

# Summary of meeting Horsefly River Roundtable Draft as at 24 April 2007

**Date:** 19 April 2007

**Time:** 7:00 to 9:00pm

**Location:** Horsefly Community Hall

Meeting participants confirmed the following list of issues and concerns in 5 categories:

## **Stewardship**

- ecosystem health, including hydrology, fish and fish habitat
- knowledge and appreciation of natural history
- viewscales and aesthetics
- recreational tubing on the river – pollution, safety
- education of those outside the roundtable
- water stewardship – quantity and quality

## **Community voice**

- economic, environmental and social opportunities and issues
- communication with government agencies, industry, and other organizations
- education of the roundtable members

## **Industrial development**

- logging and trucking
- road development and access
- mining, mineral exploration, and placer mine reserve on the Horsefly River
- hydroelectric production

## **Planning**

- Cariboo Chilcotin Land Use Plan, Horsefly Sustainable Resource Management Plan
- Settlement planning and access
- other plans

## **Ranching and private land**

- erosion issues on the Horsefly and Moffat mainstems

## **Funding**

Funding is a problem. Potential funding sources include the following:

- Habitat Conservation Fund <http://www.hctf.ca/>
- BC Gaming <http://www.pssg.gov.bc.ca/gaming/grants/index.htm>
- Agricultural Environmental Stewardship Initiative  
[http://www.agr.gc.ca/policy/environment/prog\\_01\\_e.phtml](http://www.agr.gc.ca/policy/environment/prog_01_e.phtml)
- Shell Environmental Fund [http://www.shell.ca/home/Framework?siteId=ca-en&FC2=/ca-en/html/iwgen/society\\_environment/environment/zzz\\_lhn.html&FC3=/ca-](http://www.shell.ca/home/Framework?siteId=ca-en&FC2=/ca-en/html/iwgen/society_environment/environment/zzz_lhn.html&FC3=/ca-)

[en/html/iwgen/society\\_environment/environment/environment\\_fund\\_shared/dir\\_sef.html](http://www.realestatefoundation.com/)

- Real Estate Foundation <http://www.realestatefoundation.com/>
- Vancouver Foundation <http://www.vancouverfoundation.bc.ca/GrantInformation/GrantInformation.shtml>
- Investment Agriculture Foundation of BC – small program for requests <\$10 000 more successful <http://www.iafbc.ca/how.to.apply.htm>
- Horn fund, from local cattlemens' association
- Forest Investment Account – Forest Science Program <http://www.bcfsp.com>
- Living Rivers Trust Fund <http://www.env.gov.bc.ca/pac/livingrivers.htm>
- Environmental farm planning [http://www.bcac.bc.ca/efp\\_programs.htm](http://www.bcac.bc.ca/efp_programs.htm)

## Key priorities for the short term

Participants identified the 2 following issues as priorities for the short term

### 1. Erosion issues – a hands-on project that produces a tangible result

There was much discussion about what kind of project this should be. An opinion was expressed that engineered structures on large rivers like the Horsefly or Moffat are expensive and success is marginal, unless it is work on low gradient sections of the river. Better opportunities for success are found on smaller tributaries, or on activities such as breaching old dikes and rebuilding channels and improving floodplain productivity.

Potential projects must be aligned with agency priorities. Issues and problems for specific species of salmon are as follows:

- Sockeye – high economic value, temperature sensitive. Water temperature would be the management emphasis.
- Chinook – habitat cutoff due to culverts is an issue. Access structure improvement would be the management emphasis.
- Coho – hard to identify, only confirmed in watershed in 1990s. Research would be the management emphasis.

Participants agreed to get community input to identify a small hands-on project that could be done for approximately \$2000, possibly from the Habitat Conservation Fund.

A highly visible site for a project is immediately across the bridge in town – however concerns were raised about defecation and refuse, and who owns that land.

**ACTION #1:** Seek community input on what issue could be a hands-on project. **Judy** to draft an article for the Buzz by 23 April 2007, seeking input to either [msimpson@fraserbasin.bc.ca](mailto:msimpson@fraserbasin.bc.ca) or mailed to Box 83, Horsefly.

**ACTION #2:** **Hugh, Mauro and Mike Lloyd** will research past studies that have identified areas of concern in the watershed, and look into funding through the forest licensees.

**ACTION #3:** **Mike Simpson** will contact Tina Chestnut and Roy Argue of DFO, community liaison contacts, to make them aware of the roundtable.

## 2. Education of the community and roundtable members

Participants agreed that education of themselves and the community is a priority. This can be done by having regular speakers with established dates and topics that are well advertised into the future. Having multiple speakers interact as a panel would be of interest. UNBC has researchers and students doing research in the watershed.

Potential future speakers identified at this, or earlier meetings include the following:

- Pat Teti, hydrologist, MOFR – speaking and/or field tour
- University of Northern BC research chairs and students, on research in the watershed
- Genetically modified foods and associated issues
- Ministry of Energy, Mines and Petroleum resources – what activities are underway in the watershed, what regulations and restrictions apply
- Ducks Unlimited – water stewardship opportunities and innovations for ranchers
- Horsefly Cattlemens' Association
- Ministry of Agriculture and Lands – land swaps for floodplain areas
- Baker Creek Enhancement Society – what can be learned from them?
- Rob Dolighan, Ministry of Environment

**ACTION #4:** Sue will do an inventory of engineering projects that have been done in the watershed in the past.

**ACTION #5:** Mike Simpson will talk to Pat about speaking and/or doing a field tour in early June (meeting to start earlier if a field tour). If Pat is agreeable, Mike S. is to arrange access on Gilbert Walters private land. Mike S. to provide a video camera and tape the field tour.

## Terms of Reference

The following was agreed to:

**Name** – possibilities were discussed, but not finalized: Horsefly River Watersheds Roundtable, or Horsefly Community Watersheds Roundtable.

**Who** – membership consists of members of the Horsefly community, and industries and government agencies that operate in the area, including forest licensees.

**What** – a non-status committee, until money is received, or reassess in the fall. The Horsefly Board of Trade will manage money for the roundtable if necessary, but prefer that the roundtable becomes its own society.

**Where** – covering an area that constitutes the community of Horsefly, including the Horsefly River Watershed, and Beaver Valley.

**When** – Monthly meetings will be held, 2 hour maximum on a weekday evening. No meetings planned for July and August.

**Why** – key priorities identified for the short term, see above. Mission statement and goals are still being developed at this point.

**Next meeting:**

If Pat Teti *can* do a field tour – date to be confirmed, ideally first week of June

If Pat Teti *can not* do a field tour – 7pm, Thurs. **31 May 2007**, Horsefly Community Hall

**Meeting participants**

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