

Rio Tinto Water Engagement Initiative Table Meeting

Meeting 4
Burns Lake
September 11, 2019



Agenda review

- Southside field trip summary
- Agenda and meeting summary review
- Process review
- Discuss compiled issues, supporting information needs, proposed actions, and proposed lead
- Lunch
- Continue discussion of compiled issues, supporting information needs, proposed actions, and proposed lead

Agenda review (2)

- Discuss Structured Decision Making objective-setting and sketch of preliminary objectives
- Confirm next meeting dates
 - October 8, 2019: Vanderhoof
 - November 20, 2019: Prince George
 - Propose no meeting in December
 - January?
- Adjourn

Anticipated outcomes

- Confirmed issues and interests with Rio Tinto operations in the Nechako region
- Confirmed supporting information needs

Southside field trip summary

- What did you see?
- Did you learn anything new?
- What were your key take-aways?

WEI field trips

- Where should the next field trip be? When?
- How was the structure? Bus? Field trip-meeting combination?

August 22, 2019 Meeting summary

- Distributed to meeting participants on Thursday, August 29
- No suggested revisions received
- Will post final version on:
<https://www.getinvolvednechako.ca/wei>

Water Engagement Initiative (WEI): Guiding Principle Review

Water Engagement Initiative (WEI): Guiding Principle Review

- Presented draft Guiding Principles at Table Meeting 2 in July
- Discussed and refined some of the language
- Approved Guiding Principles at Table Meeting 3 in August
- Review of some of the Guiding Principles
- Excerpts follow

Rio Tinto Water Engagement Process: Guiding Principle review

2.1 Mandate and Purpose

- The WEI Process is intended to provide a vehicle to share interests, review information, develop alternative operating options, and select a preferred option for Rio Tinto to implement in the Nechako region. This option will remain responsive, rather than a plan that “sits on a shelf”.

Rio Tinto Water Engagement Process: Guiding Principle review (2)

2.1 Mandate and Purpose (continued)

- The WEI Process builds on principles and approaches outlined in the Province of British Columbia's Water Use Plan Guidelines (1998).
- Throughout the process, the WEI will build on available information and data previously developed by other organizations and initiatives.

Rio Tinto Water Engagement Process: Guiding Principle review (3)

2.4 Regulatory Context

- Rio Tinto currently operates within an established regulatory framework. The key components of this framework include legal agreements, a water management flow schedule, and the Final Water License.
- The Process will focus on gaining an understanding of the interests of participants, followed by developing objectives, generating operating alternatives, assessing the trade-offs between the operating alternatives, selecting a preferred option, and defining mechanisms to ensure operations remains responsive.

Rio Tinto Water Engagement Process: Guiding Principle review (4)

3.2 Process Scope

Examples of topics that could be considered as part of the Process were provided as context during the WEI communication phase. These topics included:

- Spillway discharge schedules
- Flood management measures
- Reservoir levels
- Downstream flow and water temperature targets
- Fisheries and monitoring plans

Rio Tinto Water Engagement Process: Guiding Principle review (5)

3.2 Process Scope (continued)

- Fisheries and monitoring plans
- Infrastructure
- Research
- Communication

It should be noted that as part of the Process, other interests brought forward by participants will be considered.

Rio Tinto Water Engagement Process: Guiding Principle review (6)

4.8 Technical Working Group

- A Technical Working Group will be formed to analyze and evaluate different options as determined by participants. Subject matter experts will be recruited to consider technical issues raised by participants. Ecofish Research will be the Technical Working Group (TWG) coordinator and will evaluate analyses, and present results to participants in the process.
- Participation in the Technical Working Groups will be open to interested participants in order to enhance transparency.

Tracking our progress: WEI Milestones to Date

- WEI Table formed, with active, passionate participants
- Draft Guiding Principles developed, reviewed, and approved
- Preliminary list of issues and interests developed,
- Southside field trip
- **Today:** outline information needs, activate Technical Working Group

Process review:

Structured Decision Making:

**What is it, why are we talking about it,
and where are we in the process?**

Structured Decision Making (SDM)

- Structured Decision Making or SDM: organized approach to identify and evaluate creative options and make choices in complex decision situations
- SDM was a key success factor in BC Hydro Water Use Plans
- Designed to deliver insight about how well objectives are satisfied by potential alternative courses Helps find “win-win” solutions across groups, clarifies the trade-offs that may exist between alternate potential courses of action and helps to communicate how people view these various options

SDM Process Overview

- **We have been building the foundation of an SDM approach for our specific situation**
- **We have focused on:**
 - **Scoping: understand Table issues and interests**
- **We will:**
 - **Develop objectives**
 - Identify performance measures
 - Create alternatives
 - Make trade-offs
 - Select an alternative
 - Implement an alternative

Our task

- There are many issues that people have identified related to Rio Tinto operations in the Nechako
- Many are water flow-related
- But some are related to:
 - Engagement, communication, and community roles
 - Research
 - Opportunities
- The outcome of the WEI Process will address as many of the flow-related issues as possible
- But also find a mechanism for addressing the other issues WEI participants have raised

Technical support

- Recognize the passion, knowledge, and commitment of WEI Table members
- Recognize that some of you have strong technical backgrounds, while others do not
- You all have a range of diverse experiences to contribute
- The Technical Working Group (TWG) is to support your discussions through information and analyses
- Their work is directed by you and supports your efforts

Technical Working Group (TWG)

- Roles:
 - Compile information on specific topics
 - Help the Table develop Performance Measures
 - Support operating alternative scenario assessment through Performance Measure assessment
 - Offer or facilitate professional advice as needed
 - Run analyses
 - Report results
 - Review products to ensure professional rigour

Technical Working Group (TWG)

- Jayson Kurtz is the TWG co-ordinator
- **Seeking WEI Table members or identify others who you think should be part of the TWG**
- Separate meetings in person or by phone
- Committed
- Stipend and travel costs
- Again, not a parallel group to this Main Table, but support your work through providing relevant information and conducting analyses

SDM experience

- Jayson Kurtz was involved in 7 of similar processes
 - Examples from some of these processes to illustrate principles
 - Examples of collaboration
 - Some positive, unexpected outcomes
 - Keys to success
- Jayson's process involvement
 - Spillimacheen
 - Walter Hardman
 - Whatshan
 - Peace River
 - Columbia River
 - Duncan Dam
 - Elko

WEI Table issues and interests

- Last meeting:
 - Presented known issues
 - WEI Table broke into three working groups
 - Discussed issues and interests that were recorded
 - Results presented back to the group
- Between meetings, I compiled issues, identified information needs, and suggested draft actions
- Today, on screen, we will walk through the issues, and confirm the presentations this Table needs

WEI Future Meeting Dates

- Meeting 5: October 8, 2019: Vanderhoof
- November 20, 2019: Prince George
- Propose no meeting in December
- January?

Thank you!

