

Tuesday, March 12, 2019

Elder's Energy Engagement Lunch

Al Ross, Sharon Van Volsen, Sandra Vissia, Diana Evanick, Buddy Hamilton, Rod Sayers



1. Update re: Kwispaa - currently on hold
2. Need for strong referral system and membership informed of what that process is
3. Request for clarification on decision making process as it relates to Land and Land Use (this came up at last community meeting). What is our engagement process, do we use referendums, what is the mathematical formula used to make decisions? Example used that if only 30 people show up for a meeting and they could make a decision that impacts the whole community.
4. Stressed need for communication flow in a timely manner
5. When staff or members attend meetings they should be required to complete a form and report back to the broader community either in newsletter or band bulletin. Council members need to report on their portfolios for every newsletter, it is part of their responsibility as a Council member. Portfolios of each Council person should be posted on our website. We need a Director of Communication and a weekly bulletin to ensure members are informed of opportunities and events. We cannot rely on people reading facebook.
6. Cultural Protocols - consider including a brief highlight of protocols at the start of each community meeting
7. Explanation of our governance systems and operations including roles and responsibilities and how decisions are made and communication flows. We need to reestablish our governance system and communicate to all our membership and post on our website.

8. Family Fun Night - Sharon volunteered to bring game Headbands and maybe Pie Face.

We regret that some of the information posted is inaccurate and would like to correct the following:

Maa-nulth First Nations have an allocation of Somass Sockeye and other terminal salmon stocks in Area 23. These allocations are clearly defined on the Somass Sockeye and Chinook Management Tables. This is also described in detail in the Maa-nulth First Nations Final Agreement (https://www.aadnc-aandc.gc.ca/DAM/DAM-INTER-BC/STAGING/texte-text/mna_fa_mnafa_1335899212893_eng.pdf). These allocations are agreed upon by Area 23 Harvest Roundtable participants and any potential changes to the management table would require consultation with all potentially impacted groups.

Sharing Resources

The statement that 6,000 pieces of Somass Sockeye go to each of the Nuu chah nulth Nations is incorrect. The Somass Sockeye Management table includes Hupacasath, Tseshaht and Maa nulth First Nations. These are the only Nations that have an allocation of Somass sockeye. There is no resource sharing agreement. The Tsu-Ma-Uss Fishery Agreement (Sales Agreement) is an agreement between Hupacasath and DFO that describes that fisheries and authorizes sales. Tseshaht First Nation operates under the same agreement.

The allocations described in the agreement are shared allocations between Hupacasath and Tseshaht. A multi-year agreement has been offered by DFO in the past but currently only a single year agreement has been offered. The Agreement has been provided to membership prior to meetings where the Sales Agreement is on the agenda and copies are provided to any members on request. The statement that the Federal Government and DFO have been sitting on the agreement because of Maa-nulth's right to sell is also not correct. DFO prefers that the Nations maintain a signed sales agreement. Hupacasath holds fisheries meetings prior to the fishing season to determine the membership's decision to sign the sales agreement or not.

Sustainable Management of Fishing Resources

Hupacasath Fisheries is the leader in managing the fishing resources in the Alberni Valley. The Fisheries department manages the fishways and determines adult escapement of all species returning Hupacasath waters. We also provide pre-smolt estimates of Great Central Lake and Sproat Lake sockeye. This information is critical in determining accurate pre-season forecasts of sockeye so the fisheries can be conducted in a sustainable way.

Pre-Season Fishery Meetings will be scheduled once forecasts are distributed and all members are encouraged to attend. As always if you have any questions about fisheries related issues please come by the office and speak to Graham. Action Item: send Steelhead and Kwispaa a thank you note for meaningful relationship building and engagement. Nene to draft Council to sign.