

## Joint Sport Fishing-First Nations Working Group

September 13, 2011

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Report by Peacemaker Corps
3. A tribute to Chris Gosslin
4. Report on Fraser River fishing access sites
5. Report on River manners and signage plans
6. Other

Robert Reyherse  
Ernie Crey  
Leigh McCracken  
Rod Clapton  
Chris Gosslin  
Murray Ned  
Rosalee  
Wayne Saito  
Dave Moore – notes

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1. Welcome and introductions

Welcome to Rosalee

2. Report by Peacemaker Corps
  - Success and thanks to Cheam for Community hospitality on August 30 “Relationship Building Event”
    - Welcome to Ernie Victor as Cheam’s new representative & Sto:lo Nation
  - Incidents on the Fraser during sockeye fishery and the status of group referrals (internal investigations into at least one incident is going)
    - An advanced e-mail from Frank Kwak was quickly referred back internally which is a good sign that the group is building an understanding about how to deal with it
    - RCMP flagged that the problem of an e-mail being sent out so broadly would have compromised any Crown prosecution if it had been more serious: it is important that the volunteer group of 8 should be aware that they may be called as witnesses and understand their liability
    - This is an example of how an initial assessment may lead to the proper authorities (enter the “Peace Keeper)
    - Consider a protocol with the RCMP to ensure that wherever possible the group of 8 is not called as witness

- Perhaps need to define a role for the RCMP, C&P, MOE (a participant observer or better it is suggested an advisor to the group?) in the group
- Important that the group focus on the learnings that come from the way the group wants to handle a situation
- There needs to be a step that involves a group decision to determine if something should be referred to the police
- Much more to the story to come and the group of 8 will be given a chance to ensure that the full scope of information is obtained by the group before deciding what to do about it
- How do we make sure that this does not get dropped
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- Discuss TOR and proposals for Chair of Peacemaker Corps
  - The process is accountable to the joint working group
  - Peacekeeper is more about force rather than emphasizing facilitation and proactive efforts to get along that this group is trying to do
  - Redefine this group will focus on non-tidal fisheries issues (not necessarily exclusive to salmon) in the lower Fraser Area (as defined by DFO Boundaries) focus on issues in-river below Sawmill Creek and from port Mann to Vancouver by nature of the representative scope of the Tribal Councils though referrals beyond this scope open by request
  - Largely focus on sport and First Nations but could include referrals into commercial fishing conflicts etc by the choice of the group
  - Group is inclined to inclusion rather than exclusion of areas and interests to be addressed
  - Consider training needs for group of 8
  - The group should appoint a chair or co-chairs
  - Change draft to interim

All in favour

- Question about cost and remuneration for infrastructure
- Need to define capacity needs
- Consider the need for an ongoing secretariat
- Consider formal consultation with MOE, RCMP and DFO, and LFFA (30 FN's)
- letter to respective groups inviting
- Need to prepare presentations to these groups
  - i) Commanding officer in Chilliwack RCMP and appropriate Regional contact
  - ii) MOE

### 3. A tribute to RCMP Corporal Chris Gosslin

- Presentation of a plaque from the group to Corporal Chris Gosslin, Chilliwack RCMP Aboriginal Policing
- Response “we (RCMP) brag about this process” and “it is important for the RCMP to know when to engage and when to pull back and let this group lead”
- Request that the Commander and negotiating team appoint a successor to this group

#### 4. Report on Fraser River fishing access sites

- Refer to attached report
- Next steps to meet again with Seabird and Chawathil
- Noted significant lands between Hwy#7 and Fraser River for local First Nations to consider development
- Some clearing of Alder trees has been initiated by Chawathil for parking but this needs to be revisited formally as there is a possible launch site
- Ernie Crey indicated Archie Charles site in Canyon was a good example of where partnerships with railway and similar experience in Siska
- Group emphasized that the plan is to find ways to make access infrastructure cost recoverable
- Tom Blackbird 604-824-2314 office or cell 604-819-1508? LMPA for lower Mainland section and Aboriginal Tourism BC could help
- Need to do a more thorough job of inventory and assessment of boat launches
- Need to revisit the mapping exercise and determine additional information needs to rank various sites and potential for development
- Also need to qualify areas as priority access or priority to avoid
- A next step includes defining plans for final report, consolidating material, identifying gaps
- September 30 presentation to the LFFA invited and maybe consider at that time ways to explore interests of lower Fraser First Nations

#### 5. Report on River manners and signage plans

- Noted signs of growing good will on the river
- LFFA has done another copy run of the River Manners pamphlet
- Reviewed the draft generic information sign that could be placed in several places around the lower Fraser
- The FV Angling Guides Association has offered to pay for signage at the Sumas boat launch
- The Fraser Salmon and Watershed’s program has some funding for signage and has asked for a proposal
- Consider the problem of technical capacity if using QR codes
- The messaging is good
- Pictures and maps would add readability to the sign

- Include a reference to the Peacemakers referral process
- Take the time to piece together the ideas and build a more formal plan and circulate to the group to fill in the gaps
- Slow it down, secure available funding, partner effectively with the First Nations in the area
- Noted that although maps of fishing areas may be culturally sensitive, it can be done by a local First Nation

6. Other

- Does the group want to do something about the rescue of James Douglas – FRST will follow up
- Wayne Saito went golfing instead of fishing on Saturday
- 9706-188<sup>th</sup> street new location for the new BCWF office