

## FRASER WATERSHED JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (FWJTC)

By Pete Nicklin, Stock Management Coordinator (Mid-Upper Fraser)

The FWJTC met in Kamloops on March 7 & 8 to discuss post-season and pre-season information. March 7<sup>th</sup> was a Joint DFO & First Nations session, while March 8<sup>th</sup> was a First Nations technical caucus session.

Both meetings were well attended, from a DFO and FN perspective, consistent with how the last few watershed-wide meetings have been going over the past 6 months. The amount of information exchanged at the meetings was significant, and much of it was very technical, even for this group.

As a technical group, we still haven't ironed out a process for dealing with the information that is exchanged between all the folks, or even what information should be exchanged, and this is an issue that deserves some attention and recommendations for all participants in future FWJTC meetings.

The following recommendations are a result of a couple of things that I have heard from many people around the watershed. The first comment is that everyone sees value for FN and DFO to be in a process like the FWJTC, and the second comment is that people want to see progress and improvement to the way that the FWJTC functions.

With that context: here are my recommendations:

1. The next FRAFS workplan concentrate more effort on developing the FWJTC process. All of the remaining recommendations stem from this point.
2. The FWJTC Terms of Reference be reviewed and amended as needed at the beginning of the next fiscal year.
3. The core participants (JTC co-chairs and including regular participants of the JTC) of the FWJTC receive direction from the FRAFS EC on the scope of information that will be presented through the technical process. This information framework should be included in an amended Terms of Reference.
4. A process be developed to determine how the information exchanged at FWJTC meetings be

communicated to FN and DFO. This doesn't have to be overly complicated, but we will need some guidance from FN and the FRAFS EC on this point. At the very least, a record of the meeting in a written document be produced and circulated widely, so that those that aren't able to attend the meeting have a very good idea of the discussion, including action items.

5. Prior to each and every JTC meeting, any information that is to be presented at the meeting be made available to the FRAFS Communications Coordinator for distribution to the entire watershed. This gives everyone a chance to review the information well in advance of the actual meeting, and to prepare questions and comments for the meeting.
6. A dedicated technical person be assigned to report on the FWJTC meetings. This may include someone to work with a minute taker at the meeting to produce a report of the discussion to include a summary of the discussed information for wide distribution and communication in a timely fashion.
7. A formal reporting of FWJTC process and information to the FRAFS EC, including a written summary report and face-to-face reporting by a representative of the JTC to the EC, followed by a subsequent report back to the JTC outlining any comments and recommendations from the EC.

In summary, many people see value to the FWJTC process, but are not satisfied to see it proceed as it is right now, and how things have worked in the past. People would like to see FRAFS facilitate a more effective technical process. I believe that more effort needs to be put into developing the FWJTC process, and with dedicated resources and an improved framework, this process can become an effective way to communicate information that people need to inform decision makers.

*Note: The summary report of the March 7 & 8 FWJTC meeting will be distributed as a stand alone document and posted on the FRAFS website in the first week of April.*

For more information contact Pete Nicklin at (250) 392-5888 or by email at [indiseaent@shaw.ca](mailto:indiseaent@shaw.ca).

## VISIONS IN SHARED MANAGEMENT" CONFERENCE

**2006 Theme: Diminishing Resources &  
Collaborative Approaches**

**March 28 – 30<sup>th</sup>: Prince George Civic Centre**

The upcoming "Visions In Shared Management" is shaping up to be a major event, and promises to be a fantastic wrap-up to this fiscal year, and a great way to bring in the new fiscal.

The Workshop will take place at the Prince George Civic Centre on March 28<sup>th</sup> to 30<sup>th</sup>, and will be hosted by the FRAFS and the Upper Fraser Fisheries Conservation Alliance (UFFCA), with the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> being full days and the 30<sup>th</sup> a half-day wrap-up. An evening social (with no-host bar) on the 27<sup>th</sup> will kick off the conference.

The Banquet will feature the excellent comedian **Don Burnstick** followed by a live dance band.

*Registration is required for attendance so please contact the Visions Conference organizer or the FRAFS Communications Coordinator if you are planning on attending:*

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## UPCOMING MEETINGS

**Fraser River Sockeye Spawning Initiative (FRSSI)  
Workshop:** March 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>: Sheraton Four Points,  
Richmond.

**VISIONS IN SHARED MANAGEMENT  
CONFERENCE:** Theme: Diminishing Resources &  
Collaborative Approaches. Prince George Civic  
Centre: March 28, 29, 30. Social on the evening of  
March 27<sup>th</sup>.

## NEXT EDITION OF WATERSHED TALK

The next edition of Watershed Talk will be coming out on **April 6, 2007**.

## FRAFS COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR

The FRAFS Communications Coordinator is located at the offices of the Nicola Tribal Association in Merritt:

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For information about FRAFS activities and to be added to the FRAFS distribution list contact Aimee Arsenault: (250) 378-4235; email at [info@frafs.ca](mailto:info@frafs.ca)

## COMMENTS & FEEDBACK?

Call or email Pete Nicklin at (250) 392-5888 &  
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