
To: WEI Southside Working Group Participants

From: Tanya Guenther and Rahul Ray

Date: January 24, 2022

Re: Southside Working Group Workshop 4 (Videoconference) Summary, January 11, 2022

A videoconference for the Southside Working Group was held on January 11, 2022, from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The videoconference was held instead of an in-person meeting to promote social distancing in response to COVID-19, while making progress on non-flow related recommendations to address Reservoir interests. This was the fourth workshop.

This document is a summary of the workshop and not word-for-word “meeting minutes.” The information presented highlights the topics raised, key discussions, conclusions, and identified action items.

The facilitator was Rahul Ray (RR) from EDI Environmental Dynamics Inc. (EDI). Tanya Guenther, also from EDI, took notes during the workshop and prepared this meeting summary. JK (JK) from Ecofish Research participated as the Technical Working Group (TWG) coordinator.

A draft agenda was shared with invitation to this meeting.

Table 1 lists the workshop participants and the organizations they represent.

Table 1. January 11, 2022 – Southside Working Group Workshop Participants

Individual	Organization
Andy Lecuyer	Rio Tinto, Senior Environmental Advisor
Tim Plesko	WEI Main Table participant/Southside representative
Mike Robertson	WEI Main Table participant/Southside representative/Cheslatta Carrier Nation
Devrie Sanghera	Rio Tinto, Communities and Social Performance Advisor
Andrew Czornohalan	Rio Tinto, Director – Power & Projects, BC Works
Clint Lambert	Regional District of Bulkley Nechako
James Rakochy	Local resident, works with Cheslatta Carrier Nation
Colin Parkinson	EDI, Navigation
Rahul Ray	EDI, Facilitator
Tanya Guenther	EDI, Note taker

The following provides a summary of the topics discussed during the videoconference.

1. Introductions:

New member James Rakochy. James is a resident of the northside and works with the Cheslatta First Nation. He was involved with previous water markers and underwater logging in the reservoir.

2. Review Action Items:

Table 2. Updates to action items.

Date	Action Item	Assigned to
Nov 2021	Obtain a list of Rio Tinto approvals under the Nav Protection Program	CP
<p>Update Jan11/22: CP: CP will need a letter/email of authorization from Rio Tinto to allow him to request information on their behalf. AL will draft and send to CP.</p> <p>Question: What responsibility does NavCAN fall under the water? Was it not lifted under Stephen Harper?</p> <p>CP: Nechako is a nonscheduled waterway. Approval is not needed, but there is a requirement to provide notification on a public site. Small works require notification and large works require approval.</p>		
Nov 2021	Obtain Information about requirements for upgrades to Wisteria dock and the costs.	CP
<p>Update January 11/22: CP provided details in memo attached to the meeting agenda. See memo for details.</p>		
Nov 2021	Compile a list of who has regulatory responsibility for what items on the waterway.	CP
<p>Update January 11/22: CP provided an update. JR shared they have still have a lot of knowledge of the past activities and have old documents, etc., that he can share.</p>		
Nov 2021	Draft a press release about the Southside Implementation Committee, and circulate to the group for feedback.	Rahul
<p>Update January 11/22: A draft press release was distributed prior to meet and is on the agenda for review.</p>		

3. Discussion Lead by Colin Parkinson

- **Wisteria dock** – CP provided a detailed presentation reviewing the current situation and future possibilities and a discussion of SWG pathway.
 - Currently no usable dock/infrastructure at Boat Landing Road. It has deteriorated. There was previously a dock managed by Parks BC, which has been removed due to liability. It was available year-round. Pilings have deteriorated and is no longer usable. It was originally from

Forestry Bay and was moved there a number of years ago. It is not anchored well, goes up not beach occasionally.

- Need to investigate ownership of the property.
- There is also an old bulkhead for the barges, and the bulkhead has collapsed.
- Question: where do people currently put their boats in, and what do they use?
 - Locals use the Wisteria boat landing site (concrete ramp now), Little Andrews Bay or the spillway ramp.
 - Often the water is low and logs need to be moved to unload. Sometimes need to bring a tractor down to move the logs.
 - Tim: never used the spillway. James mostly launches at spillway or Andrews bay or the other wisteria site without a dock.
- Is there a dock type best suited to changing water levels?
- The dock at Little Andrews Bay is the best design. It doesn't lay on the beach. It is the same as the previous dock at Boat Landing Road.
- Reviewing the pictures of Little Andrews Bay, there are some challenges with the ramp, and it is short and could present challenges. Ideally the ramp should be longer to give a better angle.
- The docks at the spillway are tethered and they push in and out with the water level, and they are high and dry in the spring time.
- The dock at the Little Andrews Bay site has required the least amount of maintenance, compared to others. Would be nice to be a bit longer though.
- **Short term fix:** A walkway and ramp to the existing dock using 4 lock blocks – although currently no existing lock.
- **Long-term fix:** Use a lock block or wood cribbed bulkhead and fill, or ramp to existing or new docks, walkway and ramp on steel pilings to the existing or new docks.
- **Recommendation:** The current location (on Google Earth image) may not be the right location for it. Need to review the measurements and reservoir heights to determine best placement for dock.
- Some funding might be available through Nechako-Kitamaat development Fund society.
- Another site to consider is at the Forestry Bay. There were barges loaded there by Cheslatta at one time.
- Forestry Bay is a challenging site with a lot of mud at the water's edge. Angles are difficult and a lot of the bay dries up in low water. Would be great to put a good dock system there, but we may be better off to go east. The barge landings may be a consideration, but it is quite exposed there when the wind blows from the east.
- Question: Is there sufficient boat launching capacity right now or is there a need to upgrade?
 - They all need help.

- If we were to target one this summer, the group discussed that Wisteria was the one used the most.

Action Item: CP to work with JR to get details on activities needed and cost estimate for Wisteria dock.

Action item: AL and RRa to create spreadsheet of various sites with JR, and review pros and cons for each site option. Bring back to group

- **Navigation buoys** – Current situation, future possibilities, and discussion of SWG pathway
 - Presentation/memo for additional details of information presented.
 - Noted that the previous buoys on the Southside were used for as targets and received damage from being shot.
 - Reviewed various types of navigation aids including beacons and daymarks.
 - Beacons in strategic places offer low long-term maintenance.
 - Daymarks are signs on poles/pilings. Challenge is finding a good location for them.
- **Navigation Channels** – Basic rules and a discussion of locations and priorities
 - How does the requirement apply to Nechako reservoir – should “upstream” be east to west or west to east?
 - At some point, to put in navigation buoys, the residents will need to decide on which way the nav channels need to go.
 - Majority of trips are heading west (85% of the boats that go to the spillway head west). They are coming home west to east.
 - The previous navigation buoys were super helpful. Unfortunately, the funding was only for the first year and they were not maintained. It is very stressful body of water to be on, and there were lots of positive comments when they were put up. There were 25 markers put out that first year. JR will see what he can find from the documentation. The buoys were left out in the winter and should have been pulled out for the winter.
 - Putting out buoys is a long-term relationship and requires ongoing work and maintenance. They are very helpful and the Coast Guard was trying to get out of manning navigation aids and reduced their numbers bit by bit. Now they are working to increase them again. It is a challenge, even for the Coast Guard, with all of the ships and expertise to maintain aids.
 - The previous navigation aids did help users feel more comfortable.
 - The group discussed where the navigation channels should be located.
 - Little Andrews Bay to Chikamin Bay portage.
 - Windy point, which is the start for people coming from the spillway,

- There are dangerous rock outcroppings that come to the surface. Three or four of those should be marked.
- From the boat launches to the west. Going to the east is deeper safer water and less traffic.
- There is also a possibility to create waypoints/user maps and make a publicly available (for GPS/navtool users on boats) in combination with the beacons and other navigation aids. Given there are satellite horizons in through the reservoir it should work.
- Currently there is GPS navigation used through the reservoir by helicopters and works well.
- Tahtsa Narrows: There is lots of recreational use there to. Not as much traffic there, but quite a bit.
- Discussion about the name of the large island on the lake. There is no official name for the island but lots of local names that are used.
- **Recommendations:** For locals to come up with official names for the islands.
 - If locals and Cheslatta Nation agree on names, the government would likely support the name. Process outlined on link in the memo.
 - Will help with navigation but also with search and rescue. A lot of that lake looks the same. If people understand what island they are beside, it reduces search areas from 30 km sq.
 - Through reconciliation settlement, Cheslatta are currently in a process of name recognition. They call them hilltops not islands, which is what they were before the flood. This could be a significant community effort to involve them in the naming of the islands. This is something Cheslatta would love to get involved in.
- Legal issues were outlined in the presentation slides.
- Additional documents shared with the group prior to the meeting include: Wistaria Dock and Navigation Channel Proposal for Nechako Reservoir.
- Members thanked CP and were appreciated of the great presentation.
- Next steps:
 - Start small, work out the bugs, determine how to set up the mooring systems and what equipment is needed. A nice little barge would make pulling the buoys much easier than by hand.
 - Develop a simple system consistent with typical navigation for people used to it and get them involved in what we've talked about moving forward.
 - Need to consider changes if the reservoir is operated at a lower elevation. Adds a concern, different layer of requirements, and an increase in the amount of buoys.
- JR is familiar with the work from the underwater logging with the Canfor end, but there is less information on the Wisteria end. He will look through the documentation and see what he can find.

Action: Circulate a map and identify key areas that are problematic, key features and suggest navigation aids for specific areas.

- Immediate priority for navigation channel – from the spillway to the portage (adding 2 to 3 markers for the spillway).

4. Review of Southside Public Summary

- Should add contact information for people to reach out to. Will add contact information for Tim/Gary (local residents), 1 Rio Tinto rep, and Rahul (facilitator).
- Update the WEI website to include a section for SWG. It could include maps as well and provide regular updates with actions.

Action: Devrie to create separate section on document folder for Southside Working Group.

- Include one pager, Tim/Gary, a Rio Tinto, and Rahul as contact people.
- The group reviewed the southside community update document sent out by Rahul.

Action: members to review and provide feedback to Rahul by end of the week. It will be shared it with the main table before sending out to all.

5. Final thoughts?

- JR extended his appreciation for joining the SWG. He is happy to attend meetings and participate. The reservoir has a real need for boat launches and docks. The spillway only has half the capacity of docking throughout the year. Any improvements are welcome.
- MR shared that the Cheslatta could work with Rio Tinto for a boat launch at Wisteria that is safe and reliable. Perhaps it is something that could be done through stewardship. Also of note, the wisteria boat launch was the prime area for skinny dipping for the ball tournament every year.

6. Next meeting: Next meeting date to be determined.

7. Adjournment at 5:40 p.m.

ACTION ITEMS

Date	Action Item	Assigned to
April 2021	Organize detailed inventory of erosional hotspots on the reservoir. To be conducted by a team of technical experts and GB . Nov 2021: Further details to be included with updated imagery.	Rio Tinto/TWG
April 2021	Discuss details for collection of aerial imagery for the reservoir. Nov 2021: Action: Based on tour – JK and AL will review the reservoir map to the group to identify key areas to focus on obtaining imagery. They will circulate to the group for feedback on key areas.	TWG
April 2021	Assess the situation, determine the best approach to facilitate cattle not being trapped in the Bear Lake Saddle Dam No. 2 ditch, and implement the work. Nov 2021: Action: AL to obtain before and after pictures. Nov 2021: Action: JK to follow up with GB and map out where fencing is an issue. This will be to provide a better understanding of the issues of fencing in the water reservoir.	Rio Tinto work with Cheslatta Contracting group
April 2021	Communicate the water pumps and intake information to other residents on a case-by-case basis. Nov 2021: Circulated and reviewed on boat tour.	SWG participants
April 2021	Update Water Pumps and Intake memo with information on how to potentially address turbidity issues. Nov 2021: Action: AL to review the memo to see if it addressed turbidity.	TWG participants
April 2021	Form a navigation table to address navigation issues in the reservoir Nov 2021: Action: CP will begin working on this.	Navigational Technical Coordinator - CP
April 2021	Continue follow up with GB about wildlife issues on the reservoir.	JK
April 2021	Follow up with TP about cormorant nesting on the reservoir.	JK, TP
April 2021	Provide updates on 3 Phase Power	CL

South Side Working Group Workshop 2 Videoconference Summary – January 11, 2022
January 24, 2022

April 2021	Provide updates on communications upgrades.	CL
April 2021	Review draft Southside Adaptive Management Plan and provide feedback by the end of April 2021.	SWG participants
Nov 2021	<p>Obtain a list of Rio Tinto approvals under the Nav Protection Program</p> <p>Update Jan11/22: CP: CP will need a letter/email of authorization from Rio Tinto to allow him to request information on their behalf. AL will draft and send to CP.</p> <p>Question: What responsibility does NavCAN fall under the water? Was it not lifted under Stephen Harper?</p> <p>CP: Nechako is a nonscheduled waterway. Approval is not needed, but there is a requirement to provide notification on a public site. Small works require notification and large works require approval.</p>	CP
Nov 2021	<p>Obtain Information about requirements for upgrades to Wisteria dock and the costs.</p> <p>Update January 11/22: CP provided details in memo attached to the meeting agenda. See memo for details.</p>	CP
Nov 2021	<p>Compile a list of who has regulatory responsibility for what items on the waterway.</p> <p>Update January 11/22: CP provided an update. JR shared they have still have a lot of knowledge of the past activities and have old documents, etc., that he can share.</p>	CP
Nov 2021	Prepare a regulatory framework for the group to review.	CP
Nov 2021	<p>Draft a press release about the Southside Implementation Committee, and circulate to the group for feedback.</p> <p>Update January 11/22: A draft press release was distributed prior to meet and is on the agenda for review.</p>	RRa
Jan 2022	CP to work with JR to get details on activities needed and cost estimate for Wisteria dock.	CP, JR
Jan 2022	AL and RRa to create spreadsheet of various sites with JR, and review pros and cons for each site option. Bring back to group	AL, RR

South Side Working Group Workshop 2 Videoconference Summary – January 11, 2022
January 24, 2022

Jan 2022	Circulate a map and identify key areas that are problematic, key features and suggest navigation aids for specific areas.	
Jan 2022	Create separate section on WEI website document library for Southside Working Group.	Devrie
Jan 2022	Members to review and provide feedback to Rahul by end of the week. It will be shared it with the main table before sending out to all.	SWG Participants