

## Peacemakers Meeting Summary Notes



**Date:** November 13, 2012

**Location:** Sumas First Nation Health Center

**Time:** 2 PM – 5 PM

This meeting is scheduled as one of a series of ongoing meetings (since 2009) involving the First Nations in the lower Fraser River and sport fishing organizations. The focus of this meeting will be a review of the Terms of Reference for Peacemakers (Lower Fraser River) working towards ratification. The group will also review the success of the jointly organized August 11 event that highlighted shared fishing safety issues on the Fraser River, and we will assess progress on collaborative access development planning that considers the need for boat launches, parking and other infrastructure in support of the areas salmon fishery.

### ***Draft Agenda***

1. Notes and action points from September meeting
2. Final Review/ratification of Peacemakers TOR
3. Progress report on Conflict resolution referrals
4. Status of River Access Study/proposed access development plan (priority areas Chawathil and Seabird Island)
5. Work plan 2012/13

### **Attendance**

Ed George  
Ernie Crey  
Don Simpson  
Rod Clapton  
Scott Maloney RCMP  
Scott Sieffer RCMP  
Leigh McCracken  
Syd Douglas  
Dave Barrett - chair

Peacemakers would like to thank the ongoing support of DFO and the Pacific Salmon Foundation and our meeting hosts the Sumas First Nation.

### 1. Review action points from September meeting

- The item of having participants chair more of the meetings was added to the Terms of Reference and will be discussed further at subsequent meetings.
- It was agreed that we would retain our current meeting date structure of 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of every month

### 2. Peacemakers TOR

The Peacemaker Terms of Reference were approved in principle but a suggestion was made by Ed George that each participating organization be given the opportunity to ratify the document. This ratification process needed to be simple and time sensitive.

**Action:** It was decided that each organization be responsible for this process but that we would evaluate any suggested changes at our next scheduled review of the Terms of Reference in March.

### 3. Conflict Resolution on the River

More detail was provided with regard to the incident on the Fraser above the Agassiz Bridge this past summer. It turns out the incident was further upstream than first thought .

It was reported by Ken Malloway (via conference call) that he had suffered a sinking on the river. The incident occurred on Sunday Oct 28, 2012 in the late morning. Ken was engaged in a FSC drift net fishery at Ferguson's bar which is near the confluence of the Harrison and Fraser rivers.

The wake from one or more large jet boats may have been the cause of this incident. The day was calm and Ken was in the process of setting his net. These nets, when deployed, are marked at each end by buoys or the boat itself. As Ken was reversing to set the net his boat was suddenly swamped from behind and quickly sunk stern first. Ken immediately put the motor in forward but managed to tangle in his own net and was unable to proceed to shore. Fortunately the stern hit the river bottom and this prevented the boat from sinking entirely. By this time Ken had been able to scramble onto the bow but managed to get his personal gear tangled up in the un-deployed net and he had to be cut loose, by other fisherman, in order to be rescued. This struggle was exacerbated by the fact Ken's chest waders had managed to fill during the initial swamping.

In that all this happened so quickly, and rescue become the focus for all concerned, that no identification particulars were available from the two passing boats. As a result this incident will be very difficult to investigate and/or to resolve but certainly emphasizes the need to continue our efforts to educate river users as to the dangers inherent in a fast flowing large river. Members of the Conflict Resolution Committee will continue to try and learn more details related to this event and to continue their efforts to educate river users.

**Action:** Ernie Crey will contact Chawathil FN to see if any of their members had been involved in the situation

#### 4. **River Access Study**

The Access Study for increased access to the river appears to be moving forward. Seabird Island FN has hired a consultant to help them put together a business plan that includes this item as well as other opportunities that their geographical location presents.

**Action:** Peacemakers will keep abreast of activities as they proceed and report accordingly

#### 5. **Work plan**

Discussed the need to strike a committee to organize the 2013 River Safety and Culture event. This committee needs to meet early in 2013 and emphasis was made by all that Chief Robert Coombs needs to be included in this work.

**Action:** Dave B., Don Simpson, and Ernie Crey to lead setting up meeting with Chief Combs.

Action: Check with group about lifejacket/PFD campaign