

Watershed Committee

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday 24 September, 2003 in the Western Forest Products Meeting Room

Present:

Jim Mitchell- Village of Gold River/Stream Keepers; Pat Dennison- WFP; Morris McNally- Gold River Rod and Gun

1.0 Paul called the meeting to order at 7:12 p.m.

2.0 Introductions around the table

3.0 Changes/additions/approval of agenda

Paul added Roger's letter under correspondence. Agenda approved by consensus.

4.0 Changes or additions to minutes of the previous meeting

Jim commented that the previous minutes didn't reflect his correspondence with Elizabeth Thompson requesting a copy of the power point presentation given in Vancouver on the Species at Risk Act. She's out of the office.

5.0 Old business arising from the minutes

Pat flagged an omission under the "Guiding Principles" of the TOR the words "and survive" need to be added before "on it." and under the Goals section, the last sentence "Work with local government, interested parties and the public to develop joint solutions" should read "To be in a position to deal with all conservation, enhancement and stewardship that may arise." Discussion followed on the establishment of the committee boundaries. Morris commented that we should use Tahsis Inlet as the boundary line i.e.: Tsoowin River as half waypoint. Jim talked about the extra responsibility of trying to cover all of Nootka Sound as opposed to a smaller piece of the puzzle. We can always expand the boundaries if the need arises in the future. Pat asked about the role of the Chair and the number of directors required to form a society i.e.: does the chair, secretary/treasurer count as a director. Paul replied that the chair, secretary/treasurer are directors and the name is just a title. There has to be five directors for a society to be legal. Paul updated everyone on Doug Swift's approval of the removal of the concrete weir over the summer work window. Paul commented that he informed members of the rod and gun club in July and again in August that they could go ahead with the removal of the center sections of the weir. Now it's too late and will have to wait until next summer at which time another approval will have to be asked for. Some discussion followed on the status of the final report from Dave Clough and Domenico Iannidinardo and whether we will ever see it. Paul commented that we have to be patient as this was being done as an in kind donation to save the rod and gun club money. Comment was made that no restoration work can be done to Hutchinson Creek until this report is completed and the club has been waiting over two years now. Paul updated everyone on the legal number for a quorum for a society under the Society Act being no less than 3 or a number decided upon by the society. Jim commented that the reason 3 is a good number, is that it encourages participation by all members. Paul talked about not being able to connect with Roger Dunlop on

the letter of support for the committee from First Nations due to workloads by both members.

6.0 Minutes of previous meeting approved by consensus

7.0 Correspondence

Paul talked about the correspondence from Maggie Paquette responding to the Cook Inlet oil and gas exploration propaganda tour. Jim commented that this is a federal responsibility. Paul stated that maybe so, but it is important to BC and should be taken seriously by all. It was agreed that this was beyond the scope of our goals and that we will stay informed with the process. Paul talked about the letter from Warren Warttig on the placement of hatchery carcasses in streams for nutrient enrichment. Paul commented that there is a part two to this letter defining the standards for implementing hatchery carcasses in streams. He didn't bring a copy, as it was too large. Discussions followed on the benefits of carcasses and nutrient enrichment to local lakes and streams. Next up was Tom Pater's letter from the Regional District of Comox/Strathcona on their motion regarding the application for tenure on the west coast of Nootka Island. Jim stated that the RD refused to sign off on this because it didn't meet the criteria established by the Nootka Coastal Land Use Plan that Land and Water BC signed off on. Paul talked about receiving a document a while back from LWBC that this is the way they're going to move based on input and support from the various tourism associations in BC. Roger's letter stated that he doesn't need help on the stock status report and asked if we would like a map of Mowachaht/Muchalaht territory boundaries to help define watershed committee boundaries. Response was that WFP already has such a map and it was used to create the existing draft map.

8.0 New Business

A tentative date was set for the meeting in November to elect the directors for registering as a society. Jim discussed forming a fund raising committee at some point and he would like to volunteer to lead this committee. Everyone agreed that this was an important step towards maintaining our presence and achieving our goals. Kudos was given to Jim at this point for his fundraising to date for the Gold River Streamkeepers Society. Paul updated everyone on the "Rivers Day" events taking place in Nootka Sound. Morris commented that the rod and gun will be volunteering to collect brood stock from the Tlupana River on that day also.

9.0 Action Items

1. Jim will continue to try and connect with Elizabeth Thompson.
2. All members will continue to work on boundary issues until resolved.
3. Paul will talk with Doug Swift on getting approval for removal of Hutchinson Creek concrete weir next summer.
4. Paul will contact Roger Dunlop to discuss letter of support from First Nations.
5. Paul will send out copy of standards for placement of hatchery carcasses in streams to all members if they request it.
6. Paul will draft up a letter of thanks to WFP specifically Owen Green and Murray Watkinson.
7. All members will promote the upcoming election of directors and incorporation of the watershed committee.

10.0 Presentations

There were no presentations.

11.0 Open Discussion

Jim talked about the need to find out why our watershed manager isn't attending our meetings and he will try and contact Al Gould to inquire about this.

12.0 Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned at 8:32 pm. Next meeting is on Wednesday, October 29, 2003 same time, same place.