



Fraser Salmon Management Council

NEWSLETTER

April 9, 2020

COVID-19 VIRUS

The Province of BC has declared a State of Emergency as a result of the World-wide Coronavirus Pandemic. The FSMC is following the COVID 19 pandemic response plan recommendations as per the website of the BC Centre for Disease Control (BCCDC). Most businesses and organizations began implementing "working from home" on or around March 17. Our staff have experience working from home and we will continue to conduct business on a reduced service basis through phone and email however all in-person meetings have ceased.

MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

FSMC continues to examine processes and procedures to determine how best to maintain and improve corporate governance as per its by-laws, supporting the FRAFS Forum process and developing new processes and budgets connected with the Collaborative Management Agreement (CMA).

FRAFS FORUMS

The first Forum was in Richmond Feb 4-6, 2020, and the second in Nanaimo March 10-12. The third and final forum occurred April 7-9 and was delivered in a series of Zoom teleconferences in accordance with COVID 19 procedures. Agendas, presentations and notes for each forum are still available at frafs.ca. Next steps will be to finalize the Forum information packages from this planning cycle. The Forum Planning Committee will continue to coordinate these Forums.

INDEPENDENT CHAIR OF THE FRASER SALMON MANAGEMENT BOARD (FSMB)

The process for filling the position of Independent Chair is underway. The deadline for Expressions of Interest (EOI) was February 28, 2020. 11 EOI's were received and were subsequently short-listed by the FSMB. The interview panel has been determined and resolution of this important step in the CMA implementation process is anticipated to be completed before the end of April provided the FSMB annual budget for fiscal 2020 is approved and funds are received.

FRASER SALMON MANAGEMENT BOARD (FSMB) and JOINT TECHNICAL COMMITTEE (JTC) MEETINGS

The first meeting of the FSMB was held at DFO Headquarters on January 31, 2020 with our members of the JTC in attendance as it was a general "begin to organize" type of session. While discussion was general, the meeting did produce an agreed-to meeting schedule. The second meeting took place in Vancouver on February 28, after which a regular schedule of "third Wednesday of the month" would be followed. The March 18 meeting was held by conference call and the Board agreed that each respective party's' caucus would provide 4-6 priority items for approved consideration in formulating the (annual) work plan for the FSMB. The FSMB met by conference call April 2 to discuss the priority items for the Board's work plan. It quickly became apparent that DFO Board members are not adhering to the terms of the Collaborative Management Agreement. In short, no progress was made on the development of the Board's work plan, or on DFO naming its JTC members -- which are all required to formulate the FSMB budget.

With regard to the JTC, the FSMC recently filled its Island/Marine Approach seat with Roger Dunlop which completes the First Nation's caucus on the JTC. DFO continues to refuse to populate their JTC seats until the Board's work plan is in place. The FSMC and its FSMB members are considering next steps.