

Water Engagement Initiative Main Table videoconference Meeting 24

Wednesday, November 24, 2021

9:00 am to 1:00 pm



Draft Agenda

- Agenda, meeting summary, action item update
- Rio Tinto update (Andrew)
 - Operations update
 - T2 breakthrough
 - Winter flows
 - Other topics
- Southside Working Group update (Rahul)
 - Reservoir tour
 - Southside Working Group meeting
- Mike Robertson presentation

Draft Agenda (2)

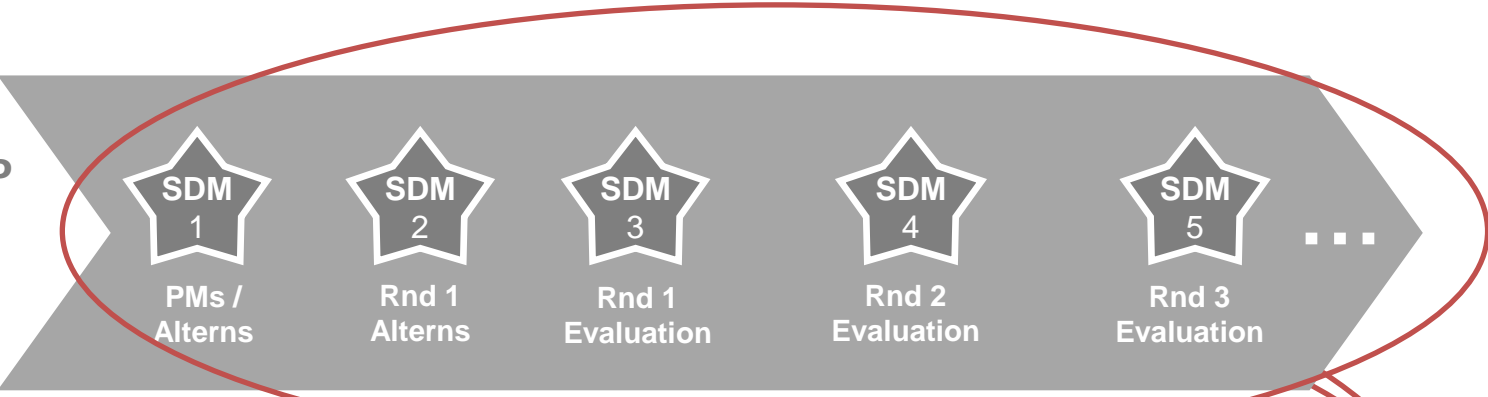
- Technical Working Group (TWG) update (Jayson)
 - WEI climate change modelling
 - Memo update (in review with WEI Technical Working Group)
 - Memos in progress
 - Sturgeon update
 - Issues Scoping
- Climate research: Presentation by Dr. Stephen Dery

Draft Agenda (3)

- First Nations engagement update
- SDM process path (Michael)
- Next Steps and meeting dates
- Meeting adjourned

Nechako WEI Work Planning

Old WEI WUP Workplan
(WEI Main Table SDM Meetings)



Proposed WEI Workplan



Main Table Meeting 23 summary

- No suggested revisions received from participants
- Final meeting summary posted on the Get Involved Nechako website:

https://www.getinvolvednechako.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/1-Summary-WEI-M23-27_September_2021.pdf

Meeting 23 Action Items

- **ACTION ITEM:** Andy will discuss the extent of the fire into the riparian zones with the Technical Working Group
- **Update:** Andy

Meeting 23 Action Items

- **ACTION ITEM:** Andy will ask the UVIC lab if they have an eDNA primer for Kokanee.
- **Update:** Andy

Meeting 23 Action items

- **ACTION ITEM:** RR will compile the joint Rio Tinto/Union communications, confirm they are joint communications, and send them out with the next meeting summary.
- **Status:** Sent as part of the between-meeting update package.

Meeting 23 Action items

- **ACTION ITEM:** James Jacklin will determine if any reports of fish kills during the heat dome were received.
- **Status:** Sent as part of the between-meeting update package.

From James Jacklin

Regional provincial fisheries staff were notified of only one occurrence of potential fish kills this summer. This report came in for Kwitzil Lake (Gravel Pit Lake) after the extreme heat in July. Staff visited the site and collected some of the specimens for analysis and deployed temperature probes to collect information. Field assessment at Kwitzil Lake suggest it was only a small partial kill, as anglers continued to be successful through the rest of the summer.

There may have been other incidents in the region this summer, however they were not reported to our staff. It is our understanding the significance of the heat this summer was more pronounced in southern BC resulting in many waterways being closed to angling due to extreme temperatures.

Meeting 23 Action items

- **ACTION ITEM:** The Technical Working Group will create a graphic that shows pre-dam flows into the reservoir.
- **Status:** Jayson
- Naturalized Flows modelling:
https://www.getinvolvednechako.ca/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/TWG-Naturalized-Flow-WEI-M23-27_September_2021.pdf

Meeting 23 Action items

- **ACTION ITEM:** Main table members will do a critical review of the website and provide comments to DS by October 8, 2021 (Devrie.Sanghera@riotinto.com).
- **Status:** Comments received from Donna on Tuesday, October 5, 2021.

Rio Tinto Update (Andrew)

- Operations update
- T2 breakthrough
- Winter flows
- Other topics

Website updates

- Devrie

Southside Working Group

- Southside Working Group (SWG)
 - Identify reservoir-specific issues
 - Develop pathways to address the issues
 - Not focussed on flow changes; that will part of the WEI Structured Decision Making (SDM) process
 - All recommendations will flow through the WEI Main Table
- Meeting summary emailed to you on Friday

Southside Working Group: issues

- Erosion
- Livestock
- Water pumps and intakes
- Water quality
- Navigation
- Recreation
- Wildlife
- Funding
- Wildfire
- Communication
- Power

Southside boat tour

- Jayson

Southside Working Group

- Key discussions at the recent SWG meeting:
 - SWG boat tour (Jayson and participants)
 - Navigation issues
 - Dead standing trees
 - Shoreline access
 - Shallow access
 - Colin Parkinson
 - Introduction
 - Support pathway to address navigation issues

Navigation issues

- Colin introduction

WEI Southside Implementation Committee

- Intent is better communication and action post-WEI
- Forms part of overall WEI Adaptive Management
- The approach is collaborative. Representatives from Indigenous communities, governments, Rio Tinto, land users, conservations groups, resource specialists, and stakeholders would form a “WEI Southside Implementation Committee”.

WEI Southside Implementation Committee (2)

- Meeting on an annual or twice-yearly basis
- Discuss and action solutions to existing or emerging issues
- Responsive vehicle
- SWG support for this approach
- Rahul to draft update

Mike Robertson presentation

Technical Working Group (Jayson)

- TWG update
 - WEI climate change modelling update
 - Memo update (in review with WEI Technical Working Group)
 - Memos in progress
 - Sturgeon update
 - Issues Scoping update

Climate research

- Presentation by Dr. Stephen Dery

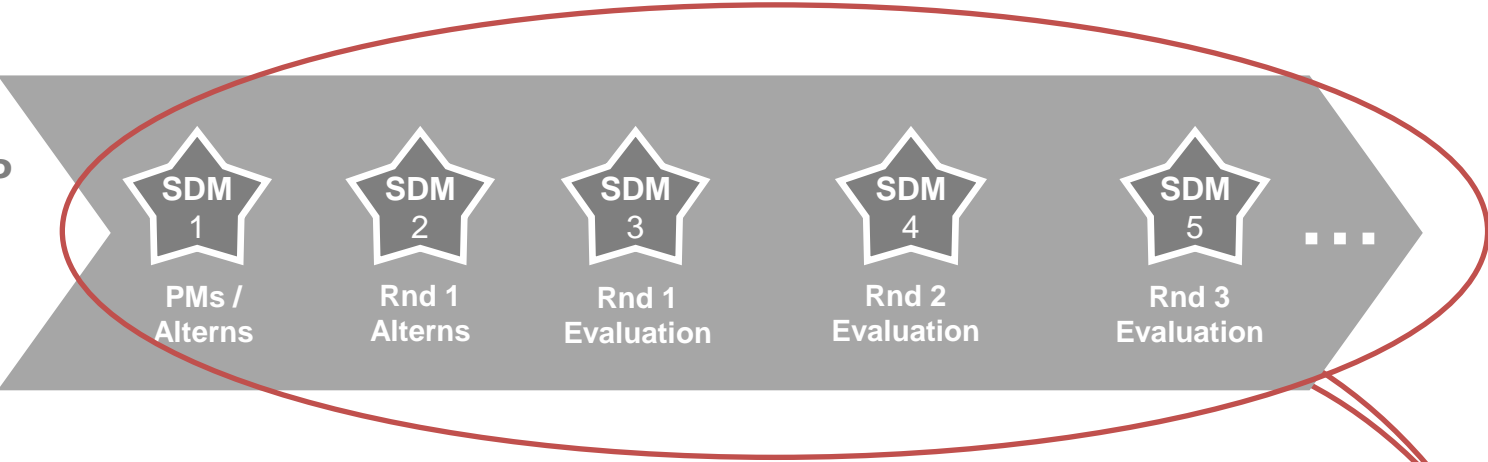
First Nations Engagement Update

- Andrew

SDM process path (Michael)

Nechako WEI Work Planning

Old WEI WUP Workplan
(WEI Main Table SDM Meetings)



Proposed WEI Workplan



Proposed Meeting Schedule – Fall / Winter

- Meeting 24: Mid-November
- Meeting 25: January 2022
- Meeting 26: March 2022

Proposed Workplan Topics / Objectives

- Other short term operational options 2022
- Scoping longer term water flow operational boundaries
- Updates:
 - Southside Action Plan updates
 - Ongoing draft Performance Measures/issues scoping updates
 - Technical Team progress updates
 - Sturgeon Recovery alignment
 - Broader First Nation engagement / info sharing

Proposed Meeting Schedule – Spring / Summer

- Meeting 27: May, 2022
- Meetings 28-31: June to December 2022

Proposed Workplan Topics / Objectives

- Re-start Water Use Planning: Long-term flow alternatives
 - Climate modelling updates
 - Issues scoping
 - Objectives and draft PMs
 - Bookend alternatives
 - 3 rounds of alternatives and assessment
- Monitoring and implementation considerations

Next meeting dates

Main Table meetings:

- Wednesday, January 26, 2022
- Wednesday, April 6, 2022

Meeting per diems and preparation funding

- Funding is available for your time at meetings
- Funding is also available for your meeting preparation time
- Please send completed forms to Jason Collier

Adjourn