

DDRRRC

DAWSON DISTRICT
RENEWABLE RESOURCES COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

April 1st 2020 to March 31st 2021

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Council Members

Position	Name	Status	Expiry
Co-Chair	Mark Wierda	Full YG Appointment	Apr 30/21
	Ian Fraser	Full TH Appointment	Sep 30/23
	Doug Fraser	Full TH Appointment	Dec 17/21
	Kyler Mather	YG Alternate	Aug 27/22
	Robert Farr	Full TH Appointment	Sept 17/21
	John Mitchell	Full YG Appointment	Aug 17/22
Co-Chair	Dan Reynolds	Full YG Appointment	July 21/23
Vacant		TH Alternate	

Mark Wierda's term as co-chair ended on January 15, 2020. The council re-elected Mark for another term as co-chair on January 25, 2021. Dan Reynolds appointment as co-chair will expire on November 11, 2021.

Administration

Position	Name
Executive Secretariat	Nick Wozniowski

Contract Staff

Position	Name	Project
Meeting Cook	Rachel Hunt	Regular Meetings
Consultant	Carrie Breneman	Local Knowledge Survey

Activity Report

Regular Meetings: 12

Annual Meetings/Conferences: None due to Covid-19

Committees of the Council: 1 (Finance, Staff and Training, Operation Procedures)

Other meetings: 5

General Administration Update

The Dawson District Renewable Resources Council (DDRRC) was established under the Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Final Agreement. The council has three Yukon Government appointees with one alternate member and three Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in appointees with one alternate member. The DDRRC's mandate is to collect and communicate public input to assist in the management of fish and wildlife and their habitat. The DDRRC, acting in the public interest, may make recommendations to the Minister of Environment, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Government, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and the Salmon Sub-Committee, on any matter related to the conservation of fish and wildlife.

For most of the 2020-2021 Fiscal Year, due to the Covid-19 pandemic the Council held regular public meetings virtually using newly acquired videoconferencing technology. We have and will continue to hold public meetings at various locations in Dawson only when they necessitate the use of a larger space to maintain a Safe 6 and adhere to Covid-19 guidelines and protocols.

Committees

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is an on-going committee of the Council that is responsible for reviewing and making recommendations to the Council on matters pertaining to considerable financial decisions. The Committee develops the annual budget, work plan and oversees day-to-day finances.

Staff and Training Committee

The Staff and Training Committee is a standing committee with the authority to perform regular employee evaluations and oversee staffing.

Administration

Nick Wozniewski was hired as the Executive Secretariat in October of 2020, replacing Rosaly Guimond. The Audit was performed again by Pricewaterhouse Coopers (PWC) LLP. The office moved from the Mdm. Tremblay building #1094 King Street to the CIBC building #978 2nd Avenue, Office #2 in March 2020. We moved again within the same building to Office #6 in February 2021.

Council Activities

Forty Mile Caribou Herd

The DDRRC, along with Tr'ondëk Hwëchin (TH) and Yukon Government (YG), continues to represent the Yukon on the Forty Mile Caribou Harvest Management Coalition. During fiscal year 2020-2021, the DDRRC in partnership with YG, TH and other stakeholders initiated the development of a range plan for the Fortymile Caribou herd. The purpose of this document is to provide clear, accessible guidance for project proponents, assessors, land use planners, and governments in their consideration of decisions impacting the Fortymile Caribou herd range. It will focus on communicating the herd's habitat needs, existing knowledge related to those needs, and results from recent data collection related to habitat. Building on these understandings and their implications, the range plan will then clarify guidance for regulatory and assessment processes.

Radius Trapline

The DDRRC and the YG Department of Environment have developed a process to provide access to traplines in the area surrounding Dawson City. This is a special opportunity being offered to help meet the demand for trapping opportunities and give new trappers some experience. Because of this trapline's proximity to the community, special conditions are applied to the permits to protect public safety and reduce the chance of conflict with other land users.

Youth Trapping Program

The DDRRC again helped deliver the Trapping for Youth program in partnership with YG Department of Environment and TH Educational Staff. The program took place at the Robert Service School and TH Community Hall during the month of February. Two Council members visited classrooms Kindergarten to Grade 4, delivering trapping talks and demonstrations and a skinning workshop for older students from Grades 5 to 7. We will continue to assist in the delivery of the program for the foreseeable future. In 2021 / 2022 we intend to hire a photographer / filmmaker to document the success of the program to wider promote the program and document trapping culture here in the Dawson area. Ideally a short documentary film will be developed to post on our Facebook page and show students every year as part of the program.



Kids learning about trapping with DDRRC Councillors Kyler Mather & Dan Reynolds



Mobile Fur Depot

On March 16, 2021, Robert Stitt came to the DDRRC's office to hold a Mobile Fur Depot, organized by the Yukon Trappers Association. With the impacts to the trapping community due to Covid-19, the DDRCC was happy to assist local trappers in getting their furs to auction.



Wolf Pelts and YTA President Robert Stitt receiving furs from a local trapper.

Regulation Changes

Intensive meetings with TH, YG and the YFWMB were held to discuss new proposed regulation changes. Most notably, after extensive consultation and public engagement over the span of many years, on January 28th, 2021 the new Off-Road Vehicle Management Area (ORVMA) Regulation came into effect including the establishment of the West Hart River Landscape Management Unit. The DDRRC have advocated for more public education regarding this new regulation and will continue to encourage YG more adequately engage with community regarding this new regulation and its potential impacts to local ORV users.

Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB)

Council continues to review a large amount of YESAB applications within our traditional territory, we responded to 10 projects seeking public views from April 1st, 2020 to March 31st, 2021. We rely on YG's regional biologists and Technical staff from TH to inform us of the issues relevant to each project, helping us bring informed comments forward to the assessment review board.

Sheep Harvesting / Sheep Separation

The DDRRC is working constantly to bring awareness of the possible dangers to wild sheep in the territory due to the pathogen *Mycoplasma Ovipneumoniae* or Movi for short. Council in partnership with the Department of Environment and local outfitters continue to have testing kits available to hunters to record and test the local wild sheep population for a variety of diseases and to assist with genealogy research. We have also been instrumental in having local domestic sheep herds tested and have advocated for the administration of a Control Order on the premise that farmers could eventually get clean herds with minimal impacts to their businesses and livelihood. We will continue to monitor the Control Order and communicate with all stakeholders to assist if changes or adaptations of the Control Order are required.

Wild Boar

As an invasive specie Wild Boar poses big challenges to the environment. Many parts in Canada and all over the world are already affected by Wild Boar damaging ecosystems and in need for damage control. The behavior of Wild Boar, reproduction rate and adaption to the northern climate are a main concern beside the possibility of passing on diseases like tuberculosis and brucellosis to native species. The DDRRC continue to recommend YG develop strategies to ban Eurasian Wild Boar; prevent ownership, import, and exports for farming and private in the Yukon; and to remove Eurasian wild boar from the list of agricultural species permitted in the Yukon.

Local Knowledge Project

In 2021, this project will enter its 5th year of operation, it involves collecting local knowledge through talks and meetings with residents of the Tr'ondëk Hwech'en Traditional Territory on populations and habitats of wildlife. Council is collecting key information that increases the DDRRC's ability to participate in community fish and wildlife plans and environmental assessments.

Logo Re-design

The DDRRC retained the services of Klondike Printing and the incredibly talented Cud Eastbound of Dire Wolf Media to refresh our logo.

Old:



New:



The Yukon Foundation Scholarship

The Council have reviewed the procedures, involvement, and criteria for our Yukon Foundation Scholarship. The fund was setup many years ago to play a more active role and support educational advancement and scientific research. Money in the fund was raised through fundraising and local donations. Applications to access the fund are now accepted from undergraduate, post-graduate and doctorate students enrolled in the following concentrations: Biology, Ecology, Environmental Management and Natural Resource Management with priority given to students studying Renewable Resource Management.

Biannual Fur Show

The DDRRC postponed the 2021 bi-annual Fur Show due to Covid-19. With the uncertainty the outbreak posed we were not confident we could hold the event at the level and standard we have established in previous years. We intend to hold the postponed event during the 2022 Thaw di Gras Spring Carnival. This famous event will invite and educate public about trapping skills and fur harvest, as well as skinning. Trappers from all over the Yukon can enter their fur to be judged. The youth category of the Fur Show will include entries from the Robert Service School skinning class.

Wetland Conservation

Wetland conservation is a key issue in this traditional territory. The Council would like to keep communications open with stakeholders and governments to help with the issues that may arise due to the implementation of new wetland mining guidelines currently being developed by the Yukon Water Board. A DDRRC Councillor attended a Yukon Water Board public hearing in October 2020 and we continue to get updates and stay informed.

Dawson Regional Land Use Planning

The DDRRC is monitoring the development of the DRLUP and participate in meetings. The DDRRC will work with and support the DRLUP in any way possible.

Moose-Vehicle Collision Advocacy:

The DDRRC worked with Cud Eastbound on a Facebook advertisement campaign to raise awareness locally to inform the public about the dangers of moose-vehicle collisions in the Dawson area. The campaign was very successful, our post reached 2,904 people with 240 engaging with the post by reacting or sharing. The post also brought 19 new followers to our Facebook page.

Annual Working Group 2020

Postponed to November 2021 due to Covid-19.

Sausage Workshop

Postponed due to Covid-19.



Moose/Vehicle Collision Public Service Announcement