

# Rio Tinto

## Water Engagement Initiative

### Table Meeting

Meeting 6

Prince George

November 20, 2019



# Agenda review

- Welcome and introductions
- Agenda review
- Meeting 5 summary review, including action items
- Technical Working Group (TWG) update
- Communication Working Group update
- Presentations:
  - Compiled information base to support WEI efforts
  - Potential implications of climate change in the Nechako region, and current and planned research

# Agenda review (2)

- Lunch
- Review draft objectives, adding detail on timing, location, and implications to support modelling
- Next meeting dates
- Adjourn

# Anticipated outcomes

- Increased understanding of available information to support WEI efforts
- Increased understanding of implications of climate change in the Nechako region
- Added specificity to the draft Structured Decision-Making (SDM) objectives to support performance measure development and modeling

# October 8, 2019 Meeting summary

- Distributed to meeting participants on Wednesday, October 16, 2019
- Did not include your email addresses as proposed in the draft meeting summary
- Final version posted on:  
<https://www.getinvolvednechako.ca/wei>

# Email addresses

- Communication tool among WEI participants
- Confirm it is okay to include your email address in the meeting summary
- List with your email addresses will be circulated around the room
- Please sign beside your name so we can include your email address on the Get Involved Nechako website

# Photo permission

- The work of the WEI Table includes discussions in meeting rooms and during field trips
- Would like to include photos taken on the Get Involved website
- Want to follow protocol and are seeking your permission to use photos you may be in
- Signature form will be circulated today

# Meeting 5 Action items

- **Action item:** Rahul to reschedule Communication Working Group meeting
- **Update:** Meeting held on Tuesday, October 29, 2019
  - The key outcomes of the meeting will be presented later in this meeting



# Meeting 5 Action items (2)

- **Action item:** Technical Working Group (TWG) to develop a presentation on Rio Tinto's power production/distribution
- **Update:** TWG will work with Rio Tinto to provide information to main table

# Meeting 5 Action items (3)

- **Action item:** Rahul to post hydrograph presentations on Get Involved Nechako website
- **Activity:** Presentations posted on the Get Involved Nechako website:
  - Introduction to hydrographs:  
<https://www.getinvolvednechako.ca/7037/documents/19529>
  - Nechako hydrograph:  
<https://www.getinvolvednechako.ca/7037/documents/19528>

# Meeting 5 Action items (4)

- **Action item:** Jayson to look into salmon presence at Mick Creek
- **Update:** Micks Creek is a tributary to Greer Creek and flows into Nechako River from the west about 25km downstream of the Cheslatta fan. Known fish species include:
  - Coho salmon
  - Rainbow trout
  - Whitefish
  - Several species of other fish

# Meeting 5 Action items (5)

- **Action item:** TWG to present information on protocols/guidance on ramping rates
- **Update:** ramping is the rise or drop in river flow and level
- The Department of Fisheries and Oceans has interim guidelines to protect fish:

Time of Year	Life Stage History	Day Ramp Rate	Night Ramp Rate
April 1 - July 31	Fry Emergence	0 - 2.5 cm/hr	2.5 - 5 cm/hr
August 1 - October 31	Rearing until temp < 5 C	0 - 2.5 cm/hr	5 - 10 cm/hr
November 1 - March 31	Winter Rearing	0 cm/hr	0 - 5 cm/hr

- Proponents often conduct site-specific studies to support specific ramping rates

# Meeting 5 Action items (6)

- **Action item:** TWG to prepare information presentation on the topic of dredging Tahtsa Narrows
- **Update:** Outstanding. Will work with Rio Tinto to provide information

# Trading water comment

- Andrew to provide further explanation of his comment about “trading water” with BC Hydro

# Status of Tahtsa Narrows

- Andrew to provide information on the status of Tahtsa Narrows

# Technical Working Group Update

- Held teleconference meeting on November 14
- 9 participants. Still looking for a few key members
- Discussed TWG role and different approaches to support the WEI Main Table
- Discussed annotated bibliography
- Will be setting meeting dates for next few months



# Communication Working Group Update

- Representatives from City of Prince George and Regional District of Bulkley Nechako held a teleconference with Rahul on Tuesday, October 29
- Key discussion points:
  - In extraordinary cases, where atypical events are occurring or expected to occur, Rio Tinto should issue a special bulletin and use all communication channels
  - Ideally Rio Tinto would produce a calendar outlining typical seasonal flow changes, as well as forecasted flow based on planned events

# Communication Working Group Update (2)

- A clear understanding is needed of who to contact within Rio Tinto for what
- Need for better coordination with Rio Tinto when emergency operations occur. Rio Tinto should appoint a point-person and make them known when emergencies arise. They should be available to participate in EOC processes.

# Communication Working Group Update (3)

- Greater collaboration is needed on emergency planning. Rio Tinto has their plans and the RDBN theirs. However, it would be useful for RDBN to learn about the scenarios being modelled so they can develop corresponding planning
- Discussed the importance of face-to-face meetings, even on an annual basis. It would be good for City of PG staff such as planners, engineering and public works team members to get to know Rio Tinto staff and vice-versa to support better communication

# Communication Working Group Update (4)

- Comment: Flow Facts are great, but the implications of the flows are not always clear and so we would like more explanation of what those flows actually mean
- In the case of an emergency, like engagement to mean being part of the decision-making process rather than being told of the decisions after the fact

# Information Presentations:

- Nechako information bibliography
- Potential implications of climate change in the Nechako region, and current and planned research

# Nechako information bibliography

- Compiled by Ecofish
- 4 data libraries: NEEF, NFCP, NWC, NWSRI
- 531 entries on variety of topics: water flow, flooding, erosion, water quality, fish, agriculture, wildlife, cultural use, etc.
- In progress: primary and secondary journals, agency reports, other users and grey literature incomplete

# Information Presentation:

- Climate change identified as important topic by Main Table participants
- Rio Tinto supports active research: Dr. Stephen Déry is the new NSERC/Rio Tinto Senior Industrial Research Chair in Climate Change and Water Security
- Pacific Climate Impacts Consortium (PCIC) (UVic, collaboration with other university, government and industry researchers)
- Presentations today on general climate change as well as specific research in the Nechako watershed on precipitation, temperature, and effects on flow and fish





# Objective refinement

- Preliminary objectives discussed and shown in the handout
- As a group, we need to add more detail to understand:
  - What is(are) the issue(s)?
  - Where does the issue occur, e.g. name or mapped location?
  - When does it occur, e.g. month, season, under what flow conditions?
  - What are the effects? How long does the effect last?

# WEI Future Meeting Dates

- Next meeting dates
  - No meeting in December
  - TWG meeting in December
  - Meeting 7, January 15, 2020 in Fraser Lake
  - Meeting 8, February 13, 2020, to be determined

# Thank you!

