



Volume 4 # 2

July 2010

The first half of 2010 is now history and organizationally the work has been done so that, hopefully, the second half will bear the fruits of our labour. Meetings have been held with the three levels of Government and the Acid Rain Mitigation Project Business Plan has been forwarded to a number of major corporations, peer organizations, environmental groups and universities. Project support has been forthcoming and next will be technical and financial support. The best case scenario would be to have all pieces of the puzzle in place by the end of the calendar year.

We had a major setback when our application for funding from the Salmon Conservation Endowment Fund for a “Project Manager” was turned down. No reasoning was received for the rejection, however, one can assume with only 50 thousand for all funding applications in Nova Scotia this may have had something to do with it. Unfortunately, this will place undue stress on the Executive, as it would have been better to have an experienced manager.

The Executive has decided to split the fund-raising efforts into (a) Capital and (b) Operating costs. With capital being a one time cost we can direct our attention for funding to government, corporations and stakeholders. Operation costs will run for 10 year period and a constant funding source is required. Therefore, stable funding from the Municipality of Queens through a property (environmental) tax, was seen as the best possibility for partial funding of annual operating costs. (See resolution on page 3)

When first you here that it will cost 750 thousand dollars to purchase the equipment and get the operation up and running it sounds like a lot of money. However, when you break it down into 250 thousand from both the Federal and Provincial Governments and 250 thousand from the stakeholders to finance this project, it is very manageable. All that is needed is political will!

Imagine, in a few short years salmon and all other aquatic and plant life in the Medway River will thrive, thanks in part to the project investments and the work of volunteers.

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Presidents Report:

Must be the weather as this July I'm more cranked than in most years. Maybe its because its taken me three years to finally figure out the problem. Its communications!

Faithfully, Salmon Associations throughout the province go to the annual Zone Management Advisory Meetings (ZMAC) hosted by Fisheries & Oceans Canada. Each year science reports are given on the state of the salmon in each respective zone. Issues/concerns are raised and noted. We then return to our local jurisdictions and hope for the best.

A year later we meet again. Check the minutes and actions arising from the minutes. Turned over to...not resolved yet...will check into it...what was the issue??? Once more we raise the issues that deserve attention, immediately or otherwise. I guess after a year they by now must be somewhat urgent!

This year, being somewhat smarter than last, I check in for a progress report two months after the ZMAC meeting. Lo and behold no meaningful exchange of communications between DFO ZMAC participants and the rest of the DFO world. A reasonable person may ask, "how is that possible?" The answer is simple ...DFO staff has been stripped to the bare "fish" bones and no one has the time to give matters the attention they deserve.

For us a key issue is the Fish Ladder at the NS Power Plant at McGowan Lake. After 15 months and raising the matter at the 2009, 2010 ZMAC meetings the person responsible has no appreciation of the

problem. Quote from a letter received July 8, 2010

'I see below a reference to a fish ladder issue at McGowan Lake. My understanding is that presently NSPI is not operating the hydro plant. The fishway has water running thru it and the pipe for passing downstream migrating fish is operational. There is no active water management at the site meaning that whatever runs in the lake runs out except for any water extractions that I am unaware of, other than the provincial hatchery. Provided there is some unresolved issue at the site I would appreciate a description of such.'

The operation of the power plant is the "precise" problem. The success of the fish ladder is contingent on all factors in place and operational. If one component is not working ie power plant the project fails. For 15 months we have explained, over and over, that with the plant down the water flow is insufficient to attract fish, at the Eel Lake juncture, to the fish ladder to migrate upstream. Determined water flow for success is 35 cfs (plant 20, by-pass pipe 10, hatchery 5) and with the removal of 20 cfs for the power plant the system fails.

In turn the resultant 20 cfs outflow at the Diversion Dam, in conjunction with normal flow, create favourable water conditions for migrating fish. The problem is the location of the current fish ladder. If the power plant remains moth-balled a new fish ladder needs to be built at the diversion dam/old river bed. Fish migration is important, isn't it?

Yours in Conservation;

Darrell Tingley

Environment Resolution

Medway River Salmon Association

Membership Meeting, Tuesday, June 29,
2010

Whereas: the Acid Rain Mitigation Project funding will be split into Capital Costs and Annual Costs;

Whereas: Capital Cost funding will be derived from Governments, Government Agencies, Corporations, Affiliated Salmon Organizations and Individuals;

Whereas: Annual Costs will be the responsibility of the Medway River Salmon Association and partners;

Whereas: Annual Costs for the two Kemira Kemwater dozers will be in the range of \$120,000 .

Whereas: A one cent tax increase for residents and businesses in Queens County will generate \$74,000 (based on 2010 assessments)

Therefore be it Resolved: That the Medway River Salmon Association request from the Queens Regional Council a one cent tax rate increase, for the 2011 fiscal year, for residential and commercial properties in Queens County;

Be it further Resolved: that meetings held in all major communities in be Queens County to explain the proposal and to seek community support for the tax increase;

Be it further Resolved: That all tax monies received by the Association be for the purpose of lime purchases and maintenance costs for the two Kemira Kemwater dozers for the Medway River Acid Rain Mitigation Project;

Be it finally Resolved: That the monies be held in trust until the project is operational.

Fish Friends

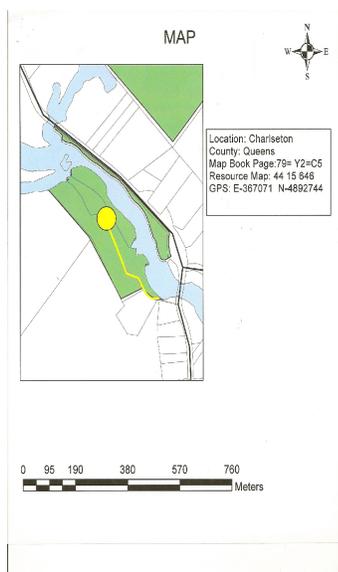


On June 21, 2010 Lewis Hinks, ASF Regional Director, staff and students release salmon fry into the Medway River.

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Charleston Fish Hatchery

The MRSA has received a Letter of Authority giving permission to enter upon Crown land located at Charleston (PID# 70168158) in the County of Queens and highlighted in yellow on the map that follows:



The letter of Authority is valid from April 3, 2010 to March 31, 2015.

Approval Granted

Environment Nova Scotia has granted the MRSA approval for the "Construction of a Fishing Equipment on Medway River at or near 1731 Medway River Rd., Riversdale, Queens County in the Province of Nova Scotia

The expiry date of the approval is August 1, 2016.

New Web Site

The official web site of the MRSA is up and running. Many thanks to Bernie Swain and Jo-Ann Holden for their time and effort in making the site a reality. Check the site out at:

<http://medwayriversalmonassociation.org/>

Incubation Box Rearing

Following the release of all trout and salmon fry a count took place of all deceased eggs in the incubation boxes. The results are as:

Trout eggs:- 76 dead (white) eggs out of 20,000 eyed eggs placed in the incubation box in February.

Salmon eggs:- 8 dead (white) eggs out of 7,000 eyed eggs placed in incubation box in March.

The results are most encouraging and hopefully 2011 will see further experiments carried out.

Membership Funding/Support

If you would like to become a member of the Medway River Salmon Association or support our work contact us at:

P.O. Box 93, Mill Village,
N. S., B0J 2H0.

