



Fraser River Peacemakers

Sumas First Nation Boardroom

January 14, 2015

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

Attendance:

Rod Clapton, President – BC Federation of Drift Fishers (BCFDF) Co-Chair
Ernie Crey, Councillor – Cheam First Nations, FBC Director Co-Chair
Dave Barrett – Fraser River Salmon Table, Pacific Fisheries Monitoring & Compliance Panel
Leigh McCracken, Area Director – BCFDF, Langley
Ed George - BCWF
Terry Tebb – Pacific Salmon Foundation
Tim Susic - Pacific Salmon Foundation
John Vang – Christopher Vang Memorial Fund
Don Simpson, Program Coordinator – Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance
Kat Pennier - Stó:lô Tribal Council
Mike Gass
Ada Tam – Transport Canada
Hillary Lamson – Transport Canada
Stan Goto – Western Washington University
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1. Agenda review

Rod provided an overview of the draft agenda.

Decision: Agenda was approved as presented.

2. Financial report & transfer of funds & PICFI report

- Brief discussion on current financial status with little change since last few meetings.
- There has been a shift of funds of approximately \$6,000 from BCWF administration over to interim steering committee into a Peacemakers-specific bank account.
- Suggested to reverse all funding to PICFI (pending approval) from PSF, FBC, etc.
- Peacemakers' Business Committee must be prepared to "pounce" on any funding opportunity if and when they arise.

3. Present minutes from Business Committee meeting for review by group

Ernie Crey provided an overview of the Business Committee meeting minutes of November 25, 2014 held at BCWF office boardroom.

Discussion:

- The November 25, 2014 meeting was to determine structure options for Peacemakers going forward.
- Update on forming a Society or an Interim Steering Committee?
- There was a motion to form an Interim Steering Committee.
- Structure will benefit search for funding

Decision: The existing ad-hoc Business Committee will form the core of the Interim Steering Committee of the Fraser River Peacemakers until such time as otherwise directed. They are:

ISC member name	Response at meeting
Rod Clapton – Co-Chair	yes
Ernie Crey – Co-Chair	yes
Tim Sucic	yes
Wayne Saito	unknown
Don Simpson (as time allows)	yes

4. Follow up to "Harmony on Fraser" Initiative (web site, signs, form a Fraser River Festival Committee)

Rod provided an overview of the chronology of the 2014 season and the inception of "Harmony on the Fraser" initiative that was an undertaking of other organizations directly related to fishing on the Fraser River.

Discussion:

- A reference was made to the Sts'ailes Indian Band the purchase of PFDs by the Band and subsequently Peacemakers of whom purchased 40 with the Peacemakers logo printed on them.
- A review of the Peacemakers' website development concluded with the frustration of not being operational due to multiple factors.

Action: Peacemakers' are to strike a River Festival Committee ASAP for planning purposes.

Action: Peacemakers to draft a letter to FVRD and The Chief and Council of the Skwah First Nation that expresses interest of holding the River Festival at Island 22.

5. Transport Canada presentation & questions (Harrison mouth issues)

Ada Tam and Hillary Lamson of Transport Canada provided an overview of relevant programs such as the Boating Safety Contribution Program and potential funding opportunities for Peacemakers through

very specific program criteria and deliverables.

Discussion:

- There is \$1M available nationally and funding is up to 75% of proposal up to \$400,000.
- There is a call out in May 2015-October 201 (tentative deadline) then by January 2016 proposals go through review then by April 2016 enter contract similar to other Federal Government grant and contribution (G&C) agreements.
- The eligibility criteria are in the handout as per the front page. There were 11 projects in 2012-2013 totalling \$666,000.
- It is too late to submit for existing year as the deadline was October 2014. The next call out is stated above. Refer to Transport Canada website for further details.
- Considering “Education” and Peacemakers’ specific initiatives more funding may be available.
- There are more hazards and risks in the Fraser River fishery than pertaining to boats and on the water. Fishers are accessing sites from the river banks as well and in greater numbers during the height of the fishing season. The Program is water-based and not land-based. There is a gap in the program criteria that misses much of the Peacemakers’ audience.
- A suggestion was to have a committee sit with Transport Canada Program managers and discuss all existing and potential risks and hazards on the River (and lakes) of the Fraser Valley.
- The development of a video pertaining to river safety, PFD importance and use, that includes both boat and beach safety issues.
- 25% of the project can be “In-Kind” contribution such as administration and project management.
- There are important and chronic issues with both the Canadian National and Canadian Pacific Railways with respect to Fraser River fisheries activities such as access to the river, illegal parking, trespassing through CNR, CPR, and First Nations’ territories.
- There are obvious “silos” in multiple departments and corporations that need to have coordination and communications to solve problems that pose risks to all.
- There is a need to document specific cases for presentation and preparation of proposed solutions. More elements exist such as infrastructure and factors that contribute to the whole.
- If an unsafe act is committed and observed and recorded, then contacting the appropriate authorities such as RCMP or DFO C&P is a priority first step. Education is key.

Action/decision: A sub-committee to pursue further research with Transport Canada opportunities will be Saramae and John Vang, and Leigh McCracken.

6. Open session for questions from our Western Washington guests

Stan Goto provided an overview of the Profession of Adult Education at Western Washington University. Stan also expressed amazement that Peacemakers is actually doing what has been in discussions only in most other areas. Each of the other guests from WWU shared views, stories and gratitude to the

Peacemakers for their invitation and hospitality.

Discussion:

- Conflict on the Fraser River has existed as far back as Colonial contact the surge of commercial fishing on the Fraser. The year of 2009 was the poorest year in recent memory and caused tensions on the river from all users. It was a fragile time. One incident escalated to violence and was the tipping point that produced the meeting of First nations and recreational fisheries representatives as well as DFO, RCMP, and others to develop a dialogue that will be a base to resolve issues in the future.
- A re-cap summarizes in at first concerned citizens, then working groups, and then cohesive group with a purpose.
- A reference to the Salish Sea Sustainability presentation was made that will be a venue to continue dialogue and sharing the message of Peacemaking.
- The 2015 Coast Salish Gathering is in late May 2015. The same four WWU presenters could also be there as well.
- A reference to the collaboration at the Sts'ailes territories and the creation of an access trail for fishers and hikers alike to access the Chehalis River. Another instance of cooperation was the re-initializing the Chilliwack Lake Sockeye First Nations' FSC fishery in 2013.
- The segmentation of engagement that is referred to as Tier 1, Tier 2, and Tier 3 was explained. Tier 1 is First Nation to First Nation, Tier 2 is First Nations to Government (DFO), and Tier 3, is First Nations to other interest-based groups pertaining to fisheries and habitat related issues.
- A reference to the Fraser Salmon Table and the role of facilitating the Peacemakers meetings and providing host administration services as well.

Ernie Crey introduces Chief Dalton Silver of the Sumas First Nation. Chief Silver offers words of welcome and offers a Ceremonial gift to Stan Goto in acknowledgment and honour to being a guest of Sumas First Nation.

7. Other initiatives for 2015 (Dependent on funding)

Night fishing options

Review options of designated rec areas during beach seining

Meeting locations

Other

Agenda item 7 will be discussed further in future Peacemaker meetings.

Adjournment: 16:55

DRAFT