
FRAFS Executive Committee Meeting – February 21, 2012

Meeting Location: Nicola Tribal Association, Merritt BC
9:30am – 1:00pm

A. PARTICIPANTS

Meeting Chair: Ken Malloway

Neil Todd, Ken Malloway, Ernie Crey, Ernie Victor, Thomas Alexis
Phone: Terri Bonnet, Susan Anderson Behn

Guests (phone): Kamaljeet Guram and Corey Jackson, DFO aquaculture

Record Keeper: Aimee Arsenault

B. AGENDA

Agenda items

1. Roll call
2. Review and accept agenda
3. Review action items from the January EC meeting and extraordinary meeting of February 8
4. Aquaculture consultation in the Fraser watershed update
5. DNA analysis project update
6. Fisheries Biologist update
7. DFO's modernization of commercial fisheries
8. Cohen Commission and the First Nations Coalition: report and material to the First Nations Caucus of the EC
9. Review of budget status at January 31 – and review forecast expenditures to March 31 as discussed on February 8
10. Program/work planning for 2012/13

C. DISCUSSION

1. Roll call

2. Review and accept agenda

- The agenda was accepted as presented.

3. Review action items from the January EC meeting and extraordinary meeting of February 8

- **Action 1** – Write a note to the ex-officio members of the EC to clarify what information they will and will not receive from the EC. Also contact the ITO and find out if they wish to retain an ex-officio seat on the EC. **Not yet completed.**
- **Action 2:** Re-send the letter to Mid-Fraser First Nations re: vacant FRAFS EC seat. **Done.**
- **Action 3:** Arrange venue and catering for the February 8th EC meeting (Chilliwack). **Done.**
- **Feb 8 – Action 1:** Contact technical staff about producing a rationale for DNA sampling (also ask for recommendations on what samples should be tested this year, and in future years). **Done.**

4. Aquaculture consultation in the Fraser watershed update

- At a previous EC meeting, DFO sought advice from FRAFS on aquaculture consultations for the Fraser Watershed area. A schedule for the sessions was drafted.
- The FRAFS EC indicated a need for someone from SEP to attend the sessions to discuss enhancement.

ACTION #1: Confirm the time and location of the UFFCA meeting with DFO for aquaculture consultation.

ACTION #2: Draft an invitation email for the aquaculture consultation sessions, to be distributed via FRAFS.

ACTION #3: Book a venue in Kamloops for the March 30 aquaculture consultation session.

ACTION #4: Contact the LFFA to help set up a tour of the closed containment aquaculture facility.

5. DNA analysis project update

- A plan and budget for the DNA analysis of samples from the Haida Gwaii sport fishery was drafted. Additional technical analysis is needed to produce the rationale.
- UBC has indicated that their lab can do DNA analysis (for the consideration of the EC for future DNA projects).
- Will work with the PSC to arrange payment for the DNA sample analysis.

6. Fisheries Biologist update

- The Southern BC Chinook technical working group held a large meeting a month ago. A smaller group has been tasked with gathering available Chinook information, and is working on a status template for CUs in the south coast. Next technical working group meeting is March 5.
- Funding is being sought from various sources, including provincial government funding for climate change adaptation, and the PSC southern endowment fund for Chinook science workshops.
- March 9 has been suggested as a date for the next interim steering committee (ISC) meeting (to be confirmed).
- Preparations are underway for next week's Forum on Conservation and Harvest Planning.

ACTION #5: Contact DFO to confirm a date for the next Chinook ISC meeting.

7. DFO's modernization of commercial fisheries

- DFO sent a letter to the EC re: the long-term approach for fisheries modernization, the draft policy, and new sustainability tools, etc. Input and feedback from the EC is welcome.
- First Nations are concerned about the short timelines for responding to the draft policy.
- The LFFA is producing a response. The FNFC is coordinating a response at the provincial level.
- First Nations are pushing DFO to do full scale meaningful consultation on this draft policy; more consultation is needed before First Nations can properly respond.
- DFO is holding a meeting to discuss the policy on February 24. The invitation list for this meeting included only First Nations with CFEs, but this was a concern to First Nations since all fisheries will be affected by the new policy (including FSC), and it is unknown how First Nations' rights will be affected.
- Concern was expressed about how the new draft policy will address biodiversity for Fraser stocks (aggregate management). Canada has signed a UN document on biodiversity.
- Concern was expressed about the timing of this policy (rolling out prior to the release of findings and recommendations from Cohen).

ACTION #6: Draft a response letter to DFO re: fisheries modernization from the First Nations caucus of the FRAFS EC (CC: DFO Minister).

8. Cohen Commission and the First Nations Coalition: report and material to the First Nations Caucus of the EC

- The FRAFS EC was provided with a package of documents and a summary of the work done by the First Nations coalition for the Cohen Commission.

9. Review of budget status at January 31 – and review forecast expenditures to March 31 as discussed February 8

- Provided an overview of expected expenditures to the end of the fiscal year. The FRAFS EC is still expecting a surplus; will finalize year-end expenditures as soon as possible.
- FRAFS will provide funding for catering for the March 30th First Nations aquaculture session in Kamloops.
- Discussed possible year-end expenditures (promotional items, logo contest).

ACTION #7 – Put together a proposal for the purchase of FRAFS promotional items, and put out a notice for a logo contest.

10. Program/work planning for 2012/13

- Presented a draft work plan for the 2012/2013 fiscal year.
- Need to clarify where funds will come from to carry on the Roadmap work (end of PICFI program).
- Biologist 2 position – Rather than a developmental position, will look into having a part time experienced biologist.
- As an alternative to Visions, it was suggested that FRAFS put on a cultural activity/showcase that focuses on conservation.

ACTION #8: Contact UBC and other universities to ask about biologists who might be available for contract work with FRAFS.

11. Other

- Report from Mid-Fraser Meeting

- A meeting was held on January 9 to discuss Mid-Fraser AAROM development. The participants agreed that the current level of participation constitutes critical mass to move forward with this initiative. The next meeting is scheduled for March 2.
- A collaborative technical process would be useful in the Mid-Fraser in order to protect stocks originating in that area.

D. NEXT EC MEETING

- March 20, 2012 (Tsawout First Nation).

E. SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

ACTION #1: Confirm the time and location of the UFFCA meeting with DFO for aquaculture consultation.

ACTION #2: Draft an invitation email for the aquaculture consultation sessions, to be distributed via FRAFS.

ACTION #3: Book a venue in Kamloops for the March 30 aquaculture consultation session.

ACTION #4: Contact the LFFA to help set up a tour of the closed containment aquaculture facility.

ACTION #5: Contact DFO to confirm a date for the next Chinook interim steering committee meeting.

ACTION #6: Draft a response letter to DFO re: fisheries modernization from the First Nations caucus of the FRAFS EC (CC: DFO Minister).

ACTION #7: Put together a proposal for the purchase of FRAFS promotional items, and put out a notice for a logo contest.

ACTION #8: Contact UBC and other universities to ask about biologists who might be available for contract work with FRAFS.