

**SEHAB & RHQ Meeting**  
**June 23, 2023**  
**Zoom Meeting**  
**1100 – 1300 hr.**  
**Vancouver, B.C.**

**Present:**

**SEHAB:** Lesley England (Secretary), ZoAnn Morten, Kevin Ryan, Don Hicks, Angela Kroning

**DFO:** Brigid Payne, Michael Crowe, Steve Newton, Kelly Binning, Tina Chestnut

**1. Introductions**

Kelly Binning was introduced by Tina. Kelly is the new Manager for Stewardship and Partnership under Steve Newton. Tina is moving to Policy and Planning.

**2. Old Business**

**2.1. Ground Water access is still a major issue for all PIP groups doing fish aquaculture.** The only reason that well water is used is for fish aquaculture.

Discussion on how long this has been a concern and that it is time to reconstitute discussions with the province of British Columbia. Last fall, SEHAB had been informed by Mike Turner that the province was not going to be relooking at this issue within the Provincial Water Sustainability Act.

All agreed that there is a need to understand the scope and costs.

**ACTIONS:**

**Michael** – Will look at the wells (numbers, need for water license and funds required) and bring information back to Steve Newton

**Lesley** – will check the background of how long this has been an issue being brought up at SEHAB meetings and bring information back to Steve Newton

**3. New Business**

**3.1. SEHAB needing to have our annual funds in a timely manner to allow meetings to occur as planned. SEHAB should not have to be subsidized temporarily by SEHAB individuals.**

Discussion. No new agreements can be finalized until the last years report is finalized.

**ACTION:** **ZoAnn and Brigid** will reexamine the finalization process and report back to this group.

**3.2. Why was SEHAB budget not increased? There was no conversation about why the submitted budget was turned down.**

Brigid informed the group that the SEHAB budget is tied up with the new SEHAB ToR that is currently being worked on. Discussions on the ToR could not be completed for this fiscal year.

Discussion ensued on inflation costs that are affecting SEHAB meetings.

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**ACTION:** Tina and SEHAB will continue to work on ToR with the plan to have completed this current fiscal year

**3.3. Aquaculture Committee – ZoAnn is the SEHAB representative; however, the committee she is on is more of a business meeting that is more restricted to industry. Would SEHAB representation be a better fit as a representative on SEP meetings with aquaculture. SEHAB is requesting an invite.**

Brigid and Michael agree with ZoAnn that she is on the wrong committee. Michael stated that the SEP meeting with Aquaculture are short meetings that focus on administrative matters. Discussion ensued on how a SEHAB representative could be brought in.

**ACTION:** ZoAnn will make notes of what she sees as falling between the cracks regarding aquaculture issues and send to Brigid.

**3.4. SEP community having concerns about water quality in their streams and request that DFO work with their colleagues in Environment Canada for future planning: including municipalities and all other levels of government.**

Discussion on water concerns and sewage waste, and how to address concerns with the B.C. Provincial Government. Discussions on how to work collaboratively and work differently than in the past with both governments and municipalities. Possibly start with Municipality of Burnaby

**ACTION:** Elan, Tina work with Paul and area Community Advisor off-line.

**3.5. DFO needs increased communication on SEP within their own department and outward facing to public.**

A multiprong approach is being undertaken. Brigid informed the group that there has been an increased capacity under PSSI to assist with this issue.

- Julia McKenzie has been hired to update the SEP webpages for the community.
- Hatchery Modernization Modules are available (includes mass marking strategy)
- Deputy Minister has been taken to the Capilano Hatchery for a tour and SEP discussed.

**ACTION:** It was suggested that we bring Julia's group back to a SEHAB meeting so that they can receive feedback from SEHAB members.

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**3.6. Direction is needed on how groups deal with invasive species (i.e., Sunfish).**

Tina has already reached out to the Invasive Aquatic Species. Discussion on how to best inform volunteer groups of what to do and when, when invasive species are identified. Angela has asked for a one-page information tool that can be provided to volunteer/public groups. All agreed that this would be helpful.

Suggestion that we have someone for the Invasive Species Council speak at a SEHAB meeting.

**ACTION:** Tina will take issue away and follow with Provincial government

**3.7. SEHAB roundtables are presented with DFO in the room so DFO aware of top issues. However, the bulk of information is posted on SEHAB website. It is appreciated when DFO is present and attentive.**

**3.8. There was a deep concern about the potential last-minute cancelling of a major SEP event in Port Hardy. This created a ripple effect for all the volunteers involved. Not a good look for DFO within the community**

Community shared concerns on the risk of cancellation of the SEP Community Workshop 2023. One risk was the strike and the other, the changes to government travel. DFO is now aware that there is a need to have more communication with the planning team as plans progress and to watch for new processes that may affect the workshop.