

Phyllis Corbiere

From: Sheila Kitz
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2016 4:55 PM
To: Phyllis Corbiere
Subject: FW: E161025 Underutilization of Fish Stocks in NE Alberta - The Next Step - The TEAM
Attachments: E161011-1 LLB_20161011_A020_p1a.pdf; ATT00001.htm; E161018 Athabasca Advocate ATH 10 18 A 05.pdf; ATT00002.htm; E160927 Bonnyville Nouvelle BON-Edition-Sep-27-2016-Section-A-Page-22.PDF; ATT00003.htm; E160913 Fish meeting reels in frustration, anger over regulations _ Local News _ St.pdf; ATT00004.htm

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From: Steve Upham
Sent: Wednesday, October 26, 2016 3:28 PM
To: Sheila Kitz <skitz@county.stpaul.ab.ca>
Subject: Fwd: E161025 Underutilization of Fish Stocks in NE Alberta - The Next Step - The TEAM

Hi Sheila. I received this request to be a part of the group to meet with the GOA regarding fish stocks regulations and utilization.

This has come as a result of the meeting held on Sept 7 at Lac Bellevue hall that I attended as Reeve.

Could you please include it on the Nov agenda for approval. Thanks. Steve

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Ray Makowecki" <ray@enviromak.com>
To: "Steve Upham" <SUpham@county.stpaul.ab.ca>
Subject: E161025 Underutilization of Fish Stocks in NE Alberta - The Next Step - The TEAM

Hello Steve

It is now time to confirm the Team that will meet with Premier Rachel Notley and Minister Shannon Phillips.

We are asking that you join the Team that we expect will include the following people:

Reeve of the County of St. Paul, Reeve of the MD of Bonnyville, Mayor of Lac La Biche, Mayor

of Cold Lake, Reeve of the County of Athabasca, possibly another municipal elected official, public citizens Ray Danyluk, Clarence Makowecki, Robert Tymofichuk, ADD to be identified, ADD ADD and Ray Makowecki (Fisheries Biologist Volunteer). A total approximately 12 people.

We are confirming this TEAM that will meet with Premier Rachel Notley and Minister Shannon Phillips at a date expected in early December 2016 to reflect concerns and solutions. We want to identify the TEAM and publicize these community people who will represent the concerned public from their local communities.

We held the public meeting and confirmed with the public through the meeting results, questionnaires, 8 area newspapers and feedback from the general public (see attached samples) and we are close to finalizing requests to the GoA. Over 500 direct communications have been documented. The following conclusions and requested solutions will be discussed with the GoA.

All the people suggested that the current fishing regulations were not acceptable and changes were required!

The suggested solution to the concern for underutilized fish in NE and Central Alberta Lakes by the large majority of people included the following.

Request #1

“Harvesting one walleye daily limit of smaller-sized walleye (slot between 40cm and 50cm total length) for each angler in all the NE and Central Alberta walleye lakes with a specified concurrent season (all lakes in the same week or days) such as one week in June and one week in March and a shorter season for the smaller –sized lakes (less than 1000 hectares surface area).”

Request #2

Fishing regulations should be simplified and changes incorporated in the April 1 2017 fishing regulations.

Request #3

The policies and programs of the provincial government be updated to emphasize increasing fish resources by taking direct and measurable action to:

- Control Cormorants
- Improve and increase fish habitat that will result in increased fish production
- Increase fish stocking

Request #4

- No draws for walleye tags or special permits be issued for any of these lakes

Please confirm your willingness to be on the TEAM.

For your information the local MLA’s Dave Hanson and Paul Cyr are providing 100% support and this will be identified in all the communications.

Thanks
Ray

Ray Makowecki
Fisheries Biologist
Volunteer
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From: Ray Makowecki [<mailto:ray@enviromak.com>]
Sent: September 12, 2016 4:16 PM
To: 'Steve Upham'
Subject: E160912 Underutilization of Fish Stocks in NE Alberta - The Next Step

Hello Steve

Thank you for attending and participating at the meeting on September 7, 2016 at the Lac Bellevue Hall. You provided some excellent comments.

The general summary of the meeting is indicated below and at the present time we are examining all the questionnaires to see which specific harvesting proposals received the greatest support or rejection. Also, see attachment of the Power Point Presentation and a recent article that followed the meeting. I expect more articles in the newspapers will appear this week.

The proposed next steps for a go forward position includes the following schedule.

1. October 15, 2016. The detailed summary of the responses from the meeting will have been shared with the people and all participants via 7 or 8 newspapers and specific emails.
2. October 15, 2016. The preferred harvest method will have been confirmed with the people and all participants via 7 or 8 newspapers and specific emails.
3. October 31, 2016. All the information will be incorporated into a recommendation document that will be reviewed by the "Team" (including, the local MLA's, the Reeves and Mayors, and representatives of the people). The specific Team Members are now being verified and I am asking you to confirm your participation on the Next Step Team)
4. November 5, 2016. The recommendation document prepared for AEP Minister Phillips and Premier Notley will be finalized and submitted with a request for a meeting.
5. Before December 10, 2016. A meeting with Premier Notley will have been held with the entire "Team" (including, the local MLA's, the Reeves and Mayors, and representatives of the people).
6. December 31, 2016. GoA decision to make changes to the Alberta Fishing Regulations should be completed.
7. April 1, 2017. The recommended changes will appear in the new regulations which will allow the people to harvest walleye in the lakes of NE Alberta.

Please confirm your willingness to participate on the Team.

Thanks
Ray

Ray Makowecki
Fisheries Biologist

“A summary of the September 7, 2016 meeting held at the Lac Bellevue Hall indicates the following.

- About 350 people attended
- Provincial and Municipal Government representatives included MLAs David Hanson, Scott Cyr, and Todd Loewen; St. Paul County Steve Reeve Upham, Bonnyville Reeve Ed Rondeau, Lac La Biche Mayor Omer Moghrabi, Mayor of Cold Lake Craig Copeland, Alberta Environment and Parks representatives Jordan Walker, Resource Manager, Lower Athabasca Region, Operations Division and Dave Park, Section Head of Fisheries Management, Fish and Wildlife Policy Branch, Policy and Planning Division and Bill Patterson.

- 2. Meeting sponsors included - Lac Bellevue Recreation and Agricultural Society, St. Paul Agricultural Society, St. Paul Fish and Game Association, Beaver River Fish and Game Association, Zone 5 Fish and Game Association.

- 3. Ray Danyluk moderated the meeting.

- Ray Makowecki –Power Point Presentation on the status of the fish stocks and how the fish numbers are being counted, Ray is a volunteer, fish biologist, local resident, AFGA Zone 5 Fish Director, AFGA Past President and Life Member; Not the government but was for over 30 years from 1966 to 1997 with the Fish and Wildlife Division, now in the private sector for the past 20 years with his company EnviroMak which was developed with his daughter Kyla.

- Major comments from the public relating directly to the question of underutilized fish stocks included the following.

- People believe large numbers of walleye are present in these lakes and many examples were provided. Negative impacts on the pike, perch and walleye populations were identified by the people.
- Leaving all of these 40-50 lakes closed for walleye (zero catch and keep limits) forever to the consumptive public angler was not acceptable (unanimous).
- Issuing the walleye tag lottery for all these lakes was not acceptable (unanimous).
- Harvesting one walleye for each angler in all these lakes was a major comment by many of the people. Several related aspects were provided by the people.

- Many other comments were made that were of importance to fish management and had considerable support. Some included the following.

- Control of cormorants
- More fish stocking
- Protecting and developing fish habitat is essential –i.e. improved water levels
- Criticism of provincial government communications

- Going forward approach was mentioned by a few people...asking what next.

All provincial and municipal officials made comments near the end of the meeting.

The Next Steps

The people provided their comments on preferred fish utilization solutions in a short questionnaire that is now being summarized.

Confirmation of the most preferred solution will be solicited with the people in the next two weeks.

A plan will be further developed and the people will lead the process. Local municipalities and local MLAs will be asked to move forward together with the people as firm changes are completed and recommended to the regulators.

It is hoped that the people will be able to keep a walleye in all these lakes by April 1, 2017 when the next Alberta Fishing Regulations are completed.”

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Fisheries Biologist

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