

Summary of Meeting Horsefly River Roundtable Draft as at 25 March 2008

Date: 20 March 2008

Time: 7:00 to 9:00pm

Present: Linda Bartsch, Rick Davies, Tracy Bond, Ray LeBourdais, Barry Booth, Sue Hemphill, Bruce MacLeod, Mike Simpson.

1. Presentation by Keri Benner and Brian Leaf, Fraser Sockeye Stock Assessment Program, Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Kamloops

Keri and Brian gave a presentation on sockeye stock assessment, why it is done, what traditional and high-tech methods are used to assess populations, and what difficulties and challenges exist. One topic that raised concerns was the fact that there was no money in DFO's budget to do assessment in 2002, therefore there is a gap in the data. Also, external funding had to be secured to provide a DIDSON (dual frequency identification sonar) unit in 2007. There was lots of discussion on sockeye escapement and return levels, optimum levels, capacity of an environment to sustain a population, and the role of DFO.

ACTION #1: Barry is to draft a letter on behalf of the Horsefly River Roundtable to Paul Sprout, Regional Director General, Pacific Region, DFO, to raise awareness of the need for proper funding to carry out stock assessments.

2. Watershed-based Fisheries Sustainability Plan

Rick Holmes provided an update of where his work is at. He will be giving a presentation at the next regular HRR meeting, 17 April 2008. Rick expressed some frustration at not being able to get sufficient current information to complete the report. A technical subcommittee has been meeting to give him input, and will meet on the Thursday afternoons on the day of the HRR evening meetings.

Tracy attended a meeting of the Bonaparte Watershed Stewardship Society on 11 March 2008, and will provide an update on what was learned at the next meeting when there is a larger turnout.

Mike mentioned that the subcommittee digressed on Rick, and discussed the need to raise awareness of HRR, what its purpose is and concerns are, to 4 groups:

- Cariboo Managers' Committee – land and resource management representatives from the “dirt” ministries, such as Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Forests and Range, Ministry of Agriculture and Lands, Dept. of Fisheries and Oceans, and others who oversee implementation of the Cariboo Chilcotin Land Use Plan
- Northern Shuswap Tribal Council, and/or Williams Lake Band and Soda Creek Band
- Williams Lake Timber Supply Area steering committee – this is comprised of the Ministry of Forests and Range, as well as forest products companies and licensees (e.g., forest industry)
- Cariboo Resource Committee – a committee of sportsmen, hunters, etc.

Mike suggested that these groups be contacted, and a request made to be put on their agendas for a 15 minute presentation. It was suggested that this take place before summer, and that it's time for a chair (or co-chairs) to be appointed and do these presentations.

It was agreed that a regular column in the Buzz is needed, to summarize what has happened at the previous HRR meeting, to update residents on what the HRR is doing.

ACTION #2: Barry will prepare a regular column for the Buzz.

3. Finances and funding applications

Tracy will initiate a bank account to be set up at the Williams Lake and District Credit Union by 1 April 2008, so that the HRR can receive and manage its own money at that point. The society applicants will also be signing authorities.

Tracy advised the group that the funding application to the Fraser Salmon and Watersheds Program (the funding source for the current plan that Rick Holmes and she are hired to work on) does not have a definite answer, but that she has received indications that it will be successful, and that all applicants will generally get half of what was requested.

It was agreed that Tracy should spend some of her time participating in the technical subcommittee.

5. Other Business

Linda advised that the Cariboo Regional District has initiated a land use planning process for the area, looking at development in the Horsefly Lake and Quesnel Lake areas to ensure that future housing and road development does not negatively impact fisheries and the environment. There are no meetings planned, but residents should be aware of this ongoing process.

Speaker or event schedule

Date	Speaker or event	Topic
April 17	Tom Wilkinson and Lita Gomez, MOE	Bass in Beaver Valley
May 15	Judy Lucas and Linda Sheffield, FrontCounterBC	Land exchanges
June 19	Field trip?	?

Next meeting – Thursday **17 April 2008**, 7-9pm in the community hall. **Agenda items** include:

- Guest speakers
- Watershed-based fisheries sustainability plan – watershed profile – Rick Holmes
- Bonaparte Watershed Stewardship Society update – Tracy
- 2009 Salmon Festival – Sue
- Appointment of chair or co-chairs
- Future speaker schedule for 2008/09 – Northern Shuswap? Doug Turvey, hatchery manager?

Other upcoming meetings

- Watershed-based fisheries sustainability planning technical subcommittee (Barry, Judy Hillaby or Don Lawrence, Sue, Tracy, Richard Case, Rob Dolighan, Geoff Price, and Mike) to meet with Rick at the Scout Island Nature Centre, from 2-4pm on **17 April 2008**. Others are welcome to attend if they wish.