



FRASER RIVER ABORIGINAL FISHERIES SECRETARIAT

c/o Nicola Tribal Association

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FRAFS EC, April 18, 2017

In-Person, DFO RHQ

Summary

AGENDA

1. Roll call, review, adjust, and accept the agenda
2. Old business:
 - Notes from the previous meeting
 - Action items from the previous meeting
3. Finance Report and update : Confirm whether the EC accepts the budget summary
4. Operations Manager hiring committee and timeline
5. CSPI First Nation workshop 2017/2018
6. Forum Dates for 2018
7. Confirm next FRAFS EC meeting and DFO Science Agenda Topic
8. Fraser Steelhead / TSWG update
9. First Nation Caucus to Review RDG Agenda (Tier 1)
10. First Nation Caucus to Finalize draft Letter to the Minister (Tier 1)
11. National Aboriginal Fish Forum

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

Quorum required.

2. Old business:

- Notes from the previous meeting: No revisions to draft. Final sent to EC.
- Action items from the previous meeting

- Re: 5.A, Fast-tracked Fraser SK WSP status reassessment. Question: Who designed this approach? DFO to provide answer. DFO EC rep provided an explanation via email.

- DFO to describe the COSEWIC/salmon process and DFO's role in it. Explanation was provided via email by DFO rep. Furthermore, a person from DFO Science will call into the May FRAFS EC meeting.

Chinook 5 Year Review:

Bio: The TOR has not yet been released by DFO. FRAFS Biologists are proceeding with caution until the TOR is released and FRAFS EC has the opportunity to review it. There've been a couple of technical calls. Management process is being sorted out internally at DFO.

EC member: Science shouldn't be used to ok a management decision.

Bio: Our expectation is that there won't always be consensus.

EC member: Should this be consistent with FSMC objectives?

EC member: FSMC not currently mandated to manage issues. Re: the 5-year review: I think that technical work will go faster than governance, even with the TOR in place.

- Potential questions for the RDG this afternoon: What's FRAFS interest in the TOR? In management?

Phone call between the Chair and RDG re: Forum letter

The January Forum Letter was presented verbally at the April Forum. Not sure when the March Letter will be released.

EC member: Letter is part of consultation. Was it captured in the minutes?

Operations Manager Yes.

EC member.: Do we have a process like SFC, so that we know where it sits? We should take a step back and see where FRAFS is in the consultation process. Track ourselves?

DFO rep: It's all consultation. I have guidelines – the DFO Consultation Framework. Whether consultation is adequate is assessed by the parties, and in some cases, by the courts, although my goal is to avoid the legal system. DFO has a responsibility to undertake consultations if there is a legal, policy, ethical or political consideration, or driver that requires engaging First Nations. Question: Is FRAFS a consultation body with its own guidelines like SFC?

EC member recommends:: DFO send a letter to Fraser First Nations explaining this year's process. "It's owed to the attendees."

DFO rep: There'll be two more letters and we'll address this at the May 5th webinar.

EC member: I respect people's "frustration" with the timelines this year. We should answer the question and explain: "What is consultation?"

DFO rep: DFO can provide its guidelines. This can be an action item for the FPC.

3. Finance Report and update : Confirm whether the EC accepts the budget summary

Motion to accept the budget summary as per today's discussion: Moved, seconded and approved.

4. Operations Manager hiring committee and timeline

Operations Manager will be moving to a new term job in May.

Job postings were prepared and a Hiring committee struck.

5. CSPI First Nation workshop 2017/2018

Ops Manager: A budget is being drafted for the CSPI. How did the EC feel that the January 18th First Nation workshop went? Should another workshop(s) be a line item in the CSPI PICFI funding request?

EC Member : Where is this going re: consultation and fisheries management? Were there recommendations that came out of the January workshop?

EC member:

- It's in DFO's best interest to have First Nation workshops in order to ratify a document to send to the Minister for approval.
- Are there any plans to speed up the process and come up with an end goal?

EC member: Need to categorize, prioritize and sequence action items.

6. Forum Dates for 2018

Tentative dates, discussion to follow:

- Jan 23-25 - Richmond
- Feb. 27-28, Mar. 1 – Nanaimo
- Apr. 3-5 – Kamloops
- EC members expressed concern about the short timeline between the 3rd Forum and the IFMP deadline and the need for at least 2 weeks between the Forum and the IFMP deadline (move it back a week).

7. Confirm next FRAFS EC meeting and DFO Science Agenda Topic

- Monday, May 15th at SNTC

8. Fraser Steelhead / TSWG update

TSWG:

- EC member presented an overview of TSWG issues and recommendations.

Fraser steelhead

EC member: How can we best address Steelhead with the RDG this afternoon?

EC member: I appreciate the work on this and two questions come up:

- Overall approach for Fraser-bound steelhead?

- What resources do we have at the tech level to support these goals?

EC member: There are other runs and tributaries and it shouldn't be just the two (Chilko and Thompson). s.

Question from the table: Is there an MOU between DFO and BC?

EC member: Yes, but minimal mention of First Nations involvement. I recommend that we apprise the RDG of this.

EC member recommends:

- Develop tripartite TOR through the EC
- Technical sub-committee that is separate because there's a 3rd party.

DFO rep: Message going forward: It's important that First Nations are involved in developing action plans.

9. First Nation Caucus to Review RDG Agenda (Tier 1)

- Agenda confirmed.

10. First Nation Caucus to Finalize draft Letter to the Minister (Tier 1)

- Completed by email.

11. National Aboriginal Fish Forum

- EC members attending through their work with other Fisheries bodies