



BRITISH
COLUMBIA

COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY REVIEW

Phase 1 Community Consultation Summary Spring 2012

Appendix 1: Notes from community sessions





COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY REVIEW

Background

The following pages are a compilation of information from the community sessions held in Jaffray, Creston, Nakusp, Creston, Valemount, Golden and Revelstoke in May and June 2012. The information for each community includes the raw notes taken by Columbia River Treaty Review team members during the small group discussion parts of the Province's presentation – "How do you want to be consulted?" and "Interest Inventory Gap" - and from personal communication between Columbia Basin residents and team members. The information has been organized into:

- Issues/Interest comments
- Questions
- Consultation Suggestions (how to consult with residents in the future)
- Action items for the Province/BC Hydro.

Consultation Suggestions - how do you want to be consulted?

The information in this section includes suggestions/comments on how residents want to be consulted in the future as well as a tally of preferences for future consultation. Options for consulting in the future were listed on a sheet of paper provided to each resident. Other options could be added. Other options were often the outcome of discussion within the small groups. The options were:

1. Public Meeting - One public meeting in each of seven communities. Similar format to the spring sessions, that is, presentations and small group work. Evening sessions or all-day event are also listed as options.
2. Advisory – Advisory committee of regional representatives, self selected, representing a cross-section of interests and locations across the region. Meet for 2 days or 2-3 times between Sept 2012 and June 2013. Report out to communities at the end of the process via meetings, webinar or newsletter.
3. Webinar - Series of webinars could be conducted. People could access the webinars from their home computers or attend at a public venue.
4. Conference - A conference could be held in one or two central locations (e.g.: East and West Kootenays).
5. Combined public meetings and webinars
6. Combined public meetings and advisory committee
7. Combined public meeting and conference
8. Committee of First Nations and special interest groups
9. Combined advisory committee and conference
10. Combined webinars and conference
11. Coffee meetings each day for a week in a community
12. Referendum

Residents indicated their first choice with a green sticker and their second choice with a yellow sticker. In tallying up the indications of preference, a green sticker was assigned a value of two and a yellow sticker was assigned a value of one. Values were awarded by adding two times the number of green sticker plus one times the number of yellow stickers. Preferences for each community are given at the end of the Consultation Suggestions section after **Fall**.



COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY REVIEW

Community Session Jaffray, May 29, 2012

Attendance	Approximately 50-55 people
Interests/Issues	<p>Need to determine value of agricultural land and ecosystem loss – include in negotiation strategy</p> <p>Need basic agriculture data</p> <p>Need to come and talk to agricultural community – ranchers and farmers</p> <p>No money spent on agriculture (– CBT \$200K study), if there were, the picture of agriculture would look different today</p> <p>Agriculture needs to be recognised in this area</p> <p>Bring Libby dam operations into Treaty, then could have archaeological programs</p> <p>People need to talk to people south of the border</p> <p>Fish and wildlife versus businesses built around the lake</p> <p>Rising reservoir levels damage fence lines, regional low elevation farmlands flooded</p> <p>If full pool, then weeds, especially in Wardner</p> <p>Compensation program is tied to the water license. License for Libby is held in the US</p>
Questions	<p>What does a “fair share” look like?</p> <p>Is the CRT subservient to Endangered Species Act?</p> <p>Are consultations occurring in the US?</p> <p>Does NAFTA have an effect on the CRT, or vice-versa? Will it?</p> <p>What is the relationship between the Boundary Waters Treaty and IJC?</p>
Consultation Suggestions	<p>Video tape presentations and post on YouTube for people who can't attend sessions</p> <p>Have a session where studies are explained, public provides preliminary feedback, goes to consult with communities of interest and returns with final thoughtful input</p> <p>Need best scientific minds and people in the region to be part of this Review.</p> <p>Appoint/Elect advisory council (from interested societies/community associations) that stays with CRT process through to the end. Could draw on existing forums or create a new one. Eg. South Rocky Mountain Advisory Committee</p> <p>Use the Internet for facilitated discussion groups, surveys, responses to questions</p> <p>Local government does not effectively represent citizens' interests</p> <p>Fall: Public meetings (22), webinars (10), Conference (8), Advisory (7), combined public meetings/webinar (2)</p>
Action Items	<p>Post White Paper on Called Upon on CRT website.</p> <p>Post Libby presentation slides on CRT website</p>



COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY REVIEW

Community Session Creston, May 30, 2012

Attendance

Approximately 20-30 people

Interests/Issues

75,000 acres behind dykes; 1,000 head of cattle in lowlands; 3.5% of milk in BC produced in Creston; 35% of the area's economic development
\$300m Canadian Entitlement not much compared to impact on region's farmland
96 kms of dykes, 5 dyking districts, 3-5 feet change daily and no compensation.
Need water monitoring
Dykes at Duck Lake were installed because of Duncan Dam
Should be a common understanding on both sides (Canada and US) of what should be funded through the Treaty, e.g. dykes in affected areas.
Identify the beneficiaries of the dykes; whose operations impact them; who can fund them.
Public money for dykes should also mean public access e.g. Biking and walking pathways
US doing things with "Canadian" water that Canada is not compensated for, e.g. water used for irrigation in US with no Canadian benefit
Concerned about ecosystem being destroyed
Fish ladders around Libby
Need information on Libby and flows for fish in Canada
More environmental protection. Fish and wildlife don't see borders; we need to coordinate with the US to ensure we don't undermine each others' efforts

Questions

Is Libby helping or exacerbating the dyke erosion problem?
What is the US is talking about?
Kooconusa's operating impact performance measures and interest mitigation measures - Who is responsible for what?
Is the dam stopping FWCP fertilisation program nutrients from entering Kootenay Lake?
Will future Downstream Benefits be affected by glacial melt?
How can future generations here benefit?
How can we manage our flows for fish? It's great that Libby is managed for US fish, but what about ours?
How would passage of Bill C-38 affect the CRT environmental review, specifically BCH still operating and doing in-stream works to protect fish habitat? How can fish habitat still be protected even if the bill passes?
What is BC Hydro's agenda – should they be working on CRT?

Consultation Suggestions

Local governments don't necessarily represent the interests of residents – need non-political representatives
Conferences in the fall will cut out students unless held in Nelson, Castlegar
Coordination of information needed
Fall: Public meetings (11), Advisory (11), Local Gov (5), Webinar (1), Conference (1)

Action Items

MEM will retain a consultant to conduct a study on dyking infrastructure



COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY REVIEW

Community Session Nakusp, June 5, 2012

Attendance

Approximately 75 - 90 people

Interests/Issues

Forestry precarious, key apple growing area especially prior to 1950s
Commercial tourist business on lake at Fauquier – great economic development opportunity but barrier is fluctuating water levels
Lack of bridge and good highway west – barrier to economic development
Transportation and the “fixed link” - Had to cancel music festival because people couldn’t get across on the ferry
Some people opposed to fixed link
No funding from CBT to support agriculture in the Basin -mandate is to mitigate impact, lots of CBT studies but no implementation – business loans to farms?
Return of salmon would increase tourism
Duncan burbot – dewatering issues
Bulltrout fisheries and dissolved gases issues
BC Hydro, as Entity, makes decisions that benefit themselves
Duncan-Libby swap affects Arrow
Spring dust storms
Compensation for those living in the Basin. The Basin is subsidising the Province.
Concerned there will be no space for younger voices until/unless some kind of reconciliation with the past takes place. Perhaps a local history project?

Questions

Are there publicly available studies on salmon in the Columbia?
How much of downstream benefits come back to the region?
Are insufficient nutrients in Arrow the cause of recent dead Kokanee?
CBT decides what to spend \$ on. Are there better, more worthwhile projects?
Operations for US fish-does this benefit BC fish, too?
What is BC Hydro planning to do with their Trout Lake- Lardeau shore land?
What percentage of general revenue comes back to the Basin?
How much more would CBT make if Treaty terminated and there was more head at Arrow Generating Station?

Consultation Suggestions

Facebook
Conference with travel subsidy.
Seniors may not be willing to travel to conference.
More in-depth webinars.
School/college attendance – video conference, get in the schools
Engage people where they are/info nights @ libraries etc
Fall: Conference (19), public meetings (8), webinars (3)

Action Items

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COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY REVIEW

Community Session Castlegar, June 6, 2012

Attendance	Approximately 95-100 people
Interests/Issues	<p>Address issues now, don't leave for future generations</p> <p>One watershed, has to be shared</p> <p>Basin gets all the impacts and the rest of Province gets benefits</p> <p>Salmon important to Basin residents</p> <p>Make sure dams allow salmon to go through both ways</p> <p>Side streams don't let fish in</p> <p>Water levels in US are good for recreation, in Canada water levels are not</p> <p>Want water in Arrow in August for recreation, boating, Kokanee</p> <p>Need a rule to limit water level changes in reservoirs to 1 foot per day – don't want 4-5 ft change overnight</p> <p>US is using water for environmental benefits and irrigation – BC could be compensated differently than given power</p> <p>Move away from maximizing for power and consider environmental benefits</p> <p>CBT needs to deal with tributary dams</p>
Questions	<p>What happens to side agreements such as NTSA when Treaty terminates?</p> <p>If there is a drought in US, does the Treaty say we must compensate?</p>
Consultation Suggestions	<p>Engagement process similar to the creation of the CBT, with meetings of 400-500 people attending.</p> <p>Have fall meetings in each of the communities consulted by CBT</p> <p>Advisory committee, as the average person can't engage at level required</p> <p>Need funded and resourced advisory committee because complex issues</p> <p>Have advisory committee that starts with 1 day workshop, then public meeting, ongoing advisory meetings and further public communication and meetings</p> <p>No special interest groups – open to false representation of bullies. Share information with everyone at the same time</p> <p>No webinars</p> <p>Progress reporting – local government or Province, via newspaper articles, CBT website, webinar</p> <p>To build trust, come back to people and confirm in Spring 2013 "this is what we heard. Is this correct?"</p> <p>Fall: Conference (18), combined public meetings/advisory (14), public meetings (13), advisory (11), First Nations/special interest groups (3) webinar (1)</p>
Action Items	-



COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY REVIEW

Community Session Valemount, June 13, 2012

Attendance	Approximately 20-25 people
Interests/Issues	Water quality Air quality - dust Weir would solve many problems. Volunteers would help with construction. Agriculture Improve Treaty to manage ecosystems – Canada-US Columbia Basin watershed
Questions	What is the US doing for its Review? What are their timelines? What happens to the water once it passes the Canada-US border? Can Canada “stop” the water, or have any control over how the US uses it? Can the US ask for more water? Is BC talking to the US? What are they talking about? How strong is BC’s position to protect our best interests? What is the existing framework for Canada-US management of the system? If Canada “has more say” in what happens post 2024, would Canada be better able to regulate Kinbasket reservoir? How would environmental values be reflected in a post 2024 Treaty? Does the federal Bill C-38 impact any of the CRT Review? Do other dams apart from Mica have non-Treaty storage? Is storage capacity disappearing because of sedimentation behind the dams? If Mica dam had a fracture and water went through too fast, would BC be responsible for the unforeseen breach of the dam? Who are the best contacts to discuss issues of air quality and water quality? What is the cost for a weir? Why don’t CBT and CRT-related programs/projects have an interest in agriculture?
Consultation Suggestions	Facebook Structure and process for community consultation is still not clear CBT proposes that the Review should include a structured decision making (like WUPS) but without Treaty, NTSA, other constraints Engage high school students / youth No conference - 2 day round trip to travel from Valemount Webinars open to abuse by non-Basin residents Keep people abreast of direction Consult with different groups separately. Demonstrate people have been heard: explanation, how it was addressed, get confirmation Fall: conference (13), public meetings (12), advisory (11)
Action Items	Province/BC Hydro to investigate the cost of a weir



COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY REVIEW

Community Session Golden, June 19, 2012

Attendance

Approximately 50-60 people

Interests/Issues

Need baseline information for Kinbasket in time for 2013 recommendations
Want to examine all impacts on Kinbasket from before and after Mica dam
Turbidity of reservoirs and wind
More wind in the valley since Mica
Water quality – dirt in reservoir – can't fish
Debris clearing in Kinbasket
Need to know cost/impact of running Kinbasket for recreation
Coffer dam on Surprise Rapids
Boat launch access and road to Kinbasket need to be resolved
Need boat launch near Golden
Concerned about logging slowdown and access
FWCP amalgamation – funding shared between three reservoirs. Used to be by dam and Mica received \$1.8 million
Need to build in more appropriate compensation
Grants-in-lieu and allocation at the Regional District (CSR) – some areas are receiving compensation that are not impacted
Never going to be enough to compensate
US reservoirs kept high to lower pumping cost for irrigation

Questions

Does BC have the jam to negotiate a tough deal with the US?
How is NTSA going to be part of the Review?
What is NTSA and how does it play into the Treaty?

Consultation Suggestions

Don't want to be consulted, want to be engaged
Local technical advisory committee
Local government don't represent citizen's interests
Kinbasket Recreational Opportunities Study – fits in with public consultation
Create capacity – get information out to people, don't rely on website
Newsletters – email notice of information on website
Newspaper articles
Workshops on key issues
Technical studies online
1 pagers explaining studies etc
Fall: public meetings (28), advisory (15), conference (9), webinar (8), public meeting/conference (4), webinar/conference (2), coffee meetings for 1 week (2)
referendum (1)

Action Items

Post on CRT website: Table summary of annual financial benefits and costs of the CRT; White Paper and BC's perspective; Link to Montana forum



COLUMBIA RIVER TREATY REVIEW

Community Session Revelstoke, June 20, 2012

Attendance Approximately 25-35 people

Interests/Issues

- Historical ecosystem data not done
- Knowledge of fish in Kinbasket is very scant
- Don't spend a fortune studying return of salmon until they are knocking at Keenleyside
- Hill Creek hatchery funding
- Fish stranding
- Nesting
- Land bought by BC Hydro for FWCP should be managed for the values designated
- Environmental and social costs borne by BC
- Canadian Entitlement back to the Basin
- Agriculture – there doesn't appear to be a plan to re-build
- Need compensation for past land purchases
- Involve Sinixt

Questions

- Who does reservoir land management (dust, vegetation)?
- What happens if there is a change in government to NDP?
- How will CBT be affected by Review? They have a lot to lose and gain.
- Why is Arrow important to flood control?
- What is the value of irrigation in the US and what is the impact on the Okanagan?

Consultation Suggestions

- Facebook
- Slides and videos and recorded webinars on website
- General meeting, elect advisory committee from attendees (guidelines, commit to time), AC attends conference along with First Nations/interests, report to community
- Concerned about elite advisory group – need to engage all of the public
- Face-to-face is better
- Free dinner with either public meetings or advisory group
- First two weeks of October would be ideal for public consultation in the Basin (after UBCM and before the snow flies).
- Need local community champion/ communicator. Hire someone locally to speak about the CRT to get people interested, involved, coming to events
- Need to target audiences eg Chamber of Commerce, Service Groups
- Use CBT to target participants
- Include high school students; information should be in the high schools
- Use local classifieds to post information
- Postcard in the mail really helped
- Fall:** public meetings (27), advisory (16), conference (11), webinar (5), public meeting/advisory (3), conference/advisory (2)

Action Items Post presentation slides and videos on CRT website