

Watershed Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 29 October, 2003 in the Western Forest Products Meeting Room

Present:

Jim Mitchell- Village of Gold River/Stream Keepers; Paul Smith- Stream Keepers; Domenico Iannidinardo- WFP; Pat Dennison- Gold River; Jim Murphy- Grieg Seafoods; Lee Ann Adair- Grieg Seafoods; Dick Dennison- Gold River Rod and Gun

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

2.0 Introductions around the table

3.0 Changes/additions/approval of agenda

Paul added update on Stewardship Project to unfinished business. Agenda approved by consensus.

4.0 Changes or additions to minutes of the previous meeting

None

5.0 Old business arising from the minutes

Pat asked about contact with Elizabeth Thompson regarding the PowerPoint presentation on SARA. Jim commented that to date there has been no response, but he will not give up. Paul laid out the previous boundary map created when the watershed committee was formed, for everyone to see. Everyone agreed that this was what he or she was looking for and more in tune to what we could handle. Jim stated that this was what Morris was talking about at the previous meeting. Decision was made to wait until after election and creation of society before finalizing the boundaries. Paul talked about the concrete weir and the discussions with Doug Swift regarding the removal of the center blocks only, in the summer. Paul commented that there would be no letter of support from First Nations as they've already stated verbally to Roger Dunlop that they support our committee. Roger feels that a verbal commitment is enough. Dick asked if they would be taking a seat at the table once we've become a legal entity. Jim commented that until treaty issues are settled they have become cautious about sitting at any table, as it is perceived to have their full support regarding all issues. Comment was made that we just were told that they support us so what's the big deal. Paul and Jim stated that we would reserve a seat at the table for them for when they choose to attend. Paul updated everyone on the status of the PDF document on hatchery carcasses standards. Email Paul if you would like a digital copy. Discussion followed on the upper Conuma River and the previous benefits from carcass placement. Should we be placing carcasses in a system where no anadromous fish are present? Yes, because of the nutritional value provided to the resident Trout. Besides the upper Conuma River has also been utilised by releasing Coho smolts for the last 20 years. The Sucwoa River was discussed as a good candidate also. The letter to WFP was approved with some minor changes. Paul talked about the importance of promoting our upcoming election to ensure that there is good representation. Discussion followed on the pros and cons of having technical members standing as directors and whether there was any conflict of interest. Jim talked about the ability and right to excuse

oneself from discussions if a conflict is deemed to be present. We need to have a diverse base of members and directors to make this work. Everyone agreed. Paul talked about his discussions with Steve Emmonds regarding DFO's lack of participation at the table. Steve told Paul that he has been told by his superior to only attend when asked to do so as DFO shouldn't be steering the process the community should. Jim commented that he disagrees with this and will look into it a little more. Discussion followed on the importance of having someone from the hatchery to answer technical questions regarding enhancement when they arise like the carcass discussions earlier. Jim updated everyone on the brood capture for Muchalat River Chinook that took place in mid October. In attendance were DFO, Gold River Stream Keepers, Gold River Rod and Gun Club, and some of the high school students that have been involved in the stewardship education project put on by the Stream Keepers. The first set wasn't all that productive, but the second set produced more than enough females for the 100,000 egg quota. Unfortunately most of the females were green and because there was no holding net had to be released. Five ripe females were spawned and enough milt taken from the males to mix back at the hatchery. DNA, Otilith and scale samples were taken from the fish killed. Paul added that everyone would be getting together again this Friday to try and get the remaining eggs before it's too late. Jim updated everyone on the stewardship project with the high school students. There was a field trip starting at the Hutchinson Creek Side Channel and then moving on to a riparian planting project at Big Bend Creek under the power lines. The day was a successful one with over 300 native plants planted alongside the creek.

6.0 Minutes of previous meeting approved by consensus

7.0 Correspondence

Under correspondence there was a newsletter from Lisa DeGoes (DFO) of the old HCSP program and Paul commented that he would start forwarding to all members when he receives it. Bill Heidrick's letter on the "Sensitive Area Order" designation of the west coast of Nootka Island was discussed next. Everyone agreed that more research is needed into this. Next was the public announcement of relocating Luna (L98). Discussion followed on whether he should have been moved in the beginning instead of being allowed to become more humanized. Dave Davies' letter on the public meeting concerning SEP cuts to the Burman, Conuma and Gold Rivers. The meeting addressed most concerns and it was agreed not to affect the production of the Conuma Hatchery to allow for collecting of Burman and Gold River brood stock. Paul commented that it was good to have DFO asking for input for a change instead of telling us how it is going to be. The upcoming workshops on SARA were next on the agenda and it was agreed that someone from the committee should try and attend the meeting in Campbell River.

8.0 New Business

Jim talked about the motion from the Gold River Stream Keepers to the watershed committee concerning the FDP in the upper Hutchinson Creek watershed. Some members have noticed new falling boundary ribbons and have concerns considering the money spent in the lower sections of the watershed and the high agri-forestry values in the area. The motion was accepted and Jim will contact Clayton Smith for clarification and a possible

presentation to the Stream Keepers. Members of the Stream Keepers should be encouraged to visit with WFP personnel to provide input also.

9.0 Action Items

1. Paul will contact Doug Swift to find out about the removal of the concrete weir on Hutchinson Creek for next summer.
2. Jim will research the west coast of Nootka Island designation by MOF.
3. Jim will try to attend the upcoming SARA workshop in Campbell River.
4. Jim will contact Clayton Smith to ask for a presentation to the Stream Keepers regarding the FDP of upper Hutchinson Creek.
5. Paul will ask someone from DFO to attend the January meeting to discuss their views of the numerous hydro projects in our area and the monitoring of approved projects already commenced.

10.0 Presentations

There were no presentations.

11.0 Open Discussion

Dick asked about the Meares Creek Hydro project and whether anyone has heard the rumours of blasting the lakebed and sediment problems associated with this. No one had heard anything about this. Paul also commented that he is concerned with the amount of garbage left lying around in the area where they are building the power poles etc. In his view this reflects the companies lack of commitment and disregard of the publics concerns in the beginning when they were seeking support.

12.0 Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 9:14 pm. Next meeting is on Wednesday, November 26, 2003 same time, same place.