

# Rio Tinto Water Engagement Initiative Table Meeting

Meeting 3

Thursday, August 22, 2019



# Welcome and introductions

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- Agenda review

# Agenda Review

- Province of BC: Big Bar slide update
- Review and finalize materials from last meeting
  - Meeting summary
  - Action items
- Presentation on Nechako reservoir regulatory context and existing flow schedule:
  - Regulatory context
  - Flow schedule

# Agenda review (2)

- Breakout groups: Identification of issues and interests related to current Rio Tinto operations in the Nechako region
- Breakout groups each present the issues and interests identified

# Agenda review (3)

- Information needs discussion
- Next meeting dates
  - September 11, 2019 (*confirmed at the August 22, 2019 meeting*)
  - October
  - November
- Adjourn

# Anticipated outcomes

- Increased understanding of Nechako reservoir regulatory context and existing water flow schedule
- Comprehensive list of issues and interests related to current Rio Tinto operations in the Nechako region

# Province of BC Big Bar update

# Action item status

- **Action Item: Rahul Ray (RR) to revise the wording in the WEI Process Guiding Principles to reflect what was discussed at the meeting and post the final version on the Get Involved Nechako website.**
  - *RR comment: RR revised the WEI Process Guiding Principles to incorporate the agreed upon language from the meeting. The final WEI Process Guiding Principles were posted on the Get Involved Nechako website on Friday, July 19, 2019.*



# Action item status (2)

- **Action Item: Rio Tinto to make the “virtual tour” video available online.**
  - *RR comment: Action item complete. Video available at <https://www.getinvolvednechako.ca/learn-more-our-operations>*
- **Action Item: Rio Tinto to provide a reference library**
  - *RR comment: Document library hosted on the Get Involved Nechako website: <https://www.getinvolvednechako.ca/>*

# Action item status (3)

- **Action Item: RR to post the 1-page summary of the province's interests received from Dave Francis electronically and distributed in hard copy at the meeting on the WEI website.**
  - *RR comment: The summary is posted on the Get Involved Nechako website at:*  
<https://www.getinvolvednechako.ca/7037/documents/18094>

# Action item status

- **Action Item: RR to develop and circulate draft field trip itinerary for August 21.**
  - *RR comment: Field trip postponed*
- **Action Item: RR to coordinate a presentation on how water temperatures and flows are currently managed in the Nechako.**
  - *RR comment: Jayson Kurtz to give presentation today*
- **Action Item: RR to confirm location details for August 22 Table meeting**
  - *RR comment: Welcome to the meeting*

# Quick wins: Rancher communication

- **Action item: Rio Tinto to work with Table members to scope and develop a database of ranchers for communication purposes**
  - RR comment: Draft approach below
- **Key steps include:**
  - Build of work done previously
  - Attend meetings this fall
  - Update contact database
  - Reissue invitation to join Flow Facts
  - Receive feedback on preferred communication modes, e.g. moving to text messaging.


# Quick wins: Forward looking communication

- **Action item: Rio Tinto to work with Table members to scope and develop forward-looking communications (flows, changes in elevation and timing, ramping rates) including real-time updates**
  - **RR comment: Draft approach developed**
- **Key tasks**
  - **Task 1.** Seek input on Flow Facts format from WEI Participants
  - **Task 2.** Solicit feedback from existing Flow Fact recipients
  - **Task 3.** Seek input on Flow Facts format including recent format updates from the broader public
  - **Task 4.** Prepare revised Flow Facts and circulate for review and comment

# Quick win: Base map

- **Action item: Rio Tinto to work with Table members to scope and develop a base map of key features including the fan, canyon, profiles, and erosion sites.**
  - **RR comment: Draft approach developed, summarized in the following four slides**

# Base map: Interactive Map overview

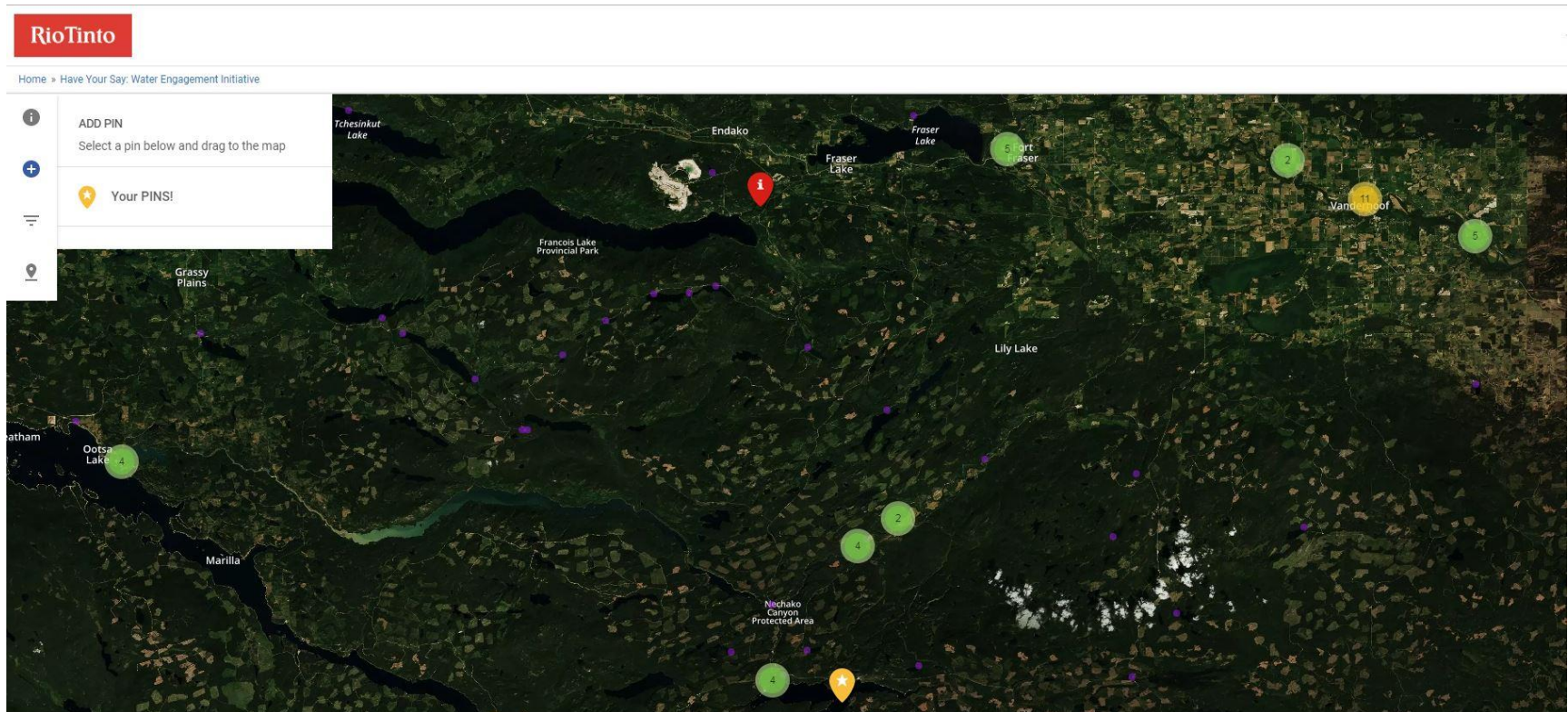
- Trinda Elwert coordinating
- Interactive map allows registered users to place a pin  **Your PINS!** on the map. On that pin users can post a picture or comment on a location in the watershed
- Allows website users to learn about the watershed from the people who live and work here
- We're looking for everyone to add to the map!

# How to access the interactive map on the GetInvolvedNechako.com website

The screenshot shows the website's navigation bar with the RioTinto logo and links for Home, Learn More, and WEI: Have Your Say. A search bar and user name 'Trinda Elwert' are also visible. The main heading is 'Have Your Say: Water Engagement Initiative'. Below the heading is a navigation bar with three buttons: 'WHAT'S NEW WITH THE WEI', 'MAP YOUR INTERESTS IN TH...', and 'ASK YOUR QUESTION. GET A...'. A red arrow points to the 'MAP YOUR INTERESTS IN TH...' button, which is circled in red. Below the navigation bar is a section titled 'We Want To Hear From You!' featuring a map of the Nechako region with purple markers. The map includes labels for Quesnel, Williams Lake, Hanceville, and Mopbox. To the right of the main content are three sidebars: 'Key Dates' with meeting dates for August 21-22 and September 11, 2019; 'WEI Document Library' with a list of PDF documents; and a 'Facebook' widget for 'Rio Tinto BC Works- Get In.' with 50 likes and share options.



# Interactive Map on the GetInvolvedNechako.com website



# A few of the things identified on the map include:

- Water survey locations
- River confluences
- Bridge and boat launch locations
- Osprey nesting sites
- Spawning habitat for various fish species
- Interesting bank formations and erosion
- Animal sightings

# Nechako reservoir operation

- Presentation by Jayson Kurtz
- Nechako Reservoir regulatory context
- Current flow schedule

# Rio Tinto WEI Table Process Overview

- **Scoping: understand Table issues and interests**
- Develop objectives
- Identify performance measures
- Create alternatives
- Make trade-offs
- Select an alternative
- Implement alternative

# Issues and interests

- Identification of issues and interests related to current Rio Tinto operations in the Nechako region:
  - Category (e.g. salmon, archeological sites, recreational access)
  - Issue
  - Timing of issue
  - Description
  - Information need

# Known Issues and interests: categories

- Communication
- Salmon
- Sturgeon
- Resident fish
- Wildlife
- Archaeology
- Erosion
- Power production
- Emergency preparedness
- Cattle
- Aquifer
- Ice jams/reservoir levels
- Murray-Cheslatta system
- Non-flow enhancements
- Waterfowl
- Recreation
- Health of the river
- Flooding

# Smaller group discussion

- Small group discussions to continue identification of issues and interests related to Rio Tinto Nechako operations started last meeting
- Some of the issues I have heard are provided in this slide deck.
- **Please add, remove, refine issues, adding detail in your groups!**
- Report out after discussions today
- Rahul to compile information from your discussions

# Known issue: Communication

- Incident communication
- Operational emergency planning
  - E.g. Modes of communication, roles and responsibilities
- Ongoing operation communication
- Multi-party body?



# Known issue: Salmon

- Chinook
- Sockeye
  - Habitat
  - Flows: e.g. water volumes, timing, winter flows
  - Temperature

# Known issue: Sturgeon

- Habitat
- Flows
- Sediment
- Temperature

# Known issue: Resident fish

- Habitat
- Flows
- Temperature

# Known issue: Wildlife

- Habitat
- Access

# Known issue: Reservoir

- Bank erosion
- Logs and deadheads
- Osprey
- Fisheries (e.g. rainbow trout, burbot)
- Littoral productivity
- Spawning habitat
- Recreation (e.g. canoeing)
- Wildlife habitat

# Known issue: Archaeological sites

- Inundation of archeological sites (e.g. village sites, graveyards)
- Archeological dig opportunities with fluctuating water levels?

# Known issue: Erosion

- River bank
- Reservoir (identified earlier)

# Known issue: Power production

- Need for reliable flows for power generation
- Hydroelectricity generation opportunities



# Known issue: Cattle

- Irrigation infrastructure
- Access to water

# Known issue: Aquifer

- Water levels

# Known issue: Ice jams/aquifer levels

- Community infrastructure

# Known issue: Murray-Cheslatta system

- Flows
- Sediment
- Restoration opportunities

# Known issue: Non-flow enhancements

- Tributaries
- Side-channels
- Off-channel
- Riparian restoration or enhancement

# Known issue: Waterfowl

- Middle Nechako known as waterfowl staging area
- Spring and fall nesting; interaction with potential flushing flows

# Known issue: Recreation

- Flows

# Known issue: “Health of the river”

- Need to explore components
- Mental and physical health connection
- Accessibility of the river
- Access to clean water



# Known issue: Flooding

- Vanderhoof
- Other locations
- Explore linkage with Fraser Lake flooding

# Known issue: Ongoing research

- Continuous learning

# Known issue: Climate change

- Understanding and adaptation

# Information needs

- Presentation on results of DFO cold water release study
- DFO presentation on preferred temperature
- Grand Canyon needs
- Presentation on sediment issue
- Presentation on carrying capacity of Nechako for Chinook; role of NFCP
- Broadened cattle and agriculture discussion

# Field trips

- Timing in August was challenging
- Learning and sharing opportunities
- Discussion

# WEI Future Meeting Dates

- Meeting 4:
  - Thursday, September 11 (*confirmed by WEI participants at the August 22, 2019 meeting*)
  - Wednesday, September 10: Southside Field trip (*confirmed by WEI participants at the August 22, 2019 meeting*)
- Meeting 5:
  - Monday, October 14, 2019 is Canadian Thanksgiving
  - Tuesday, October 8 (*confirmed by WEI participants at the August 22, 2019 meeting*)
- Meeting 6:
  - Monday, November 11, 2019 is Remembrance Day
  - Wednesday, November 20, 2019 (*confirmed by WEI participants at the August 22, 2019 meeting*)

# Thank you!



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