

NEEF Management Committee

Summary of Input

January 2012

Below is a synopsis of the input received by the NEEF Management Committee through its January meetings with the Nechako Watershed Council, District of Vanderhoof, Cheslatta Carrier Nation, Ootsa Lake residents and at an Open House in Vanderhoof. The Management Committee thanks everyone for their contributions made to date.

Amount of Fund

- Reduction of Fund from \$100M to <\$50M may not be enough
- Disappointment even anger about Province withdrawing from funding
- Many questions around how much is really there
- Without provincial funds nothing will be done (Who else will be able to come up with 50M?)
- Feels like more broken promises regarding NEEF
- Public community seem to have the sense there may be dollar for dollar funding available for environmental projects

Process Timeline

- Timeline not long enough to adequately provide input
- Process length is a concern for all groups in that they think they need to hire planners or consultants to put together a proposal for use of funds

Capacity Funding

- Is there capacity funding available?

Geographic Scope

- Geographic scope very large
- Contention on what “downstream” refers to

Water Release Facility (WRF)

- Water release facility of some sort still seems to be the preferred project
- Cheslatta will continue to pursue WRF with partners
- NEEF MC should consider examining ways to find the required funds to build a WRF and look closely at the costs of not building a WRF

Sturgeon

- Some concern about NEEF funds being used on sturgeon
- Don't deal with symptoms (sturgeon); deal with the cause

Level of Detail

- What level of detail are we expecting in the information to be provided in support of submissions? Are we expecting design level, pre-feasibility or just conceptual level information?

Accountability

- Only options proposed by bodies/organizations who are accountable should be considered
- Some concern about opening the process up to the public with the expectation that there may be funds there for projects not supported by the community as a whole

Desires

- Want a healthy river
- Want stability
- Think long-term
- Fix the head (Murray Cheslatta) and the body will follow
- Solve it now. Don't put this on the shoulders of the next generation.
- Want to ensure the real problem is addressed and not a bunch of small projects that would take the form of a band-aid fix on a large wound