

# **MINUTES FOR WATERSHED COMMITTEE MEETING ON FEBRUARY 10/2000**

CALLED TO ORDER AT 7:40 PM.  
16 IN ATTENDANCE

**GOVERNMENT REPRESENTATIVES:**

FOC-GEORGE BATES, CHRIS ERIKSON

MOF-BOB DICE

BC HYDRO-GOFF LONGWORTH

**GOLD RIVER COUNCIL**-DAVE STEWART

**TAHSIS COUNCIL**-JOYCE DAVIES

**COMPANY REPRESENTATIVES:**

WFP-NELS NIELSEN

INTERFOR-WARREN WARTIG

**FIRST NATIONS REPRESENTATIVES:**

NTC TRIBAL COUNCIL-ROGER DUNLOP

**GOLD RIVER ROD AND GUN**-K.C. ARNEIL

**GOLD RIVER RESIDENTS**-LARRY AND ARLENE FEHR, DICK DENNISON,  
JON BANAS, MAUREEN PLECAS

The meeting started off with Warren Wartig (Interfor/Kyuquot Management Board) giving a brief presentation on the benefits of forming a watershed committee. Paul Smith (RAMS) asked if everyone could fill out the questionnaire during the meeting and hand it in to him at the end of the meeting. Paul then asked if anyone had any comments or questions. Larry Fehr (Resident) asked what a watershed committee would do? Paul responded that it would provide a vehicle to secure funding for watershed restoration and enhancement projects. George Bates (FOC) added that it would coordinate all the ongoing and potential projects in the area so only one group is working on a watershed at a time and money is being spent cost effectively. Bob Dice (MOF) asked Paul to give his definition of what a watershed committee would accomplish. Paul answered that his view is that a watershed committee would be a partnership between the stakeholders in the area to resolve watershed issues and build a better future for salmon stocks. Bob questioned whether it would be another level of bureaucracy. Paul stated that the members of the committee would determine the direction and goals of the committee. George Bates asked what would be the boundaries? Paul responded that, that too would be up to committee members to decide on. George asked about the Nootka Resource Board and how it would tie into the committee? Roger Dunlop (NTC BIOLOGIST) replied that there are three members of the NRB sitting here tonight but wearing different hats. The Nootka Resource Board is involved in land use planning. K.C. Arniel (Rod and Gun) said that for the last 15-20 years he has been asking for help on Hutchinson

Creek that runs through the rod and gun club property and nothing has been resolved. George Bates responded that there has been work done to the creek and he has gotten involved when necessary. Warren Wartig added that this is the essence of a watershed committee. It is community driven. It also provides a stronger voice to Government and agencies than one group or individuals. Joyce Davies (Tahsis Council) asked for some examples on the benefits of a local watershed committee. Paul Smith talked a little about the training benefits that are requirements of some funding criteria and the benefits of more salmon returning hence more tourism dollars. Roger Dunlop stated that there is some employment generated through restoration projects and training that is involved to reduce the need for outside expertise. George Bates said that there are programs in place for education in the school system like salmonids in the classroom etc. George asked if the future stream keepers groups would be tied into the committees. Paul's answer was yes. Paul then asked to go around the table asking for each person's description of projects that they're involved in and the benefits that they might see from forming a watershed committee. Projects: Gold River restoration project-Oktwanch Side Channel, smolt trap/escapement estimation project; Hutchinson Creek-try to stop aggradation that is stranding fry in summer; Mooyah River- Side Channel Project; Tsowwin River-road deactivation project; Nootka Island-Vaughn Creek and Crawfish Lake road deactivation projects; Tahsis Hatchery-proposed new waterline project; Tahsis River-possible fish counting fence. Funding organizations available: Forest Renewal BC (FRBC), Fisheries Renewal BC (FsRBC), Human Resources and Development Corporation (HRDC), Habitat Restoration and Salmon Enhancement Program (HRSEP), Pacific Salmon Foundation, Habitat Conservation Trust Fund, Bridge Coastal Compensation Program (BC HYDRO). Priority issues from questionnaire: fisheries habitat protection and restoration; coordinated fisheries work in area; community driven; sewer treatment instead of dumping raw sewage into Gold River. Action items: Both town council representatives will present to council and come back with direction for level of support. Committee members will determine terms of reference, mandate, committee name, chairperson, secretary, watershed boundaries and discuss dates, times and places of future meetings. There was discussion around the lack of representation of local residents and the procedures used to inform everyone of the meeting. The next meeting will be on March 29/00 at the Tsaxana Meeting Room at 7:30pm. Meeting was adjourned at 9:30 pm.