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Nechako Environmental Enhancement Program?

An option

Don Peterson
President
Freshwater Fisheries Society of BC



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Overview

- Objectives
- Stakeholders
- Challenges
- Principles
- Governance
- Delivery
- Managing the Fund



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NEEF Review Objectives

1. Options that address enhancement related to flow changes in the Cheslatta and Nechako Rivers
2. Options that seek to rehabilitate fish habitat and fish populations in the Cheslatta and Nechako Rivers
3. Options that promote the education and stewardship of water in the Cheslatta and Nechako watersheds
4. Options related to improving how water flow regulation decisions are made in consideration of environmental aspects.



Some Challenges

- NEEF fund:
 - Rio Tinto Alcan commitment is \$38.7 - \$48.7M
 - But, the model requires matching \$'s
- High expectations of stakeholders
- Setting clear boundaries
- Lack of information to assess priorities
- Priorities will change over time
- Accountability for how the fund is expended.



Multiple Stakeholders

- First Nations
- Communities
- Government agencies
- NGO's
- Industry
- Special interests



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Proposed Principles

- Perpetuity – annual expenditures based on investment return.
- Leveraged funding – investments from NEEF must be matched
- Adaptability – program priorities must change as work gets done, climate changes, new information brought forward etc.
- Proponent driven – investments will be made based on a transparent and competitive process aimed at best addressing NEEF goals.
- Technical Evaluation – every application assessed for technical strength, probability of success, and return on investment (social, economic, biological and recreational) by an independent panel of experts.
- Transparency – key to maintaining credibility with diverse stakeholders, public.



NEEF Governance

- NEEF Management Committee (NMC)
 - Manages the financial aspects of the fund
 - Establishes overall goals and objectives
 - Who?: RTA; BC; Canada
- NEEF Technical Review Committee (NTRC)
 - Independent panel reviews proposals for technical strength, likelihood of success, return on investment and makes recommendations to the NMC
- Proponent driven program delivery.
 - “Delivery partners” (for larger, long term priorities) submit annual operation plans and budgets for approval.
 - Examples of delivery partners: FFSBC, NEWSS, CSTC, CFN?
 - “Project partners” for short term/limited scope projects.
 - Examples of project partners: Fish and Game clubs, Conservation groups



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NEEF Delivery

- Proponents would be responsible for:
 - Consultation with stakeholders
 - Meeting matching funding requirements (in cash or “in-kind”*)
 - Responsible for staffing, equipment costs
- * “in-kind” should include cash, labour, materials, land etc. to ensure effectiveness of the NEEF investments.
- NEEF “Delivery partners”
 - For high priority, longer term (5+ years) programs such as sturgeon recovery or other initiatives needing a long term commitment, NEEF could enter into long term program delivery arrangements.
- “Project partners”
 - For shorter term (1-3 years) the NEEF could enter into funding agreements that ensure partners responsibilities are met.



Managing the Fund

- The initial fund should be equivalent to the RTA commitment of \$38 - \$48M.
- The fund managed in perpetuity – only (equivalent to) investment income expended each year. i.e. a \$38M-\$48M fund:
 - @ 4% = \$1.52M - \$1.92M per year
 - @ 5% = \$1.90M - \$2.40M per year
 - @ 6% = \$2.30M - \$2.90M per year
- Unexpended annual income should be added to the Fund.
- Financial statements should be published for public viewing annually.



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Questions?



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