

# Peacemakers Meeting – Lower Fraser



**Date:** January 15, 2013

**Location:** Sumas First Nation Health Center Board Room

**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.

## **Regrets from:**

Jerry Hanson, RCMP  
Ernie Crey called away

## **Attendance**

Dave Barrett, Chair  
Dave Moore, Notes  
Ed George, BC Wildlife Federation  
Tony Nootibos, Fraser Valley Angling Guides Association  
Vic Carrao, Fraser Valley Angling Guides Association  
Leigh McCracken, BC Federation of Driftfishers  
Rod Clapton, BC Federation of Driftfishers  
Tim Tsucic, Pacific Salmon Foundation  
Terry Tebb, Pacific Salmon Foundation  
Don Simpson, Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance

## **Agenda**

1. Notes and action points from November meeting
2. Formal Ratification of Peacemakers TOR by member Organizations welcomed
3. Progress report on Conflict resolution referrals
4. Status of River Access Study/proposed access development plan (priority areas Chawathil and Seabird Island)
5. 2013 Work planning
  - Celebration of culture and safety on the River
  - Lifejacket/PFD campaign
  - Other?

## Summary Notes

### 1. Notes and action points from November meeting

- Formal ratification by parent organizations
- Conflict resolution
- River access
- Work plan

### 2. Formal Ratification of Peacemakers TOR

- Consensus around TOR by this table has been achieved over this last year (confirmed TOR in November)
- Interest by the participants in getting formal endorsement of the TOR by the member organizations
- Discussion around process of ratification and specifically there is a difference between organizations and the way in which they represent themselves and make decisions that varies the ability to ratify such agreements
- Some frustration amongst participants about this disparity whilst a respect for the need for First Nations to work through the process
- Consider having individual first Nations sign on – encourage local support and endorsement
- Give LFFA time to work through their process
- It does not hurt to give organizations time
- Every signature is welcome

#### Action:

- Proceed to get signatures as we can get them ...BCWF, Sts'ailes, FV Aboriginal Fisheries Society etc from CRC list

### 3. Progress report on conflict resolution

- The issue with Dean Werk above Aggasiz interaction with angler a year ago is considered resolved – see Ernie next meeting
- Issue with Ken Malloway this fall with angler/swamped boat is outstanding because there was no boat identification number to address guilty party for swamping boat and a much larger problem with uncertified/uneducated boat operators (insurance?). Also noted that the specific geology of Fergies Bar (Where the incident happened) is susceptible to large wakes.
- General discussion about legitimacy of the conflict resolution process – absolutely by advocating safety and culture on the river was proactive and moved above and beyond the case-drive reactive process we are forced to deal with incidences one-by-one. The continuation of the problem is not a reflection of the success of this group, only the illumination of the problems
- General discussion about avoidance: some locations need slower speeds, some behaviour modification (i.e. slow down, respect other users, and take the time) helps.

- Ernie Crey and Dave Barrett met with RCMP and frustrations about how few of river patrols are able to be done by DFO and RCMP due to lack of staff or budgets etc
- Perhaps this group could consider creative approaches to engage the agencies in a river patrol/observer program
- Conceivably looking at models like Wilderness Watch (i.e. River Watch)
- Look to promoting a decal on boats with obligation to training or committing to a set of principles etc
- Explore ways to put educational signage at the kiosks at launching sites (specific to aboriginal fishery openings, or giving out decals with pamphlets)
- Consider the value of branding Peacemakers, communicating all users, utilizing principles in the River Manners Video, engaging users at the “river bank level”
- Consider the value of placing markers (i.e. safety buoys) to provide visible warning of an “active fishery ahead”

**Action:**

- Dave Barrett will take this discussion to FVRD, RCMP and Transport Canada
- Ed George will discuss this concept with reps with Wilderness Watch
- Dave to share an official media package with core members
- Members encouraged to publish a media article on the TOR and Peacemakers pamphlet is media-ready
- Dave will invite FVAFS to meet with this group to develop a plan for 2013

**4. Status of River Access Study/proposed access development plan**

- Seabird is currently building a business plan and is encouraged to use the study – follow-up meetings/assistance will be provided if needed in order to link in other area First Nations access development projects as appropriate to optimize the available demand inside controlled access
- No feedback from Chawathil or Ruby Creek
- No explicit tie-in to Experience the Fraser yet
- Note a Derby reach wheel-chair accessible fishing platform is under construction for completion by 2014 – this should be investigated as a development option in the gravel reach as well.

**Action:** Rod Clapton to pursue \$ links to the Experience the Fraser Project

## 5. 2013 work planning

### I. Fund-raising: A committee should delve into fund raising

- Funding from DFO grants ends March 31

#### Action:

- Focus on the private sector and made up of 1 rep from each: Rod/Leigh, Ernie/Don, Tony...Package developed by Dave (below)
- A business plan (1 year and consider goals/outcomes for next 3 years): Dave Moore

### II. Celebration of Culture and Safety on the River 2013

- Depended largely on FVRD
- Need a meeting with Chief Coombs to do the same
- "Fraser River Festival" in 2013

#### Action:

- Dave B. To follow up on meeting with Chief Coombs
- Dave M. To follow up with D. Wilson with meeting with FVRD - Need to meet with the FVRD to establish parameters for this year's event
- Committee to be restruck to resume role in the planning meetings

### III. Lifejackets/PFD (survey, promotion/education)

- Acknowledge the cultural prohibitions (in both fisheries but more in First Nations)
- Need a champion from within each fishery to promote the use of life jackets (poster campaign, gifts/prizes (consider the Christopher Vang Foundation)
- Consideration in the fund-raising strategy
- Look for a volunteer to lead this ..Foundation lead?
- Is this a high priority for this group?...yes, highest, important even if we save 1 life, it is a tangible symbol of common ground, it is a strategic proactive priority, and from a business perspective it is something specific that is a common high priority

#### Action:

- Dave will invite a lead from the Christopher Vang Foundation to attend the next meeting and incorporate this into the business plan

**Next meeting:** River safety plan for 2013 and pre-emptive conflict resolution by planning for 2013 tributary fishery discussion