

July 31 2024 NWCRT
meeting at River Ranch Shop
6:30-8:00 pm

In attendance: John Anderson, Kate Anderson, Butch Sahara, Jeanne Rutherford, Gail Sahara, Bruce Beech, Al Mackay-Smith, Wayne Schindler, Liis Jeffries, Haley Rutherford, Bruno Mailloux, Lou Cooke, Judy Guichon
Regrets: Patrick Farmer, Dani

Opening Circle

Recap on weather...

Good rain in June

Drought in places

Some lakes full, others way low

G to G: 5 Bands and the government: Far along in the process with little input from stakeholders.

John has been invited to participate in the drought meetings with in the G+G , (not the group that makes decisions on water allocations). There in confusion about who is calling “the shots”. BCCA (BC Cattle Association) sent a letter asking the question, No response as of yet.

Storage:

The Well licensing process is now over. Small and Large agriculture have been cut off from further new licenses. Anything in the way of water licensing going forward, would need to be backed with storage. There is a will, especially with the bands for storage.

Raising Nicola Lake 6” would increase significant storage.

Good News:

Held water back longer at Nicola Dam with input

M of Ag assessment on land use – WLRS (walrus) what is it? Water Land Resource

Is it possible to have restricted water licenses?

Letter to users

To manage the Nicola Dam, consider a storage fee for down stream users, and potential new users?

Water Baliff ~ recommended in WUMP

2 success stories:

Jacob Arts (Lower Nicola Cattle, operating Shulus) speaking directly to manage Mammit Dam water supply.

Ray Creek: Spill way engineering, dealing directly with engineers

Shulus: Why is there no water in the ditch for them to use?

Political will ~ explain.

Talk to Fish and Ag at bands to get water.

FORUM:

What is happening in our watershed?

Coldwater/Dam studies ~ what is currently happening?

Swamps up the Coldwater – Beaver analogues

Right now, there is \$125K (from who?) allocated for storage on the Coldwater

The Nicola is being used as a successful model going forward for communication and collaboration with users.

Pursuing success stories (Dennis at Rey Creek, Jacob at Shulus, Lou's attempt with Gillis, WUMP)

Questions and suggestions for Forum....

How do we make head way?

Success stories without Government

Explanations of who is in charge

Disconnect

How is growth to survive without new ideas around storage?

Government Rules and Regulations are prohibitive, Jeremy Cook quit after 30 years

What is the Official Community Plan? Where is Ag and development in this process?

What is the City's Plan for water?

Bring back WUMP

How do we share information and make people aware?

Selected Harvesting

Where does our water come from? What is the master plan?

Focus to Nicola Dam

2 distinct users: Urban and Agriculture

- Flow, data, usage

Explain storage on Coldwater and Nicola Lake

- Primary and secondary storage (dams, soil, aquifers)

Explain water efficiency of Pivots

Present 37 recommendations from WUMP – what have we made headway on?

Education is the grassroots of NWCRT

Salmon conservation

It was agreed that a Forum subcommittee would meet before the next general meeting and bring a plan forward. John, Al and Haley have agreed to form this.

Closing Circle:

Meeting ended at 8:23