

**SUMMARY
FRAFS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
JUNE 3, 2014**



Board Room
Nicola Tribal Association
Merritt, BC
9:30 a.m. start

A. PARTICIPANTS

- Ken Malloway (Chair)
- Ernie Crey
- Adrian Wall
- Howie Wright
- Murray Ross
- Thomas Alexis
- Neil Todd
- Walter Quinlan

By phone

- Ernie Victor
- Pete Nicklin

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B. AGENDA

1. Roll call, review, adjust, and accept the agenda
2. Old business:
 - a) Notes from the previous meeting
 - b) Action items from the previous meeting
3. Budget Expenditures: Update and Report
4. 2013-14 Financial reporting
5. Review the 2014-15 agreement and Work Plan now that it's moving through the sign-off process
6. Report from AAROM Program Delivery meeting and future FRAFS reporting
7. SCC and Forum: Update on report for FNFC
8. Chinook update
9. Preliminary discussion: Conferences (ex.: Forum, FSMC)
10. Transition sub-committee
11. Update on DFO re-organization

C. DISCUSSION

1. Roll call / Agenda

- Attendance noted as listed under "Participants."
- After review and adjustments, the agenda was finalized and accepted

2. Old Business

- 2.1) Notes** from the previous meeting were previously circulated to EC members and the Communications Coordinator has entered requested revisions into the final draft.

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Old Business (continued)

2.2) Action Items from the previous meeting:

Previous Action Item #1: Draft a letter from the EC re: Work Plan and funding for CSPI – DONE.

Previous Action Item #2: Email DFO re: use of Visions funding for a CSPI Workshop for First Nations. DONE. Request on record at DFO.

Previous Action Item #3: Email EC member re: his decision as to whether or not he'd like to continue as a FRAFS EC member – DONE.

Previous Action Item #4: Follow up if RHQ has accepted the new table re: staff wages. Discussion on today's Agenda.

Action Item #5: Draft email re: EC recommendations to Forum Planning Committee re: timeline for Forums (Dec. 2014 to end of fiscal). - NOT DONE – Put on hold because of uncertainties re number of Forums. On today's Agenda.

3. Budget Expenditures: Update and Report

The EC reviewed the current status of 2014-15 budget expenditures, i.e. April expenditures. The May, 2014 Forum will come in on-budget.

4. 2013-14 Financial reporting

The EC went through a review of the 2013/14 financial performance information, noting the overages and underages by eligible cost category (which is the way DFO wants the information reported).

Discussion occurred; this is the final year of a two year agreement so the full amount will have to be spent, there is no opportunity for carry-over. It was agreed that the Finance Committee should meet in the third week of October.

Action Item #1: EC Finance sub-committee to meet in late October.

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5. Review the 2014-15 agreement Work Plan now that it's moving through the sign-off process

The EC reviewed the AAROM Agreement that is now at RHQ for sign-off by the RDG. The JTWG has a larger budget than usual, in order to support additional resources to resolve the outstanding chinook issues identified in a previous memo from the JTWG co-chairs. The JTWG has “evolved in a positive way” and is “playing a key role in moving towards a collaborative approach to management.”

6. Report from AAROM Program Delivery meeting and future FRAFS reporting

The Ops Manager and an EC member attended an AAROM program meeting in Vancouver. The subject of the new Staff Salary Table including Professional Services (days and dollars) was discussed. First Nations at the meeting expressed concerns about how this affects employer/employee confidentiality (ex.: salary negotiations).

It was pointed out to the EC that at the regional level, First Nations are doing detailed reporting but, Ottawa is asking for improved metrics. Organizations like FRAFS or SFC have to think about “how to best communicate what we’ve accomplished.” Some questions that the EC could consider are:

- What are our quantifiable outcomes in relation to the FRAFS Strategic Plan?
- How do we quantify the importance and effectiveness of the work that we do?
- How does reporting the new salary information protect our budget?
- “Do we need to have a few workshops for the FRAFS EC” regarding improving/redesigning our reporting?.

Also presented at the Vancouver meeting was a “logic model for Aboriginal programs” that developed three broad themes for AAROM programming:

- Political governance: platform for engagement; mandate and representation
- Building organizational and technical capacity
- Collaborative management (operations)

There was also discussion about forming an AAROM Program Delivery Advisory Group with First Nations reps so that there are no more “surprises” at the end of the fiscal year from Ottawa. It was suggested that there should be an agreement-in-principle come out of this meeting that Ottawa would seek changes in the fall instead of at the end of the fiscal year (as has been the case).

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AAROM Program Delivery meeting (continued)

The DFO rep on the EC followed with a few points. Firstly, he noted that Treasury Board drives DFO business plans and that [in the federal government] they're looking for "value for money." It's "critical" for First Nations to be on the Advisory Group (if it is formed). He encouraged FRAFS to proactively engage Region and Ottawa on this issue.

Action Item #2: EC Finance sub-committee to review RCAT document re: changes to AAROM reporting.

7. SCC and Forum: Update on report for FNFC

There was an overview of this report. It isn't an "evaluation," rather an opportunity to look for linkage between the Salmon Coordinating Committee (SCC) and the Forum. In general, some similarities (but on different scales), and there were differences:

- 1) SCC addresses broad provincial-scale issues while the Forum focuses on Fraser-bound salmon; and
- 2) the Forum covers a much higher degree of technical detail.

To improve communications between the two activities there's a recommendation for a liaison ("Ambassador"): someone who's neutral; who can identify relevant issues to share between SCC and the Forum.

Action Item #3: At the next EC meeting, circulate the tables in this report .

The report author wondered what impact the Fraser Salmon Management Council (FSMC) might have on the SCC and Forum processes. He also felt that his report "should go out to DFO."

Action Item #4: Ops Manager follow up with FNFC re: distribution of report.

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SCC and Forum (continued)

Action Item #5: Ops Manger to recommend that FRAFS and FNFC senior personnel meet to discuss how to implement this report. The Chair advised an email to FNFC E.D. and rep to the EC.

8. Chinook update

The EC had an overview of the recent Chinook update. The current data (spring and summer 5/2 chinook) suggest that returns are still in Zone 1, with an estimate of 42,250 chinook returning to Albion being generated. Next update will be June 16; if only two more fish are caught in the test fishery at the right time, this could raise the estimate into Zone 2. The First Nations in-river fisheries have caught 413 chinook to date, which is consistent with 2013 which was a Zone 1 year

9. Preliminary discussion: Conferences (ex.: Forum; FSMC; CSPI)

2014-15 Forum

Dates were outlined for four Forums, running from December to March.

It was reported that due to internal changes, it would be 30 to 60 days before DFO could start working on the Forum schedule. There's a concern about staff availability for the December Forum. The DFO rep also reminded the EC of the Forum schedule, based on the IFMP deadline that he outlined in Port Alberni: late January; early March; and late April.

DFO is currently waiting for information, for example the SCC/Forum report and an internal DFO report. It's an evaluation that will give the RDG and the FAM Director the landscape of, and offer advice on, the consultation processes. (DFO can't continue this type of consultation and has to look at how to re-align meetings and conferences.)

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Preliminary discussion: Conferences (continued)

There's value in a **December** Forum with respect to preparing for the January to March IFMP discussions. The December meeting could be an expanded three-day Joint Technical Working Group meeting, if not a full Forum type meeting. It was pointed out that an **April** meeting isn't very helpful with respect to the IFMP deadline for comment (April 7th this year with the extension).

Action Item #6: DFO will follow up re: date when they're ready to start discussions about Forum dates (30 to 60 days from June 3rd EC meeting).

Action Item #7: Ops Manager will check with JTWG co-chairs re usefulness of a December Forum (Dec 2-4, or Dec 9-11) or, alternatively, an extended JTWG meeting.

CSPI: July 9, 2014

The July 9th date wouldn't interfere with Sto:lo fisheries and the EC Chairperson recommended that FRAFS goes ahead with the proposed one-day "Visions" workshop.

10. Succession Transition sub-committee

As the Ops manager is preparing for semi-retirement, he asked that a Transition sub-committee be formed to help plan for the change. The sub-committee was formed.

11. Update on DFO re-organization

- Acting A.D. (June 9, 2014 to March 31, 2015): Stu Cartwright
- Aboriginal Affairs Advisor: Adrian Wall
- Acting Area Chief of Resource Management, Lower Fraser: Brigid Payne
- Les Jantz will assist Jennifer Nener with the Fraser Panel until October.
- "How to address the lack of an Area Chief?" The new Acting Area Director will be responsible for determining approach.
- BCI doesn't have a CO2 (i.e. Program Lead: a position in-between a resource manager and an area chief). The lower river has one; south coast has three. In the lower Fraser, the acting CO2 is in place instead of a PM5 (i.e.: Resource Managers); it isn't an additional FTE (Full time equivalent position).

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Summary of Motions

None presented.

Summary of Action Items

Action Item #1: EC Finance sub-committee to meet in late October.

Action Item #2: EC Finance sub-committee to review RCAT document re: changes to AAROM reporting.

Action Item #3: At the next EC meeting, the tables in his SCC/Forum report will be circulated for review.

Action Item #4: Ops manager to follow up with FNFC re: distribution of SCC/Forum report to DFO.

Action Item #5: Ops manager to recommend that FRAFS and FNFC senior personnel meet to discuss how to implement the SCC/Forum report (ex.: Ambassador).

Action Item #6: DFO will follow up re: date when they're ready to start discussions about Forum dates (30 to 60 days from June 3rd EC meeting).

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