

Nootka Sound Watershed Society  
 Draft Agenda  
 Wednesday May 31, 2017  
 WFP Boardroom, Gold River, BC 7pm

1. Welcome and Introductions –

Attendance:

Kent O’Neill - President, NSWS Teresa O’Neill - Treasurer, NSWS Dave Davies - DFO Community Advisor Lyndy Vroom - Conuma Hatchery Roger Dunlop - Nuchalnuh Biologist Marcel - GR Resident	Frank Collins - Tahsis Salmon Enhancement Society Steve Bradley - GR resident, fence volunteer Louis Vansolkema - Village of Tahsis Craig Blackie - Grieg Seafood Paul Kutz - Western Forest Products Sam Kagan - Secretary, NSWS
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2. Review and adopt of the Agenda – Motion: Craig 2nd: Teresa
3. Review and adopt of the minutes April 29, 2017 – Motion: Teresa 2nd: Louis
4. Review of action items from May 31, 2017 meeting -

Action Items: NEW ITEMS

Action	Who	Completed
Look into whats left to do at Big Bend	Kent and Sam	Ongoing
Send Kent PSF and NSWS logo	Sam	Done
Send Sam Rupert Wong’s report	Kent	Done

Action Items: ONGOING ITEMS

Action	Who	Completed
Conuma side channel report	Craig – to distribute by email	Done
Signage/ pictures at Big Bend –	Sam and Craig	Ongoing
Letter to Minister re: budget cuts with DFO, the impacts / effects that has.	Kent	Ongoing Kent has talked to Dave Davies, Jason Knight and Wilf Leudke about their input and concerns, will continue taking input from stakeholders.
Terms of Reference	Kent	Ongoing - societies act has changed

5. Old Business

a. **Fisheries Stewardship Coordinator Report**

Sam presented report verbally -  
 Estuary monitoring is going well, Tahsis has had good community participation while Gold River logistics are still limiting number of participants (ie. sites only accessible by boat). Waiting on a response from MMFN about use of safe site.  
 Brochures - are done and ready for pick up, while posters need to be tweaked - photos are too pixelated at large size. Please send any higher quality photos you have to Sam.  
**Kent** - Speaking with Tawney about funding for collaborative estuary work  
**Roger** - need to get temporal data to get worthwhile information  
**Roger** - Grieg has info on out migrating salmon

b. **Fisheries Habitat**

i. **Roger** - invited by village of Tahsis to give Habitat talk. Asked to come back and talk to public.

**Louis** - would like to see bigger issues addressed, eg. TFL is failing and not enough riparian work is happening - we need collaboration between us, First Nations and all stakeholders. He would like to see us take old of restoration opportunities in Nootka Sound.

**Roger** - made up draft motions in January to deal with imprinting issue - Invited to SCVII treaty stock meeting - Ruth Withler (DFO geneticist) showed that the Conuma and Burman genetics have been converging (due to non selective breeding) - not weeding out Conuma fish. Even in the Burman, when we enhance we're often using Conuma adults as they are not marked externally.

Solution: mark hatchery fish externally... we need to stop using fish that have been through hatchery only use naturally spawned individuals, and ideally only enhance with naturally spawned adults

**Dave** - DFO would like to mark every fish, but there are constraints (budget).

ii. **Marcel** - Fish fence to come down this Friday (June 2nd). **ACTION:** Marcel will give Sam data to compile

**Roger** - also have data on Big Bend from previous years

c. **Hatchery Update**

**Conuma -**

**Lyndy** - Hope is to clip the coho sooner than later (August) when round tubs are ready, depends on funding tubs, timing, clipper availability.

- Jake has neat footage overlooking Conuma Sea Pens where you can see the influence from Conuma River.

**Dave** - Muchalat reared fish had a higher survival over Gold River raised fish

**Roger** - its not about survival but about returns - Muchalat fish are better imprinted and come back. No counting because of lack of marking, but we need to know the proportion of fish showing up at non-natal streams. Now that we have moved Conuma pens over closer to Conuma influence, AND Muchalat rearing pen, we have essentially removed our control (pens located outside of strong Conuma influence)

**Tahsis -**

**Frank**- all Chinook released, portion of fry released into river instead of transported to Sea Pens. TSES has a new secretary (Ricki Moore) and Treasurer (Danielle Hozempa). With their help will buy PSK insurance this year.

TSES is having two problems:

i. Fresh/surface pipeline is 35 years old and failed this winter due to dips causing air locks. A team from Tahsis will survey it and determine cost of cranking it up to eliminate dips.

ii. Sea pens - one is 15 years old, walkways rusted thru, had meeting with group - Frank got quote for 50X50 pen = \$50 000 each.

**Craig** - have pens on east coast, testing structural integrity

**Kent** - Can apply to PSF with leverage from Griegs

**Zeballos -**

**Kent** - Paul, Kent and Craig went up for fry release - amazing event, lots of participation. Good energy behind that program. First Nation is motivated to keep things going, but infrastructure issues. Interested in approaching Area D to contribute to supporting the Zeballos SEP.

**Dave** - Charlie has been learning lots from Elmar and would be a good candidate to one day take over.

**Craig** - Lawrence ( superintendent of Zeballos School District) knows that they need a replacement that will live up to Elmar.

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

**Kent** - Stewardship fishery - Kadin presented and there resistance from roundtable. Kadin and Kent decided that relationships around the table were more important in the long run. Came back to table retracting the proposal, and instead discussed the lodges being more committed to lobbying for fundraising. Area D will look into bringing in money as percentage of their catch at dock.

**Dave** - Can this come down to a memorandum of understanding between NSWS, Area D and Lodge owners?

**Kent** - that is the idea, also received correspondence from Alaska Troll Association, they are interested in supporting us.

**Dave** - should talk to Wilf about going the AKA route - may have implications on the PST

**Roger** - may want to consider hedging some money

**6. New Business**

**a. DFO budget cuts**

Dave - last week DFO announced cuts to community involvement side of the Salmon Enhancement Program, including Stream to Sea (school education programs) technical support, restorations biologists and engineers. Today the Minister of Fisheries announced 1.5billion into Oceans Protection Program, ie. emergency response funding, Coast Guard.

Sam - Can we take an official stance as NSWS about these cuts - DFO technical staff have been imperative to my stewardship programs (Streamkeepers, Estuary monitoring)

Paul - other stewardship groups are in the media with their comments on these cuts

**ACTION:** Sam to draft a response to DFO cuts for NSWS approval

**Marcel** - make sure to include media of our efforts, Canada's 150th is coming up, may be a good time to highlight our efforts

**b. New NSWS labourer for collaborative agreement**

**Lyndy** - Mike wants a list of candidates from MMFN for pre-screening.

**ACTION:** Lyndy to send Sam job description for posting online

**ACTION:** Sam to post job description online

**Roger:** lets highlight Shane Christianson and his accomplishments through NSWS labourer position

**c. Collaborative Agreement**

**Dave** - needs to be finalized ASAP

**ACTION:** Kent to speak with Mike re:finalizing collaborative agreement

**7. Correspondence**

**a. Request for funding to send children to Uu-a-thluk Science Camp.**

**Motion:** to sponsor 5 children. **All in favour**

**8. Financial Report**

**Teresa:** Read and explained financial report.

**Motion to accept:** Roger **2nd:** Frank

**9. Next Meeting**

5:00pm on Thursday June 15th, 2017 at the Conuma River Hatchery.BBQ to be provided.

**Motion:**Craig **2nd:** Frank

**10. Adjournment**

**Motion:** Frank **2nd:** Kent