

PEACEMAKERS



Sumas Community Hall
May 20, 2014

Rod Clapton, President BC Federation of Driftfishers
Leigh McCracken, BC Federation of Driftfishers
Don Simpson, Lower Fraser Fishing Alliance
Saramae Tran, Christopher Vang Fund
Kevin Estrada, Fraser Valley Angling Guides Association
Dave Barrett, President Fraser River Salmon Table - Facilitator
Dave Moore, Executive Director Fraser River Salmon Table - notes
Dahlton Silver, Chief Sumas
Ed George, VP BC Wildlife Federation

SUMMARY NOTES

1. Review progress, budget and work plan 2013: D. Moore

- **History of Peacemakers:** The Salmon Table was requested by First Nations and sport fishing groups in 2009 to act as facilitator following another of a series of conflicts between members of the two fisheries, and to find funding and host a running conversation amongst these groups aiming to find solutions to conflict on the lower Fraser River;
- **Forward:** The forum found support for costs of travel and fees for facilitators (at meetings and between meetings), logistics costs for meetings, for coordination, financial oversight and reporting: 2009-10 and 2010-11 was funded by the Fraser Salmon and Watershed's Program; 2011-12 was supported by a cash-flow grant from the Pacific Salmon Foundation until a PICFI grant was awarded late that fiscal year; PICFI has provided grants for the work of Peacemakers for the last 3 fiscal years, and a residual cash-flow grant from the Pacific Salmon Foundation of \$8,000 is down to \$6,983 as well as approximately 4 pre-paid meeting rooms at Sumas Band facilities (depending upon whether at Health Center or Community Hall based upon availability);
- **Progress:** The forum agreed initially on a communications plan and an action plan in year 1 (2009-10), producing the River Manners Video the following spring; in year 2 (2010-11) the forum created a joint working group and worked together on outreach in each other's fisheries (remember chum and sockeye fishery tours and joint monitoring workshop, and participated with agency partners in a peacemakers course; in year 3 (2012-13) the working group) successfully piloted a Fraser River Festival (celebrating culture and safety in the Fraser Salmon fishery), placed large information signs with the FVRD at three key boat launch sites in the lower Fraser River, and then ratified a Terms of Reference for Peacemakers (including appointment of a joint conflict resolution committee);
- **Activities 2013-14:** Based upon the business plan developed for Peacemakers in 2012 and consultations at roving Peacemakers meetings through the spring, summer, and fall, a proposal was generated again to DFO-PICFI to produce the communications tools for Peacemaking outreach during the 2014 sockeye fishery, and to improve communications around the sport fishery in-season between sport fishing organizations and First Nations at the Peacemakers table

- **Reviewed PICFI work plan and budget 2014:** Key elements include:
 - 1) **Administration and financial authority:** provided by the Salmon Table through a Board meeting and a Board Teleconference, Financial Committee/signing authority and bank account, financial and operational reporting by the Executive Director on behalf of Peacemakers, and accounting report by the Fraser Basin Council;
 - 2) **Multi-interest collaboration:** Coordination provided by the ED of the Fraser River Salmon Table whose paid time is exclusively dedicated to this project and includes all of the deliverables outlined in the agreement (coordinating Peacemakers activities, communications & communications tools, and all meeting logistics); and, Conflict Resolution provided by the President of the Fraser River Salmon Table whose paid time is exclusively dedicated to the facilitation of Peacemakers meetings, arrangements between DFO and RCMP, and conflict resolution Committee support.
 - 3) **Improved confidence in catch reporting:** organization of the contract with IQMI for development of the cell phone app for the purposes of this group, coordination of consultations between IQMI and the sport fishing task group assigned to this project; and trouble-shooting the field trials

- **Work plan report 2013-14:** Presentation on work plan/results included the following components – to be used in outreach during the 2014 lower Fraser salmon fishery:
 - 1) **Creation of Peacemakers Logo** – more suitable for branding and trademarking and based upon imagery and ideas in last Peacemakers meeting. Created in consultation with a small committee, though was a bit rushed at the end of the fiscal year
 - 2) **Production of an updated Peacemakers pamphlet** featuring the new Peacemakers Logo (1,000) – confirmed and updated Peacemakers e-mail address (hosted by Winning Productions on behalf of STS Guiding Services¹)
 - 3) **Production of waterproof Peacemakers decals** (suitable for mounting on boats, oars, cups etc. with the Peacemakers logo and e-mail address to Peacemakers Conflict Resolution Committee and Executive (riverpeacemaker@gmail.com)
 - 4) **Purchase of 40 inflatable PFD's** with silk-screen branding of Peacemakers logo on each – with help of Leigh McCracken and Sts'ailes a bulk order generated 7 free vests
 - 5) **Creation of a cell phone App** designed by and for the sport fishery on the lower Fraser to pilot during the 2014 sockeye fishery to assess the viability of such tools to generate catch rates to compliment creel survey information generated by DFO, and to serve as an experiment on improving communications around the two fisheries
 - 6) **2014 fishery Peacemakers river tour** – this was not something that could be funded by PICFI for the summer ahead – funding needed to be expended by March 31.
 - 7) **Fraser River Festival** – not something that fit the PICFI grant well – there is some rumors that the FVRD is considering renewal of this event in 2014, but no calls have been returned to discuss the matter further
 - 8) **Final reporting and development of a succession plan for Peacemakers** –the final components to complete the work plan agreed to under the funding arrangements of DFO – this is subject to the outcomes from the discussions here amongst the primary organizations present here

¹ Darrin Winning. Winning Productions Darrin.winning@winningproductions.com (604)828-1494.

- **Discussion:** Although there have been the usual challenges with funding late in the season, the Salmon Table has been able to keep up with communications, Peacemakers meetings, conflict resolution, seeking partners in PFD acquisition, and Peacemaking with the aid of the PSF grant used for cash-flow support through the season (for travel and logistics only – no fees);
- Concern was expressed that the Salmon Table has largely managed the budget and work plan in the past and there is a need/desire now for Peacemakers volunteers to take a more active role in this in the future – in particular the creation of the logo and production of pamphlets at the end of the fiscal year was rushed and did not involve enough consultation as some would have liked;
- It is desirable to find funding support for Peacemakers that would not leave volunteers scrambling late in the season
- There is some confusion about the cost of facilitators and coordinator of Peacemakers was discussed: high cost of facilitation by two consultants arises from those who are not fully aware that the meetings are not the bulk of the work of Peacemakers, but only a small focal point for the planning and accountability function for the bulk of the work that goes on between the meetings: chasing down folks involved with or that can inform conflict resolution, coordination with RCMP and DFO, managing logistics, finding support funding/writing proposals for activities of the group;
- General discussion about volunteer availability, risk management, funding needs going forward, and messaging from DFO that the Salmon Table's role for the group is considered complete, and a long-term model that does not depend on DFO PICFI grants is required;
- There also appears to be some negative reaction to the cell phone app tool from within DFO that has become a lightning rod for criticism – it is not clear if this is directed at Peacemakers, more specifically at the Fraser River Salmon Table, or a personality conflict with a specific manager from the lower Fraser DFO office whose name keeps coming up over the last few years as a general critic of all of these things;
- Strong consensus around the table for the maintenance of the Peacemakers process, but this development is a symptom of the growing need for Peacemakers to have a core-members look at it's long-term vision;

Action: Group has agreed to meet again on an extra ordinary meeting of Peacemakers (target one of next 3 or 4 Tuesdays – a preference for more time to plan expressed from group). Dave M and Dave B will work with the Conflict Resolution Co-chairs to organize this – BCWF offered their Boardroom for the meeting (same time slot) and Dave M. will confirm.

The extraordinary meeting of Peacemakers would be a dedicated session to nail down the following key questions:

- 1) Who are the Peacemakers (stand alone?, the Salmon Table?)
- 2) What are realistic operational goals (just communications between the two fisheries?, active conflict resolution?, Peacemaking activities?)
- 3) What are our working priorities for future (revisit activities, expected outcomes, realistic resourcing)
- 4) How do Peacemakers govern this entity (an ongoing function of the Fraser River Salmon Table? Can we afford a stand-alone society, or is the process alternatively sponsored by one of our member groups and if so which one?)
- 5) Is the logo developed for this year's fishery communications plan by the Salmon Table and the small committee for us acceptable as our own?
- 6) How much of a budget do we need going forward

2. Unveiled new Peacemakers logo: D. Moore for committee

- A small committee was struck to generate a logo – the previous logo was developed by D. Moore from some trademarked MS Word imagery and was decidedly too complex for good transfer onto decals and PFD's
- limited time and budget, and there was a need led to fast paced development for 2014 fishery communications tools part of the PICFI budget (pamphlets, decals, PFD's)
- Concern expressed that this was done with a very small committee
- It should have been part of a longer/broader consultation
- Need to consider the time crunch and purpose of new logo, but still needs ratification

Action: Should seek broader ratification as it is new – see extra-ordinary meeting plan

3. Presentation on PFD survey: Saramae Tran

- Survey was developed by D. Moore for the group and interviews were conducted by the LFFA during the river festival event in 2012
- Some open-ended questions coupled with incomplete and multiple answers made as statistical analysis problematic, but it's purpose was fulfilled - to confirm that observations about lack of PFD use puts fishers at risk of drowning and that there are ways to increase their use – saving lives
- There appears to be a persistent issue with fishers about vests hanging up on gear
- The preference appears to be for floater coats (likely during cold weather) and inflatable collars

Action: Saramae will propose to her group to redo survey for future work for this group and put some statistical framework in place for its analysis

4. Cell phone app

- Idea for a cell phone app to generate information from the sport fishery in the lower Fraser River was generated from discussion at Cheam Peacemakers forum in October – lots of attention to large public monitoring program activities in Sto:lo fishery but where was a limited ability for an informed conversation about the Sport fishery – creel survey results are not provided by DFO in-season and summary information only is typically only reported late in fishery or after fishery providing no information for discussions between Sto:lo and sport fishery
- Consensus was reached at Cheam that although progress was being made steadily with the Aboriginal fishery around monitoring and catch reporting, there has not been as much of a conversation around the sport fishery
- Some concerns were expressed by the First Nations as well as representatives of the sport fishery that there was insufficient confidence in the numbers to have an informed conversation about the sport fishery catch in the lower Fraser River – some dispute over numbers and the lack of in-season information was a source of drag on this fishery and conflict between the two fisheries
- In the past the group discussed that fishery decisions about the lower Fraser sport fishery are made through formal SFAB/SFAC channels and are not designed to accommodate in-season discussion beyond SFAC/SFAB decision-makers to include the Sto:lo
- When the sport fishing organizations saw the cell phone app used by sts'ailes and the Harrison Fisheries Authority in 2014 there was as desire to pilot a similar tool in the sport fishery – not to compete with or undermine the creel survey run by DFO or disrupt formal decision-making

- channels, but to explore if such a tool had utility, and then someday figure out how it might inform decision-making
- There were some with in DFO that agreed that testing a tool was a worthwhile pilot, while others were concerned that the experiment might confuse anglers and undermine the DFO-led creel survey
 - Realization that the project would be funded this year from PICFI was a bit late in the year to have had effective consultation with members of the BCFDF, the BCWF and FVAGA, Consultation initiated with a meeting of those organizations plus SFI occurred on April 22 at the BCWF offices and the mock-up slide show was shared – all agreed to proceed with the planning and do their best at consultation on the proposal
 - The BCFDF reviewed the proposal with member ship on May 10 at their membership meeting (BCWF VP attended) and the group agreed that this was a worthwhile project and to proceed
 - FVAGA will look into how they want to participate - but already doing something similar with sturgeon tagging and reporting, but this is easier than the current project with sturgeon and sending in forms
 - The BCWF is going to have a discussion on this proposal in an upcoming meeting within the next couple of weeks – Ed George will report back

5. Funding and work plans 2014

- A draft communications plan framework for Peacemakers was provided and distributed with the key objectives:
 - Prepare conflict resolution committee liaisons w/ DFO and RCMP, Sto:lo and sport fishing groups
 - Generate positive awareness (PFD's, River Tour, Personalities/TV-Radio)
 - Connect (update a website for this purpose, pamphlets, stickers, e-mail address)
 - Respond (Task of Conflict Resolution Committee)
- Funding for activities of Peacemakers in 2014 is unknown at this stage other than the cash-flow grant provided by the Pacific Salmon Foundation in 2012
- There are folks in DFO who do not want to provide funding to Peacemakers or the Salmon Table, and the PICFI agreement indicates that we are to find alternative sources of funding in the future if it is required
- What to do if there is no funding for support – all volunteers? Why would DFO pull out on the eve of such a potentially large sockeye fishery?
- The Peacemaker work plan over the last year as described earlier aimed to generate tools to be used in outreach during the 2014 summer sockeye fishery – the Peacemakers are at a state of readiness for this now. However, the process will need to be run on volunteer energy now and coordinator/facilitator cannot work as volunteers at the level of energy sustained to date
- The business case for Peacemakers was developed for Peacemakers and led to the acquisition of funding from DFO. Perhaps this needs to be revisited
- Depending upon the degree of support required the process can be kept afloat from \$25k - \$65k annually, depending upon how involved folks get with conflict resolution and in-season consultations between the Sto:lo and the sport fishery – so far Peacemakers has continued to steer clear of allocation discussions
- The focus for 2014 continues to be a communications around the 2014 fishery aimed at reducing confrontations/conflicts
- Some discussion about newspaper and magazine awareness articles in BCWF and BCDF magazines (other?)
- There has been a suggestion about having a TV personality from the sport fishery attend a Peacemakers outing on the river to draw attention to the shared fishery

- PFD's are now available to generate positive awareness – D. Moore to provide a blank contract to go along with any PFD's given out in the fishery committing the receiver with a family member to ensure that the PFD is worn when on the river
- Business cards could still be developed with the Peacemakers logo and app address to be distributed in the fishery to recruit users to try the app out – the assessment would track individual users – repeat visits, use and outputs
- The decals are a perfect tool to distribute with pamphlets in the fishery to promote Peacemaking and to get the word out there that leaders in the fishery want folks to get along, and to give them quick access to someone to call if there is conflict
- Peacemakers River Tour 2014 salmon fishery - if this is a priority it could be an eligible expense from the Peacemakers cash flow grant from the PSF. It was agreed that the date reserved with STS guiding was too late in the fishery

Action 1: A separate communications/work planning meeting is required – to be organized following the extraordinary meeting of Peacemakers next month.

Action 2: Kevin Estrada (for FVAGA) will communicate with the other guides and come up with a proposal for Peacemakers that would likely consider more boats instead of one large one, and perhaps visits into the fishery earlier on and throughout the fishery if possible – he will report out to the co-chairs of the Conflict Resolution Committee

Meeting Adjourned 5:00 PM