
To: WEI Technical Working Group members

From: Jayson Kurtz, TWG Coordinator, Ecofish

Date: December 2, 2020

Re: Summary of TWG meeting held Wednesday December 2, 2020, 9:00 am to 10:00 am

Attendees:

- Stephen Dery (UNBC)
- Phillip Krauskopf – FLNRORD
- Dan Sneep (DFO)
- Justice Benckhuysen (RT)
- Alec Mercier (Water Resource Engineer Rio Tinto)
- Rahul Ray (EDI)
- Jayson Kurtz (Ecofish Research Ltd.)
- Jennifer Carter (Ecofish Research Ltd.)
- James Jacklin – FLNRORD

Meeting Objective:

- Quick meeting to talk about:
 - the TWG group and tasks moving forward
 - update on SSWG and action items
 - next meeting dates and agendas

TWG Group and Tasks

- Vision moving forward:
 - Currently in brainstorming phase to identify whether interests have specific performance measures
 - Next is action phase – proposing action thresholds, flow scenarios, and making decisions
 - Jayson will be directly reaching out to Mike and Christina directly or preparing information on TWG meeting to provide to them

SSWG Update

- SSWG discussion was around whether more can be done to fix water intake, fencing issues, etc. (i.e., research and engineering). A draft report was pulled together with interests and recommendations that will be submitted to the MT. Some flow related action items came out of the meeting that will need the support of the TWG:

- Support erosion and driftwood
 - SSWG to map locations (some info available, collect other data)
 - TWG Desktop assessment of conditions (site orientation, water level, wood orientation etc.) where it reduces or exacerbates erosion
 - Potential for TWG to support development of best practices or similar document to support landowners
- Fish
 - Jayson reach out to Gary Blackwell re reservoir issues
- Wildlife
 - TWG to examine caribou and moose concerns re driftwood
 - TWG to examine wood duck and loons re: habitat and fluctuation water levels
 - TWG to research cormorant populations info re reservoir
- Fences
 - Jayson to contact BC Cattleman Assoc re fencing options
- Water quality
 - Jayson to ask BC Cattleman Assoc re cattle proximity, BMPs
 - Jayson to ask Northern Health re standards, testing etc.
 - Provide results of TWG assessment
- Navigation
 - Info only: Mapping areas that have been cleared. Where is this information? Andrews Bay – Whitesail is important
 - Jayson contact Colin Parkinson
- Osprey
 - TWG to assess issue, RT link etc., provide update to SSWG
- Water Pumps/intakes
 - TWG to add developing pump/intake designs to the list

Action item: Jayson reaching out to cattleman group regarding standards and best practices for fencing

Action Item: Jayson reaching out to cattleman group and Northern Health regarding standards and best practices for WQ

Erosion Research

- A PhD student forwarded a description of her work studying erosion in the Nechako system. The study looks at relative contribution of sediment to mainstem, which shows a large contribution from tributaries. The study is able to separate source sediment from mainstream bank vs tributaries, forest, and farmland. She is finding there is a lot of contribution from bank erosion. The work will not be completed for another 2-3 years.

Methylmercury

- No further information or research was found on methylmercury
- Folks on reservoir not brought up concern, but Jayson has reached out to Northern Health

TWG Next Meetings and Agendas

- Dec 16th – flooding, erosion, river levels, recreation

- Jan 14th – Wildlife and Murray Cheslatta (flooding, erosion, fish, other)
- Jan 27th – Salmon and temperature and if time permits river fish
- Feb 10th – River fish and reservoir fish
- Note, the TWG is deferring to SRI with regards to sturgeon topics – Jayson provided an update and asked for update from them