

SUMMARY
FRAFS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
OCTOBER 15, 2013



In-person meeting
Best Western Tower Inn, Quesnel
12:00 – 5:00 p.m.

A. PARTICIPANTS

- Ken Malloway (Meeting Chair)
- Thomas Alexis
- Dana Bellis
- Ernie Crey
- Murray Ross
- Gord Sterritt
- Ernie Victor
- Adrian Wall
- Neil Todd
- Walter Quinlan
- Terri Bonnet, Howie Wright, Pete Nicklin, Mike Staley via teleconference

B. AGENDA ITEMS

After review and adjustments, the agenda was finalized and accepted:

1. Roll call, review, adjust, and accept the agenda
2. Old business – review draft minutes and Action Items from previous meeting
3. Budget Expenditures: update and report
4. Discussion re: implementation of the Finance Committee
5. Post season review
6. Update from DFO re: resuming former positions.
7. Review EC TORs
8. Share information on the Salmon CC's first meeting with DFO.
8.1) re: updating the Commercial Salmon Allocation Framework.

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Agenda continued

- 8.2) discussion re: potential coordination of SCC with Forum/JTWG processes
9. Draft follow-up letter to RDG re Fraser Panel appointments
10. TORs: JTWG / Forum Planning Committee
11. Road Map update and contract with GTA
12. Southern BC Chinook
13. Conference call logistics
14. Appendix to the FNFC Charter

C. DISCUSSIONS

1. Roll call:

Attendance noted as listed under "Participants."

2. Old Business:

Review minutes from the previous meeting

Minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

Action Items

Action Items from the previous meeting were completed, or, in-progress.

3. Budget Expenditures: update and report

The Ops Manager reported that we're on track to end the fiscal year on-budget.

4. Discussion re: implementation of the EC Finance Sub-Committee

A meeting of the sub-committee will be held in preparation for the next EC meeting.

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5. Post season review

The topic of a post season review (i.e. 2013 fishing season), as well as DFO's new changes to the 2014/15 IFMP development timeline were discussed.

Questions:

- Could the focus of the post-season report be on concerns submitted to the IFMP.
- Could initial submissions be guiding principles to the report?

Three questions related to capacity and timing brought about by the changes to the IFMP:

1. Is the department going to send us a plan so that we can prepare?
2. Are there resources to facilitate work in this shorter timeline?
3. What's the schedule for First Nations to review last year's IFMP?

DFO provided a current, unconfirmed schedule:

- Dec.: post season meeting
- End of Jan.: get initial input based on last year
- 1st of March: 30 day consultation period begins
- DFO will respond, but, there'll be no second draft.

It was noted that this was not a small issue on the technical side: it totally changes work plans. DFO agreed that it's a serious challenge. In addition, this supports the need for more effective links with the JTWG and the Forum Planning Committee.

6. Update from DFO re: resuming former positions.

L. Jantz has returned as Area Director. D. Allen is Area Chief. Adrian Wall is back in his role as Aboriginal Affairs Advisor.

7. Review EC TORs

The Operations Manager led the EC through an item-by-item review of revisions. Discussion centred on the JTWG section: It was recommended that the TOR regard the JTWG as an "entity" and define what it is; and describe the EC's role when the JTWG hits an impasse and reports that back to the EC.

The question around "mandate" in relation to the roles of the EC First Nation members in this regard was raised and discussed. The DFO members of the EC have well-established mandates internally, and can pursue issues "up the ladder" within DFO.

The Operations Manager is to follow up and report at the November EC meeting.

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8. Share information on the Salmon CC's first meeting with DFO:

8.1 re: updating the Commercial Salmon Allocation Framework

The FNFC rep said that the SCC provided comment on the draft terms of reference for the commercial salmon modernization framework through a memo in the spring. In August they'd received a response letter and final terms of reference.

The October meeting opened the process up for broader engagement and included brainstorming and info sharing. One result was discussion on collaboratively developing a "Fact Sheet" to communicate with First Nations on the scope of the CSAF updates. The SCC was looking to also put forward a proposal about how to change the commercial salmon allocation at the end of phase 1. First Nation issues/concerns included: less access than other sectors; short term agreements, and some years no agreements; and the need for more inland FNs to become involved in economic fisheries.

It was reported that the meeting was informative. Two additional issues/questions that came up:

- Sockeye equivalence: How does DFO use the Sockeye equivalence? Are they looking for a way to improve?
- Changing the Framework: What will the impacts be on FSC, as well as, commercial fisheries?

First Nations asked to see a copy of the Framework, but, they couldn't, as it was explained to them that the Framework is just a bunch of spreadsheets. How can First Nations suggest changes?

It was speculated that that DFO will present First Nations with a matrix, or spreadsheet, where suggestions for changes can be inputted into columns. This approach is too "narrow" and "an empty shell that we'll have to put information into?"

- Questions: DFO is asking for advice. Are we consulting with DFO, or, are we trying to find consensus with commercial fishers to present to DFO? Should we just have joint commercial/First nations meetings?
- Goals to consider: "(1) First Nations need to have their allocations protected like other sectors and (2) there should be more allocations to First Nations."

The FNFC rep wrapped up by saying that SCC delegates asked for more Tier 1 time re: commercial salmon allocations and regular IFMP-focused meetings.

8.2 Discussion re: Potential Coordination of SCC with Forum/JTWG processes

Delegates from the southern sub-committee said that there was a need to coordinate and find efficiency between organizations.

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North coast delegates have indicated interested in having a discussion with FRAFS and learning how it operates. Would the EC consider going up north to make a presentation to northern sub-committee?

9. Draft follow-up letter to RDG re Fraser Panel appointments

The Committee reviewed the draft.

The goal should be re-appointments plus increased interior First Nations participation. The issue of relevancy of the Panel membership – transitioning to groups that fish every year (i.e. First Nations, as opposed to the commercial sector) – is critically important. Additionally, it should be “put on record that we reject the DFO formula based on gear sector” and that FRAFS wants to see geographically-based representation.

It’s necessary to emphasize to DFO that bringing interior First Nations into the decision-making process will help with management of Fraser River salmon. It has been about 20 years since there was mid-Fraser representation.

It was suggested that there was value in using the letter to request an in-person meeting with the RDG to discuss nominees to the Panel. It was suggested that FRAFS use the nomination processes that FNFC has started. The DFO representative mentioned that the letter is a FRAFS First Nation caucus issue, however, and recommended that the letter outline options and that it speak to a change in structure.

There was the observation that over the years First Nations have done due diligence and put forward nominees based on community recommendations, only to have DFO offer the seat to people haven’t been nominated.

Moving forward, the Ops Manager will write a draft for the Chair’s approval and signature.

10. TORs: JTWG / FPC

The Committee reviewed the draft JTWG TOR (revised since the last meeting). DFO reviewed the draft noting that it is important that the JTWG has the support from internal staff at DFO.

Forum Planning Committee’s TOR:

It was asked why the JTWG Co-chairs weren’t on the FPC. Their presence would “result in better agendas.” The FPC Chair said that they would be invited. DFO felt that this was “a positive step.”

In addition, the FPC needs a Marine Approach alternate.

Neil will follow up by circulating the draft TOR for finalization at the next meeting and by sending an email re: appointing/re-appointing FPC members at the next meeting.

11. Fraser Salmon Road Map Process: Update / Contract with GTA (Neil)

The Main Table selected Guerin Tetreault Associates as the governance consultants.

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12. Southern BC Chinook

The Project Leads have begun work. Upcoming are meetings with the consultants on the subject of modelling tools for harvesting and a schedule of planning group and technical group]meetings.

13. Conference call logistics

The EC instructed the Communications Coordinator to upgrade the technology used for FRAFS EC meetings.

14. Appendix to the FNFC Charter

The FNFC rep gave an overview of the revisions to the draft appendix. In short, it's a commitment to mutually discuss and support each other (organization) in resolving issues. The current draft will be circulated for input from the FRAFS EC. Hopefully the document can be finalized in time for signing at the FNFC assembly this November.

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Action Items

Action Item	Status
EC meeting schedule / locations	Ongoing
Appendix to the Charter: Circulate draft to EC members for their review.	Target date: EC comments received by Oct. 24, 2013
Invite Ecotrust representative to an EC meeting.	In progress.
Organize a meeting with the FRAFS Finance Sub-committee in preparation for the November EC meeting.	In progress.
FRAFS EC TOR: Follow up on EC comments and revisions re: JTWG referring issues to the FRAFS EC	Nov. 19, 2014
Revise draft letter to RDG on the subject of mid-river representation as per EC discussion.	In-progress
Invite JTWG co-chairs to be part of the Forum Planning Committee (FPC)	In-progress
Upgrade meeting technology (speaker phone with mikes; GoTo Meeting; laptop).	Target date: Nov. 19, 2013
Send email to appoint/re-appoint members of the FPC at the Nov. EC meeting	Target date: Nov. 19, 2013
Circulate FPC TOR for comments and finalize at Nov. EC meeting.	Target date: Nov. 19, 2013