

# Water Engagement Initiative Main Table videoconference Meeting 22

Wednesday, July 14, 2021

9:00 am to 2:00 pm



# Draft Agenda

- Agenda and meeting summary comment review
- Action items
- **WEI Element Updates**
  - Communication improvements
  - Reservoir Working Group (Southside Working Group)
  - Related initiatives: NWSRI
  - Flow-related activities, including TWG
- Michael introduction
- Trial alternative exercise

# Draft Agenda (2)

- Review of trial alternatives: dam pre-1981, 1981 to present, 100% Skins Lake Spillway flow
  - Flow modelling
  - Consequence Table
  - Preliminary alternative analysis
- Review and finalize draft WEI process update
- WEI participation in World Rivers Day
- Next meeting dates
- Adjourn

# Main Table Meeting summary review

- No suggested revisions received
- One email saying “looks good to me”.
- Final meeting summary is posted on Get Involved Nechako website:  
<https://www.getinvolvednechako.ca/wei>

# Meeting 21 Action items

- **ACTION ITEM:** Kevin Moutray will provide additional photos of flooded trails near Vanderhoof and RR will make them available to the Main Table participants
- **Update:** Email exchange with Kevin, “Unfortunately for taking more photos the river was down to 342 cms by the time I made it there two days after the meeting. 348 is where it starts to cover the trail.”

# Meeting 21 Action Items

- **ACTION ITEM:** JK to find out if there is a concern of ice jams and flooding near Prince George, possibly near Cottonwood Park, and its relation to operations.
- **Update:** Jayson

# Meeting 21 Action items

- **ACTION ITEM:** Andy Lecuyer will provide an update on the Ootsa Lake Forestry Camp campsites.
- **Update:** Rio Tinto to provide update

# Meeting 21 Action items

- **ACTION ITEM:** Devrie Sanghera will organize the working group for World Rivers Day with WEI participants
- **Update:** WEI World Rivers Day Working Group was formed and held a meeting on Tuesday, July 6, 2021
- We will discuss this later in this meeting
- Interest in having a presence at the Vanderhoof World Rivers Day event

# Meeting 21 Action items

- **ACTION ITEM: RR to circulate Michael Harstone's bio to the Main Table**
- **Update:** Michael's bio provided as part on the pre-reading package

# Meeting 21 Action items

- **ACTION ITEM:** RR will circulate the updated Draft WEI Process Update to the Main Table for review
- **Update:** Track changes summary provided as part of the pre-reading package

# Meeting 21 Action items

- **ACTION ITEM:** RR to send out per diem claim form next week with the draft meeting summary
- **Update:** Claim form provided as part of the pre-reading package

# WEI Elements

- Communication improvements (Devrie)
- Reservoir Working Group (Southside Working Group)
- Related initiatives: NWSRI
- Flow-related activities, including TWG summary (Jayson)

# **WEI Element Update: Communication improvements**

- Devrie

# **WEI Element Update: Reservoir (Southside Working Group)**

- Rahul to provide update. Key actions:
  - Boat tour (Rio Tinto, Southsiders)
  - Ootsa Lake Forestry Camp campsites
  - Rio Tinto making their properties fire smart

# **WEI Element Update:**

## **Related initiatives**

- Nechako White Sturgeon Recovery Initiative (NWSRI)

# **WEI Element Update: Flow-related component update**

- Jayson to provide Technical Working Group (TWG) summary

# A New Phase, additional support

- Michael Harstone will support WEI participants as a decision analyst
- 20 years of experience working in the water sector as a decision analyst, environmental planner, water resources engineer, and facilitator
- Led the development and implementation of regional, provincial, and transboundary water resource management technical and public planning processes

# Trial Alternative Exercise

- Review of trial alternatives: dam pre-1981, 1981 to present, 100% Skins Lake Spillway flow
- Flow modelling
- Consequence Table
- Preliminary alternative analysis

# Confirm draft WEI process update

- Reviewed and revised draft WEI summary at out last Main Table meeting
- Sent document with track changes as part of the pre-reading package
- Received one additional comment that we will review now
- If no additional comments, we will finalize it today and post it

# Confirm draft WEI process update (2)

- Current:
  - “The Rio Tinto Water Engagement Initiative (WEI) continues to progress. The WEI was designed and continues to be an inclusive public process, **where interests are shared to help identify ways to improve the health of the river by refining Rio Tinto operations in the Nechako region.**”
- Suggested change:
  - “The Rio Tinto Water Engagement Initiative (WEI) continues to progress. The WEI was designed and continues to be an inclusive public process, **where interests are shared to improve water management in the Nechako River.** *The process is led by independent facilitators and supported by technical specialists to identify opportunities to better address multiple interests related to Rio Tinto’s operations.*” (moved)

# WEI participation in World Rivers Day

- Sunday, September 26
- Held WEI working group on Tuesday, July 6, 2021
- Kevin, Gina, Ray, Devrie, Rahul
- Group interest in participating
- Exploring joining event in Vanderhoof (e.g. WEI-participant presence, booth, volunteers)
- WEI participation intent:
  - communicate to the public about the work being done
  - hear the viewpoints of people who may not always participate
  - increase public awareness about the WEI to explore additional participation in some capacity

# WEI participation in World Rivers Day

- Level of WEI support for participation?
- What activities are logical?
- Who wants to participate?

# Next meeting dates

- Main Table meeting:
  - No meeting in August
- Propose next WEI Main Table meeting on Monday, September 27, 2021
- In person, in Vanderhoof
- The day following World Rivers Day

# Meeting per diems and preparation funding

- Funding is available for your time at meetings
- Funding is also available for your meeting preparation time, especially as we move to the next phase
- I sent the expense claim form
- Please send completed forms to Jason Collier

# Adjourn