

Rio Tinto Water Engagement Initiative Southside Working Group Workshop

November 18, 2020 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm



Workshop Goals

1. Discuss, revise and confirm the information presented in the draft *Reservoir Non-Flow Recommendations Report*.
2. Discuss, revise and confirm the non-flow related recommendations, identify actions/pathways to address identified interests.

Draft Agenda

- Review **feedback** received on draft *Reservoir Non-Flow Recommendations* Report (Goal 1)
- Overview of **new information** received from gathering efforts (Goal 1)
 - points above will be incorporated into updated Report
- Discuss which **recommendation(s)** should be forwarded to the WEI Main Table for review. Identify the pathways to be used to address the interest. That is, which parties are responsible for advancing the recommendation, and how the needed resources (financial or otherwise) could be acquired (Goal 2)
- Next Steps

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GOAL 1: Confirm Information



Draft Report - Feedback Received (1)

Information related to:

- Fish species listed in Background Information section need to be revised (i.e. add rainbow trout and kokanee; remove lake trout and dolly varden).
- Historical context of tree harvesting prior to flooding not accurate.
- Add fish interest to the report, and concerns about fish entrainment in Skins Lake Spillway and Tunnel. (Note, TWG will address fish-related interests)

Draft Report - Feedback Received (2)

Information related to:

- Details on the use of boat launches at Andrews Bay and Wistaria.
- Wildlife: high water and Loons (nests on shore can be flooded before eggs hatch). (TWG to address)
- Wildlife: Crossing at Tahtsa Reach to summer range. Cow moose like to calve along lake shore, and the calves having problems getting out of the lake because of the tangled driftwood during low water and draw down.

New Information (1)

- Historical/current context: property use, reservoir use, access, recreational, likes and dislikes
- Water intakes information (locations, issues, community system). Well contamination.
- Erosion: prone locations, context, no interests in rip rap in certain locations
- Driftwood benefits (protect shoreline, used in yards, crafts)
- Fishing is easier now; less snags

New Information (2)

- Brewery information (conducting monthly Water Quality monitoring part of water license)
- Wildlife: wood ducks becoming less common due to habitat impacts caused by fluctuating water levels (TWG to address)
- Other information (e.g. interests in selling/buying property. General feedback)
- Questions (can high water level be lowered? Any further mitigation regarding wildfire fuel mitigation and management? Use of drones to capture sensitive locations?)

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GOAL 2: Confirm Recommendations and Pathways



Context

- Not all interests identified through the WEI are presented
- Presented are **non-flow related recommendations**
- TWG will address flow related interest and recommendations (Structure Decision Making process)
- Information is presented objectively (i.e. what we heard)
- Some recommendations **are** related to Rio Tinto operations
- Some recommendations **are not** related to Rio Tinto operations
- **Focus is to find pathways to address the interests**



INTEREST #1: EROSION

Context: Important interest. Many contributing factors. Some areas more prone than others. Driftwood can exacerbate erosion. Impacts include loss of land, sedimentation, livestock hazards. Previous efforts made to manage impacts.

Draft recommendations for review and discussion:

- Identify priority erosional areas and determine appropriate erosion control prescriptions
- Install erosion control measures, as needed
- Remove driftwood to minimize erosion, where prescribed
- Monitor sensitive erosional areas

INTEREST #2: DRIFTWOOD

Context: Driftwood is accumulated in numerous areas. Flooded forests and erosion are contributing factors. Impacts include increasing erosion, restricting movement and hazard to livestock and wildlife, causing damage to docks. Some benefits (e.g. aesthetics, erosion protection, used by residents in yards, crafts)

Draft recommendations for review and discussion:

- Confirm the erosional effects of driftwood
- Remove driftwood in sensitive areas, where warranted
- Harvest submerged trees, where warranted

INTEREST #3: LIVESTOCK

Context: Fences being effected/damaged by fluctuating water levels. Impacts include livestock escaping pasture, getting trapped in muddy conditions. Yearlings getting caught in Saddle Dam ditches.

Draft recommendations for review and discussion:

- Provide fencing around deep ditches and hazards on Rio Tinto-owned infrastructure
- Assess site-specific fencing needs, propose options, and install innovative options such floating fence where appropriate.

INTEREST #4: WATER PUMPS/INTAKES

Context: Water pumps and intakes being compromised from erosion and subsequent loss of property. Intakes becoming isolated during low water or freeze up.

Draft recommendations for review and discussion:

- Identify potential issues with water pumps and intakes
- Fortify locations where erosion is compromising pumps
- Install or relocate pumps or intakes

INTEREST #5: WATER QUALITY

Context: Concerns of the quality of water and lack of monitoring. Concerns of run-off impacting water quality.

Draft recommendations for review and discussion:

- Conduct ongoing water quality monitoring and reporting
- Assess potential run-off impacts on the Reservoir

INTEREST #6: NAVIGATION

Context: Unsafe navigation caused by dead heads, underwater trees, floating debris, strong winds, high waves. Lack of emergency response and mapping/available information.

Draft recommendations for review and discussion:

- Remove dead heads and floating debris, where needed
- Map hazardous areas and safe navigation lanes
- Install navigation aids (e.g. buoys and shore access/regress points)
- Identify emergency contacts and mechanisms
- Make the information available to boaters (e.g. at boat launches, through the Ootsa Lake Info Center or BC Parks)

INTEREST #7: RECREATION

Context: Interest in enhancing and developing recreational aspects (access points, boat launches, stewardship, information)

Draft recommendations for review and discussion:

- Upgrade boat launches and access points
- Develop tourism marketing material
- Clean-up recreational beaches and areas
- Expand the camping area at the Spillway
- Provide resources or develop outreach community program for ongoing stewardship.

INTEREST #8: WILDLIFE

Context: Wildlife populations/habitat being affected by Reservoir conditions (driftwood hindering access or migration. Osprey nesting sites being compromised)

Draft recommendations for review and discussion:

- Remove driftwood from migration corridors during critical periods
- Determine if the artificial nesting platforms have been successful

INTEREST #9: FUNDING

Context: Limited funding for Reservoir communities

Draft recommendations for review and discussion:

- Explore funding opportunities for Reservoir communities

INTEREST #10: WILDFIRE

Context: Interest in being prepared for potential wildfires and being FireSmart. In 2019, Rio Tinto donated 9 fire suppression trailers and supplies to help abate an initial wildfire.

Draft recommendations for review and discussion:

- Maintain properties to be fire smart

INTEREST #11: COMMUNICATION/POWER

Context: Cell reception limited. No three-phase power to support industrial enterprises.

Draft recommendations for review and discussion:

- TBD

INTEREST #11: ADAPTIVE MANAGEMENT

Context: Interest in initiating an Adaptive Management process to monitor effectiveness of WEI Plan implementation.

Recommendation for Main Table approval:

- Draft potential Reservoir-specific adaptive management approach for the Reservoir for Main Table review.

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Next Steps



Next Steps

- **November/December:** Update draft Report with new information gathered and from Workshop (Final Draft Report)
- **December/January:** Southside Working Group review Final Draft Report (TBD). Send to Main Table for review and approval.
- **January:** Implement Recommendations