

Nootka Sound Watershed Society

Minutes of meeting held on Wednesday, March 26, 2006 in the Tsaxana Office

Present:

Michel Rabu (P); Pat Dennison (T)-Gold River Resources Ltd.; Dick Dennison (D)-Gold River Rod and Gun; Jennifer Koch-Secretary; Dave Davies-DFO; Roger Dunlop, Nuuchahnulth Tribal Council; Larry Andrews, Tuta Marina; Jim Davis, Resort Operator; Deb Clemenson, V. O. Tahsis Councillor; Bill Haggarty, Resident; Jamie James, Mowachaht/Muchalaht FN; Steven Emmonds; Erich Mehlhart, resident; Axel Anderson, Resident; Charlie Cornfield, Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts

1. **Michel Rabu called the meeting to order at 7:15 p.m.**
 - Michel asked everyone to sign the attendance sheet, mentioned minutes will be recorded. Introductions were done.
2. **Changes/additions/approval of agenda**
 - Expense claim \$4,584-Pat Dennison to Dave Davies
 - Bill Shaw/Preston numbers-Save Emmonds.
 - Clemenson moved, D. Dennison 2nd, Approved.
3. **Changes or additions to minutes of the previous meeting-none**
4. **Charlie Cornfield – Ministry of Tourism, Sport and the Arts-presentation**
 - Update on recreation in area
 - Recreation has moved from the MOF to Tourism, Sport and the Arts.
 - Several new Partnership Agreement-Eg Tahsis, Pat and Dick Dennison
 - Government hopes to double tourism by 2015 through various programs.
 - Programs: 2008 is the 150th Birthday for BC (Community Programs), Increasing the recent decline in fishing licenses
 - Visuals handled by MOF
 - Recreational Roads: \$ funds for maintenance for roads. Eg Woss to Gold River Tahsis/Zeballos loop?
 - Roads past Cougar Creek
 - Cave inventories
 - GAR order for CR
 - C&E and RCMP
 - MOE-\$7 million to \$21 million through “Living Rivers Program”
 - Cougar Creek-parking lots, docks.
 - Investigation Nesook public access.
 - Hisnit Inlet access-no development due to sensitivity.
 - Michel request attendance-few times per year.
 - Parks were separated due to fear of commercialization of parks.
 - Limited infrastructure due to eel grass, archaeological. Unlikely able to meet public demands in terms of infrastructure.
 - Michel requested Charlie attend a few meetings a year and thanked him for coming.
 - Charlie Cornfield requested minutes of this meeting.
5. **Business arising from the minutes.**
 - Website billing-Axel will investigate further. Bill received from uniserve.
 - Involving Guides-
 - o Need list of contact information for guides
 - o Meetings are being advertised in Campbell River and The Record papers. Need more publicity. Opportunity for free lance articles.

- o Jim Davis – Director. Will have a meeting with guides in 2 or 3 weeks. Concerns they have is coho enhancement. Thinks there will be lots of interest. Need a plan to involve guides.
- o Michel would write a letter to guides given contact info.
- o Ask for support of ideas for programs.
- o Roger will invite 2 girls from outreach and education. Notify Pat by April 15, 2006 for advertisement
- Signs for Lodge owners-tabled-Motion by Deb, 2nd by Bill, so approved.
- Dance and Dinner-Steve Shelley plans to put one on this fall at the Recreation Site in Tahsis. NSWs offers their help, perhaps a combined event.
- Fine monies-no further information. Will be dropped from Agenda for now.

6. Correspondence

- February 27, 2006-Achievement Award received. Brochure attached. Mention in paper. Award with Jenn.
- DFO compensation ideas-a.s.a.p.. Suggestions for the Conuma River, Canton River, warm watered creek.
- Roger Dunlop-Mowachaht/Muchalaht object to the *manner that fishfarming is being pursued using the netcages*, and have suggested *alternatives in land-based closed containment technology*.

Grieg Benthic Impact Compensation project:

Roger had direction from the Mowachaht/Muchalaht Chiefs to provide information about their views of this compensation project for sediment from fishfarm at Muchalat South:

History: MMFN objected to farms due to benthic Impacts and many other impacts of open-net cage fishfarms in a single migration route and Aboriginal title and rights, including right to decide to what use land can be put, navigation rights and right of taxation called Ou'mas. Suggested alternate land-based as is being developed now by Green Island Energy: Baramundi, closed-contained, effluent filtration and ozone and UV sterilization of effluent. Baramundi is a warm water species so if there are escapes, the fish can't survive, parasites not a problem and disease is contained by the two forms of irradiation of the effluent water. The feces and waste is made into bricks and sold for fertilizer: Check out www.cellaqua.com for details

Greig originally proposed two other projects: Building up the reef at the can buoy at east end of Hanna Channel: navigation hazard.

Buidling beach near Cheesish: one already exists there at the Luna camp, but did not appear in DFO Clam beach and BC Maff (now MAL) capability studies: used for food shellfish harvests by Mowachaht/Muchalaht people.

MMFN would like you to know that first they told DFO there would be impacts: DFO approved on basis there would not be. We all know that was not correct. Now DFO is looking to authorize the impacts on benthic habitat by deposition of fish feces and waste feed and chemicals in it like emamectin benzoate;

"MMFN would prefer that Grieg not use open-net cages and use closed containment systems as they have suggested all along.

That so far has not happened. That being said so they would prefer that a) Grieg clean-up the waste under the farms. We are talking about Muchalaht South site. Compensation also is required for the benthic impacts of other two open-net farms at Atrevida and Williamson Passage.

DFO has a method of 'habitat banking' using compensation of one habitat type of 'higher carbon production ie eelgrass/estuary sedge areas in exchange for larger area of impact in what DFOO

considers consider lower value habitat e.g the areas under the farm that produces zooplankton to feed all the fish at depth, including juvenile blackcod, and salmon juveniles.

Mowachaht/Muchalaht recommendations for the prioritization of compensation projects in response to a request from DFO for input regarding habitat damage by Grieg's Muchalat South fish farm.

MMFN made it clear they were not consenting to the damage to fish habitat by participating in consultation. Their first preference is to remove the open-net cages and have Grieg clean up the waste sediment and contaminants building up under this fish farm. Department of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO) informed MMFN (in the environmental screening process) that the risk of damage to fish habitat was minimal at this site, prior to the fish farm site being approved. MMFN were assured that there was no cause for any concern to the marine environment. This was either an error, or purposely misleading. In either event, the Department has admitted there are impacts that require mitigation, since DFO is now considering providing a permit for this pollution. Had this fish farm not been approved as an open-net cage farm, and had DFO had respected MMFN's considerable input regarding alternative facilities, these impacts to fish habitat would not have occurred. This process has left us with little faith in the environmental screening process that is used to assess fish farms.

That being said we now provide our recommendations and our rationale for arriving at those prioritized recommendations.

In our meetings we suggested that DFO should compensate for the bottom impact by replacing it with habitat of similar depth and quality. However, in our experience it is impossible to make new habitat or 'improve' existing functioning habitat without disrupting another form of fish habitat. Therefore, the next logical step would be to rehabilitate existing habitat that had been damaged and might be made functional by removal of waste wood and logging debris. We offer the following considerations for your deliberations:

- The farther from the head of Muchalat and Matchlee Inlets, the greater the number of estuaries that are used by young fish during their residence and eventual migration from the inlet (e.g. Burman vs Kleeptee).
- Burman has not been disturbed recently but has the greatest at-risk stock (pink salmon).
- Forestry operators are responsible for clean up of their tenures so the work should occur outside those sites, while those operators should be encouraged by DFO to remediate their tenures on an on-going and regular basis.
- Chinook and coho should be targeted as the other fish such as sockeye, pink and chum rapidly transit the estuaries at relatively higher rates.
- The limited Grieg sea lice salmon smolt timing data indicated the McCurdy Creek foreshore is used likely by Gold River fish.
- The Jacklah (Txec'la) River has a large estuary, and the relatively shallow depth area has been used extensively for log dumping, booming and log storage. That river has limited access for fish and the upper reaches are steep (3->3% slope). The proportion of estuary and relatively shallow near-shore area to fish production from that river is relatively high. Fish from the Gold, Burman, and Jacklah likely use the area to a large extent as indicated by high use of McCurdy Creek. This would therefore be a high priority area for rehabilitation.
- McCurdy Creek has a small booming and storage area and steep drop-off. It should be surveyed by ROV to evaluate potential rehabilitation options.
- The stream east of Muchalat south has not had direct log storage and forestry use.
- Kleeptee Creek bay is currently being used following relatively little use in the past decade by forestry operations. This area could be surveyed for potential rehab opportunities. Kleeptee sockeye are considered at risk by DFO.
- Moo'yah has Chinook at risk, as well as chum, coho, and sockeye. It has a relatively large estuary and major logging impacts. Interfor operates a large dump and log storage area. The bay is an important crab area. This site would be a good candidate for debris removal.

Given the above considerations we might suggest that following the cleanup of the sediments deposits under the farms. Grieg should conduct ROV surveys in: 1) Jacklah (Txec'la) Bay; 2)

Moo'yah Bay; 3) McCurdy Creek; and, 4) Kleeptee (Kleeptee) Creek to determine the most suitable and cost effective location for remediation of accumulated logging debris outside of existing log dump and storage area boundaries. These are identified in the order of priority in which sites would contribute the most to restored benthic function for salmon and rockfish conservation. The extent of the area in hectares to be rehabilitated will have to be negotiated. We suggest that double the area of impacts be rehabilitated to confidently ensure there will be no net loss of habitat.

A suitable disposal site will be required for recovered log and bark waste.

Roger noted that this is an opportunity to actually use the NSWS terms of reference goals and objectives to evaluate the alternates in terms of the correct recommendations. There are a lot of other impacts not considered yet. Sea lice, disease transfer, etc.

Roger Dunlop noted he was in conflict of interest and would abstain from participation in decision making by the Board around this issue. Roger to forward these notes to Jennifer.

The Chair noted that Tim Davies of GSBCLtd. had asked to be involved in a conference call if necessary.

Other suggestions from the table included ideas around other projects on the shelf that came to mind

- 1) Conuma River pond overflow water to run into old existing overflow channel;
- 2) Canton River groundwater side channel has good warmwater groundwater source and potential for development

The group needs to know if engineering plans for these two projects are complete and this may be a case of finding funding for the side channels, Mel Sheng could be invited to discuss.

- 3) Estuary improvement in the Tahsis where the river is channelized. A major project and undertaking

It was suggested that the NSWS could also put forward some of these to Pacific Salmon Commission Endowment Fund.

Letter to Grieg suggested that this Society takes position for Grieg to bring back some specifics on the two possible projects identified as it is hard to make a decision, and get some feedback. Would like to participate and get some more information to work with. Suggest a face to face meeting to deal with it.

It was also the use of rock from the tunnel on the Ucona River might be available in the future could also be put to use in improving or adding to the estuary in the Gold River, if and when that project might occur, to compensate for some of the habitat lost in construction of the mill site.

Roger to forward these notes to Jennifer.

- Davies to contact Mel Shang to find out about prescriptions on Canton.
- Do not know parameters of projects without Grieg.
- NSWS wishes to stay neutral. Draft letter to Grieg expressing willingness to participate. However, it is felt this can not be accomplished without Grieg's input. May require face to face meeting. Jenn to draft letter to Grieg.
- Dave Davies suggested rehabilitating Tahsis Estuary-Canalized estuary.-see e-mail.
- Roger Dunlop-This was a heads up also as that project is not going to occur for certain. I did not say for rehab reef building. I did mention the 950,000 m3 of material dredged from the inlet buries the original estuary. There was a possibility some of the rock from that project could be put to use replacing some

of the lost estuary area by placing this rock on the east side of the current estuary.

- Roger also mentioned that the impacts are occurring in Muchalat Inlet so that is where compensation should occur, not elsewhere such as in Tlupana Inlet and Tahsis inlet.

- - Bruce Adkins e-mail-March 10, 2006.
 - o More confusion about numbers.
 - o Agreement still in draft stages
- 57,000 outplant coho
61,000 incubation coho
116,000
- Intention of \$ was for Net pens to raise more coho.

8. New Business

- **Elections**-advertising AGM-requires 30 days notice
- Next meeting-advertise again-PAT
- Motion, 2nd by Deb, so approved. AGM Elections April 26, 2006.
- Tim Davies expressed interest to be on the board as Grieg.
- Secretary-replacement available in September. Board agreed to pay secretary \$50.00 per session. Motion by Bill, 2nd by Deb Clemenson.
- Steve Emmonds-Bill Shaw/Preston Numbers
1400
8700 Chinook
Hope to complete survey
- Applied for Pacific Salmon Foundation \$35000-fish feeder. Verbally accepted.
- Net pen cheque \$2,000.00. Plaque from PSF given to Steve Emmonds to put on the net pen.
- Net pen project letter-given to Jk-direct to Pat/Deb.
pictures of net pen to be sent to PSF.
- Gala for Grieg Seafood-NSWS mentioned-newspaper article given to Pat.
- John Duncan is our voice in Ottawa as a fishery advisor. NSWS should open communications with him.
- Jim Mitchell-sensor fence @ Dunlop Creek.
- Purchase feeder first 2 weeks of April-no other \$ commitments. Motion to purchase feeder by Dick, 2nd by Axel, approved.
- Expense claim for PIP. Circulated around table and given to Dave Davies. Pat to include more bills to cover Streamkeepers as their invoices are likely irretrievable. Pat to add more.

9. Reports

- Financial reports-Pat Dennison. See attached-Motion to accept by Axel, 2nd by Jim, all in favour.
- Up to \$7000 with PSF cheque.
- Apply for money next year.

10. Action Items/Open Discussion

- Tahsis Enhancement-\$3000 funded through Texas mickey.
- Need 2 more net pens for Gold and Tahsis.
- Streamkeepers-are they defunct?
- Report on Ecosystems from Michel from meeting in CR circulated.
- Larry Andres support letter. Larry's letter has been accepted. Fax letter of support for Larry.

11. Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned. Approved.
- Next meeting is on Wednesday, April 26, 2006 at WFP Board Room.at 7pm.

Axel Anderson

From: Jennifer Koch [JenKoch@westernforest.com]
Sent: May 25, 2006 7:43 AM
To: Axel Anderson; djstew@cablerocket.com; daviesd@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca; debclemenson@hotmail.com; fisheries@yuquot.ca; JPawelchak@westernforest.com; info@moutchabay.com; jimmitchell@cablerocket.com; jim@tahsisbc.com; kblack@ualberta.ca; michelrabu@uniserve.com; PDennison@westernforest.com; jorandy@telus.net; rdunlop@nuuchahnulth.org; EmmondsS@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca; fish@cablerocket.com; daviest@grieg.ca; tomdale@shaw.ca
Subject: FW: comments NSWS March 29th 2006 meeting notes

As per Roger's request please find the forwarded e-mail regarding the march minutes and the modified march minutes.

From: Roger Dunlop [mailto:uupiihaa@cablerocket.com]
Sent: Tuesday, April 18, 2006 4:26 PM
To: Jennifer Koch
Cc: fish@cablerocket.com; daviest@grieg.ca; tomdale@shaw.ca; EmmondsS@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca; daviesd@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca; debclemenson@hotmail.com; fisheries@yuquot.ca; Jeff Pawelchak; info@moutchabay.com; jimmitchell@cablerocket.com; jim@tahsisbc.com; kblack@ualberta.ca
Subject: RE: comments NSWS March 29th 2006 meeting notes

Hi Jennifer,

Here a couple of minor corrections and clarifications for the minutes of the last NSWS meeting on March 29, 2006.

I saw Tim Davies in Campbell River and told him the MMFN asked me to take the information forward to the NSWS and that I, due to conflict of interest, would not participate there in any decision about the post-impact decision by DFO to provide DFO with after the fact authorizations for impacts.

Some corrections required to your notes for March 29, 2006 NSWS notes are:

1) "Bands reject farms". This is problematic as: a) First Nations in Nootka 'do not play electric guitars' so the term 'Band (which is a Dept of Indian and Northern Affairs and Indian Act term) is objected to by many 'First Nations'. First Nations is a more appropriate noun to employ; As we are all familiar by now with which First Nations are involved, the most appropriate term is "Mowachaht/Muchalaht" which is not followed by the recent term 'First Nations' in the Mowachaht/Muchalaht protocol as per their letterhead.

2) NSWS were discussing impacts in the Muchalaht traditional territory of the Mowachaht/Muchalaht First Nations where the footprint and sediment and other impacts are occurring; The statement 'reject farms' is not correct and this was not what was said. Mowachaht/Muchalaht object to the *manner that fishfarming is being pursued using the netcages*, and have suggested *alternatives in land-based closed containment technology*;

3) The statement "MMFN would prefer that Grieg not be used open-net cages and use closed containment systems": should be changed to "MMFN would prefer that Grieg not use open-net cages and use closed containment systems as they have suggested all along.

4) "Roger-Dunlop-using Ucona power project rock for rehab reef building." This was a heads up also as that project is not going to occur for certain. I did not say for rehab reef building. I did mention the 950,000 m3 of material dredged from the inlet buries the original estuary. There was a possibility some of the rock from that project could be put to use replacing some of the lost estuary area by placing this

rock on the east side of the current estuary.

5) Also need to note that I mentioned that the impacts are occurring in Muchalat Inlet so that is where compensation should occur, not elsewhere such as in Tlupana Inlet and Tahsis inlet).

Dave Davies had suggested rehabilitation of the "Tahsis estuary," not 'Tahsis Inlet'. I think he intended reference to the canalized estuary segment of the Tahsis River. In that estuary the distributary channels have all been destroyed so there is little in any Chinook rearing habitat left as the salt sedge marsh channels are >90% destroyed. Also for interests sake the aerial photo's show the results of skidding logs up down and through the river channel to the now dismantled mills and excessive removal of forest cover has resulted in channel simplification, including the loss of input source for LWD budget in the main channel (Net loss of wood from channel) and resulting loss of root strength in the river banks, compressed hydrograph and aggradation from accelerated liberation of sediment from storage on hillsides or in the banks, etc. All of these would be good restoration candidates for projects out of Tahsis.

Correspondence:

I do not recall any correspondence on weir in upper Gold as none had yet been written as far as I know. More appropriately it was a heads up as the permit application stage was only initiated after the NSWWS meeting occurred. So it should appear somewhere appropriate for updates/new information.

On a last point and I had mentioned it and its captured in the text would be to follow the NSWWS Terms of Reference and vet each proposed project against the terms of reference for consistency and then forward the rankings for each proposed project to DFO. This would likely take an extraordinary meeting. I am sure Andrews Day would come up and help with that process.

I have invited Dawn Foxcroft for the next meeting. She is trying to coordinate that with a meeting at the Mowachaht/Muchalaht community so it may clash in which case she would be available for the May meeting.

Thanks you for your patience with these very important details and your perseverance in taking the notes and transcribing the recorded notes.

Sincerely,

Roger Dunlop R.P. Bio.
NTC Fisheries/Uu-a-thluk

From: Jennifer Koch [mailto:JenKoch@westernforest.com]

Sent: April 12, 2006 7:10 AM

To: Axel Anderson; Djstew@Cablerocket.Ca; daviesd@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca; debclemenson@hotmail.com; fisheries@yuquot.ca; JPawelchak@westernforest.com; info@moutchabay.com; jimmitchell@cablerocket.com; jim@tahsisbc.com; kblack@ualberta.ca; michelrabu@uniserve.com; PDennison@westernforest.com; jorandy@telus.net; rdunlop@nuuchahnulth.org; EmmondsS@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca; fish@cablerocket.com; daviest@grieg.ca; tomdale@shaw.ca

Subject:

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