

**SUMMARY
FRAFS EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE
JULY 15, 2014**



Teleconference
July 15, 2014
1:30 p.m. start

A. PARTICIPANTS

- Ken Malloway (Chair)
- Ernie Crey
- Adrian Wall
- Terri Bonnet
- Howie Wright
- Murray Ross
- Thomas Alexis
- Gord Sterritt
- Neil Todd
- Walter Quinlan
- Ernie Victor
- Pete Nicklin

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B. 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. Budget Expenditures: Update and Report
4. SCC/Forum Tables – Review, FYI
5. IFC status report per WSP: update and ramifications re: work plans.
6. Forum
 - Forum in December: decision needed.
 - Relevance of the Forum planning process (re: DFO response to May Forum; IFMP)
 - Update on First Nations July 14th teleconference with the Acting RDG
7. Update from the Transition Committee

C. DISCUSSION

1. Roll call / Agenda

- Attendance noted as listed under “Participants.”
- After review and adjustments, the agenda was finalized and accepted per above.

2. Old Business (Walter)

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

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Old Business (continued)

2.2) Action Items from the previous meeting:

*Action Item #1: EC Finance sub-committee to meet in late October re: potential under-budget funds to turn over to RHQ for use within the region for First Nations. **This meeting will be scheduled.***

*Action Item #2: EC Finance sub-committee to review RCAT document re: changes to AAROM reporting. **This document will be reviewed in the fall.***

*Action Item #3: At the next EC meeting, the tables in the SCC/Forum report will be reviewed by the committee members. **On today's Agenda.***

*Action Item #4: Ops Manager to follow up with FNFC re: distribution of SCC/Forum report to DFO. **In response to June 24 email: the full report can be shared with First Nations; the Executive Summary with DFO.***

*Action Item #5: Ops Manager to recommend that FRAFS and FNFC senior personnel meet to discuss how to implement the report (ex.: Ambassador). The Chair advised an email to FNFC. **June 24th: Email sent to FNFC. Ops Manager was in support of the recommendation but had second thoughts re current budget considerations, DFO review of processes. He will stay in touch with FNFC on this.***

*Action Item #6: DFO EC rep will follow up with the department re: date when they're ready to start discussions about Forum dates (30 to 60 days from June 3rd EC meeting). **On today's Agenda.***

*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. **June 25th: Ops Manager emailed Co-Chairs. Sufficient Chinook information is required for this Forum and it appears that it will be available.***

3. Budget Expenditures: Update and Report

Ops Manager led the EC through a review of the current status of 2014-15 budget expenditures. AAROM spending is "on track." There was discussion about the budget for: the July 9th Visions meeting; IFC Project Team (FRAFS staff); and next steps for CSPI.

The DFO rep said that there won't be PICFI funds in the region until January. The details, objectives and what funds from which categories has yet to be determined. DFO is taking a "risk management" approach (i.e. a \$50,000 ceiling for initial provision of funding agreements).

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4. SCC/Forum Report Tables

There was an overview of three tables in the report for FNFC – SCC/Forum linkage: Mutual Components of Processes; Process differences; and Complementary Components of Processes. The tables are the best snapshot of both processes and provide a summary of key components of each process, show some of the overlaps, and differences between the processes. It was noted that the Ops Manager provided information and context re: potential changes to the consultation landscape if the Fraser Salmon Management Council (FSMC) is successful in negotiating an agreement with DFO.

There are key differences between the processes:

- Geographic range: SCC is province-wide; the Forum focusses on Fraser salmon watershed and marine areas.
- Scope: SCC addresses broad policy issues. The Forum focusses on technical issues concerning Fraser-bound salmon.
- There's no equivalent at the SCC to the increasing capacity of the Joint Technical Working Group in the Forum process.

The Ops Manager noted that Ambassador is a good idea that met with initial enthusiasm. However, “in the current [fiscal] climate I’m not sure if it’s doable.” With respect to duplication, it was suggested that the scale and scope of the two processes is different and this helps avoid duplication.

5. IFC Status as per WSP

IFC is a key management issue. This work requires the involvement of the FRAFS Biologists and the budget to support them. There was discussion about: the composition of the Project team; First Nations involvement in developing TORs for the CSAS and the committee; and the work of the writing group and the advisory group. The EC voiced their support for this work and asked that the EC Finance sub-committee should go over the budget.

6. Forum

This discussion encompassed three interrelated subjects:

- Forum in December: decision needed.
- Relevance of the Forum planning process (re: DFO response to May Forum; IFMP)
- Update on First Nations’ July 14th teleconference with the Acting RDG

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Forum in December

The DFO rep recently met with Area Directors to talk about the Forum. He's also mindful of the reviews going on and the moving parts to current Forum planning: transition to the Fraser Salmon Management Council; alignment with each of the Salmon Coordinating Committee and IFMP processes.

The DFO then suggested potential dates for upcoming Forums:

- Dec. 9 to 11 for a Forum focused on the Chinook Outlook.
- Last week of January / first week of February.
- Early in March (re: IFMP timeline; avoid March Break).

After some discussion, it was decided: to look at these dates for the next Forum: November 25 to 27 and December 16 to 18; and that the Forum Planning Committee (FPC) meet again in late September / early October.

July 14th teleconference / Forum Relevance

The DFO EC rep noted that no-one from BCI was involved in the teleconference. An EC member responded that this was unfortunate as First Nations did ask for DFO staff who were relevant to the process to be on the call.

An outline of First Nations issues that were presented:

- Better access to technical information: work together using the same numbers
- Full accounting from DFO of impact modelling and how the models played out
- First Nations involvement in in-season accounting
- Consultation isn't finished (i.e. change of language from the draft to final version of the IFMP)
- First Nations have a "right" to fish and protect and manage their fish and fisheries; the commercial/recreational sectors only have a "privilege" - Sparrow/Constitution.
- There wasn't an international decision to move from low to moderate status. The US wasn't made aware of DFO's decision to move into a moderate status regime from low until after the IFMP was released. This has an impact on US fisheries and DFO failed to communicate with the US on this issue.
- Constraints on First Nations' FSC requirements – How is the priority being managed?
- Lower Fraser and Strait of Georgia coho have low status: what are the impacts on them?

Overarching questions are: "What are First Nations getting out of this process? What's the relevance of the Forum in its current form?" It was recommended that one way to improve things is to have a technical Forum where First Nations have DFO's commitment to provide the same information that they're working with and we sit down and work with that information.

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Forum (continued)

There was the concern articulated that First Nations relationship building and consensus recommendations don't seem to matter. It was felt that in the past DFO has used a fallback position that there wasn't consensus at the Forum. But there was a consensus at the May Forum in Port Alberni and when the IFMP came out, the consensus recommendations went unheeded. Now people are frustrated: "Is the Forum just for the benefit of DFO?" is a question being asked by First Nations.

The DFO rep responded that the duty to carry out consultation is very important. Over time DFO and First Nations have been moving in a direction towards increased [First Nations] involvement in fisheries management. The intent of DFO's comments was to encourage consensus. DFO needs to be clear with First Nations how the department is consulting and how to improve that.

As requested, there was an outline provided of the Acting ADG's five categories of response:

1. management priorities
2. conservation concern
3. decision-making processes
4. consultation concerns
5. access to FSC

It was recommended that we give this an airing out at the next Forum, where everyone gets a chance to speak and respond to the question: How do we fix this? It's major issue and one can foresee serious difficulties moving towards a watershed-wide working arrangement if it isn't addressed.

An EC member cautioned that First Nations expectations may be too high for the Forum. DFO has no obligation to implement consensus recommendations, nor to explain how they balance them against recommendations that they received from the sectors. His organization is considering scaling back its involvement in the Forums. Some of his staff are asking: "Why don't we spend more effort to build the JTWG?"

It recommended that we devote some time to this at the next Forum (Nov. or Dec.) and a preliminary discussion with the RDG in the fall.

7 Update on the Transition Committee

Short-term and long-term planning timelines were outlined to ensure continuity and assurance that FRAFS has an Operations Manager. The FRAFS funding agreement is to stay with Nicola Tribal Association for the time being.

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Summary of Motions

None presented.

Summary of Action Items

Action Item #1: *The Chair and the Ops Manager to follow up with RDG's office on these prospective dates (Sept. 29, Oct. 3, and the five business days of Oct. 6 to 10) to meet with the EC First Nations. DFO EC reps to help internally.*

Action Item #2: *The EC wants this topic on the Agenda for the Nov./Dec. Forum. The FPC to discuss this at their next meeting (late Sept/early Oct.).*

Action Item #3: *Ops Manager to email the memo with six bullets to the EC.*

Carried over from the June EC meeting:

- *Action Item: EC Finance sub-committee to meet in late October re: potential under-budget funds to turn over to RHQ for use within the region for First Nations. **This meeting will be scheduled.***
- *Action Item: EC Finance sub-committee to review RCAT document re: changes to AAROM reporting. **This document will be reviewed in the fall.***