

Summary of Meeting Horsefly River Roundtable Draft as at 18 Oct 2007

Date: 17 Oct 2007

Time: 7:00 to 9:00pm

Present: Linda Bartsch, Maureen LeBourdais, Ray LeBourdais, Barry Booth, Rick Davies, Ryan Grady, Don Lawrence, Geoff Price, Cecil Morhart, Richard Case, Richard Holmes, Silvia Laffer, Mike Simpson.

1. Presentation by Horsefly Cattlemens' Association

Silvia Laffer came and talked to the roundtable about cattlemens' activities in the area, and what the current issues they are facing. There are 16 members in the Horsefly Cattlemens' Association, and 80% of them are seniors, there is little interest from the younger generation to continue due to the marginal economics of raising cattle. They are networked with the Cariboo Cattlemens' Association and the provincial and federal associations, which gives them a voice on national issues such as bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) and export restrictions to the USA. New regulations on slaughtering and federal inspection are having an impact on the industry, however there are 2 local approved slaughterhouses in Beaver Valley, and at Spokin Lake. The financial situation for cattle producers this year is poor, with very low prices for cattle due to a surplus of cattle, lower hay production due to spring drought. Bulk feed is no longer available to limit the spread of BSE, which is causing large volumes of waste packaging material from feed. Invasive plants, specifically orange hawkweed, are taking over open areas, which is out-competing grass and reducing forage quantities and hay production. They have applied for funding to treat these infestations, as the Ministry of Forests and Range are not treating orange hawkweed on Crown land.

Actions on how cattlemen and the roundtable could work together:

- Help distribute information and raise awareness about invasive plants
- Invite Chris Armes, MOFR agronomist to talk about invasive plants

ACTION #1: Mike to invite Chris Armes to speak to the roundtable in spring.

2. Watershed-based Fisheries Sustainability Plan (WFSP)

Two contractors have been hired: Richard Holmes as the fisheries consultant to complete the plan, and Tracy Bond as the coordinator for the roundtable. Richard discussed his background and history in the area, and Tracy was unable to attend this meeting.

There was much discussion about what a WFSP is, and how it is just one component of what the roundtable is doing. Don explained that existing WFSPs are all different, and that the roundtable is interested in looking at a broad range of environmental, economic and social issues and opportunities in the area.

ACTION #2: Rick and Tracy will meet with Maureen, Barry and Mike within the next week to work out details of their workplans and contracts.

3. Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC

Maureen described the LIRN funding that was accessed, that it is for a learning initiative for the roundtable to choose a topic and bring in outside facilitators, experts in a particular topic area, or other speakers. The event must take place by 31 March 2008. Topic to be decided at future meetings.

4. Follow up on action items from past meetings

- Linda will not submit a **funding application** for the pedestrian bridge, as the board of trade did not feel it was appropriate. The board of trade will continue to push for a safe walkway over the river with various government agencies.
- Bill Webb was not present to speak to additional details about the **pedestrian bridge** across the river.
- Sue was not present to speak about other **salmon festival** organizers concerns of merging with the roundtable. There was discussion about how the salmon festival has evolved from a local education event, to a tourist event with significant economic activity for the community that draws in visitors from outside the region. It was agreed that the roundtable should incorporate as their own society, but no decision was made on whether the salmon festival could be administered by the roundtable.
- Mike advised that **Mount Polley** declined the invite to have a public meeting in Horsefly about their application to discharge treated water into Hazeltine Creek, but will advise the roundtable of a public meeting planned for Likely in November. Information and responses from their August public meeting at the mine was distributed. It was agreed to attend the Likely public meeting.
- Geoff provided a list of **past research reports** that are all available on the web, Mike will distribute it by email to the roundtable.

ACTION #2: Geoff to invite Tom Wilkinson of MOE to speak in the spring.

ACTION #3: Mike to distribute information by email to the roundtable.

5. Other Business

The presence of bass in Beaver Valley is of interest - Geoff will arrange for a speaker from MOE to come and talk to the roundtable in the spring.

The next funding call for Pacific Salmon Foundation is due on 1 November 2007. This will be part of Tracy's workplan.

Mike and Sue attended a research open house at University of Northern British Columbia's Quesnel River Research Centre on 13 Oct 2007, that was hosted by Richard Holmes. There were some interesting presentations, and Mike and Sue will decide which would be relevant and interesting to the roundtable and invite them.

ACTION #4: Mike to invite an interesting researcher to speak in spring.

6. Speaker schedule

The following are the speakers and topics lined up for 2007/08:

Date	Speaker	Topic
Nov 15	Katherine VanSpall and/or King Campbell	Ducks Unlimited
Dec 20	Judy Lucas and Linda Sheffield, FrontCounterBC	Land exchanges
Jan 17	Pat Teti, Ministry of Forests and Range	Hydrology
Feb 21	Rob Dolighan, MOE	Freshwater fisheries mgmt
March 20	Keri Benner, DFO	Salmon stock assessments
April 17	Tom Wilkinson, MOE	Bass in Beaver Valley
May 15		
June 19		

Next meeting – Thursday 15 November 2007, 7-9pm in the community hall