



Fraser River Peacemakers
FRP Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2017
2:00 pm – 5:00 pm
Sumas First Nation-Abbotsford

Attendance: Dave Barrett (Acting Chair), Leigh MacCracken, Dave Moore, Mike Gass, Stan Goto, Marvin Roseneau, Tim Susic, Dean Werk, Glen Stoner, Ernie Crey, Don Simpson (Admin/notes).

1. Agenda review

Dave provided an overview of the draft agenda resulting in the following changes/additions:

- Bravery Award – Dave Barrett and/or Dean Werk

Decision: Agenda was approved with the above additions

2. Review of notes from January 23, 2017 Peacemakers meeting.

Dave provided an overview of the minutes from the January 23, 2017 FRP meeting.

- Leigh spoke to the panel displays of which totalled \$1,200 plus \$150 misc. and tax
- There is an opportunity for the displays at the Abbotsford Tradex (February 2017) as a stand-alone poster session or alone side another presenter. The FRP “Roadshow” is to be agile to be deployed easily.
- “All About Fishing” is March 10-12, 2017 (08:00 am to 3:00 pm on the Saturday).
- Should FRP have PFDs for display and possibly one (1) for a prize draw from business cards or name tags?

Action: FRP to reimburse Leigh for the total costs of extras (\$150 plus taxes). (Note: done at meeting)

Action: Call out for volunteers and also pamphlets and brochures for FRP to Leigh.

3. Soowahlie Chief and Council – Chilliwack River update

Deferred to a future meeting –

Note: Ernie Crey states that Chief Brenda Wallace wishes to meet with FRP, and suggests that FRP hold its next or future meeting at Soowahlie First Nation.

Dave Moore had some comments that are from a request for inclusion at various tables including FRP.

- Toni Nootebos from 2016 season had suggestions of concern such as more media play.
- Chinook issue
- References to First Nations and some in the Judicial Review (JR)
- Reference to the Marine Approach recreational fisheries
- A Problem for Toni is there is little if any positive coverage as access issues shadowed any positive advertisements
- The FRP Terms of Reference were referenced as being challenged with DFO allocation policies.
- FRP is a “conflict resolution” issue mechanism that could stand in defence of First Nation’s

- The question is “Where does FRP stand?”
- It was stated to Toni to focus on the positive in terms of terminal fishing opportunities, allocation issues for First Nations, and selective fishing.
- The above considerations for FRP’s direct involvement was referenced in terms of the existing FRP Constitution and By-Laws of the FRP Society as well as the Terms of Reference and the existence or not of a mandate and scope to do all that was suggested.
- FRP could draft a “Principle of Equity” from a FRP perspective with a blend of Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge (ATK) and Science. Creel survey and other data for 2016 showed approximately 7,000 Chinook taken at or near the Fraser River.
- Fraser River Aboriginal Fisheries Secretariat (FRAFS) Forum in February 2017 was referenced where First Nations and DFO talked about the Winter Chinook as well as Spring 4₂ and 5₂ Summer 5₂ Chinook stocks. Times in the past were cited and the notation was made that there is no real handle on Winter Chinook.
- The Sport Fishing Advisory Council (SFAC Regional) of the Sports Fishing Advisory Board (SFAB) on the Coast and the Lower Fraser (SFAC) committee needs a place to talk to put to DFO for a change to the Sports fishing allocation as a presentation.
- A reference to the Early-timed Chinook court cases underway currently was made. Summer Chinooks is/ or have not been an issue.
- The above items are far too big for FRP and beyond the scope of its ToRs and mandate let alone resources. Agreed that it’s too big but disagrees that FRP cannot discuss “solutions to the issues in the Fraser River fisheries”.
- The biggest challenges are that the Sports fishing sector are small organizations in the Lower Fraser area. SFAB main board historically has had little time for the Lower Fraser SFAC.
- There is a distinction assumed between Marine approach Chinook and Fraser River Chinook. Suggest getting SFAB on board to review.
- There is little to no data for Management Area 19 and Area 20 (Juan de Fuca and Southern Vancouver Island and West Coast of Vancouver Island (WCVI) for Columbia River and Fraser River Chinook. So, it is hard to conclude what is being caught and who is catching what.
- From A Monitoring and Compliance Panel perspective, Chinook issues are a priority. Fraser River Peacemakers could engage in drafting a “Best Principles” paper.
- A big table could define factors once per year. A reference was made to the relative success of the October 14, 2015 FRP Dinner gathering at the former Ramada Inn – Abbotsford.
- There have been deaf ears in the past no matter what had been proposed or occurred.
- So, FRP would “drive” and set the tone of an annual event/meeting that would be a “Vision of the Fraser” in FRP terms. FRP is a convergence of all groups.
- A committee of FRP could be formed that has many representatives such as Fraser Valley Salmon Society (FVSS), Lower Fraser Fisheries Alliance (LFFA), other First Nations and Sports sector groups as well.
- All good, but FRP is not big enough yet in terms of organization and capacity and at the very least funding. FRP needs more “horse power”.
- Start small, map out what is needed, and determine where it can go.
- A reference was made to the 2012 “Celebration of Culture and Safety on the Fraser River” event

that was a BIG-BIG job and, complicated, and yet, successful.

- Suggested to draft a letter to all organizations to get together and get going. Theme could be a “Summit of First Nations and Sports Fishing Sector” and move toward a date, venue, etc.

Action: FRP to look into a full evening for the purpose of discussions on fishing on the Fraser and its tributaries.

Action: Commission Dave Moore to draft a two-pager concept paper for a future meeting.

Action: Ernie to arrange with Chief Brenda Wallace for the April 2017 FRP meeting.

4. FRP National Award Planning

Dave Barrett provided an overview of the pending FRP – NFRA National Recreational Fisheries award as discussed by the FRP Business Committee- February 14, 2017 session.

- There could be a lot of interest from the media.- Ernie Crey
- While fiscal year-end in March 31, 2017 for Federal departments, it has been determined that April/May as the best case scenario for an award ceremony.

5. Renewal (or not) of LFFA and Administration position contract

Action: It has been determined at the Business Committee meeting in February, 2017 to renew the contract(s) for LFFA and Don Simpson with existing terms for three months (January 19, 2017 through April 19, 2017) to start and add time as funds are realized.

6. Stan Goto –Trout Unlimited – presentation

Changed to a “Conflict in the Social media project update

Stan provided an update on the Conflict in Social Media project.

- A reference was made to the small FRP response group – 2 each from Sports and First Nations.
- There have been two presentations one to FRP and the other to LFFA EC. The later has not been approved yet and is being considered. If LFFA approves, they will appoint their two participants.
- The FRP social media response reps are Leigh McCracken and Ed George.
- Dean has suggested link between Stan Goto and Rodney Tsu of “Fishing with Rod” website. Rodney monitors and manages the website very well.
- Stan met with Rodney this am and had discussions on a team of First Nations’ and Sports Sector respondents. They seek equity on perspectives while addressing misconceptions on both sides.
- There was a reference to the notion that the contributions on any website are actually representative of the Sports Fishing Sector or not.
- Most contributors on the Fishing with Rod website are both knowledgeable and enthusiastic.
- So, as there are instances of negative misconceptions the FRP team will send out postings of facts and truth relevant to those negative misconceptions.
- Will FRP post a Forum? Or face-to-face meeting?
- Suggested that the FRP - NFRA National Recreational Fisheries award be held as a FRP Forum at night along with a meal and get together. There seems to be a need for a Professional Counsellor for an FRP Forum Event and/or the FRP Response Team.
- A video of the event could be a deliverable for funding opportunity as a “Social Experiment”. Perhaps the FRP Business Committee can explore further.

- The FRP Award is a federal award (DFO) and could link to the “Truth and Reconciliation” group of activities such as a Forum that is facilitated by someone such as Barry Stuart, or Rodney Tsu.
- Suggested “Key Themes” - Differences of Regulation – First Nation Sovereign Fishing Rights –
- Where is FRP Response Team content coming from? There were some submissions from LFFA EC and the FRP Response team that there should be not “shooting-from-the-hip” responses, but from research and existing knowledge backed by fact, law, and science.

Action: FRP Business Committee will seek a quote from Wayne Froese for creating a Forum on the FRP web site.

7. Financial status review as at February 28, 2017.

Don provided a brief financial status report for the FRP bank account that had a January 1, 2017 starting balance of approximately \$6,600.00 with payments of approximately \$4,900.00 and receipts of approximately \$3,300.00 leaving approximately \$5,000.00. There have been two commitments from the M&C Panel and PSF for ~\$6,000.00 and ~\$2,500.00 respectively.

Action: Post a mid-March 2017 financial report to the Business Committee.

Action: FRP Business Committee to convene a meeting to determine existing funding opportunities and prepare a funding application plan for future funding when and wherever possible.

8. Other

A) Dave Barrett provided an update from latest communications on the award for bravery that fishers from the Fraser Valley were nominated for by FRP. In the assessment of the circumstances, the fishers rescued the victim from the boat and not from diving into the waters themselves, thus not really endangering themselves to save a Cheam First Nation fisher. Thus were not eligible for the award, but received a Certificate of Commendation Government award for their efforts.

B) Dean Werk provided a brief review of the All-About-Fishing” event to be held at Chilliwack Heritage Park in March 11, 2017.

- Issued a call for volunteers (especially First Nations) for the event and staffing the FRP booth.
- March 18, 2017 is the scheduled Annual River Clean-up event. Slated to be the biggest ever and is only second to the larger Ontario Lakes clean up.
- A reference was made to Joe Daniels of the “Illegal Dumping Society” as well as Cheam First Nations as key participants and contributors. Koodoos to Ernie Crey for his leadership in coordination of the River cleanup efforts. Thanks to all.
- Six-hundred (600) volunteers were present in 2016 covering for the most part all of the gravel reaches in the Chilliwack and Agassiz areas.
- Leigh expressed gratitude to the Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF) for the financial support for the creation and completion of the FRP Roadshow Panels.

9. Next meeting

To be determined

10. Adjournment – 16:25