

Meeting Notes: TWG Meeting #5 January 29 2020

Attendees: Rahul, Jayson, Justus, Jenn, Craig, Stephan, Phillip, Wayne, Dan

Action Items from last meeting

- No specific agenda items from last meeting

Ice jam and flooding update

- Jayson met with PG, BC and R.
- Justice provided good context around ice jamming
 - Ice jams happen every year and usually not problematic
 - Weather related, fairly unpredictable
 - Fluctuation in flows can help break up ice on the river
 - Does more damage when river is high
 - NHC has done work to try to predict flood around flow level
 - NHC are experts and good resources
 - NHC report by PG is great report
 - Ecofish summarized data in NHC reports
 - Province has series of monitoring sites to track ice jams and ice jam potential
- PG is really interested in working in this process to better understand ice jam info
 - PG has done more than one NHC report, will be sending copies to Jayson
 - PG have developed bylaws based on work they have done
 - still in indecision with how flows affect upcoming emergency situations
 - admitted timing of operations and knowledge of dam is unknown, city wants a better understanding
 - RT is interested in improving their knowledge
- Does city of PG know mouth of Nechako is critical habitat of W. Sturgeon?
 - Justice thinks they know, RT is meeting with city and should inform them
 - Can propose solutions but need to not jump to conclusions
- Although these studies have happened, they acknowledge they need to meet with RT to discuss what they don't know
- Wayne: Dredging not THE solution, especially given white sturgeon critical habitat.
- Jayson/Justus: NHC made many recommendations, PG actioned those they controlled, recognized issues with dredging and have not advanced.
- Phillip: Province recently assessed ice jam flood risk: no issues except for 1 location (Morning gate?). City already monitoring, providing sandbags, providing information updates, meetings: issue well in hand. Side channels currently actively transporting water and reducing flooding risk. Another survey today
- Province typically surveys around PG, will expand to Regional District, McBride etc. as needed.
- Dan: what extent has development contributed to ice jams (bridges, channel work etc.)
- Phillip NHC 2009 looked at historic ice jam events via air photos, not sure if there is a trend.
- Phillip: side channels activated as river level rises in conjunction with ice buildup.
- Wayne: DOV planning has changed from 1:50, to 1:100, now 1:200 yr. some properties still flooded.

- Wayne: Nunla is now massive gravel pit but was originally a FN reserve that was evacuated b/c of ice jam and people never moved back
- Overhead flight photos still being assembled. Will be posted to website
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General Meeting Discussion

- Wayne: DOV planning has changed from 1:50, to 1:100, now 1:200 yr. some properties still flooded.
- Wayne: concern re specific issues getting focus when it is representative of a broader issue (i.e. Mick Ck). JK assured that we agreed and would carry that concept to the Main Table when issues arise.
- Dan: have main table meeting been confirmed? Rahul confirmed dates for next 3 months.
- Next TWG meeting Feb 26.
- Subsequent meetings, move to 1 week after Main Table meeting, allows for TWG direction and support for action items, and allows provides flexibility to have a 2nd meeting prior to subsequent Main Table meeting
- Rahul: next Main Table meeting will be pressing to identify next topics so we can get direction for TWG to support
- Wayne: Make sure we emphasize opportunities not just issues
- Wayne: important develop list of accomplishments, things that don't need further consideration/action before developing flow alternatives.