

## Freshwater–Alexander Bays Ecosystem Corporation

Date: March 27, 2013

Meeting: Monthly

Place: Stroud Building, Glovertown

Time: 7:30 PM

Present:

John Baird	Alice Hollohan	Fred Jeans
Kevin Stroud	John Hollohan	Harvey Garrett
Sandy Feltham	Max Feltham	Fred Holloway
Steve Way		

**Motion:** To adopt the agenda as discussed

Moved by Kevin Stroud      Seconded by Alice Hollohan

Carried

**Motion:** To adopt the minutes of the meeting of February 27

Moved by Alice Hollohan      Seconded by Fred Holloway

Carried

### **Request for Cabin Freeze on upper Middle Brook**

John Baird reported on his discussion with Jonathan Grandy of the Land Management Division, re: FABEC's request for a freeze on new cabin lots in the vicinity of First and Second Burnt Ponds in the Middle Brook watershed. Mr. Grandy indicated that government would be more likely to consider a freeze if another government division or department would provide a reason why the freeze should be implemented (i.e. potential impacts on fish and/or wildlife)."

John then contacted Robert Perry, Senior Biologist with the Wildlife Division, who has led the trout research on Middle Brook for the past 14 years. Robert agreed to write a letter to Land Management supporting our request due to the sensitivity of trout stocks in the watershed.

Sandy Feltham added that this area has one of the best remaining caribou herds on the island.

Fred Jeans is a Councillor with the Town of Gambo. He indicated that Middle Brook is the back-up water supply for the Town and will recommend that Council send a letter of support for the request.

### **Provincial Cutbacks affecting Inland Fisheries**

The inland fish research group with the provincial Wildlife Division has taken a major hit from the budget cutbacks announced this week. Three technician positions have been eliminated. The outlook for the other two positions, senior biologist and ecologist, is uncertain.

**Motion:** Send a letter to the Minister of Environment and Conservation objecting to the cutbacks in Wildlife Division research positions.

Moved by Kevin Stroud      Seconded by John Hollohan

Carried

The budget also eliminated enforcement positions in the Fish and Wildlife Division.

**Motion:** Send a letter to the Minister of Justice objecting to the cutbacks of Fish and Wildlife enforcement positions  
Moved by Steve Way                      Seconded by Fred Jeans  
Carried

Previously drafted letters were signed by members in attendance.

**DFO Counting Fence Contracts**

Kevin Stroud was informed by DFO that the counting fences on Terra Nova River, Middle Brook, and Salmon Brook will all be operated this year.

**Proposal by DFO for 2013 Terra Nova Angling Regulations**

Last fall FABEC worked with DFO to improve the Terra Nova River salmon angling regulations for the Grant Falls area. FABEC also requested DFO to restore Class IV (catch and release) status for George's Brook and Butt's Brook. DFO has now proposed delaying the changes until 2014 in order to do a more comprehensive review of options.

The discussion on DFO's proposal included:

- Salmon are more vulnerable in small tributaries than in the deeper water on the main stem. A lot of the river's spawning beds are located these tributaries, which are susceptible to low water conditions in summer.
- All of the small tributaries should be closed to retention angling.
- It's more sensible to allow retention angling along the main stem, as long as high-catch pools remain Class IV.
- FABEC should agree with maintaining the status quo for this year with the understanding that DFO will undertake public consultations on management plan options for the river. FABEC will offer to host public meetings in Glovertown and Terra Nova. Would be best if this occurred during the summer or early fall when cabin owners are around.

**Motion:** Inform DFO that FABEC will support a delay to changes in the Terra Nova River angling regulations with the understanding that:

- DFO will undertake a thorough review of management options in time to implement changes for publication in the 2014 Angler's Guide
- This review will include public consultation in Glovertown and Terra Nova. FABEC is willing to host/facilitate public meetings in both towns.
- Salmon conservation will continue to take highest priority, while recognizing that stocks have improved considerably in recent years.

Moved by Kevin Stroud                      Seconded by Fred Holloway  
Carried

**Annual General Meeting**

This year's AGM and election of officers will take place at 7:00 PM, Wednesday, April 24<sup>th</sup> at the Glovertown Lions Club.

**The 2013 AGM will take place at 7:00 PM, Wednesday, April 24 at the Lions Club, Station Road, Glovertown.**