

Horsefly River Roundtable
Box 354
Horsefly BC
V0L 1L0



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Horsefly River Roundtable

Regular Meeting
August 19, 2023
Horsefly Community Hall
Horsefly BC

Minutes

Present	Regrets
Chair Brian Englund	Director Rick Walters
Vice Chair Bill Lloyd	Ray Englund
Treasurer Helen Englund	Dina Stephenson
Secretary Elaine armagost	
Director Kirsten Saunders	
Director Judy Hillaby via Conference Line	
Monika Schlepper	
Richard Hogan	Non Members Present
Phillip Hartman	Brenda Gurney
Lorena Tillotson	Gary Clarke
Jenny Noble	

Chair Englund called the meeting to order at 10:54

The Secretary read the minutes from the April 20, 2023 meeting.

Kirsten Saunders moved the minutes be accepted as read, Richard Hogan seconded the motion.

Carried

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Old Business

Public Involvement Program (PIP)

Director Hillaby reported that the PIP contract is complete, just waiting for Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) to prepare and send the cheque.

Bank signatures

Chair Englund reported that signatories for the bank account have been completed, they are: Chair Englund, Director Englund and Director Saunders.

Salmon Festival

Director Englund presented on behalf of Salmon Festival Manager, Dina Stephenson.

- Financial draft is complete

- Purchased rechargeable P/A system and mic stand for musicians

- Two food vendors will be present

- Three Artists will attend

- Fourteen Musicians will perform

- Xatsull First Nation will perform the Opening Ceremonies and bless the Fish Pole

- Toilets/wash basins are ordered

- Event Insurance is in place

- Swag is ordered

- Nine stewardship partners will be present with information booths

- Volunteers are lined up

- Security has been hired

- A 12"X16" painting has been prepared by Barbara Derrick for HRR

- Poster is done and on FB, The Buzz and on the website

- Program is done and will be on social media soon

- Radio ads and interviews are scheduled

- Decals and signage will be up soon

Vexilar Cameras

Director Hillaby reports that the contract is complete and the final report has been sent, she will be ordering extra cables for less than \$50.00 suggests that the HRR should purchase these independently and not amend the contract.

Carried Forward

Power Banks

Director Hillaby reports that the money for the sound system power banks has been awarded through the Pacific Salmon Foundation (PSF). She will purchase the power banks. The PSF cheque is being processed and will be on its way.

Carried Forward

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Range Finder

Director Hillaby hasn't ordered the range finder yet. She has approval from PSF and the Board of Directors to make the purchase. The final report is required.

Carried Forward

Kiosks

Directory Hillaby reported that the PSF funds were spent to build a third kiosk for use in the River Trail/Passport system. There are two contracts to finish off. The final report was returned for more information. She will gather information during September's Salmon Festival and resubmit. The goal is to finish it by the fall 2024.

Carried Forward

Clean Drain and Dry

Directory Hillaby reports that the PSF's preference is for us to return the \$1,500.00 as the project was never completed. A fresh initiative is required within HRR which will involve a new application for funding.

Carried Forward

TASK: Write PSF a cheque for \$1,500.00

Watershed Restoration

Director Englund and Director Lloyd met with Forester John Walker with Williams Lake First Nation, Jason Kerley and Conrad Cofey, representing the Ministry of Forests on May 10 to discuss Horsefly River watershed restoration projects. There were no commitments.

The Five Year Forest Stewardship Planning process by the major licensees, BCTS, Tolko and West Fraser is being replaced with a Forest Landscape Planning Process. Jason asked if HRR wants to be part of a stewardship group. Director Englund is investigating what the high level goals of the group are.

Carried Forward

Logging

Directory Englund attended a meeting May 16 with Tolko's Jenna Swanson, Jack Darney and Jamie Beaulne where she learned about the cutting permit issuing process and discussed Fibre VS Ecosystems. Tolko is interested in joining the Forest Landscape Planning group.

Carried Forward

Letter to Josh Pressey, Regional Executive Director (RED) and the Cariboo Chilcotin Forest District.

Director Englund reported that the letter sent on April 26 regarding the Horsefly River Fisheries Sensitive Watershed Order has had no formal response. Informally they

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replied on May 31 stating that a meeting is being scheduled with District Manager, Harold Stoler, Cariboo Chilcotin Forest District and that HRR will be invited to attend. There are discrepancies around the percentage of harvested or Equivalent Clearcut Area (ECA) for each section of the Horsefly River watershed covered in the Order. She plans to have a booth on this particular issue at the Forestry Open House.

Here is a link to the Order: https://www.env.gov.bc.ca/wld/frpa/fsw/order/fsw_5_001.pdf

Director Englund also spoke to a presentation to Cariboo Regional District Board on July 13 by Josh Pressey, RED, Sarah Szatamari, acting District Manager, 100 Mile Forest District, Harold Solar, District Manager, Cariboo Chilcotin Forest District and Ian Hannah, District Manager of Forestry First Nations, Quesnel. The session was an update of what is expected in the Cariboo Regional District and was mostly focussed on Forestry's duty to consult and related issues that may require legislative changes. Once a copy of the presentation is received it will be shared with HRR and possible be available at the Forestry Open House.

Our area is currently undergoing it Timber Supply Review where the Annual Allowable Cut (AAC) is being reviewed and st. Director Englund is going to write another article about how the AAC results in more timber coming from the east side of the timber supply area. She has maps and calculations available.

Here is a link for more information regarding the Timber Supply Review: <https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/industry/forestry/managing-our-forest-resources/timber-supply-review-and-allowable-annual-cut>

Carried Forward

Forestry Open House

Director Englund reports that this event was postponed due to fires and holidays and is being scheduled for October. BCTS has not even replied, West Fraser, Tolko and Cariboo Chicotin Forest District representatives will attend.

Member Noble volunteered to help organize the day and HRR is hoping Director Walters will also assist.

Member Schaelper provided an update about the Millar Road group, who is negotiating with Tolko regarding clearcut harvesting and hauling on Millar Road. Tolko replies with ridiculous claims and the group sees that they are not negotiating in good faith. She also spoke of the old Horsefly Lake group which worked hard to keep up on development plans, but noting was ever settled satisfactorily and the group has disbanded.

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There was discussion around the Forest Stewardship Plans and how the HRR might be able to engage the public to make comments on proposed blocks.

Director Lloyd added that sustainability should be a focus. Director Armagost has reported the infraction of under-utilized timber left on a landing on the Z Road near Quesnel Lake. HRR agrees that everyone ought to be out there reporting infractions. This is the link where offences are reported by the public.

<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/natural-resource-stewardship/natural-resource-law-enforcement/conservation-officer-service/cos-rapp#:~:text=Call%201%2D877%2D952%2D,%2D800%2D465%2D4336>

It is advisable to keep records of everything you report. If you report on-line, add a statement on the form that you have photos available. This is also the place to report if invasive plants such as orange hawkweed were introduced by harvesting activities and have spread from a cutback to private land.

Member Noble discussed the “stop the spray” program and talked about how retention of deciduous stands help reduce floods and Fires.

There was a short discussion about pursuing a Community Forest for Horsefly.

Director Hillaby suggested that the HRR ought to consider hiring an independent consultant to look closely at the Fisheries Sensitive Watershed Order and the ECA's. Director Walters has shared his concerns with the group and may be a good person to chase this down. The PSF may financial support this initiative. Chair Englund will follow up with this.

Carried Forward

Boardwalk on the River Trail

Director Englund reports that Jenna Swanson with Tolko is working towards plans and supplies required to replace the boardwalk. Jenna is working towards plans and supplies to replace the boardwalk. DFO requires the plans to be submitted and approved prior to any works being undertaken. Arts On The Fly has volunteers who are willing to help with the demolishing and reconstruction. Between AOTF, HRR and Tolko the job shouldn't take long once DFO approves.

Carried Forward

Arts On The Fly (AOTF)

Member Noble discussed the event, overall feedback was that everyone loved the venue at the River Park. The sound was pointed away from the village and there were plenty of shady areas. The kiosks were well attended, Carla Bullinger's Story Walk was a big hit. All of the vendors were great, there will be some improvement for 2024

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regarding placement and noisy generators. Areas were left clean and tidy and security had a few incidents which were dealt with efficiently. The campground was mowed, raked and debris was removed. There are offers to hay it or burn it off for 2024. Attendance is estimated at between 400-425. Plans for 2023 are to expanding to a Friday evening and Saturday show. There were a few tense moments when the wind came up due to some dead tops on the cottonwood. AOTF thanks the HRR and DFO for approving their plan for 2023 and look forward to working together again. HRR is invited to have a kiosk at the 2024 AOTF.

Member Noble discussed the possibility of building a semi-permanent stage, AOTF wishes to meet with DFO and HRR to discuss the possibility. Previous conversations with DFO reveal their concern with flooding in the River Park and permanent structures causing erosion. The suggestion is for AOTF to put together a plan for DFO where they might include the concrete slab and/or a “phase two” of the Board Walk replacement plan. She will take these suggestions back to AOTF.

Director Englund responded that DFO has an existing contractor who will do Danger Tree Assessment and removal. She will contact DFO and ask that they include the River Park to their current workload. She also stated that DFO would need to provide approval for any burn offs.

Carried forward

NEW BUSINESS

No Overnight Parking at the River Park

The sign at the front of the park has disappeared. Parking on the beach is an issue.

Discussions were had around:

- Replacing the signage through the DFO spawning channel maintenance contract.
- Adding a poster to the kiosks about no overnight parking/parking on the beach
- Creating designated camping areas
- Policing the area would require a statute and perhaps contracting a caretaker
- Placing large rocks strategically across the beach access

Director Englund will contact the DFO maintenance contractor for a “No Overnight Parking” replacement sign and discuss a “No Parking On The Beach” sign.

Carried Forward

2023 Projects

1. Director Lloyd painted the outside of outhouse and fixed the concrete base. He will paint the inside a light colour.

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2. Directors Englund and Armagost will paint a protective coating on the concrete salmon by the Fish Pole

3. Member Hartman has done more drone work and has some footage from last week. The Horsefly River is really low.

Discussion around making Member Hartman an administrator of the FB page so he can post 3 second to 1 minute videos that focus on the habitat for fish species that are named on the Order, which include, but are not limited to : sockeye, Kokanee, Chinook, Coho, Bull and Rainbow Trout.

Another discussion was around water monitors, some of which are in place. Chair Englund knows there are data dating back to the 1940's. If it can be located, it may be good to incorporate into the watershed ECA issue and sustainable forest practices in the watershed.

Some discussion was had around the Salmon return predictions, which are very low for 2023. The Bar Slide has been remediated and shouldn't impede any Salmon returns. Low water and high temperatures are the biggest mitigating factor. Quesnel Lake is so low the Elysia dock is sitting on the beach.

It was agreed that public involvement is key in all of these environmental issues. Directors Lloyd and Armagost will work towards an article for FB, Buzz and the Tribune with the 'how to's' of reporting infractions.

4. The Fish Pole Ceremony is planned to occur at the September Salmon Festival.

5. A Salmon Egg Float fundraiser should be planned for June/July 2024. Perhaps in conjunction with Fathers Day or AOTF.

Director Saunders will work with Members Noble and Tillotson to plan this event.

Carried forward

Other business

Member Hartman asked about a local fish hatchery. Director Hillaby explained that DFO has to instigate a hatchery and right now there aren't enough breeding stock. Quesnel Hatchery and Horsefly Spawning Channel are the two existing facilities. Populations are so precious at this point, the process is too risky. Roy Argue is an expert in the field. Horsefly school has done some fish things, but there are not enough eggs to support these kinds of initiatives.

Empty Kiosk

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Director Hillaby discussed the third kiosk and the need for content. Suggestions are that one side be for local history and the other for First Nations history. The Horsefly Historical Society could provide content. Planning needs to be initiated with local First Nations groups. Director Englund said there are plans to acquire the funding.
Carried Forward

Director Lloyd moved the meeting be adjourned, Director Saunders seconded the motion.
Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 12:40 pm.

Next meetings for 2023
Oct 19
Dec 21

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