

Freshwater–Alexander Bays Ecosystem Corporation

Date: Feb 11, 2010 Meeting: Special
Place: R. E. Stroud Building Time: 7:30 PM

Present:

Herb Kane	Gambo	674-4521	
Fred Jeans	5 Murphy Lane, Gambo	674-4722	fjeans@hotmail.com
Ed Stewart	125 Marine Dr. Clarenville	466-7437	Ed.stewart.122@gmail.com
Gil Stone	Box 23, Glovertown	533-6064	gstone@persona.ca
Lisa Gosse	Box 147, Glovertown S.	533-6151	Lisa.gosse@dfo-mpo.gc.ca
Ray Sheppard	DFO, Clarenville	466-8273	Ray.sheppard@dfo-mpo-gc.ca
Kirby Tulk	Terra Nova Park	533-3129	Kirby.tulk@pc.gc.ca
Kevin Stroud	Glovertown	533-2391	kevinstroud@nf.sympatico.ca
John Baird	Traytown	533-9656	jdbaird@eastlink.ca

1. Purpose of Meeting

This special meeting was called to discuss the short and long-term future of FABEC. This was considered necessary due to a lack of active interest shown by members in the past couple of years.

2. Introduction to FABEC

For the benefit of those present, Kevin Stroud provided an overview of FABEC's historical activities. These include:

- DFO contract to operate salmon counting fences on Terra Nova River and Middle Brook (also Salmon Brook in 2009)
- Employment of summer students to monitor angling activities, take scale samples, etc.
- Participation on advisory committees with DFO and the Province on trout and salmon resource management, e.g. setting of trout and salmon bag limits, etc.
- Participation in forestry planning by the Department of Natural Resources to ensure forest management decisions pay due regard to protection of trout and salmon habitat.
- Liaison with Crown Lands to ensure cabin development has due regard for trout and salmon conservation.
- Communications with the public and other community-based organizations involved in salmon and trout conservation.

3. Future Activities

FABEC's functions fall into two broad areas. First is planning and policy related to resource management, particularly fisheries, forestry, and Crown lands. Second are operational activities such as the counting fence contracts, river monitoring, and stream clean-up projects to remove dead trees and other obstacles to fish migration. Both functions contribute to better science and resource management to support healthy fish populations in the four river systems in this region.

The question posed to the group was should FABEC continue to carry out all these functions. Those present agreed that all our activities are important and should be continued as much as possible. There was a consensus that the organization should proceed as usual and with a focus on re-energizing our membership and activities.

4. Status of 2010 Initiatives

Counting Fence Contract

It was agreed that FABEC would inform DFO that we are willing to contract for the operation of the salmon counting fences on Terra Nova River, Middle Brook, and Salmon Brook. This project will employ one counting fence operator for each river. We will also apply for funding to employ three student assistants for the project.

River Monitors

We will apply for funding to employ students as river monitors on Terra Nova River, Gambo River, and Mint Brook. John Baird and Fred Jeans will be the main contact people responsible to hire and oversee summer students. Gil Stone and Kevin Stroud will help with the student interviews.

Green Team River Enhancement Project

FABEC's Green Team application to the Conservation Corps for a river enhancement project for Terra Nova River was submitted by Gil Stone on February 3. If funding is successful, this project will enhance salmon and trout habitat in three tributaries (Honeybun Brook, Indian Brook, and upper Penney's Brook). It will identify and remove obstructions to fish movement and habitat and will include public education activities on the value of river enhancement. Gil Stone will be the contact person for this project. The Conservation Corps itself does the hiring, training and project management. It is expected FABEC will need to contribute up to \$3,000 directly to this project.

Publicity Project

Financial assistance to the value of \$1,800 has been committed by DFO to publicize FABEC activities. Options for a publicity campaign include a website, newsletters, restaurant placemats, and a "Magic on the River" program to teach young people about fly fishing and river ethics. Further discussion of these options will take place at an upcoming meeting.

George's Lake Access Road

Kevin Stroud and John Baird met last fall with the Department of Natural Resources to discuss the decommissioning of the George's Lake access road on Terra Nova River North. Decommissioning of this road is a commitment in the Five-Year Operating Plan for District 4. At the meeting, DNR proposed a compromise to full decommissioning of the road in order to accommodate a request from a group of cabin owners in the George's Lake area for continued access.

A decision was made at the November meeting that FABEC should not change its original position on this issue – that the entire road be decommissioned as stated in the Five-Year Plan. This position was confirmed at this meeting. It was noted that this section of the river contains sensitive spawning habitat and has historically been an important caribou area.

Next regular monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday, February 24th at the R.E. Stroud Bldg. Starting at 7:30 PM.