
To: WEI Meeting Participants

From: Brodie Smith, Jason Collier, and Rahul Ray

Date: May 6, 2021

Re: Final Rio Tinto WEI Table Meeting 19 (Videoconference) Summary, April 21, 2021

A videoconference for the Rio Tinto Water Engagement Initiative (WEI) was held on Wednesday, April 21, 2021, from 9:00 am to 12:05 pm. The videoconference was held instead of an in-person Main Table meeting to promote social distancing in response to COVID-19, while making progress on aspects of the WEI.

This document is a summary of the videoconference and not word-for-word “meeting minutes”. The information presented highlights the topics raised, key discussions, and identified action items.

The facilitators were Rahul Ray (RR) and Jason Collier (JC) from EDI. Brodie Smith, also from EDI, took notes during the meeting and prepared this summary. Jayson Kurtz (JK) and Jennifer Carter (JCa) from Ecofish Research participated as the Technical Working Group (TWG) coordinators. Katie Healey from Ecofish Research participated as technical support.

Andrew Czornohalan (AC), Operations Director - Power and Services, Kitimat and Kemano participated as a WEI Table member. Andy Lecuyer (AL), Senior Environmental Advisor; Devrie Sanghera (DS), Communities & Social Performance Advisor, and Lisa Mueller from Rio Tinto participated in the videoconference as support.

A draft agenda was included in the invitation, and outlined the anticipated meeting topics:

- Meeting summary comment review
- Action items from Meeting 18
- WEI Elements Update
 - Communication improvements
 - Reservoir Working Group (Southside Working Group)
 - Flow-related activities, including TWG summary
- Conceptual schedule review
- Main Table discussion and revision of draft TWG objective recommendations
- Confirm next Main Table meeting dates

Table 1 lists the participants that were involved in the videoconference and the organizations they represent.

Table 1. April 21, 2021 - WEI Videoconference Participants

Individual	Organization
John Alderliesten	Public participant
David Creighton	Northern Health
Stephen Dery	UNBC
Gerd Erasmus	Public participant
Andy Lecuyer	Rio Tinto
Jennifer Howell	District of Fort St. James
James Jacklin	FLNRORD
Deborah Jones-Middleton	Protective Services - Regional District of Bulkley Nechako
Henry Klassen	Public participant
Donna Klingspohn	Public participant
Ray Klingspohn	Public participant
Phillip Krauskopf	FLNRORD
James Jacklin	FLNRORD
Clint Lambert	Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Gina Layte-Listen	Public participant
Jason Llewellyn	Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Kim Menounos	Fraser Basin Council
Kevin Moutray	District of Vanderhoof
Mark Parker	Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Jerry Petersen	Regional District of Bulkley-Nechako
Tim Plesko	Public participant/Southside representative
Ray Pillipow	FLNRORD
Charlie Rensby	Village of Burns Lake
Wayne Salewski	Public participant / NEWSS
Dan Sneep	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Carrie Smith	MLA John Rustad's office

The following provides a summary of the topics discussed during the videoconference.

- RR opened the meeting by welcoming participants and reviewing the draft agenda.
- RR reviewed the Main Table 18 Meeting Summary and suggested revisions from WEI participants. No objections to the revisions were made.
- RR invited Henry Klassen (HK) to bring a suggestion to the Main Table participants. HK stated that he found it hard to recognize the speaker in the meeting summaries because they are identified as “a participant.” He requested that going forward, each speaker is identified by initials in the meeting summaries. RR asked all participants if there were any objections to this suggestion. No participants objected.
- **ACTION ITEM: Participants who provide input during WEI Main Table meetings will be identified by their initials in the meeting summaries.**
- RR reviewed action items from Meeting 18:
 - **Action Item:** JK to follow up with Gary Blackwell regarding wetland, wildlife, and fish-related interests. **Update:** JK is setting up a meeting with Garry Blackwell. AL added that there will be a follow-up call related to fish and wildlife in the next couple of weeks, and then a visit to the reservoir in the fall to further review fish and wildlife issues. The call and visit will include reservoir residents, including Garry Blackwell.
 - **Action Item:** Add time for questions or clarification of the pre-read package to the Main Table meeting. **Update:** No new pre-read for this meeting. Building off materials circulated ahead of last meeting. Will include a brief summary and time for questions in future meetings, when new pre-read materials are sent.
 - **Action Item:** JK to add salmon as a First Nation sustainable food source as an interest. **Update:** JK stated that this interest has been added.
 - **Action Item:** JK to incorporate Main Table edits and comments into the objectives and will provide the updated version to the Main Table for review. **Update:** JK stated that the updates from Meeting 18 have been included. Once all the objectives have been reviewed, JK will circulate the full list of updated interests and objectives to be review by Main Table members.
- RR reviewed the WEI Elements:
 - Communication improvements
 - Reservoir Working Group (Southside Working Group)

- Flow-related activities, including TWG summary
- RR expanded on the Communication Improvements:
 - WEI Table formed a Communication Working Group (CWG) to outline potential improvements
 - The CWG met twice and suggested four types of communication improvements
 - These were presented to the WEI Main Table at WEI Main Table Meeting 15 on December 9, 2020
- Devrie Sanghera (DS), Communities & Social Performance Advisor for Rio Tinto, presented “WEI Communication Improvement Update.” DS reviewed the communications focal points:
 - Flow Facts Improvements:
 - Additional improvements to Flow Facts have been identified and will include additional historical data on the Flow Facts website. Efforts will also include increased advertising in the community outlining that the information supporting Flow Facts can be obtained at any time from the Get Involved Nechako website.
 - Rio Tinto is investigating automated Flow Facts updates and automated flow projections.
 - Implementation timeframe: The Flow Facts improvements identified above are or will be made immediately. Rio Tinto has committed to continual improvement with Flow Facts based on ongoing feedback.
 - Flood Emergency Planning (FEP):
 - Ongoing actions include: Engage with necessary parties to create a working group, identify what is working and the areas for opportunities, create a trigger action response plan.
 - Preliminary FEP components were identified, including identification of triggers for the activation of the FEP, confirmation of communication mechanisms, identification of processes used to update contact information for those with roles in the FEP, contact information for Indigenous communities and stakeholders who will receive the information, contact information for Rio Tinto emergency coordination representatives, and the system to be used to keep contact information current.
 - Awareness of Rio Tinto team and responsibilities:
 - Andrew Czornohalan, Operations Director – Power & Projects
 - Andy Lecuyer, Senior Advisor Environment

- Lianne Olson, Advisor, Community Social Performance
 - Lisa Mueller, Senior Advisor, Indigenous Community Relations
 - Alec Mercier, Water Resources Engineering Analyst, Operational Excellence & Integrated Operations / Hydrological Engineer
 - Devrie Sanghera, Communities & Social Performance Advisor
 - COVID has restricted the face-to-face meetings. However, over the coming weeks there will be increased communications on radio, newspaper and social media introducing our team in the Watershed.
- Get Involved Nechako Website:
 - Rio Tinto to actively maintain the Get Involved Nechako website as an informational tool throughout and after the completion of the WEI.
 - Contact Devrie if you have any questions at Devrie.Sanghera@riotinto.com
 - This presentation is available on the Get Involved Nechako website <https://www.getinvolvednechako.ca/7037/widgets/27362/documents/55141>.
- AC stated that the Flood Emergency Planning is around operational high-water events, and potential flood impacts from unusual high-water events. RR noted that is to help with planning ahead of emergencies, so that there is more communication.
 - Wayne Salewski (WS) asked AC to differentiate between the response from the Province versus from Rio Tinto with regards to Flood Emergency Planning. AC replied that the nomenclature may need to be adjusted to avoid confusion. The FEP discussed here is focused on flood preparedness, not flood emergency. Rio Tinto is not looking to fill an existing provincial role, but improve emergency preparedness.
 - HK asked if the presentations could be circulated before the Main Table meetings so that members could be prepared with questions and comments. RR responded that this could happen when possible, but sometimes the presentations are still being finalized the morning of the meeting and cannot be sent out earlier.
 - JC provided an updated from the Southside Working Group. The second Southside Workshop was held on April 13, 2021. It was well attended and lots of progress was made. The group reviewed the pathways to address issues discussed in the first workshop and the progress that has been made on each of the pathways. There was a large pre-read package provided ahead of the meeting. The group determined the next steps for each of the 11 interests. The meeting summary and updated Southside report will be sent to Main Table members to review. Tim Plesko (TM) commented that the proposed draft Monitoring and Implementation framework report document was good and had no concerns with it.

- JK provided a Technical Working Group update. Recent discussions have been focused on fish in the reservoir and river. When the Main Table discussion of the objectives is complete, the Technical Working Group will incorporate the changes and continue working on performance measures.
- Ray Pillipow (RP) asked how often the Technical Working Group is receiving feedback from the NWSRI. JK responded that some of the members of the Technical Working Group are also involved with NWSRI, so there is some cross-over. JK will be providing WEI updates at the next NWSRI meeting, and a representative from NWSRI will be presenting to the Main Table next month.
- RR reviewed the Conceptual WEI Schedule. There have been no changes to the schedule since the last Main Table meeting. RR discussed the four main components: flow-related interests, reservoir-related interests, communications-related interests, and other related interests.
- RR reviewed the schedule regarding Flow-related interests:
 - Develop draft objectives and performance measures (January-July 2021)
 - Present objectives and performance measures to Main Table (April-July 2021)
 - Implement ready improvements (May-December 2021)
 - Develop flow alternatives and trade-off analysis (May-July 2021)
 - Scope potential regulatory revisions (February-November 2021)
 - Consider physical works or other non-flow options to meet objectives (April-September 2021)
 - Draft flow scenario (August-September 2021)
 - Engagement on draft flow scenario (August-December 2021)
 - Finalize flow scenario (December 2021)
- RR reviewed the schedule regarding Communication and Process:
 - Finalize communication improvements (April 2021)
 - Implement communication improvements (February-December 2021)
 - Review and adjust communication improvements as needed (February 2021-continual improvement)
- RR reviewed the schedule regarding Reservoir and Southside efforts:
 - Southside additional information gathering / inventory (Completed in 2020)
 - Present recommendations to the Main Table (February-August 2021)
 - Integrate results into Flow, Communications, and Non-flow physical works improvement process, as needed (March-December 2021)

- AC presented “WEI – Winter and Spring Information Share.” This is a follow up to the Action Item from Meeting 17: “AC will present monthly average flow data since 2000 to compare winter flow rates.”. The presentation is available on the Get Involved Nechako website:
<https://www.getinvolvednechako.ca/7037/widgets/27362/documents/55140>
 - Winter flows and temperatures from this year compared to other years
 - Higher than typical flows in the Nechako due to spillway releases and natural flows associated with mild temperatures.
 - Winter discharges are higher than average for this time of year, but similar winter releases have been made in 5 out of the last 20 winters.
 - Freeze and thaw cycles preventing solid ice pan until late in the winter
 - Current watershed data - snow water equivalent:
 - The Snow Water Equivalent is used to calculate potential inflow to the reservoir and river discharge projections.
 - Next monthly survey end of April
 - As of 14 April, total reservoir snowpack is now 136% of Long Term Average (LTA)
 - Freshet Forecast & Next Steps – Reservoir Level Projection
 - Inflow projections are used to estimate reservoir levels over time considering current Snow water equivalent (SWE) and historically observed additional snow and rain.
 - As of 1 April, the average projection equates to about 120-125% of the long-term average inflow volume.
 - Additional snow, rain and inflow to the reservoir until the end of the Spring freshet will determine the total inflow, reservoir elevation and spillway discharge.
 - Historical Reservoir Elevation
 - Graph showing other high elevation years and how they compare to 2020/2021.
 - Freshet Forecast – River Flows
 - Nautley River discharge during spring can be a critical factor in total Nechako River discharge.
 - Cheslatta Lake high water impact risk is <5%
 - Modelling suggests that average spill of 150 m³/s is required between now and 10 July.

- Gerd Erasmus (GE) asked if there was any research on how these flows effect the natural river environment. JK responded that there has been no specific research to investigate this. However, we can consider how the whole environment is affected by looking at components. For example, they have assessed how different flow velocities effect salmon fry. GE stated that understanding the effects of the flow rates is something that needs to be known. For example, swans eat vegetation, but also eat other things, possibly fish eggs. In areas with very shallow water, they will not just be eating vegetation and algae. More information on the overall impact on the river is needed, and we need to look at the big picture. JK responded that this was a good point, and that the Technical Working Group will look into it more. He clarified that swans are not eating salmon eggs as they are normally buried in the gravel. AC commented that criteria to evaluate effects can be built into the WEI process.
- Donna Klingspohn (DK) stated that they have been invested in this process for two years now and wanted to know how the process was perceived by Rio Tinto and if they are still committed. She wanted to know if the members are spinning their wheels are if they are going to see changes made through implementation of the recommendations. AC responded that Rio Tinto is very committed to the process. He laments the lack of face time and field trips that lead to more opportunities for important conversations. DK asked if the schedule has been shared with Rio Tinto executives and what their reactions are. AC responded that he shares updates with executives regularly. He has been tasked to run this process and is the point person. The executives look to AC for information and perspectives. He understands that the process is turning out to be more complicated that originally thought, and is therefore taking longer, but there have been no concerns so far. Dan Sneep (DS) stated that can't speak for Rio Tinto, but from what he has observed, he sees a shift in culture in Rio Tinto. And, from a public and regulatory perspective, the process has built enough momentum that it is likely better for Rio Tinto to continue and move forward with good outcomes, rather than stop the process.
- HK noted that when he was the chair of the watershed council for 15 years, it often felt like there were two separate groups working independently. However, they (council and Rio Tinto) were able to find solutions and work together. Through the WEI process, we need to do the best with what we have, have patience, and we will find the best solutions.
- JK reviewed how the interests are grouped, and that the objectives discussed today are part of the Social, Economic, and Environmental Receptors group of interests. The Technical Working Group provides technical support for the Main Table for the investigation of these interests. JK reviewed the updates made to the interests and objectives during Main Table Meeting 18. Once all of the objectives have been reviewed, JK will provided an updated version to the Main Table for review. JK continued to review the objectives and picked up where we left off at Meeting 18.
- JK reviewed the interest **Human Health – Water Quality**
 - **Objective:** Maximize water quality suitability for human consumption

- **Comments:** Performance Measure (PM) can specify criteria or thresholds for good water quality (e.g., # of days fecal coliform counts are within guidelines).
- JK noted that water quality is a difficult interest since it is not directly tied to operations. There is not always a clear cause and effect, and performance measures need reflect cause and effect.
- GE asked if water quality is mentioned under any other interest other than Human Health. He noted that it goes way beyond human health and should be incorporated in other interests. JK responded that this interest was specific to drinking water, but that water quality is included in other interests such as total gas pressure to address fish interests. He noted that turbidity was not specified, and GE noted that it should be added.
- HK stated that water quality was discussed in the context of run-off from agriculture and other industrial activities. JK responded that land-use was important, but it is not always directly related to Rio Tinto operations. But in some cases, it can be tied to operations. For example, if water levels are high and flood fields after fertilization, then that could affect water quality. He noted that turbidity will likely affect many different interests. The Technical Working Group will review to see what other components of water quality can be tied to operations.
- GE asked if temperature and sudden changes in temperature were included. JK responded that these were good points. They are included in the fish interests, but the Technical Working Group will investigate whether to expand on these.
- RR asked participants if there was any concern with these objectives moving forward so the TWG can continue working on performance measures. No concerns were raised.
- **ACTION ITEM: Turbidity will be added to the list of interests and reviewed by the Technical Working Group.**
- DK asked if a column will be added to the graphic with actions. JK responded that another column will be added with Performance Measures. This will help determine how to measure/evaluate if the objective is being achieved.
- DK asked if the performance measure will also be vague or will there be more specifics added. AC responded that the intent is to have Smart goals, and when there is an opportunity for specific measures they will be included. Specifics and numbers will be included when looking at trade-offs. AC suggested that JK reach out to DK to review the next steps. JK responded that these were important questions and that he would be happy to talk with DK. He noted that the performance measures will be as specific as possible. DS asked if it was possible to show an example from somewhere else of how the process works through all the steps. RR responded that it was a good idea and will provide at the next meeting.

- **ACTION ITEM: WEI Main Table to work through examples of how the process works at the next meeting, including interests, objectives, performance measures, and trade-offs.**

- JK reviewed the interest **Human Health – Methylmercury**
 - **Objective:** Minimize methyl-mercury contamination.
 - **Comments:** The link to operations is not strong.
 - JK noted that contamination of methylmercury occurs through the decomposition of vegetation underwater. He stated that the Technical Working Group is exploring this interest and is reviewing what is known about methylmercury in the watershed.
 - GE asked if there was any evidence of methylmercury in the reservoir and watershed. JK responded that right now, there was no evidence. He noted it is often not specific to water but linked to food chains. It is piece that needs to be explored more.
 - There were no further comments from the Main Table participants. JK will incorporate the comments in the objectives. RR confirmed with participants that these objectives will move forward and the TWG will continue working on performance measures. Confirmed.

- JK reviewed the interest **Culture and Heritage – Gravesites**
 - **Objective:** Minimize inundation and erosion of gravesites
 - **Comments:** The PMs will refer to specific sites and threshold water levels.
 - RR asked if there was a certain elevation that caused the flooding of the gravesites. JK responded that yes, if the water exceeds a known elevation, then the gravesites are flooded.
 - There were no further comments from the Main Table participants. RR confirmed with participants that these objectives will move forward and the TWG will continue working on performance measures. Confirmed.

- JK reviewed the interest **Flooding and Erosion – Municipal Flooding**
 - **Fundamental Objective:** Minimize flooding.
 - **Objectives:** Minimize open-water, over-bank flooding, Minimize open-water, groundwater flooding, Minimize ice-jam flooding
 - **Comments:** PMs can specify location and water level thresholds (Vanderhoof, Sandy Beach subdivision, rural properties, etc.). Ice-jam flooding is related to air and water temperature.
 - There were no comments from the Main Table participants. RR confirmed with participants that these objectives will move forward and the TWG will continue working on performance measures. Confirmed.

- JK reviewed the interest **Flooding and Erosion – Private Property Flooding and Erosion**
 - **Fundamental Objective:** Minimize land-use.

- **Objectives:** Minimize land loss, Minimize agricultural disruption, Minimize fencing and irrigation damage or loss of function.
 - **Comments:** Related to municipal flooding, but with different consequences. PMs can specify location, timing, elevation etc.
 - JK noted that this interest was very location specific.
 - There were no comments from the Main Table participants. RR confirmed with participants that these objectives will move forward and the TWG will continue working on performance measures. Confirmed.
- GE added a comment about fencing. In a large number of places, landowners are using creeks and rivers as “fences.” There needs to be recognition that landowners should provide fencing that parallels the creeks and rivers. JK responded that yes, this is important, and it will be brought up through another interest later. He noted it was still good to be thinking about these types of issues now, to help guide the Main Table’s thoughts when thinking about finding solutions when they discuss other interests.
- JK reviewed the interest **Flooding and Erosion – Backwatering**
 - **Objectives:** Minimize Fraser Lake backwatering
 - **Comments:** Specific, solitary objective.
 - There were no further comments from the Main Table participants. JK will incorporate the comments in the objectives. RR confirmed with participants that these objectives will move forward and the TWG will continue working on performance measures. Confirmed.
 - JK noted that he wanted to speak to Deborah Jones-Middleton (DJM) to gather more information about this interest offline. DJM agreed and asked JK to reach out.
 - GE asked for JK to explain the concern around backwatering. He noted that pre-dam, the backwatering was much worse. Mark Parker (MP) noted that this issue revolved around inconsistencies, resulting in extreme highs and lows and impacts to residents. They need to get a better understanding of the effects of this issue. GE asked how this differed from when it was a natural system. MP responded that he did not know. JK noted that the WEI process is not comparing pre-dam conditions to current day conditions. The models are of current conditions, and the flow scenarios discussion will look at how different options are better or worse than what is occurring now, not what has occurred in the past (e.g., pre-dam).
 - HK noted that there was talk of constructing a weir at Nautley to control the water elevation. He suggested that this be re-visited to help with the extreme low water elevations. MP stated that studies have been done, and the Nautley River has completely changed since pre-dam conditions. JK replied that the Technical Working group has looked into this and the weir is working as designed.
 - There were no further comments from the Main Table participants. JK will incorporate the comments in the objectives. RR confirmed with participants that these objectives will move forward and the TWG will continue working on performance measures. Confirmed.

- **ACTION ITEM: JK to reach out to Deborah Jones-Middleton about the backwatering interest.**

- JK reviewed the interest **Flooding and Erosion – Bank Erosion**
 - **Fundamental Objectives:** Minimize bank erosion.
 - **Objectives:** Minimize Cheslatta bank erosion.
 - **Comments:** This addresses erosion of river and lake banks during large flow increases and is related to loss of fish habitat, sediment transport, and water quality.
 - JK noted that this was an issue on Cheslatta river and Reservoir lakes.
 - There were no comments from the Main Table participants. RR confirmed with participants that these objectives will move forward and the TWG will continue working on performance measures. Confirmed.

- JK reviewed the interest **Flooding and Erosion – Sediment**
 - **Objectives:** Minimize sediment transport from erosion.
 - **Comments:** This is related to water quality, fish habitat.
 - JK noted that this issue relates to water quality and fish habitat, including feeding and infill of spawning gravel. The performance measure will need to narrow this topic further as it is very general right now.
 - There were no comments from the Main Table participants. RR confirmed with participants that these objectives will move forward and the TWG will continue working on performance measures. Confirmed.

- JK asked if there were any other interests relating to Flooding and Erosion that Main Table members would like to discuss. No further issues were raised.

- JK reviewed the interest **Recreation and Navigation – Boat Docks and Launches**
 - **Fundamental Objective:** Maximize recreational opportunities.
 - **Objectives:** Maximize access to boat docks and launches.
 - **Comments:** This is primarily related to low reservoir elevation at specific locations.
 - JK noted that this was primarily a reservoir issue and that it had been discussed with the Southside Working Group.
 - There were no comments from the Main Table participants. RR confirmed with participants that these objectives will move forward and the TWG will continue working on performance measures. Confirmed.

- JK reviewed the interest **Recreation and Navigation – Dead Trees**
 - **Fundamental Objectives:** Maximize recreational opportunities.

- **Objectives:** Minimize boating navigation hazards
- **Comments:** The link to operations is not strong (more related to footprint). Is there a human health (safety) link?
- There were no further comments from the Main Table participants. JK will incorporate the comments in the objectives. RR confirmed with participants that these objectives will move forward and the TWG will continue working on performance measures. Confirmed.

- JK reviewed the interest **Recreation and Navigation – Submerged Hazards**
 - **Fundamental Objectives:** Maximize recreational opportunities.
 - **Objectives:** Minimize boating navigation hazards
 - **Comments:** This could include submerged trees, rocks, or general lake bottom.
 - There were no further comments from the Main Table participants. JK will incorporate the comments in the objectives. RR confirmed with participants that these objectives will move forward and the TWG will continue working on performance measures. Confirmed.

- JK reviewed the interest **Recreation and Navigation – Float Planes and Canoes**
 - **Fundamental Objectives:** Maximize recreational opportunities.
 - **Objectives:** Maintain sufficient depth for navigation.
 - **Comments:** This is primarily related to low river elevation.
 - GE noted that jet boats could not use the Nechako River. He also noted it is a working corridor and search and rescue cannot use their jet boats to help people on the river. JK asked if the concern was water depth, obstacles or velocity. GE replied that water depth was the issue. Jet boats can go around obstacles and can handle the river velocity. JK asked where and when this was an issue. GE responded that primary area of concern was from Fort Fraser to Greer Creek. The water there is so shallow that a canoe can barely get through. Less concerning, but still an issue, were the areas downstream of Fort Fraser and Vanderhoof. GE stated he experienced shallow water in July but had not been down the river in October to know if it was an issue then.
 - GE also noted that floatplanes use the river for navigation and emergency landing, and for large parts of the Nechako river, this is not an option.
 - WS stated that at the end of the WEI process there will be a water budget, and he did not think using it for canoes and jet boats should be a priority, and that the health of the river is the priority. RR responded that at this point in the process it is important to have all the interests on the table, and then priorities will be decided on when it comes to the trade-off analysis.
 - There were no further comments from the Main Table participants. JK will incorporate the comments in the objectives. RR confirmed with participants that these objectives will move forward and the TWG will continue working on performance measures. Confirmed.

- JK stated that not all interests will end up in the flow scenarios. However, by knowing all of the interests the Main Table can report back to the interested groups as to what conditions they can expect. Information sharing is also an important aspect of the WEI. RR also noted that there can be some overlap of interests, and one flow scenario may be able to address several interests.
- Kevin Moutray (KM) suggested that a tiered value system could be used. If water is available, then perhaps the release could be spread out. Different values could be applied depending on water availability. JK responded that they could consider tiered values. For example, not every year would need to meet the requirements for every interest.
- JK reviewed the interest **Recreation and Navigation – Hiking Trails**
 - **Fundamental Objectives:** Maximize recreational opportunities.
 - **Objectives:** Prevent flooding of hiking trails.
 - **Comments:** This is primarily related to high river elevation. Closely tied to flooding.
 - JK noted that the Vanderhoof trails have flooded and become unusable, but they do not have a lot of information on the issue yet. RR asked if KM could speak to this issue.
 - KM stated that the hiking trails become flooded around the 325 m³/sec to 350 m³/sec mark. When flooding occurs late in the year, like in October, the trails end up covered in ice. He understands that the trails will be flooded some periods of the year. Fall LiDAR data will be able to show the exact level at which flooding of the trails occurs. JK asked if he could follow up with KM offline to get more information, and KM agreed.
 - There were no further comments from the Main Table participants. JK will incorporate the comments in the objectives. RR confirmed with participants that these objectives will move forward and the TWG will continue working on performance measures. Confirmed.
- **ACTION ITEM: JK to follow up with Kevin Moutray to get more information about hiking trails around Vanderhoof and how they are affected by flooding.**
- JK reviewed the interest **Recreation and Navigation – Beaches**
 - **Fundamental Objective:** Maximize recreational opportunities.
 - **Objectives:** Minimize flooding of beaches, Minimize woody debris accumulation on beaches.
 - **Comments:** The operational link to debris accumulation is not strong.
 - JK stated that it was unclear if operations cause more or less woody debris on the beaches.
 - Tim Plesko (TP) noted that this was an issue when water was high, and the erosion pulls trees in the water.
 - There were no further comments from the Main Table participants. JK will incorporate the comments in the objectives. RR confirmed with participants that these objectives will move forward and the TWG will continue working on performance measures. Confirmed.

- JK asked if there were any other Recreation and Navigation issues or interests. DS asked if JK knew how much shore angling was occurring. JK asked RP if he had any information. RP answered that he has only observed shore angling close to town by the bridge. JK noted that in other systems, anglers have been stranded by high water. However, the extreme changes do not appear to occur in this system that would cause stranding. The rivers and lakes act as buffers. High water might cause an issue for access. He noted that he has also seen tubing and swimming near Prince George. RP noted that most of the fishing is from jet boats. No other Recreation and Navigation issues were brought forward by members.
- JK introduced the Rio Tinto interests:
 - **Rio Tinto Operations – Aluminum**
 - **Fundamental Objective:** Maximize aluminum production.
 - **Objective:** Minimize smelter down-time due to insufficient power
 - **Rio Tinto Operations – Revenue**
 - **Objective:** Maximize revenue.
 - **Rio Tinto Operations – Operational Flexibility**
 - **Objective:** Maximize operational flexibility
- AC stated that he needs to do more work with the Technical Working Group to present tangible objectives. The reliability element of the reservoir and the ability to handle dry cycles is important to Rio Tinto. The revenue interest relates to aluminum production and energy exports. Operational flexibility includes the ability to grow the business, grow aluminum production, and finding different and creative ways to leverage new technology. There are also many social elements that have not yet been considered with these interests. For example, the company provides employment for many people which has a large economic benefit for the region and British Columbia. These current interests will act as place holders, and AC will work with the Technical Working Group over the next two or three weeks to finalize the Rio Tinto operational interests.
- GE recognized the importance of Rio Tinto and some of the benefits that have come from their work in the region, like the existence of Kitimat and the paving of Highway 16. However, he stated that the economic benefit of other industries should also be considered. For example, the benefit of the commercial fishery which relies on the Nechako salmon. It is important to find a balance and look for the maximum overall benefit. AC agreed and noted that this will come through during the trade-off analysis.
- GE asked a hypothetical question: If a material was invented that replaced aluminum, what would happen to the system? AC replied that he did not know and that was a big question that speaks to social interests, economics, concerns around flooding, and river restoration. RR suggested that it was best to look at the current situation and create the best opportunities across the board. That is the job of the WEI and the Main Table members. HK noted that the court case results will be coming out soon. RR responded that more information will be available when the results come out, in the meantime the members should focus on Rio Tinto operations to find win-win solutions.

- JK reviewed the interest **Other Interests – Low Water**
 - **Comments:** Is this a stand-alone interest? Is it related to recreation? Fish habitat? Drought management? Is it captured by other objectives?
 - JK noted that this interest was really vague but thought perhaps it had been captured in other interests. He asked if something else regarding low water needed to be added. GE noted that he thought it had been raised as a concern but not as an interest.
 - RR asked if the low water issue was related to fish and float planes. AL related the low water issue back to GE's comment about swans. He asked if low water is important for some of the wildlife concerns.
 - TP noted that is a huge safety concern on the reservoir. Many hazardous objects are exposed, and float planes cannot land safely. JK replied that he could link low water and the safety concern back to the Human Health interests, but that is also captured in the navigation interest of the Southside initiative.
 - There were no further comments from the Main Table participants. JK will incorporate the comments in the objectives. RR confirmed with participants that these objectives will move forward and the TWG will continue working on performance measures. Confirmed.
- **ACTION ITEM: The Technical Working Group will investigate including low water and safety issues in the Human Health related interests.**
- JK reviewed the interest **Other Interests – Flood Risk Management**
 - **Comments:** This is related to what risk tolerance RT operates the reservoir to. How do we determine risk? Is a directional objective appropriate? Is it captured by other objectives?
 - There were no further comments from the Main Table participants.
- JK reviewed the interest **Other Interests – Health of the River**
 - **Comments:** Is this a stand-alone interest? Is it captured by other objectives? How do we quantify it?
 - There were no further comments from the Main Table participants.
- JK suggested that members take time to think about the last two interests to discuss at the next meeting.
- HK stated that the overall health of the river should be covered by adequately addressing the other interests. For example, by providing flows for sturgeon, the low flows for a healthy river should be covered. KM noted that the Health of the River could be stated as an overarching interest and these objectives are how we get there. DS agreed with KM.
- AC suggested that an index could be created to help determine the Health of the River. DS added that it could be described in a synthesis report that pulled together all the monitoring efforts, and showed which

components were working and which were not working. JK replied that this was an interesting idea. He added that a minimum score could be described that will lead to a healthy river.

- GE noted that a current metric for a healthy river (or lack thereof) was that the local kids choose to get stoned beside the river rather than go fishing, as fishing opportunities are limited. AC asked if that was unique to the Nechako. He has experienced that in other areas as well. JK noted that creative ways to measure the health of the river were needed, and to continue to think outside the box. He asked that the conversation be continued at the next meeting.
- RR reviewed the next meeting dates. He noted the meetings were only proposed until July. He asked the members if they wanted to also meet in August or if they would like to take a break at that point. RR also suggested that the next meetings be an entire day (6 hours) rather than splitting the meetings over two days in a month.
 - Proposed Main Table meeting: Wednesday, May 19, 2021
 - Proposed Main Table meeting: Wednesday, June 16, 2021
 - Proposed Main Table meeting: Wednesday, July 14, 2021
- HK agreed that a day long meeting would be preferable. TP, WS, DK, RP and others all agreed with this was a good idea.
- JK noted that in August, the process will be running models which might take say time. He suggested that the Main Table not decide yet and wait and see what the time requirements might be. DS noted that there might be an interest in meeting more frequently than once a month, and that they should leave the schedule open to change. Gina Layte-Listen (GLL) added that it may be good to not meet in August since people may be on their summer vacations. There were no objections to the proposed meeting dates in May, June, and July.
- Meeting adjourned at 12:05 pm.

ACTION ITEMS

- **ACTION ITEM: Participants who provide input during WEI Main Table meetings will be identified by their initials in the meeting summaries.**
- **ACTION ITEM: Turbidity will be added to the list of interests and reviewed by the Technical Working Group.**
- **ACTION ITEM: WEI Main Table to work through examples of how the process works at the next meeting, including interests, objectives, performance measures, and trade-offs.**
- **ACTION ITEM: JK to reach out to Deborah Jones-Middleton about the backwatering interest.**

- **ACTION ITEM:** JK to follow up with Kevin Moutray to get more information about hiking trails around Vanderhoof and how they are affected by flooding.
- **ACTION ITEM:** The Technical Working Group will investigate including low water and safety issues in the Human Health related interests.