

Nootka Sound Watershed Society  
Meeting Minutes  
Wednesday September 28, 2016  
The Lodge at Gold River 7:00pm

1. Welcome and Introductions –

Attendance:

Kent O'Neill, President Cheryle Miner, Treasurer Lyndy Vroom, Secretary Rick Jones, GR Rod and Gun James Fisher, Nootka Marine Adventures	Marcel Miner, GR Streamkeepers Craig Blackie, Grieg Seafood Chris Erikson, DFO, Conuma Hatchery Dave Davies, DFO, Community Advisor
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1. Review and adopt of the Agenda – Moved by Cheryle. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Craig. All in favour. Motion carried.
2. Review and adopt of the minutes June 22, 2016 – Moved by Cheryle. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Marcel. All in favour. Motion carried.
3. Review of action items from June 22, 2016 meeting

Action Items: NEW ITEMS

Action	Who	Completed
Letter requesting funding help from NSW to support MMFN creel survey at the GR boat ramp	Kadin (Kent)	Letter did come in through the summer, need to get a report from Kadin as to what happened, need a bill, some sort of paperwork  <b>ACTION</b> -Kent -to talk to Kadin re: paperwork for creel  <b>ACTION</b> – Kent to ask Kadin re: ESSR Chinook Taken from Conuma, how it went (These are fish that are taken above escapement)
Tahsis Water leases – does WFP hold them? Still active? ask Paul Kutz	Dave / Craig	Craig did a preliminary search
Follow up with Bruce re: final brochure	Kent	Ongoing
Send Kent brochure quotes	Bruce	Ongoing with the brochure for next year
Talk to Jason re: Restorative Justice	Kent	Ongoing

Action Items: ONGOING ITEMS

Action	Who	Completed
Letter to Minister re: budget cuts with DFO, the impacts / effects that has.	Kent	ONGOING – has started - Kent has asked for input and he is looking at serious letter writing.
Terms of Reference		ONGOING Kent looking at a simpler version and will present to us at another meeting.
Ongoing discussion with gillnetters re:stewardship fish	Dick/ Kent	ONGOING

4. Old Business

a. **Fisheries Stewardship Coordinator - Kent**

Kent discussed what he and Tawney talked about regarding funding for continuing on with a Stewardship Coordinator. The possibility of continuing with some of the smaller educational project that involve the local communities, fundraising projects, things of that nature.

**ACTION** – Kent to follow up with Tawney and email the group see if Tawney can facilitate what we do and how we do it.

PSF grant for the Tahsis estuary habitat monitoring program – **MOTION** made to purchase the list of supplies needed for the estuary monitoring program. Moved by Rick. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Cheryle. All in favour. Motion carried.  
(To be stored in a tote at Conuma Hatchery)

PSF funding – Final report for the Transport tank - **ACTION** -Cheryle to do final report – Lyndy to send pics and original invoices

b. **Big Bend Creek Project Report** –Marcel reports that they project is complete, work was done this summer by Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure, hiring local contractors to aid in the work. This work was done to assist fish passage at Big Bend Creek (culvert under road by highways yard in Gold River)  
**ACTION**– Cheryle - need to finalize accounting for Big Bend project

c. **Hatchery Update –**

**Conuma Hatchery** – Chris read the status report – Chinook targets met, we have the Gold River Chinook holding at the hatchery. Starting to see chum and hope to see more in the weeks to come. With the increase in the Gold, and meeting all targets there will be an increase in costs for the NSWs – in fish food.  
Discussion on how to count the Gold River, to get numbers for stock assessment, the goal being to have a fishery on the Gold River Chinook.  
More discussion regarding rearing a group of Conuma Chinook on surface water – rear on cold water from the start lower survival as unfed fry river release but diversified the release. - ONGOING

Current swim count numbers for chinook are; 20,000 Conuma, 8000 Canton, 5000 Tlupana, 11000 Burman

**James Fisher** – Nootka Marine Adventures has committed to pay for the cost of the Coho clipping. Contract clippers are starting Monday Oct 3<sup>rd</sup> to adipose clip the Coho  
**ACTION** – Lyndy to send James the fish food costs

**Tahsis Hatchery** – Tahsis and Leiner River chinook – target met of 300,000 Chinook eggs

**Zeballos Hatchery** - email update from Elmar Nabbe...read by kent

*We have our brood production target of 20,000 chum fry for this year.*

- 1. The current status of the hatchery is adequate for rearing and with the great work we did last year; I think we are in good shape for achieving this target.*
- 2. We are being joined Charles John, hired specifically by the band to work with the school/band partnership on the hatchery (and other) projects. Charles is very enthusiastic about this opportunity to contribute to local enhancement and stewardship initiatives. Charles will be looking after this portion of the band fisheries manager's duties while Lyle Billy is on leave.*
- 3. Stacey Larsen (DFO-CA) and Dave Ewart (DFO contractor) will be in on Monday along with two DFO engineers to further develop plans for upgrading the existing water system at the hatchery. Things are moving forward with our plans to upgrade the hatchery with kind assistance from DFO, Greig Seafood, Totem Excavating and other partners.*

*We would also like to request: The funds (\$5,000) set aside for our hatchery and held by the NSWs be held by the NSWs for a little while longer,*

*We have a list of current needs that our DFO-CA has been able to meet, so we will not need to access the funds for thoseWe need to upgrade our hatchery and would like to be able to access those funds to leverage additional funding for these upgrades from PSF or other funding providers.*

*The availability of these funds is a key element in allowing us to move forward on this project. Much work has already gone into moving it forward. Unfortunately things often seem to take a little longer than we would like.*

d. **Fisheries Management / Area 25 Harvest Committee updates** - next in person meeting to be held mid- Nov

6. **New Business –**

**New PSF funding** - deadline Oct 15 – the next round of funding comes in Feb.

**Side Channel** – Craig – Grieg Seafood has been doing the required monitoring of the Conuma side channel for the past three years; it has good growth, coverage. Grieg has agreed to remove the small amount of exotics (blackberries) and then has put in a request to DFO that the habitat monitoring be called complete. **ACTION** – Craig to send out the report that was done on the Conuma side channel to all

7. **Correspondence –**

**Elmar** (read in the Zeballos report)

**Westview Marina** – email requesting a letter from the NSWS as to where funds donated from Westview Marina were used, for the purpose of showing their guest and clients where their donations go.

**ACTION** – Kent to write a letter for Westview Marina and Nootka Marine Adventures re: where does your donation go

8. **Financial Report –**

Financial Report was read by Cheryle.

**MOTION** to accept financial report Moved by Craig. 2<sup>nd</sup> by Rick. All in favour. Motion carried

9. **Next Meeting** - Wednesday October 26 – Council of Chiefs Room, Tsaxana, 7pm

10. **Adjournment – 9:09pm**