



SEHAB Roundtable Template (Oct. 2014)

Our Vision: Pacific Region communities living sustainably within the natural limitations of healthy ecosystems supporting abundant and biologically diverse Pacific salmonids.

Our Mission: SEHAB C.A.R.E.S. SEHAB is the voice of the volunteer community dedicated to:

- Communicating
- Advocating
- Representing
- Educating, and
- Supporting its endeavours

SEHAB and the community have a shared commitment of ensuring functioning ecosystems supporting viable, genetically diverse and abundant indigenous fish populations.

SEHAB Member:

ZoAnn Morten

Pacific Streamkeepers Federation

Area: Province wide

Community Advisor:

Date: November 2015

Key Issues:

Salmon Enhancement and Habitat Advisory Board - Roundtable

What top three points can you distill from community input to take to DFO RHQ?

- 1) Many NGO's have been working on the water sustainability act. There is now a document they are looking to have groups sign off on and most recently the Canadian Freshwater Alliance (and others) have sent out a communications toolkit. (sample brought to meeting) Read through it with your group and see which strategy you think would work best and which talking points are the ones your group is most comfortable putting forward. This is designed for groups to assist in keeping the water story in people's minds and the media. The booklet is fairly expensive to reproduce so hopefully it is also online.
- 2) West Coast Environmental law spearheaded a water sustainability in BC set of recommendations and worked with and highlighted local groups and people

"Faye Smith is a terrific example of a dedicated streamkeeper who is having an important influence on local government's policy concerning watercourses" says Peter Law, Director, Partnership for Water Sustainability in BC

While I am aware these are provincial processes and these roundtables are to inform RHQ, I bring them up as it seems where the "action" is these days is on provincial acts. These are being worked on because they were open and government was paying attention to and asking for input. There hasn't seemed to be as much opportunity within Federal acts of late. Groundwater is another place where surveys have been sent out for input. I had hoped that the Public confidence forum I went to would have allowed for more time to work with industry on how to work with groups to get closer to public confidence.

A few suggestions that groups brought to me as to how they would like to be consulted

- Give lead time for meetings, if a group wants others to attend a meeting they should be conscious of the groups commitment and that they have a busy calendar
- If asking group to complete a survey keep the wording really clear so as to be able to have confidence in the answer
- These surveys come out of left field, one moment you are eating lunch, email comes in and full blown survey that someone has put a lot of time and energy into but isn't maybe at top of mind for you at that moment but if you don't do it quick the emails will pile up and it will be forgotten
- When one completes the survey and sends it in, send a confirmation that you have received it AND a copy of the survey for the persons own records
- When at meetings, share the full process and where the current meeting fits into the full process, how comments today will be brought into the current planning process
- Show where in the act, regulation, guideline, the piece being worked on piece being worked on fits and how it will make a difference for water / fish / fish habitat and what other acts work together or what other acts may weaken or where it isn't in effect (private lands / public lands)

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- It is important for groups to go through a process as well to come up with their stance a good list of well thought through recommendations gives the opportunity to find common ground
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- ** note to RHQ what processes are open for comment at fisheries and oceans? Sometimes steep learning curves or miss the intact portion of the process. How can groups get better informed as to what tools are available to protect fish and fish habitat?
- Who is working on

Groups have been through good times and troubling times, many have found their niche, they have their questions to seek answers for in their water sheds and have spent countless hours learning the stream flow, who lives there and getting to know their community. Some found works that needed to be done and some found areas that needed to be protected, they are still looking for assistance from CID in finding success in these. While funds became available through (as an example) RFCPP it was rushed, seemed to change process and was lacking in staff to assist groups who were taking on pretty big projects. While many have found a way to get their projects done these could have been done smoother if “lessons learned” from past funding programmes were taken into account.

And those looking to protect streams start out thinking they know what the rules are that offer protection but during the processes of development and other changes to the landscape it seems what they thought would protect the streams is understood in a different way by others and their comments are easily dismissed. Work coming out of Fisheries and Oceans that pertains to their SEP volunteers should come with staff to ensure the process is seamless.

Funding – becoming more of a popularity process with social networking voting. When are these projects being evaluated? Quite a bit is being done around funding windows, fisheries window still needs to be adhered to. Many might be considered low ranking works as to harm to fish habitat but that doesn't mean that harm is not happening. Interaction with agencies is harder and harder as there are less staff and more pointing to a website.

Groups getting more calls to fix stuff, community reporting to them. Noticing items like toxicity levels of road runoff, watermain breakages, encroachment in riparian areas, – these are items that the groups feel limit their success in bringing salmon back and they feel DFO should be interested.

Changes in some areas from long standing groups being led by community now being led by “consultants.” Groups have long-standing “good” names

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Many are in a wait and see what the future holds for DFO. New Minister many promises made. Lets see the change.

- 3) Success: SEP workshop was very well received with great reviews on speakers, presentations, networking opportunities and of course the great tour with train robbery and logging show / lunch. With the reports in from workshop 2015, we are now looking to workshop 2017. There is a small accountability committee for workshop and we are putting together a file that will assist the next planners. Much of what we do is similar in nature each workshop but with a local flair, ie: venue needs stay the same, what types of buildings are available in community is something the local groups are aware of and usually even know the caretakers by name. CA's are to send out request to community to see where interest lies in planning for 2017. The upcoming StreamTalk has an article from the Alberni coordinator that showcases the highlights so will be good timing to connect with groups right after this comes out.

Streamkeepers training – am always amazed at the level of commitment, enthusiasm and the diversity of career backgrounds that come out to spend their weekends and then longer learning how to volunteer through better understanding of stream processes, how to collect relevant data and how to determine what questions they want to answer, how to set up a monitoring strategy using their new gained knowledge.