

Nootka Sound Watershed Society  
Minutes  
Monday June 22, 2015  
Conuma Hatchery  
5:30 Dinner, meeting to Follow

**1. Welcome and Introductions – 6:50pm**

Attendance:

Kent O'Neil, President Dick Dennison, Vice President Cheryle Miner, Treasurer Lyndy Vroom, Secretary Roger Dunlop, Past President Pat Dennison, GR Resources Marcel Miner, GR Streamkeepers Ken Smith, GR Streamkeepers Frank Collins, Tahsis Hatchery Lucille Collins, Tahsis Hatchery	Louis VanSolkema, Councillor, Village of Tahsis Debbie VanSolkema, Tahsis resident Paul Kutz, Western Forest Products Marilyn Hutchinson, Grieg Seafood Elmar Nabbe, Zeballos School Dave Davies, DFO, Community Advisor Chris Erikson, DFO, Operations Manager, Conuma Mike Austin, DFO, Watershed Enhancement Manager, Conuma Mel Sheng, DFO, Section Head SEP
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2. Review and adopt of the Agenda – Moved by Dick. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Pat. All in favour. Motion carried
3. Review and adopt of the minutes May 27, 2015 – Moved by Louis. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Dick. All in favour. Motion carried
4. Review of action items from May 27, 2015 meeting

Action Items:

Action	Who	Completed
Keep in contact with Sean Wong, Ministry of Transportation	<b>ACTION -MARCEL</b>	Too late to do work in 2015, they are working on plan for 2016 to put weirs in. Verbal agreement in place
Marine Harvest Donation	Dick to do with Jason	Off the table – Done
Letter to Minister re: budget cuts with DFO, the impacts / effects that has.	Kent	Ongoing
Terms of Reference – Review them in the Fall		Review next Fall.
Price out coho clipping costs	Lyndy	Ongoing – follow up by email
Thank you letter to Village for use of arena for our Workshop	Kent	Done
Request Final Bill and Report from M. Wright and Associates	Kent	Done – Final report to be circulated by email

June 28<sup>th</sup> Moutcha Bay derby – need a NSWS representative present – Kent, Dick, Pat plan to attend.

**5. Old Business**

Proposed NSWS Coordinator Position – no further info at this time. **ACTION -Kent** to ask Tawny if we will be required to pay anything, possibly an admin fee? West Coast Aquatic will be funding this position. It would be hard to follow up on habitat assessment without someone to keep track of it all keep it going – need to find the right person.

PSF – working on final report for funding - **ACTION**-Lyndy –pictures, put in order for all supplies (replacements) feeder, etc. Breakdown of in kind (trucking, hatchery staff, feeder, boat use)

a. Habitat Update –

Final Reports/ Invoice – M.Wright – final invoice was handed in by M. Wright

**ACTION** – Roger/ Ken to provide Kent with original contract, follow up with sub-committee by email to finalize.

Roger – handed out a paper on restoring the watershed, pointed out the findings on pg 15 review for stream restoration techniques

Frank –spoke on the idea of dredging in Tahsis River – the main brood holding pool in the Tahsis has filled in, making it very hard for the volunteers to get their broodstock. Fisheries Resource Restoration team – Kirby, Doug and Shannon came for a site visit– no report supplied yet – but discussed digging out the pool but build a structure to create a natural scour / rock riffle structure upstream – too late to do this for this fall but talked about just digging out the pool this fall and hope that it may hold for a bit.

**ACTION** – Dave to talk to Kirby to get report and get back to Frank on ideas may be too late for anything but a dig out this year.

**ACTION** -Dave to write a section 9 application to the province to do the dig

b. Hatchery Update-

Zeballos Hatchery–had some DFO contractors came to tour with a few recommendations. They have 7 students getting involved. M.Wright was there to help set up a monitoring program – this is also a great way to get the kids involved.

Elmar asking the board if we could extend our habitat assessments to include Zeballos River and have M. Wright do an assessment there.

Doing chum only for now, using cap troughs for now but looking at circular tubs in the future The Band curious about satellite hatchery – Zeballos -look at how this works –It was suggested to just do chum for now and keep a count on Chinook adults returning to the river and go from there. There are a lot of issues with distance/ transportation time for both eggs and fry.

Tahsis Hatchery– Frank – fish were released-all looking good at time of release, they did have a rope break on their automatic feeder in a wind storm resulting in the feeder flipping and submerging. The volunteers then went out twice a day to hand feed the fish. Happy to find battery still good (it came up at release in the bottom of the net.– Things are good- final release was about 70,000 Leiner chinook and 8000 Tahsis chinook which were released into the river

Conuma Hatchery– Chris handed out the current status report showing final release numbers for the Chum and Chinook programs, and the Coho that is still onsite – they will be adipose clipped and released as smolts next spring. In preparation for our fall program we have installed a chain-link fence around the perimeter of our adult holding ponds, keep bear predation down. We have approval to take an extra 150,000 Chinook from the Gold River numbers as well as increase the Coho numbers with help from Moutcha Bay. The new collaborative agreement with Fisheries and Oceans is currently being finalized and we should have a copy soon – it will be a two year agreement. First installment to be paid Sept 1, 2015. Motion to pay fist installment of collaborative agreement. Moved by Cheryle. 2nd by Marilyn. All in favour. Motion carried.

c. Fisheries Management / Area 25 Harvest Committee updates – Report from Area 25 Harvest Committee – June 4<sup>th</sup>

Phone meeting – Stewardship committee fish after creel survey 5<sup>th</sup> Aug by 6<sup>th</sup> we should have stewardship fishery happening. 6 gillnets - 3 use 61/4” net and 3 use 8” net – discussed expanding the boundary to camel rock to capture enough fish for a commercial fishery, nice fish – some cost to boats, gillnetter opening the 11<sup>th</sup> 4000 females total, 15000 males, everything to be sampled where delivered to ensure only 4000 females

Roger talking about the # that they are taking on the Burman – relying more on local sampling as there is no troller here. 3<sup>rd</sup> week of July to do a fishery with 250 fish to get an idea of numbers. Was the Burman boundary moved?

Another conference call this Wed June 24<sup>th</sup> at 2pm – discussing the Stewardship fish

Roger gave us a brief report on his findings on the Burman **Action** – Roger to send Lyndy a copy of his presentation (if anyone else is interested please email myself or Roger for a copy)

**6. New Business**

Beach seine in Tahsis estuary – June 3 – Fisheries and Oceans staff with the help of Tahsis Student Emily, and local volunteer Marcel – seined 4 sites, experimental, caught tons of Chinook fry, this was in relation to the habitat report to check out the Tahsis estuary, this was just a good start, the plan is to continue in the future to document findings in the estuary.

Dick was approached by the Junior Rangers enquiring about holding a Streakkeepers course in Gold River, they may have funding for the course but want help in setting it up. **ACTION** – Dave Davies to contact Dave Clough

**7. Correspondence**

Stream Reports – 2012&2013 Conuma Monitoring Reports, Conuma off-channel Monitor report, Stream 11 5yr & final report – distributed electronically by Kent

Meetings at Tsaxana – Sarah Harrison – offering waived fees for the boardroom for our meetings.

Email re: Sampling Algae Bloom on WCVI – Roger Dunlop

**8. Financial Report** - Financial report was presented and read by Cheryle. Motion to adopt financial report, and sign cheques. Moved by Pat. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Paul. All in favour. Motion carried.

Cheque from DFO for \$Dunlop fence – 900

Pat handed in fist collection of membership fees \$900

**9. Next Meeting** - Wednesday September 9<sup>th</sup> 7pm at Tsaxana

**ACTION** – Roger to book Tsaxana Council of Chiefs Room

**10. Adjournment** – Moved by Cheryle

**HAVE A GREAT SUMMER!**