



To: WEI Meeting participants
From: Rahul Ray and Jason Collier
Date: March 11, 2020
Re: Rio Tinto WEI Table Meeting Summary - Meeting 7: Wednesday, February 12, 2020

Meeting 7 of the Rio Tinto Water Engagement Initiative (WEI) was held at Scott’s Grille in Vanderhoof, British Columbia, on February 12, 2020. The meeting was from 10:00 am to 4:00 pm.

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

At the meeting, the facilitators were Rahul Ray, and Jason Collier from EDI. They prepared this meeting summary. Jayson Kurtz from Ecofish Research participated during the meeting as the Technical Working Group (TWG) coordinator.

Danielle De Kay, Rio Tinto Communities and Communications Advisor, and Justus Benckhuysen Rio Tinto Nechako Operations Coordinator, were also present as process support. Andrew Czornohalan, Operations Director - Power & Services, Kitimat & Kemano was present as a WEI participant.

Table 1 lists the participants present at the meeting and the organizations they represent.

Table 1. February 12, 2020 - WEI Table Meeting 7 Participants

Individual	Organization
Arthur Halleran	Nak'azdli First Nation – Resource Department
Mike Robertson	Cheslatta Carrier Nation
Ray Klingspohn	BC Wildlife Federation
Donna Klingspohn	Public participant
Gerry Thiessen	District of Vanderhoof / Regional District of Bulkley Nechako
Jennifer Howell	District of Fort St. James
Cyndi Lauze	District of Vanderhoof
Kevin Moutray	District of Vanderhoof
Phillip Krauskopf	FLNRORD
James Jacklin	FLNRORD
Dan Sneep	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
Linda Sjodin	Public participant
Henry Klassen	Public participant
Gerd Erasmus	Public participant
John Alderliesten	Public participant
Wayne Salewski	Public participant / NEWSS
Paula Tait	Northern Health
Elisabeth Doery	Nechako Lodge & Aviation
Lyla Brophy	Nechako Regional Cattlemen's Association
Kim Menounos	Fraser Basin Council
Lindsay Sackett	Fraser Basin Council
Tim Plesko	Public participant/Southside
Gary Blackwell	Public participant/Southside
Julie Blackwell	Public participant/Southside
Clint Lambert	Regional District of Bulkley Nechako
Mark Parker	Regional District of Bulkley Nechako
Jerry Petersen	Regional District of Bulkley Nechako
Andrew Czornohalan	Rio Tinto

The following provides a summary of the topics discussed at the meeting.

- Rahul opened the meeting by welcoming participants and reviewing the proposed agenda. No objections to the proposed agenda were made.
- Rahul provided an overview of WEI Table efforts to date and several of the milestones that have been achieved, which include forming the Main Table; approving Guiding Principles; holding six well-attended meetings; developing base mapping; initiating the Communication Working Group; forming the Technical Working Group; and developing an understanding of the WEI and associated Strategic Decision Making process.
- Rahul provided an overview of the three main components that are likely to flow from the WEI: (1) Water flow-related improvements, (2) Non-water flow improvements, and (3) related investigations. Rahul also provided examples of improvements that are associated with each component. Water flow-related improvements will be addressed using a Structured Decision Making approach, and the information to support the Main Table will be generated by the Technical Working Group. Efforts to address non-water flow improvements will be coordinated by Rahul. The system will be improved, with the WEI or similar body assessing and adjusting when information is available from related investigations, such as feasibility studies for Kenney Dam water release facility (WRF).
- A participant commented that “Collecting Baseline Information” should be added to the Structured Decision Making (SDM) process diagram. Rahul agreed.
- **ACTION ITEM: Rahul to update the SDM process diagram to include Collecting Baseline Information.**
- Regarding Component 3, Mike Robertson and Andrew provided an update on the Phase 2 Pre-feasibility study being developed for the Kenney Dam WRF. The study should be completed by Summer/Fall 2020. Geotechnical studies will be conducted this Summer. Andrew commented that Rio Tinto is currently pulling together information about the dredging of Tahtsa Narrows to gain an understanding of the context. Andrew understands that there is concerns with dredging and that Rio Tinto is a long way away from undertaking any work and that, if work were to proceed, there would certainly be robust community engagement.
- A participant wanted to know if wildlife habitat restoration is part of the Component 3, and if not, could it be added. Rahul agreed that it would be a part of the WEI. Rahul noted that knowledge of the Main Table can also be brought forward as recommendations to applicable provincial/federal ministries if the issues cannot be addressed through the WEI process.
- A participant wanted to know if there were going to be “keepers” of actions, who will be held responsible for fulfilling recommendations/actions identified by the WEI Main Table. For instance, governments, a roundtable, or watershed group? Rahul replied that recommendations/actions can have leads/groups that are identified through the recommendations of the Table. Andrew commented that the groups will need to

remain up-to-date on legislation to be effective. A participant commented that there will need to be a structure in place to evaluate the success of action items, as well as ongoing monitoring.

- A participant wanted to know if Rio Tinto were considering using any alternative energy sources (e.g. wind, solar, wave) to power the smelter in Kitimat instead of using the water from the Nechako? Andrew commented that this was an interesting thought and that currently, the Rio Tinto operations in BC produces the lowest CO2 concentrations/ton of aluminum in the world.
- Rahul provided an update on the Communication Working Group (CWG) and efforts and discussions are ongoing. Another CWG is being planned and Danielle will provide another update at the next meeting. Rahul wanted to know if anyone else wanted to join the Communication Working Group.
- **ACTION ITEM: Danielle to provide an update on Communication Working Group progress at the next meeting in March.**
- Andrew provided an update on the current situation regarding reservoir levels. Current levels are in line with the long term average and this year's freshet will hopefully fill the reservoir. Rahul asked the Table how many members are receiving the Rio Tinto Flow Facts?
- **ACTION ITEM: Rahul to distribute information on how to subscribe to Rio Tinto's Flow Facts.**
- Rahul provided updated on the action items that came out of the teleconference that was held in January instead of the face-to-face meeting due to extreme weather conditions.
- Discussion centered around the action item of the TWG to investigate if models are available to address changes in water temperatures targets. Jayson said that there are models available and the next step is to determine how and why to use them; that is, what do we want to know or are trying to achieve. A participant commented that temperature targets are dependent on what species is in question. The Table needs to frame the appropriate context first. There are also information gaps in terms of the other inputs (e.g. tributaries) into the Nechako, besides the reservoir. There is also climate change to consider in the modelling, and it is also important to consider biological inputs (i.e. food sources) for fish. A participant commented that focusing on temperature is too narrow and that the Table will also need to focus on the big picture, for instance on flows and the timing of flows that support the rivers inhabitants. There is 70 years of history where the river has not acted normally. A participant wanted to know if there is real time data of river temperatures. Andrew confirmed that there is.
- **ACTION ITEM: Justus to provide link to live temperature stations.**
- Jayson provided an overview of the pre-read package (i.e. flooding information) sent to participants. Andrew commented that the TWG package came out a bit late and that efforts should be made to distribute the information at least one week before the meeting.

- **ACTION ITEM: Rahul to add communication protocol for ice jams to the CWG agenda.**
- **ACTION ITEM: TWG to look into the impacts of backflow from the Nechako on Fraser Lake, as well as the influence of the Nautley on the Nechako River.**
- **ACTION ITEM: Danielle to upload overflight photos the Get Involved Nechako website.**
- Jayson provide an update on the TWG meeting. Discussions during the TWG meeting centered around flooding, ice jams, dredging and associated environmental concerns, and following-up on action items. A participant commented that the District of Vanderhoof does not necessarily have a flooding issue, but rather more of a sediment issue. More flooding is occurring because lots of sediment is being accumulated in the river. The Table will need to look at the interconnectedness of the system. Rahul commented that the Table will be discussing these issues today during the break-out session.
- **ACTION ITEM: TWG to investigate sedimentation in the Nechako River at Vanderhoof.**
- Henry presented three recommendations to improve efficiency and focus for Table discussions, which included (1) removing the distinction of WEI members as participants and observers, (2) forming a three-member committee with a mandate to secure experts in specific fields as dictated by the Main Table, and (3) that the Provincial government take immediate action in developing a hydrograph suitable for both sturgeon habitat and salmon migration.
- Discussion centered around the question of when will the Table discuss recommendations that are put forward by participants. Recommendations have been put forward previously and the Table has not yet discussed them. These recommendations need to be taken seriously. Rahul replied that discussing Table recommendations can be built into the next meeting's agenda. At the end of each meeting the Table can decide what the next meetings topic will be.
- Rahul provide some context around the small group focused discussions that will be conducted during this meeting and the intent to gather further detail on specific topics. Rahul presented the categories of information that is needed for each topic/interests/issue, which include locations; timeline/season; duration; consequence; condition; link to Rio Tinto operations; objective; and performance measure. An example using information for river recreation was provided to illustrate the level of detail that is needed to address each interest.
- Rahul provided information on the development of Performance Measures, which will be used to compare management (i.e. flow) alternatives using common criteria. Rahul also provided some examples and the characteristics of a good Performance Measure, which the Table should strive to make quantitative, rather than qualitative.
- Two breakout groups were formed for small group discussions to gather and record additional detail on specific topics/interests. The first group discussed (1) Property flooding in the reservoir and in the Murray

River-Cheslatta system, and (2) Reservoir travel and activities. The second group discussed (1) Property flooding in the Nechako River, and (2) River travel and activities. The break-out sessions were conducted approximately from 11:00 am to 12:45 pm and from 1:15 pm to 2:30 pm. Following the break-out sessions, each team provided debriefs on the discussions.

- The information provided by the group focused on the reservoir was captured on screen in issue reporting forms. These are attached, and will be refined through further participant discussion.
- A participant commented that discussions around a needing a “healthy river” are all good, but the Table needs to mitigate what we have now and understand what we can do with the current situation. Rahul confirmed that the WEI process will identify what we need and how to do things better, both in the short-term and in the long-term.
- One of the small Table groups focused on the river and discussed the sequence of topics that should be addressed in subsequent meetings. It was decided that “Health of the River” should move to the top of the list. The context for the decision was that a healthy river would encompass other interests/issues and that discussions would flow from there. Dan commented that perhaps the context is to understand what some of the effects are on fish from damming operations and how can Rio Tinto change flows to address. Dan is able to provide some context on the list of issues that were developed as part of the BC Hydro Water Use Plan process.
- **ACTION ITEM: Dan Sneep to provide a presentation on the list of issues/characteristics considered to provide for a healthy river.**
- Future meeting dates were set for March 18, 2020 in Fraser Lake, and April 15, 2020 in Vanderhoof.
- Rahul asked the Table if they were interested in having 2-day long meetings each month to speed up the process. It was decided that the Table would reevaluate the possibility at a later date.
- Rahul reminded participants that they should send him information if topics are to be incorporated into the next meeting’s agenda.
- Mike Robertson and Andrew provided an update to the Partnership Agreement between the Cheslatta Carrier Nation and Rio Tinto, which is close to being signed and will likely be announced by the end of February. The Agreement will address some of the past issues, while also working out ways to move forward, and shows how industry and First Nations can work together.
- Henry talked about his experience being a witness and sharing the Nechako Watershed Council story in the Saik’uz/Rio Tinto court case over the course of two days (February 3-4).
- The meeting ended at 3:15 pm.

Action Items

- **ACTION ITEM:** Rahul to update the SDM process diagram to include Collecting Baseline Information.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Danielle to provide an update on Communication Working Group progress at the next meeting in March.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Rahul to distribute information on how to subscribe to Rio Tinto's Flow Facts.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Justus to provide link to live temperature stations.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Rahul to add communication protocol for ice jams to the CWG agenda.
- **ACTION ITEM:** TWG to look into the impacts of backflow from the Nechako on Fraser Lake, as well as the influence of the Nautley on the Nechako River.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Danielle to upload overflight photos the Get Involved Nechako website.
- **ACTION ITEM:** TWG to investigate sedimentation in the Nechako River at Vanderhoof.
- **ACTION ITEM:** Dan Sneeep to provide a presentation on the list of issues/characteristics considered to provide for a healthy river.