



Fraser River Peacemakers

June 6, 2017

2:00 pm – 5:00 pm

**Sumas First Nation Bldg. 1 Boardroom
Abbotsford**

Attendance: Rod Clapton, Christina Toth, Nick Basok, Terry Bodman, Stan Goto, Ed George, Tim Susic (Acting Chair), Marvin Rosenau, Dave Barrett, Bobbi Peters, John Tran, Ernie Crey, Don Simpson (notes).

1. Agenda review

Tim provided a review of the agenda that resulted in the following changes:

- Add review of the 2016-2017 financials – Tim Susic

Decision: Agenda was approved with the above changes.

2. Review April 25, 2017 minutes

A review of the minutes from the April 25, 2017 FRP meeting resulted in the following:

- Change the Motion on the top of page four (4) to read “wave the need for an auditor” from “need an auditor”.

Decision: FRP will not commission the services of an auditor.

Discussion:

- Clarity on Directors that were identified and process of verification from their respective organizations where applicable was necessary prior to appointment to FRP Society.

A Motion was made to accept the minutes of April 25, 2017 made by Rod Clapton, and seconded by Ed George. Motion Carried.

Decision: The April 25, 2017 minutes were approved with the above changes.

3. Communications “Media Release” May 2017

The Communications committee prepared a media release as a result of a meeting held on May 15, 2017 at Sumas Community Hall.

Action: A Draft of the notes taken at the May 15, 2017 Communications Committee meeting will be prepared and shared to the committee members and FRP.



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Action: Christina will make a copy of the press release available to FRP for distribution and posting to various websites of member organizations.

Discussion:

- Some wordsmithing on the press release resulted in some minor changes. It was noted to retain the Mission/Ridgedale reference while making the statement broader in scope geographically.
- Important to be broad in scope while monitoring any feedback and/or activities as a result of the release.
- Range of geographic scope is from the mouth of the Fraser River to Sawmill Creek in the canyon.
- The May 15, 2017 Communications meeting all were to promote and encourage the access of the DFO website for listings of openings and fisheries announcements.
- Christina was acknowledged for her work in coordinating and preparing the draft press release.

14:45 Ernie Crey assumed the Chair of the meeting

4. Update on the National Recreational Fisheries Award (NRFA)

A brief update was provided by Rod. Tim Susic added that Terry Beach had acknowledged the Fraser River Peacemakers and their pending award. Leri Davies and Terry Beach offices are coordinating the award proceedings and ceremonies.

Discussion:

- There is no estimated time of arrival (ETA) at this time.
- Dave Barrett is in touch with the Minister's assistant and will prod for information on the FRP-NRFA award.
- <http://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/fm-gp/peches-fisheries/rec/rfa-ppr/awards-prix-eng.htm>
- We are in a holding pattern until further information is acquired.
- The timing should be when MPs are not in session such as prior to September 18, 2017 when the House is back in session.
- No date has been confirmed at this point.



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Action Plan is available to confirm invitee list and provide contacts if needed.

5. 2017 Fraser River Fisheries-Review of options to reduce conflict this summer

Rod Clapton provided a brief review of potential options to address and/or reduce areas of conflict on the Fraser River and its tributaries.

Discussion:

- Cheam First Nation has taken initiative to address peace on the river with discussions with DFO Brad Wattie and RCMP. Meetings are on-going now.
- DFO is not just “identify, cite, charge, and prosecute”. They are interested in a change of attitude to explore what is driving the conflict and non-compliance in all fisheries.
- It is not the sports sector’s placed to manage any Stò:lō or Aboriginal Rights-based fishery.
- Cheam will maintain a presence at the Fraser River Peacemakers’ table.
- It will not be one thing that addresses conflict between First Nations and the recreational sector. Solutions will be from many angles and sources.
- DFO had not included third parties to develop plans, but now there is an interest to talk with Cheam First Nation and other First Nation communities.
- In 2016, Cheam had called DFO enforcement and expressed concern over the very low returns of sockeye as a serious conservation concern. DFO is the enforcement body.
- DFO presence is not the sole answer. A call to the FRP table for feedback was made.
- Typically, DFO reports back to groups at a “post-season” opportunity with stats on number of charges laid and patrol activities resulting in incidences etc. The “Old Guard” is leaving office and it was noted that the Fraser River Peacemakers is known outside the local Fraser Valley area.
- All species co-migrate, so it is almost impossible to isolate specific runs for either harvest or conservation. Some runs are accessible and others are not depending on the presence of stocks of concern and those of abundance.
- The relationship with DFO to-date has been choppy, but there is a change in attitude to work together more effectively.
- Forced obedience is not the answer. Conservation should be the driver for motivation.
- The travelling FRP “Roadshow” could be an option to take to communities such as Cheam.
- There is the first Full Fisheries meeting at Chawathil First Nation (just above the Hope Bridge) on June 15, 2017 from 5 pm to 8 pm along with a Salmon Ceremony.



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- The Conflict Resolution Committee (CRC) could be a Keynote to the Roadshow.
- The last DFO needed bigger boats, bigger guns, bigger night vision goggles, but the question has risen... is this working? What can we (DFO) do to make it work?
- A reference was made to the Monitoring and Compliance Panel (M&C Panel as being a solutions and advice body and not a management body.
- It is good that individuals from FRP attend the Chawathil Fisheries meeting, but what about official representation from BCFDF, BCWF, FVAGA, etc. Better a few now, and more later.
- M&C Panel has been working on monitoring for many years. Now the focus has shifted toward compliance. The challenge is how to measure and approach options. Currently under review.

- There is a new C&P Regional Director who is interested in exploring compliance issues.
- Communications is a key to addressing issues. More videos addressing specific topics would be beneficial to getting the message out. For example anchored boats and the conflict with drifting nets. If interested Stan Goto can research what it would take then propose to FRP for implementation.
- River Guardians was mentioned. Is there an appetite for further feasibility? What would it look like? What if FRP stood behind the formation of a River Guardian organization? Would there be collaboration between FRP and the new River Guardian organization? How do we do that?
- A reference was made to the last couple of SFAB/SFAC meetings with LFFA at which River Guardians were mentioned.
- Musqueam and Tsawwassen First Nations still have active Aboriginal Fisheries Officers (AFO).
- The Fresh Water Fisheries Society (FWFS) funding from Fresh water licence sales could be a source of funding to support the formation of a River Guardian program.
- Rod Clapton has brought in a sign "Fishing Together on the Fraser" as a follow up from Murray Ned's presentation to FRP.

Action: FRP to consider Cheam or Soowahlie for the next FRP meeting.

6. Other a) 2016-2017 Financial review – Tim Sucic

Tim provided a narrative review of the 2016-2017 financial statements that were presented at the FRP AGM earlier in the spring.

Action: Don and Tim to prepare a budget for 2017 (April 1, 2017 through March 31, 2018)

Other b) Directors as identified at AGM include:

- Ed George
- Marvin Rosenau



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• Tony Nootebos

• Leigh McCracken

• Bobbi Peters

Action: All above new directors are to be confirmed at the next full FRP meeting

7. Next meeting? (July 11, 18, or 25, 2017) Meeting venue to be at Cheam, Soowahlie, or Sumas

8. Adjournment – 16:01

DRAFT