

Nootka Sound Watershed Society
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday Nov 30, 2016
WFP Boardroom 7:00pm

1. Welcome and Introductions –

Attendance:

Kent O'Neill, President Lyndy Vroom, Secretary Ken Smith, GR Streamkeepers Section Paul Kutz, Western Forest Products Frank Collins, Tahsis Salmon Enhancement Sam Kagan, Stewardship Coordinator (past) Darcy Curr, Councillor, Village of Gold River Louis VanSolkema, Councillor, Village of Tahsis Elmar Nabbe, Zeballos Hatchery Lynda Fyfe, Juniper Environmental	Marcel Miner, GR Streamkeepers Craig Blackie, Grieg Seafood Chris Erikson, DFO, Conuma Hatchery Mike Austin, DFO, Conuma Hatchery Dave Davies, DFO, Community Advisor Roger Dunlop, GR Resident Stacey Larson, DFO, Community Advisor Charles John, Zeballos Hatchery
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2. Review and adopt of the Agenda – Moved by Paul. 2nd by Frank. All in favour. Motion carried
3. Review and adopt of the minutes Oct 26, 2016 – Moved by Ken. 2nd by Paul. All in favour. Motion carried
4. Review of action items from Oct 26, 2016 meeting -

Action Items: NEW ITEMS

Action	Who	Completed
Tahsis Water leases – does WFP hold them? Still active? ask Paul Kutz	PAUL to follow up on this from Tahsis to Leiner waters to see if / what owned by personal/companies. Stacey may be able to help gather information with the licence office.	Some preliminary work has been done A lot of the leases have reverted to the crown – water licence website that names who owns what.
Follow up with brochure / quotes for printing	Kent / James (may have some ideas for printing)	Ongoing
Final Report for PSF transport tank	Cheryle	Ongoing – Lyndy found originals and will drop at Cheryle's
Conuma side channel report	Craig	Ongoing

Overview maps / look at riparian work	Roger	Discussing streams altered by logging, we need to put a plan in process to bring the wood back, need more than the forest practice code to do this, Roger wants to look at this on larger scale map to address this and start the work for a long term 1000+ year outlook. Climate change coming making things worse for the fish in the rivers. Do regulations cover us as far as we need to go in order to fix our problem. Old logging practices may have been quite different. What capacity do we have to deal with this as our group Ecosystem based management – EBM – Stacey Larsen - may have some good protocol that can help us - already in place. This was great for the Great Bear Rainforest - And it involved all stakeholders. Roger – would like to present this through a power point presentation
Add Fisheries Habitat to agenda	Lyndy	Done
Thank you letter/ certificate – Pat/Dick	Kent/Lyndy	Ongoing
Wild Salmon Policy – open house discussion	Kent – to circulate email	Done – Roger is going
Check if there was a past motion to use/ change the Lodge Owners funds	Kent	Ongoing
Signage/ pictures at big bend –	Who to task??	

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.
Talk to Jason re: Restorative Justice	Kent	Kent did have some conversation with Jason.

5. **Old Business**

Sam was asked to leave the room for this discussion

a. **Fisheries Stewardship Coordinator - Kent**

Kent re: his discussions with Tawney.

There is more funding through West Coast Aquatic, however funding is for one person and it equates to half the amount of funds available than last year. Kent wanted to bring to the table the idea of the NSW putting in some additional monies to help fund this position. **MOTION** was made by Roger for the NSW to contribute an additional \$4000 to the stewardship coordinator position. Moved by Roger. 2nd by Louis. All in favour. Motion carried.

The board discussed and decided as a group to re-hire Sam Kagan for this position, to continue on with the work she had previously started. Objectives will be; social media & website, fundraising campaign – membership drive packages for lodges, finalize brochure, continuing the Tahsis River estuary project and look at one for Gold River.

ACTION – Kent to follow up with Tawney, to finalize contract.

b. **Fisheries Habitat**

Roger reported that there is a washout/ problem with a culvert on East Canton

IPP on Cypress Creek – head tank clogged up – no water below the project – reported to RAPP

Marcel reports on Big Bend – live spawning count – Oct 28 – 27 coho pairs, Nov 27 – 8 fish actively spawning. 6 fish were spotted above the pipe.

c. **Hatchery Update**

Conuma – Status report was read – most Chinook and Chum targets met however came up shy on the coho. Craig informed the group that through Grieg Seafoods he was able to get a donation from Skretting for 1 ton of 1.5 mm fish food (about a \$4500 donation!). Fish food order will be going in before the end of the year. The order for the NSWS will be about \$13,000. **MOTION** to commit up to \$15,000 to cover the cost of feed. Moved by Roger. 2nd by Craig. All in favour. Motion carried.

Tahsis – Frank reports total Chinook counts were 1300 Leiner river, 200 Tahsis River. The total count of eggs taken – 157,305 Leiner Chinook and 74,000 Tahsis Chinook. They are getting a new seine net made for next fall. Happy to report that they have some new young recruits that are actively becoming involved. Vaccine request – (Dave Davies) – **MOTION** to pay for 3 bottles of vaccine @ 330/ bottle out of the funds earmarked for Tahsis Hatchery. Moved by Roger. 2nd by Louis. All in favour. Motion carried.

Zeballos – Elmar reports on all the work they have been doing with habitat restoration, upgrades at the hatchery, install of circular tubs, improving the water system. Chuck (new fish tech for Zeballos hatchery) reports that they have 15,000 chum eggs in the hatchery. They are looking at different ways to improve their fishing techniques for next year. Very fun and rewarding to have the school kids involved.

d. **Roger Dunlop** – wants the group to think about making a motion for mating protocols – size/sort.

Referencing paper written –

Early male maturity explains a negative correlation in reproductive success between hatchery-spawned salmon and their naturally spawning progeny

Michael Ford¹, Andrew Murdoch², & Sharon Howard¹

Also discussed the issues of straying and named the 21 different genetic stocks that were in Nootka Sound and now just one- would like to further these discussions in future. Dave Davies added that DFO scientists and geneticists are currently looking into this and what protocols should be put in place to deal with this.

e. **Fisheries Management / Area 25 Harvest Committee updates**

No date set yet for the post season meeting.

Kent has asked for someone to step forward as an alternate representative of the NSWS to attend these meetings.

Louis VanSolkema has offered to take on that role.

Sam also requested that she be invited to sit in on one of these meetings.

6. **New Business**

Craig Blackie, Grieg Seafoods reports on the humpback fatality at Atrevida farm. Unfortunately the whale got into the net pen from below, was discovered alive so they were able to drop the net in hopes that it would swim out. A whale was spotted nearby and it was hoped that that was the whale that had been in their pen. It was not, and the whale was found deceased in the pen. It was removed and towed away. Grieg reports that there was no fish losses and they are looking into how this happened and measures they can take to correct problems so that this can hopefully be prevented in the future.

7. **Correspondence**

No incoming

Outgoing – Cheryle sent Thank you letters out

8. **Financial Report**

Financial Report was read by Kent.

MOTION to accept financial report Moved by Louis. 2nd by Kent. All in favour. Motion carried

9. **Next Meeting** - Wednesday January 25, 2017 - Tsaxana

10. **Adjournment** – 9:22pm - Roger