

**FRAFS Executive Committee
Meeting Summary
March 17, 2015**

**FRAFS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
Kamloops
Tuesday March 17, 2015**

Agenda

1. Roll call, agenda review, adjust/accept
2. Old business (previous notes; action items)

New Business:

A. Charter meeting (10:00 to 11:30 a.m.) with FNFC

- General review of the Charter – is it working? Improvements?
- Joint approach/plan re knowledge sharing with N. Coast/Skeena re: FRAFS “watershed Model”, and re the FSMC.
- Forum-SCC efficiencies given PICFI sunset (co-mgmt. funds); tie in with discussion re the Masson project, FNFC’s plans re proceeding with examination through Fish Tank.
- Legal workshop: aboriginal rights in the fishery/intersection with DFO management plans – a post- Tsilhqot’in workshop. Partnerships to put this on?
- FNFC liaison (FRAFS EC Ex Officio)

B. Regular business meeting

3. Budget expenditures – update, outlook for status at Mar 31
4. Operations Manager position – decision, transition schedule.
5. EC meeting schedule 2015/2016. Should we have a different schedule?
6. Forum dates/plans for next fiscal - how dates can be adjusted to better serve Forum purpose and First Nations request?
7. Location for the April 13-14 Forum.

1. Roll call, review, adjust, and accept the agenda

2. Old business:

- **Notes** from the previous meeting.
Draft February meeting notes were circulated to EC members and required revisions entered.
- **Action items**

One Action Item remains in-progress: organizing the meeting between RDG and the FRAFS EC. There has been communication between FRAFS and the RDG’s office re: a date and agenda. The Communications

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Manager asked if EC members had any thoughts on potential Agenda items and suggestions were put on the table:

- Continued funding for the Fraser Salmon Management Council.
- Consultation. The DFO rep recommended that the new lead of the Consultation Secretariat should be at the meeting with the RDG
- Consultation policy: First Nations want to be involved in the drafting of the new consultation policy currently being drafted in Ottawa.
- Steelhead: DFO bring the province to the table. Canada has a responsibility in the Pacific Salmon Treaty re: steelhead.

A draft list of agenda items was sent to the EC.

The Chair and Operations Manager updated the EC that separate letters from the Squiala and Vancouver Forums will be sent to the RDG.

A. Charter meeting with FNFC.

General review of the Charter – is it working? Improvements?

- All agreed to leave the Charter “as is.”

Forum-SCC efficiencies given PICFI sunset (co-mgmt funds); tie in with discussion re: DFO’s review of PICFI co-management project, FNFC’s plans re: proceeding with examination through Fish Tank.

With the sunset of PICFI, how do we deal with the shortfall in co-management/governance funding?

The FNFC Executive Director suggested moving the Salmon Coordinating Committee to the watershed level. We could build process in the north (ex.: JTWG). FRAFS can transfer knowledge; FNFC can support. The FNFC Ex-Officio to FRAFS suggested that working together should start with the technical process, then explore other options. She’s currently drafting a TOR.

The FNFC E.D. asked the EC their thoughts. An Upper Fraser rep responded that it’s a stronger process if regional bodies are aligned. Does FRAFS build this into our Work Plan? He also noted that: Skeena fisheries have had a technical process since 2001. It’s what FRAFS based its structure on. They might be further along than they realize.

The Operations Manager pointed out that FRAFS has had success as a technical/communications support platform and that part of its success is that it’s apolitical.

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The FNFC E.D. then raised the question of realigning priorities and efficiency: put the technical work at the watershed level and put the matters of lobbying and holding government accountable re: implementing First Nations recommendations at the regional level. The Operations Manager noted that even with the Fraser Salmon Management Council in place, the FNFC would have a role re: holding government accountable.

There was discussion too of the “Fish Tank”: a process to identify critical areas and efficiencies.

Joint approach/plan: re knowledge sharing with N. Coast/Skeena: FRAFS “watershed model” and FSMC.

The Chair recommended a two-day workshop in Terrace: start with Fraser Watershed Agreement, then FRAFS evolution. Support and staff and the Operations Manager should be part of it.

For the Fraser Salmon Management Council presentation, the Operations Manager recommended that the FSMC Chair, supported by a Main Table member, make the trip to the north. FNFC to coordinate.

Legal workshop: Aboriginal rights in the fishery/intersection with DFO management plans – a post- Tsilhqot'in workshop. Partnerships to put this on?

A legal workshop might require a large budget. All agreed that: a whole government approach, and the development of consultation protocols, was needed; and following up with the DM was an efficient way to move the issue forward.

FNFC liaison (FRAFS EC Ex Officio)

All agreed that communications links at the senior level is working fine and it wasn't necessary to assign a liaison.

B. Regular business meeting

3. Budget expenditures – update, outlook for status at Mar 31

The Operations Manager updated the EC.

4. Operations Manager position – decision, transition schedule.

The Selection Committee conducted interviews, checked references and recommended to the FRAFS EC for consideration. After careful review of candidates, the EC decided who to offer the position to. As a matter of due diligence on the part of the EC, the selected candidate will have to first complete a criminal background check.

5. EC meeting schedule 2015/2016. Should we have a different schedule?

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It was decided to maintain the same schedule.

6. Forum dates/plans for next fiscal - how dates can be adjusted to better serve Forum purpose and First Nations request?

A DFO rep wanted to start looking at next season's schedule. An Upper Fraser representative pointed out that DFO needs to make a firm commitment to getting the information delivered on time. The Operations Manager noted that there should be a gap of time between Forum #3 and the IFMP deadline. This will be discussed further at the April 21st EC meeting.

7. Location for the April 13-14 Forum

To assist DFO staff who are having difficulty making short-term travel arrangements for Kamloops, the EC decided to hold the Forum in Richmond.