

Summary of Meeting Horsefly River Roundtable Draft as at 23 Feb 2008

Date: 21 Feb 2008

Time: 7:00 to 9:00pm

Present: Linda Bartsch, Rick Davies, Bob Gardner, Tracy Bond, Judy Hillaby, Mike Lloyd, Cecil Morhart, Wayne Johnson, Lawrence Jones, Dwight Gunderson, Jack Horncastle, Geoff Price, Florian Krumsiek, Lisa Christie, Robert Bartsch, Brian Englund, Mike Simpson.

1. Presentation by Rob Dolighan, Biologist, Ministry of Environment

Rob Dolighan with MOE in Williams Lake presented information on fish populations in the Horsefly watershed and beyond, giving historical reference on salmon returns, and the economic importance of commercial and sport fisheries. He also provided information on rainbow trout and other non-anadromous species. He presented information on nutrient loading, and the importance of nitrogen and phosphorus in the system, and how returning salmon supply those nutrients when they decompose after spawning. He stressed that climate change, water temperature levels (oxygen levels decrease in warmer water), and snowpack levels all have impacts on the health of fish, and that riparian conservation is key to mitigating these factors.

ACTION #1: Invite Rob back in fall 2008 to present information on Quesnel Lake.

2. Summary of Learning Initiatives for Rural and Northern BC (LIRN BC) event, held 14 Feb 2008

Mike reported back that fifteen people from the community, including many from the HRR, attended the event. Key activities were listing all community projects that are underway or in the concept stage by a variety of groups, including the HRR. Participants discussed and prioritized the projects, and the following 2 projects were then discussed in further detail by 2 smaller groups of participants:

- **Campground, caretaker, facilities, tourism centre, and trails** – this was the HRR project idea that was suggested in September 2007, with the overall goal of improving visitor experience. The project would formalize the existing camping that is happening across the bridge by designating camping sites (no services), install seasonal outhouses, and have a caretaker to collect fees and garbage. Economic feasibility should be assessed, as acquisition or lease of the property needs to happen. *Specific details will be included in the summary document from the day.*
- **Safety** – this built on the HRR project idea that was suggested in September 2007, with the overall goal of improving access and providing signage for tubers, kayakers, canoeists on the river. Other safety needs within the community were added, such as repeater coverage, river rescue training, first responders, first aid training, and others. Erosion risks to infrastructure within the community was also discussed. *Specific details will be included in the summary document from the day.*

The roundtable agreed that these projects should proceed.

ACTION #2: Tracy to proceed with starting to move these projects forward, Mike is to distribute the summary document from the LIRN BC event on 14 Feb 2008.

3. Society status, funding and funding applications

Tracy and Linda advised the roundtable that the HRR has been incorporated as a non-profit society. 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.

Tracy advised the group that she and Linda decided not to submit a funding application to the Pacific Salmon Foundation, due 15 Feb 2008. The display material can be developed with the existing budget from the current funding. Scout Island Nature Centre will be preparing the display material.

5. Other Business

Tracy advised that there is a Stewardship Workshop in Quesnel on 28 February 2008, focusing on green bylaws. There is funding available for someone from the roundtable to attend – Cecil Morhart agreed to attend.

Linda sought feedback, on Bruce MacLeod's behalf, as to which lake to construct a wheelchair accessible trail for fishing. After some deliberation of fishing quality in other lakes, the original suggestion of Tisdall Lake was agreed to be the best suggestion.

It was suggested to invite Doug Turvey, hatchery manager, to present to the roundtable.

ACTION #4: Mike to contact Doug, and seek his availability.

Speaker schedule

Date	Speaker	Topic
March 20	Keri Benner, DFO	Salmon stock assessments
April 17	Tom Wilkinson, MOE	Bass in Beaver Valley
May 15 or June 19	Judy Lucas and Linda Sheffield, FrontCounterBC	Land exchanges

Next meeting – Thursday **20 March 2008**, 7-9pm in the community hall. It was confirmed that the meeting will proceed, even though it is the day before Easter weekend.

Other upcoming dates

- Watershed-based fisheries sustainability planning technical working group (Barry, Judy, Sue, Tracy, Richard Case, Maureen, Mike) to meet with Rick at the Scout Island Nature Centre, starting at 11:00am on **6 March 2008**. Others are welcome to attend if they wish.
- Rick will make a 0.5hr presentation to the roundtable at the regular meeting on **17 April 2008**, before a larger presentation to the larger community at some time later in the spring.