taking the Rod and Gun Pool, if have to week through the fish for ID of DNA and origin. Weir is up on the upper Gold River. Will move it to the Oktwanch but should not rely absolutely on that due to the late nature of the Oktwanch run.

### **Action items**

ROGER-TOR

DEB-DANCE

JIM DAVIS-LODGE SIGNS

PAT DENNISON-Invite GRAHAM and MEL, Clough prioritize projects-special meeting  
-earlier the better-

DEB CLEMENSON-LETTER FOR PLASTIC PLUS

PAT DENNISON-CREEL SURVEY at Cougar-random dates

SEATON TAYLOR-Alistair CPUE updates

JIM DAVIS-draft letter to Coastal Plan for notification

ROGER-Operating procedures-

PAT-repaid for uniserve, Roger to get signing authority.

DAVE DAVIES-AGREEMENT WITH BRUCE

JENN KOCH-Add Oktwanch fence to June agenda.

Motion to adjourn meeting-9:19pm moved by Dick all in favour.