

Water Engagement Initiative Main Table videoconference Meeting 26

Wednesday, April 6, 2022

9:00 am to 1:00 pm



Draft Agenda

- Agenda, meeting summary, and action item update
- Rio Tinto operations update
 - Smelter operations
 - T2
 - Potential 2022 operations
- Court case discussion
 - Court case status
 - Appeal
 - WEI participant question scoping
 - Options

Draft Agenda (2)

- Updates
 - Climate change studies, operational modelling update
 - Issues scoping and technical memo updates: issue highlights
 - Sturgeon update
 - Southside Working Group
 - Indigenous community engagement
- SDM Process Path
- Bookend Alternative Development
 - Structuring alternatives and concepts for phased Bookend Alternatives
 - Learning, draft SDM workplan and schedule

Draft Agenda (3)

- Next steps and meeting dates
- Meeting adjourned

Main Table Meeting 25 summary

- **Donna:**
- “Looks good! One error is at the top of page 5, where a comment made by June Wood is credited to me. My comments are captured correctly later in the document.”

Main Table Meeting 25 summary

- **Ray:**
- “Great job by the person recording this meeting. I believe Donna has already pointed out only one error and a simple one at that. As stated at the end of last meeting, I believe it would be valuable to state our original objectives when we first started this process at the beginning of each meeting as a reminder to everyone why we have been engaged in this initiative. My logic for bringing this up is due to the fact that we tend to go into the weeds on some of the topics which consumes valuable time and delays the process of achieving our goals.”

Main Table Meeting 25 summary

- **Gina:**
- “Thanks for the great set of meeting notes. If this has not been discussed, should there be a note that an apology letter was written to the presenters, or is that being considered in the next set of meeting notes? Some very minor suggested edits...
- on page 6 last paragraph- 'black hole' rather than 'black whole’.
- on page 15, 4th bullet point 'with me offline' should probably say 'with JK offline’.”

Objectives of the WEI

From the WEI Process Guiding Principles:

“The WEI Process is intended to provide a vehicle to share interests, review information, develop alternative operating options, and select a preferred option for Rio Tinto to implement in the Nechako region. This option will remain responsive, rather than a plan that “sits on a shelf.”

Meeting ground rules

1. Be respectful
2. Listen actively and be attentive
3. Try to understand other participant's perspectives, even if you disagree with them
4. Be collaborative
5. Focus on the future

Meeting ground rules

6. Stay on topic and be concise
7. Give others a chance to speak
8. Turn off your electronics
9. Speak about your interests
10. Respect the facilitator's requests

Meeting 25 Action Items

- **ACTION ITEM: Rahul to work with WEI Main Table to scope an information session on the court case**
- **Update:**
 - Rahul sent an email on Tuesday, March 1
 - Suggested that you review some of the many legal opinions on the court case that are available on the internet
 - We will discuss your interests on the court case in the next meeting segment

Meeting 25 Action Items

- **ACTION ITEM:** Dan Sneep to provide information on all the seasonal salmon runs, not just those affected by the STMP.
- **Update:** Rahul sent information provided by Dan as part of the meeting pre-reading package
- Dan comments?

Meeting 25 Action items

- **ACTION ITEM: WEI representatives to reach out to the Nechako First Nations to see if they are interested in participating in the WEI in some way**
- **Update:**
- Made efforts to reach out each First Nation with Territory in the Nechako watershed
- Some meetings have occurred, and some are planned
- The intent is to better understand each community's interests to shape the flow options
- Rio Tinto efforts

Rio Tinto operations update

- Smelter operations
- T2
- Potential 2022 operations: discussion and input on any upcoming short-term operations

Court case discussion

- Court case status
- Appeal:
 - On Thursday, February 3, 2022 the Saik'uz and Stellat'en expressed their intent to appeal the January 7, 2022 court ruling
 - Appeal is in progress

TWG efforts related to the court case

- At the March 2, 2022 TWG meeting, reviewed the Reasons for Judgement including:
 - What is a finding?
 - The court's deliberation on flow regulation and habitat and fish populations (altered flows have had negative effects)
 - The court's find regarding white sturgeon (regulation has affected recruitment), chinook (population has rebounded to pre-dam levels), and sockeye (20C water temperature is inadequate)
 - The information the court referenced in its findings (generally not referenced)

TWG efforts related to the court case

- TWG was not surprised by the findings that flow regulation had affected fish and fish habitat
- However, the findings shouldn't really change what we are doing in the WEI
- We should continue our work based on best available information (including information before the courts where available), identify uncertainty, and make best decisions and recommendations we can

Court case discussion

- WEI participant question scoping
- Options

Update

- Climate change studies, operational modelling update
- Issues scoping and technical memo updates: issue highlights
- Surgeon update
- Southside Working Group

Southside Working Group

- Southside Working Group (SWG) met for the fourth time on January 11, 2022
- The March meeting was postponed due to Spring Break absences
- Intent is to advance non-flow options
- Colin Parkinson, navigation specialist, is supporting the SWG
- All recommendations will flow through the Main Table

Southside Working Group update

- Navigation channels and buoy/navigation aids. Exploring:
 - buoy designs
 - propose locations by SWG
 - ground truth locations
 - install buoys
 - monitor performance
- Docks. Exploring:
 - potential Wistaria Provincial Park upgrades (roles, discussions with park operators, design, procurement options)
 - Landing Road Dock near Wistaria (water depths, need for piles, materials, procurement)

Southside Working Group update (2)

- Other topics being investigated:
 - Mapping tools, both paper and digital
 - Submerged timber (scoping document to make sure the issue is captured correctly)
 - Survey equipment (map reservoir bottom)

Structured Decision Making: Process Path

Bookend Alternative development

- Structuring alternatives and concepts for phased Bookend Alternatives
- Learning, draft SDM workplan and schedule

Next Steps and meeting dates

Propose:

- Wednesday, May 25
- Wednesday, July 13
- Wednesday, September 21
- Participant thoughts on in-person meetings?
- Hybrid meeting request

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 as soon as you can after a meeting

Adjourn