
To: WEI Technical Working Group members

From: Jayson Kurtz, TWG Coordinator, Ecofish

Date: September 30, 2020

Re: Action items from Main Table meeting

Meeting Objective

- Kick off renewed TWG and focus on technical work

Attendees/Introductions

- Jayson: TWG Coordinator with Ecofish
- Justus: RT biologist
- Rahul: WEI Facilitator, here to support
- Wayne: long history working in Nechako (ranger stewardship, forest renewal, watershed restoration)
- Barb: Manager Environmental Services City of PG, stand-in for Andrea today
- Stephan: UNBC climate change researcher
- Dan: DFO hydro biologist
- Mike: Policy Advisor, Cheslatta Carrier Nation
- Phillip: FLNRORD Water Licensing

Cheslatta Update from Mike

- Recent bone discovery (contemporary)
- Provided summary of bone discoveries/gravesite erosion
 - Main cemetery on west side of lake from 1880s
 - Initial erosion exposed caskets, which distributed along lake: many subsequent bone finds from these caskets
 - Also pre-contact burial erosion: for example, this spring, 3 pre-contact skulls discovered
 - Bones in archives, some DNA studies.
 - Mike will update us from time to time.

Roles and Responsibilities, Process

- General discussion led by Jayson reaffirming our role to summarize data, studies etc. and provide information to the Main Table.
- We will assess all interests from MT, develop objectives and PMs, and ultimately propose flow solutions.
- We will pare-down list of interests based on technical merit, overlap between interests.
- MT will confirm our work represents their interests, and then evaluate flow alternatives against range of objectives/PMs. MT can rank or prioritize interests; not our role.
- Our focus will be on technical work, meetings 2x/month, hoping for full attendance as best as we can, and some work between meetings, but recognizing that folks have other commitments as well.

- We will bring other experts to support (from RT, Province, DFO, other consultants etc.).

Main Table Interests

- Cheslatta ramping
 - Need to evaluate what we know about Skins/Cheslatta ramping

Action Item: Justus to provide ramping data

Action Item: Jayson to assess against ramping standards

- Consider timing of fall ramping related to char and umam (pygmy whitefish) spawning
- Next meeting: discuss non-fish related ramping effects (Mike R)

- Caribou access

- Some discussion whether this was operational or footprint; RT considering both.
- FLNORD has expertise and can support

Action Item: FLNORD to summarize caribou status and relation to RT operations

- Prince George ice jam flooding

- Previous action to work with City of PG to describe existing info and technical/engineering understanding of issue.
- BC has technical expertise (Chantal)

Action Item: Jayson to engage FLNORD and Rio Tinto to bring additional

Temperature

- Discussion on 2 topics from Dr David Levy presentation at last MT: STMP, and broader temperature management considerations.
- Need to understand temperature factors: maximum, duration, effects of downstream factors during migration
- Consider SK migration, CH migration, holding, spawning.

Action Item: Ecofish to undertake literature review of thermal tolerance

- Discussion on background to STMP decision (Justus, Dan). No clear link to science studies, but Dan will investigate.
- What influence can operations have on temperature?

Action Item: Justus will provide more info on operations influence on temp.

- Need to understand temperature dynamics in reservoir.
- General discussion on how STMP works: large volume of somewhat cooler water: thermal inertial resists warming as water flows through Cheslatta and Nechako
- UBC modeling flow routing with respect to climate change