

Nadina Community Futures Mtg.

26 Feb 29

Summary of the Bulkley - Morice Watershed Meeting

February 29, 1996

Attending

<u>NAME</u>	<u>ORGANIZATION</u>	<u>PHONE & FAX #</u>	
Tanya Widmark	N.W. Community College	845-7266	845-3521
Brenda Anderson	N.W. Community College	845-7266	845-3521
Ben Rencoret	B.L. Native Development	692-3188	
E. Archie Strimbold	7-S Ranch	696-3607	696-3607
Bart Plugboer	Ranch Mgr.-Groot Bros.	696-3345	
John Johnson	Manager-Upland Motel	696-3301	
Everett Person	Vice Chair-Toboggan Creek	847-3380	
Mike O'Neill	Manager-Toboggan Creek	847-4458	
Andrew George	Broman Lake Band	696-3612	
Stefan Schug	Wet'sarwet'en	847-3630	
Gord Wadley	Skeena Watershed Commit.	847-5002	847-5059
John Thibeau	Ministry of Forests	845-6200	
Al McCracken	C.F.D.C. of Nadina	696-3221	696-3221
Sig Hatlevik	M.O.E.L.P. - Fisheries	847-7291	847-7728
Pierre Lemieux	D.F.O.	847-3916	847-4723
Greg Bonnell	D.F.O.-Habitat & Enhance.	666-3285	666-0292
	Victoria	363-3455	363-0336
Bob Hooton	Ministry of Environment	847-7295	847-7728
Kenny Sam		696-3321	
Brenda Donas	Dept. Of Fisheries & Oceans	847-5298	847-4723
Richard Sam	Personal interest	696-3321	
Mabel Cricht	Personal interest	696-3321	

Summary**Discussion of goals of the meeting:**

- get all interested stake-holders around the table together
- Start thinking about what planning we need to do for future of the watersheds
- Move towards more community involvement
- Learn from others what projects are going on in the community
- Reduce duplication of work being done out in the field

Watershed Restoration Projects (WRP's) were discussed in some detail. Maxan Lakes (83,000 sq km) WRP now nearing the end of Level I

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| Level I | Trying to identify priority areas where past logging has caused damage to watersheds |
| Level II | Develop prescriptions as to how best rectify this damage |
| Level III | Take action to rectify damage and implement prescriptions |

Morice River WRP also nearing the end of Level I. No time for field season last year but from maps and past surveys the following was pointed out:

High Priority areas: Fenton/Owen
Lower Priority areas: Lamprey/McBride
Lowest priority: Nanika

All agreed should be only spending money where it makes sense.

Site specific buffers (where past logging has caused problems eg siltation) were discussed and long-term solutions needed. Stated that it may take up to 10 years for a buffer to work effectively.

Flow levels were a major topic of concern. Many noticed that high water occurs much sooner in the year than it used to, probably from faster run-off due to logging. Beaver dams do hold water back but they also provide a major obstacle to migrating fish. General consensus that there were too many beaver dams and efforts should be made to control beaver populations or come up with ways that the fish could breach the dams. Was noted that dams themselves provide some good fish habitat. Different solutions offered from having 'zippy contraptions' to enable the fish to go up, blowing them up with dynamite to controlling the population through increase in hunting.

Low flows and dams causing problems at Toboggan Creek hatchery...these include:

- Many fish returning blind.
- Water temperatures exceeding 22 degrees C, during spawning
- Poor holding habitat in July and August...this causes stress
- Insufficient flow in tributaries
- Poor egg plantation with Coho and Chinook, poor recruitment with eggs laid

Wild stocks are desperately low. Mike O'Neil extends an invitation to all at the meeting to visit Toboggan Creek Hatchery.

Discussion on raising the level of a few of the lakes with small dams. With spill-way this would provide a better flow level later on in the year. Concerns as to what affects this would have on private lands. Also log jams discussed...more in what erosion they are causing but it was noted that the log jams can provide some good fish habitat.

FRBC isn't the only avenue for funding: other possibilities include Ducks Unlimited, Skeena Green Plan, Habitat Conservation Fund. Small projects could be funded through such funds...or elsewhere.

All agreed that a better flow of information was needed so we all knew what projects would be going on in the region.

Gord Wadley makes the motion:

Motion being that Nadina Community Futures act as a coordinating body to gather information and (for CFDC -Nadina) to strike a Working Committee to work towards a proposal to FRBC for the purpose of co-ordinating activities through the Bulkley Morice Watershed. Also work towards getting letters of support and find out what others projects are in place.

Seconded: Mike O'Neil Carried: Unanimously

Discussed was the importance of training. That contracts should have a local training clause. Should also be moving towards getting all relevant information together and then creating a 5 or 10 year plan for the watersheds. Community Futures could play a role in this information collection/dissemination. Also anyone who has community project ideas invited to talk to Angus (Community Development Coordinator for - Nadina Community Futures), so we can get proposals in.