



Fraser River Peacemakers

Sumas First Nation Community Hall

June 23, 2015

2:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Attendance:

Rod Clapton, President – BC Federation of Drift Fishers (BCFDF) Co-Chair
Ernie Crey, Councillor - Cheam First Nation, FBC Director, Co-Chair

Ed George, Vice President, BCWF
John Vang – Christopher Vang Memorial Fund (CVMF)
Christina Toth – Fraser Basin Council (FBC)
Stan Goto – Western Washington University (WWU)
Mike Gass – Fresh Water Fisheries Society (FWFS)
Rachel Schoeler – Fraser River Keeper (FRK)
Don Simpson, Program Coordinator – Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance (LFFA)-notes
Chief Dalton Silver – Sumas First Nation

1. Business Committee report on registering as Society (Mike Gass, FWFS)

Mike Gass provided an overview of the assessment process and the Fraser River Peacemakers Application/Proposal. The proposal was very well received by the FWFS Board and they were impressed by the comprehensive information it contained.

Discussion:

- The Society name application has been approved and the name remains the “Fraser River Peacemakers Society”.
- We have until August 15, 2016 to register with the Province of British Columbia.
- Most information and processes can be done online.
- Minimum Criteria includes 5 directors, a fixed address, \$30 fee and \$100 registration process.
- Benefits of becoming a society include, but not limited to access to funding opportunities, recognition of accountability, and banking stability.
- The liability gap can be bridged by negligence (errors and omissions line). Ensign Insurance of Kelowna could be considered for consulting and carrying insurance. Event insurance is included.
- Further discussion on the state of the existing Business Committee members being the Interim Steering Committee until such time as a General or Extraordinary meeting is held to elect and/or appoint a Board of Directors and Executive Officers.
- Don Simpson withdrew his candidacy as an Interim Steering Committee member and/or Director citing that it would be the role properly occupied by a First Nations elected or appointed representative. Don remains to be available as technical and administrative support for First Nation attendees, Directors, and contributors.

2. Cheam Festival Update (Ernie Crey)

Ernie provided an overview of the upcoming Cheam Festival. Mid-August has been identified as a possible timeframe, but has not been confirmed at this time. The Peacemakers are instructed to complete a two-step process.

- 1) Draft a 1-page letter to Darwin Douglas of Cheam Enterprises who will be the host of the

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Cheam Festival with the preference of a date for the Cheam Festival to occur.

2) Describe the day from a Peacemakers perspective.

Discussion:

- Consider linking with Agassiz Days in mid-June
- Dates that look like options include:
 - August 22, 2015
 - August 29, 2015
- FBC, Freshwater Society, Water Coalition are going.
- Planning committee needs to be formed ASAP. Need Peacemaker Volunteers.
- Cheam contacts are Darwin Douglas, Ernie Crey, and Ernie Victor.
- It was suggested that general email be sent out for a Request for Expression of Interest (REOI) in being on the Planning Committee

3. Web site update (Wayne Froese?) Links?

Wayne Froese is the new web site developer taking on the completion of the Fraser River Peacemakers website. There was a reference to an email from Wayne asking: What are we about? What do you want to have on the website?

Discussion:

- Social media is a must-have on today's websites such as Facebook, Twitter and YouTube etc.
- Website should have consistent messaging from Peacemakers
- All information will be vetted by Peacemakers prior to being posted on the website.

Action: John Vang to work with Wayne in the near future on refining the website.

4. Report on Fraser River & tributaries - Illegal Garbage Alliance (Rachel Schoeler)

Rachel provided a PowerPoint presentation with an overview of the activities of the Fraser River Keeper organization over the last six years and the continuous problem of illegal garbage dumping in the Fraser Valley particularly along river banks.

Discussion:

- A reference was made to FVIDA:
<http://www.thevalleyvoice.ca/Voice%20Stories/march%202015/fraser%20riverkeeper%20gill%20bar%20cleanup%20march%2028%202015.htm>
- A discussion ensued on the garbage problem at Gill Bar and Ferry Island areas.
- Cheam First Nation may be taking responsibility for those areas particularly Ferry Island.
- Most meetings of the Fraser River Keepers are held at Chilliwack City Hall or Community Centers.
- Rachel is available for further conversations and/or input.

Action: Rod to get Rachel's' contact information and distribute to Peacemakers

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5. Funding options? (Mike Gass)

Mike Gas provided a review of existing funding options for the Peacemakers. Some sources that were discussed were: Fraser Basin Council, Pacific Salmon Foundation, Habitat Conservation Trust Fund (HCTF), Monitoring and Compliance Panel (M&C Panel).

Discussion:

- Fresh Water Fisheries Society is reporting a commitment they are considering at approximately \$10,000
- There is a concern for the March 4, cut-off as licences fees for Steelhead and non-salmon dollars goes to. Fraser River Peacemakers is a valid organization to support with licence fee dollars.
- It was suggested that the “Core Principles” of the Peacemakers be forefront in funding proposals. Peacemakers must retain its originality and identity.

Action: Peacemaker participants to draft a table of “In-Kind” contributions for analysis.

Action: Peacemakers need confirmation on funding commitments from various organizations.

6. Membership?

Discussion:

- Ed George has been approached by Okanagan Nation Alliance (ONA) seeking Peacemakers input. There are seven Bands in the Okanagan Region and Osoyoos.
- Spots Fishing Advisory Board (SFAB) representative up in the Skeena is also seeking Peacemakers involvement/assistance in their region.
- Ed George says he at the Cowichan Nation Alliance (CNA) representing the Peacemakers. He will provide a written report via email or paper.
- When Ed offered a Life Jacket it was a powerful symbol of offering a bridge to safety.

7. Conflict Resolution Committee (Contacts? Ready for summer fishing?)

As per the existing Term of Reference Rod Clapton and Ernie Crey are the existing contacts for the Conflict Resolution Committee and Co-Chairs of the Peacemakers Interim Steering Committee stemming from the mid-year 2014 Business Committee meeting at the BCWF offices.

Discussion:

- Not all conflicts on the River are sport fishers/FSC fishers but some are within each sector or group.
- Peacemakers’ core purpose is to resolve conflict on the river. Suggestion to include the academic sector by integrating into the conflict resolution process. Royal Roads University has a Masters/ Doctoral Degree in Conflict Resolution. Western Washington University also has direct and specific interest in what Peacemakers has achieved and what it represents.
- Commission Masters and Doctoral students to work with actual situations and share with Peacemakers.
- We need a snap shot of what goes on during a fishery on the Fraser River.
- A survey was suggested that may provide information. Need to build a picture of what kinds of conflicts occur. For now we are relying on anecdotal input.
- Have RRU and WWU out on the river to observe and interview fishers leaving the river.

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Action: Ernie suggests Peacemakers resolve to do an editorial piece on Peacemakers with Christina Toth and Ernie Crey.

- BC Outdoors was suggested as a medium to do an editorial piece.
- Use all possible methods to get the message out on the Peacemakers and what they represent.
- Stan Goto offers to lead study on conflicts on the river. Multiple data streams such as interviews, observations, and surveys.
- Partnerships with RRU, WWU, and the Justice Institute will be beneficial to Peacemakers

Action: Draft a survey table to see what it looks like.

8. Night Fishing proposals? (Ernie Crey)

Ernie provided a brief update on night fishing proposal by the Pilalt Tribe consisting of four Bands in the Chilliwack area. The Pilalt Tribe member Bands want to participate at the Peacemakers table and present what they wish to accomplish. Pilalt Tribes also want clarity on monitoring and compliance issues for Spring fisheries.

Discussion:

- A reference was made to Dave Barrett (Chair) of the M&C Panel and a reference to May 2015 meeting at the BCWF office.
- Ernie cites the importance of the willingness of the Pilalt Tribes to engage.
- Date, venue, and time for initial meeting with Pilalt Tribes needs to be determined

9. Other business?

none

Future directions of Peacemakers?

Deferred to the fall sessions