

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
April 10 – 12, 2018
MINUTES
Gold Rush Inn – Town Hall

DAY 1: Tuesday, April 10, 2018 – YFWMB/RRC Chairs Meeting

PRESENT: **YFWMB Members:** Frank Thomas, Dave Andrew, John Burdek, Ron Chambers, Danny Cresswell, Dennis Dickson, Shirley Ford, Jim King, Carl Sidney, Eric Schroff, Blanche Warrington.

RRC Members: **Carmacks RRC-** Allen Skookum, Lorraine Graham (Chair), Pat Winfield (ED)
 Laberge RRC – Charolette O’Donnell (ED), Norm Adamson (Co-Chair), Andrew Smith (Co-Chair)
 Mayo RRC – Blair Andre (Co-Chair), Franklin Patterson (Co-Chair), Barb Shannon (ED)
 Selkirk RRC – Jerry Kruse (Co-Chair), Alex Joe (Co-Chair), Brenda Alfred (ED)
 Alsek RRC – Laura MacKinnon (ED), Michelle Dawson-Beattie (Chair), Mark Nassiopoulos
 Carcross/Tagish RRC – Ken Reeder (Chair),
 Dawson RRC – Mark Weirda (Chair), Ian Fraser (Co-Chair)
 North Yukon RRC – Jason Van Fleet (ED), David Lord (Chair)
 DanKeyi RRC – Pauly Wroot (ED), Colin Asselstine (Co-Chair)
 Teslin RRC – Sandy Smarch, Tim Dewhurst, Frank Johnstone

STAFF: Graham Van Tighem, Diane Sheldon, Tecla Van Bussel

STAFF: Colleen Henry (Minute Taker - AM)

PUBLIC: Christine Cleghorn (Director, Fish & Wildlife, YE), Janice Sibbeston (Trust)

OPENING PRAYER – Carl Sidney

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION

1. MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT – Hon. Pauline Frost, DM Joe. MacGillivray

Frank Thomas welcomed and introduced Minister Frost.

Minister Frost discussed the following topics: UnFURled event, participation and next steps; domestic/wild sheep protection and monitoring; elk and agriculture conflict; local and traditional knowledge in communities; contemporary practices; wetlands policy design and outreach; climate change; lake and wetland drainage; collaborative work with Energy, Mines and Resources; Porcupine caribou herd; ANWR; boreal caribou herds, habitat impacts and co-management; US development in the 1002 lands; RRCs and YFWMB; implementation of self-government agreements, language, interpretation and intention; and laws of general application and modernization.

Comments/Discussion:

- UFA Board presentation – Frank Thomas provided an overview of the Board’s work developing an UFA presentation.
- Wetlands – There are limited seats at the wetlands meetings April 10 and 11, 2018. This is the beginning of consultations and more will occur in communities. Joe MacGillivray said this was intended to be the first of four or five meetings. The meetings were scheduled to avoid overrepresentation and underrepresentation. Another RRC has vacancies and capacity is limited for participation. Critical habitat is being impacted all over. The next set of engagement sessions will be broader.
- Wetlands meeting reimbursement – RRC members are not being reimbursed to attend. Generally, there is no reimbursement. The objective is not to put up barriers but to try and involve everyone. There are resources identified within RRC operating budgets to participate as part of the mandate within the agreement.
- Regional land use plans – This could be a good tool in Mayo. There is one land use plan signed, ratified and implemented in North Yukon. The next ones worked on were the Dawson District and Peel land use plan. There was great feedback from Yukoners and government is going to implement the original plan submitted. Minister Frost provided information about the phases, tools and resources for implementation and flexibility.
- ATAC road – It was approved. It is 13 kilometres from the Peel watershed. Mayo RRC was against it but had no backing. Minister Frost said her understanding was it was approved by the community and it was passed by community resolution. She suggested a discussion with the RRC. There are tools available.

- Development of wetland policy – North Yukon has finalized its plan. ORV legislation has been discussed for years and is high-priority to government, the amount of devastation means it should be a high priority in the north. Joe MacGillivray provided an overview of changes to the Lands Act. Regulations are being considered. It is taking longer than expected and there will be additional time for implementation. EMR is proceeding. RRCs don't want to see people go to jail for small impacts due to ORV use. It is not a criminal code offence. It will likely be limited to fines. Other jurisdictions do see impacts due to ORV use (Whitehorse versus North Yukon). Issues will be brought to the forefront during the public engagement process.
- Protected areas – Public go on First Nation land and don't know where the old burial grounds are. People don't know, and they go in and tear it up. It should be protected. UFA chapter 13 talks about heritage resources and protection of traditional areas.
- Abandoned telegraph wire – Miles of abandoned telegraph wire which is a huge problem identified in BC. Minister John Streicker promised to take it to the Environment minister. Minister Frost has been made aware of problem. It is a huge concern that departments are working to resolve.
- ORV monitoring and funding – There have been no answers on how ORVs will be policed. Resources for game wardens are low.

Minister Frost thanked everyone for allowing her to take time on the agenda. She will be traveling to communities beginning in May.

2. INTERPRETATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UFA: DEFINITION OF “CONSERVATION” (IN CAMERA) – ARRC & YFWMB

This discussion was in camera and excluded government. The outcomes could have an effect on departments. It is an opportunity for RRCs to have open conversations and ask questions.

John Trotter reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on: background on the UFA, Chapter 16(7)(11); Chapter 16, the principle of conservation definition; Chapter 1 definitions of “conservation” and “long-term optimum productivity”; sections 16.6.9, 16.7.2, 16.7.11 and 16.7.12.3; Department of Environment’s responsibilities; reasons for review; management principles for Yukon’s wildlife (from *Science Based Guidelines for Moose Management in the Yukon*); and next steps. A copy of the presentation was not included in meeting kits.

John Trotter requested that copy of the March 2018 letter to the Board from the ARRC be sent to RRCs for their reference.

Frank Thomas provided information about: the UFA; past discussions with chiefs and former chiefs; fish, wildlife and habitat management; ORV use and licensing. Yukon River Panel and relationship with DFO; and contrasting lack of Department of Environmental support.

Graham Van Tighem provided an overview of Board goals including: connection with community; ability/inability for the Board and RRCs to fulfill their mandates (Wildlife Act – Bylaws); The Board’s work overlaps with RRC’s and we have an MOU with RRC’s.

Comments/Discussion:

- It is up to the territorial and federal government to live up to the obligations within the UFA. Departments have to live up to the obligations of government.
- Unity, transparency and communications are important.
- Regarding scope, this work may flow into the aboriginal right and title field and it may be beneficial to get a legal opinion.
- We need to learn to work with each other in order to get the government to work with us. RRCs just recently received this presentation.
- Last year in Teslin at the RRCs meeting, this information was presented for the first time. John talked to everyone at that meeting. The intention is not to overtake the government, but we have to change the way we’re doing things. The department has a union and employees have to follow their job description. Hunters and trappers’ courses are inadequate. Hunters should know what is contained in Chapter 16 before they can obtain their licences.
- John Trotter provided information about Wildland Fire branch audits. He also provided information on a recent meeting with the assistant deputy minister of Energy, Mines and Resources regarding comprehensive review of trapline compensation.
- This item will be further discussed at the AGM. RRCs were encouraged to review the material and consider next steps.
- Aerial surveys are conducted every five years. Areas with a low cow-calf ratio should be studied every two or three years. Some harvested cows were not breeding and there is shortage of bulls.
- John Trotter provided information on moose management in Zone 7, the Yukon government program, the CAFN harvest management strategy and the requirement for an enforcement compliance response to receive funding for years 4 and 5 as an example of how the branch approaches management. Members discussed government expectation regarding enforcement compliance plan and implications to the First Nation. John Trotter provided additional information on program evaluation.
- Frank Thomas provided information on the regulation change proposal to increase seal fees for moose and caribou which will go into general revenue and not towards Conservation as per the Board’s recommendation.
- One First Nation cannot make decisions for others. They each must be consulted individually.
- Conservation Officer Committee was proposed to deal with complaints. Members discussed the need to include local communities in the hiring process.
- Three parties agreed to the UFA. Some departments work well, others don’t. We have to be careful not to trigger a jurisdictional conflict. Each party has to fully honour the UFA and the Board has to be strategic in its approach.
- We need to get the support of the First Nations to work with RRCs and support a review.

- The Board will meet with leadership in May and will provide an update.
- There is no clause for a review for the UFA. YFWMB and RRCs can make a recommendation to conduct a review of Chapter 16 to find out where we are. RRC chairs have to discuss this proposal with their RRCs. A recommendation for an evaluation could go to government in fall 2018. RRCs, the Board and government would work together, but this was an idea that would need to be further discussed. Chairs can report back at the AGW.
- The ARRC and/or Board can provide a letter to RRCs for reply.
- Information including background/summary will be sent to RRCs. The PowerPoint presentation and the letter were sent RRCs.
- Members discussed possibility of government support for a review and challenges including personal perspectives of biologists, top-down approach and higher-level view.
- Graham Van Tighem provided information on the five-year annual report for the Feds.
- Members discussed the implementation working group. The YFWMB has never been invited to a meeting with the working group.
- **The Alsek RRC will seek the support of all the RRC's prior to advancing this matter further to the Board. This will again be discussed at the RRC AGW.**

FIRST NATION GUIDE PROGRAM

Ron Chambers provided a brief update on a First Nation guide program and meeting with Elders.

1. INTERPRETATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UFA: DEFINITION OF "CONSERVATION" (IN CAMERA) – ARRC & YFWMB – *Continued*

Frank Thomas and Graham Van Tighem provided additional comments. Copies of the presentation will be provided to RRCs and further discussion will take place at the AGW. Work on approach will be completed in the interim. ARRC will continue to be the lead on the project.

2. RRC CHAIRS UPDATES

Teslin RRC: Sandy Smarch provided an update on the following:

- Teslin Lake – Study identifying spawning areas;
- Wolf incentive program – RRC is providing \$200 (from general revenue) to people who harvest wolves on the traditional territory and TTC is doing the same. The average harvest is 25 to 30;

- Conservation officer – There is a new officer in Teslin;
- Game guardians – two guardians are now working for the First Nation;
- Catch and release – there are concerns with people who harvest over 100 fish, especially with lake trout;
- Wolf snaring program;
- Invasive species increased, willow growth encroaching on ducks, geese and swan habitat; and
- Voluntary First Nation harvest reporting.

DanKeyi RRC: Colin Asselstine provided an update on the following:

- Thanks to Executive Director Pauli Wroot
- Traditional Knowledge – The RRC is in its sixth year on ground-based monitoring program to collect TK and developing methods to use the information;
- Financial support to KFN wildlife monitoring program including two adults and two youths;
- Annual community work planning meeting twice per year including input from community members;
- Hosting annual open house on April 25, 2018;
- Chum salmon in Kluane Lake with DFO and Yukon government to map spring water locations to obtain more information about chum salmon;
- Door-to-door Bear Aware campaign with Environment Yukon, Kluane First Nation and local conservation officers which occurs every spring which has helped reduce the human-bear conflict;
- Bear fences provided by KFN during hunting season;
- Kluane Lake research summit on May 4 and 5, 2018 hosted with KFN;
- Muskrat camp – provided funding for local trappers to teach school and daycare children about trapping and snaring;
- Wood bison tech team – now participating on the technical team;
- Camera trapping project – trial program which deployed 30 cameras throughout the traditional territory to help determine density of wildlife in a non-intrusive way. Project proposal will be shared with other RRCs.
- Kluane Lake monitoring project – collecting data on water levels and temperature. The lake is healthy;
- Staff and Board policies – internal and board policies and training are in development to be completed within the next month and will be made available to other RRCs;

Dawson RRC – Mark Wierda provided an update on the following:

- 40-mile caribou management – Five-year plan is expired. There were meetings in Tok and Fairbanks. Draft plan should be available for review in June. New hunting guidelines are being developed.
- Local knowledge project – first interviews, consultant was hired, youth will conduct interviews and a database will be setup;
- Coffee Creek project – proposed road to the gold fields upgraded to four trucks per day increasing traffic and opening new country. There are concerns about cumulative effects on wildlife and habitat.
- Signage for high risk crash areas with moose, brush and weed control;
- Bison hunting clinic – 41 people attended.
- West Dawson moose survey;
- Traplines – questions and strategies, local trapline divided into five areas, one for elders and youth and first-time trappers;
- Youth trapping program in the school in February – part of the education program started by Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in;
- Moose sausage workshop;
- Salmon restoration area and rehabilitation with two summer students;
- Timber supply analysis with forestry and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in gathering information to inventory timber supply;
- WildWise Yukon and Bear Aware – attended Dawson and will visit schools in the fall to educate students;
- Domestic sheep testing;

North Yukon RRC: Jason Van Fleet provided an update on the following:

- WildWise Yukon and Bear Aware – partnership with Yukon government, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation and North Yukon to clarify human wildlife conflict in the community will be finalized;
- Fish and wildlife work plan to promote the use of Old Crow fur locally and internationally;
- Access and research permits reviewed throughout the year;
- Solar panel project – working with Vuntut Gwitchin and Yukon government on solar project (300 volts);
- Porcupine River salmon management plan should be ready in one month. 100,000 salmon were taken from Fishing Branch and flown into Whitehorse, these were all lost as a result of fire at the hatching facility;

- monitoring and gap analysis for community;
- Microwaves from cell phone towers and impacts on wildlife;
- Involved in Caribou lobby strategy; are trying to protect, the main herd only came so far and headed back, not many harvested.
- PCMB work;
- Porcupine River moose count;
- Biomass study;
- Muskrat camp in Crow Flats;
- Oil and gas land leases;
- Trapping in North Yukon;
- Ecological Knowledge Society;
- Land use planning in North Yukon;
- Value maps and assets, fires (1,000 hectares), burned cabins and property losses;
- Caribou hide donations to schools and elder visits to discuss trapping and fur bearers;
- Lands branch work, community wood lots and safety;
- Wolf trapping on the winter road;

Carcross/Tagish RRC: Ken Reeder provided an update on the following:

- Cisco project and survey work on the Six Mile River and Nares River;
- Youth muskrat camp;
- Sausage making course;
- Wolf pelt handling workshop;
- Wolf incentive;
- Wire recovery program;
- Land use management planning;
- Caribou management plan and habitat;
- YESAB applications including recent placer mining application;
- Regulation change proposal;
- Trapper gathering and fur handling workshop;
- Wolf trap bait;
- Highway collisions in Southern Lakes, concerns and signage. Carcross/Tagish First Nation tries to salvage meat for elders. Most times someone with a dog team gets the salvages the meat;
- Six Mile River HPA;
- Dog team disturbance and trail cutting. Alaska wolves/coyotes mites/canine lice.
- Bear Wise.

Alsek RRC: Michelle Dawson-Beattie provided an update on the following:

- Monthly meetings, technical workshops;
- Five-year community-based wildlife plan with Champagne Aishihik and Yukon government and priorities;
- Moose management plan project and evaluation;
- Wolf trapping, snare sites and leg-hold traps with Frank Johnstone;
- UnFURled and pompom hats for Team Yukon at the Arctic Winter Games;
- Timber supply analysis with CAFN and timber harvest planning;
- Advisory committee and research on continued use of Aishihik watershed for hydro production, and monitoring of fish and wildlife populations in the Alsek watershed;
- Habitat restoration and enhancement project at Pine Creek, community consultations, changes in the watershed, funding and summary of EDI's work. The report is available;
- Fish and health contaminants study on Pine Lake;
- Recruitment and retention of council members and vacancies;
- Susan Smith has taken a position with CAFN, Laura McKinnon is the new ED.

Selkirk RRC: Jerry Kruse provided an update on the following:

- Yukon River Panel meetings;
- Work with Selkirk, management plan on Pelly River, sonar;
- Cross-cultural trip at Ethel Lake;
- Mining activity at Coffee Creek, Casino, others up the McMillan River;
- Three-day May Gathering;
- Sausage-making workshop;
- Birds and bats workshop with bird house and bat box construction;
- Calendar and photos;
- Wolf incentive;
- Bear awareness program;
- Meat from outfitters for elders;
- Moose survey with Mayo and Yukon government;
- Swallows and bats are on the species-at-risk list.

Mayo RRC: Franklin Patterson provided an update on the following:

- Frank Patterson stepped down;
- Moose monitoring, increased hunting pressures, surplus funding application for survey at the upper Klondike Highway and initial survey results;

- YESAB applications, impacts and land use plan;
- Victoria Gold development;
- Mayo Lake low-level water, concerns for fish;
- Forestry and wood cutting areas;
- “No shooting” signage and incidents at Ethel Lake;
- Regulation change proposal applications for fishing on Mayo Lake and Ladue Lake. Ladue Lake is a concern;
- Advertisement for youth member;
- Youth projects, traditional knowledge workshops and land camps;
- RRC Day in community;
- Wolf snaring and pelt handling workshop.

Laberge RRC: Andrew Smith provided the following:

- RRC member turnover;
- Monthly meetings;
- Yukon River Panel meetings and Yukon Inter-tribal Watershed Meetings, Elk-Agriculture meetings;
- Caribou workshops and education campaign;
- Southern Lakes Forestry management plan;
- Energy planning and resource planning;
- YESAB applications and Yukon Water Board licensing;
- Regulations and outstanding requests to EMR for emergency ban in Zone 7 and portions of Zone 5;
- Moose for Ta'an Kwäch'än elders and Teen Parent Centre;
- Tool-making workshop;
- Question: Lingcod liver studies in Laberge, is there a change? Gap analyses, working with Ta'an on water testing in Shallow Bay area, continuing to do it spring, summer and fall. An analysis will follow.

Carmacks RRC: Lorraine Graham provided an update on the following:

- Five-year wildlife management plan;
- Mandanna Lake catch and release;
- Trapping guidelines;
- Winter tick meeting and open house; and
- Climate change training with youth.

YFWMB: Graham Van Tighem provided an update on the following:

- UFA presentation;
- Domestic/wild sheep initiative and wild sheep forum in Anchorage;
- Grizzly bear management plan, public engagement process and recommendations to the minister;
- Meetings with CYFN Grand Chief and Minister Frost;
- Elk management plan, recommendation letter to Department of Environment, involvement in working groups;
- Bison management plan meeting in May and changes to bison harvesting;
- Wolf plan to be addressed after bison and elk plans;
- Meeting in Stikine region and UFA presentation;
- Resolution process for RRC AGW, tracking system and follow-up;
- AGW cost sharing;
- Zone 7 regulation change and Dall sheep harvest working group;
- Regulation change support and approval process;
- Meetings, General Assemblies;
- Forty Mile caribou management plan;
- Muskrat camp;
- Yukon River Panel meetings;
- Wildlife Conservation Society meetings;
- Yukon Outfitters;
- Animal Health Act to be further discussed in the afternoon;
- COSEWIC and Species at Risk meetings and participation;
- Off-road vehicle meetings and update from Yukon government on Day 2;
- Peel and Beyond;
- WildWise Yukon;
- Revenue from seal fee increases are going to general revenues;
- CO working group is not running but CO Services is making progress;
- Trapping working group and three-phased project (auction house fees, fur handling workshop, quality bonuses);
- Media updates;
- Wetlands policy meeting;
- New board member, Michelle Dawson-Beattie;
- YFWMB staff; and
- YFWMB calendar and distribution.
- Northern Wildlife Symposium

Comments/Discussion:

- RRCs work with youth. There should be a position on RRCs for youth members. RRCs have discussed how to get younger generations involved. Working with Yukon College and getting information into schools may be good options.
 - TTC five-member clan system. Youths from each clan sit on General Council and the Youth Council.
 - In the future RRCs should provide hard copies of their presentation for distribution.
 - “Respect” versus “ethics” – “Ethics” is a political word. With respect to wildlife, ethics shouldn’t decide what we do. In unity we should use the word “respect” which means doing the right thing for the right reason. Respect is translatable in all First Nation languages.
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2. DOMESTIC AND WILD SHEEP SEPARATION –M. Vanderkop, Chief Veterinary Officer, YG

Mary Vanderkop attended the meeting to discuss domestic and wild sheep separation and animal health. She provided information on the following: testing and Movi bacteria in big horn sheep; Movi detection on thinhorn sheep in Alaska; communications about Movi; testing in Yukon and methods; outbreaks in BC in the past; domestic animal testing and culling; initiatives and work with the Agriculture branch; testing of harvested wild sheep; sheep collaring program; cooperation and communication with agriculture producers in the territory about risks; ban on grazing above a certain elevation; proposed animal health regulation to ensure reporting sheep showing signs of pneumonia; and fair compensation for animals or products that are destroyed.

Comments/Discussion:

- Testing harvested sheep – freezing the sheep is okay.
- Education for newcomers – Some people come from other countries and may not know the history of Movi. There are programs offered by the Agriculture branch. People would very quickly recognize that there are advantages to engaging with the branch. There has been some investigation into instituting stronger controls. In the interim, the Agricultural Branch is the communicator and has close contact with people who setup agricultural operations. The larger the flock the greater the chances animals will test positive for Movi and smaller flocks are less of a risk.
- Registration – People raising domestic sheep were totally unaware of the bacteria. Is there a way to register domestic sheep? Government has the authority under the act and regulations to regulate elk, however livestock typically aren’t regulated. There are no mandatory programs across Canada for farmers to individually identify animals and

their premises. There are voluntary programs which Yukon government endorses, and government is looking at ways to regulate more strongly in Yukon such as terms and conditions on property. Discussions are taking place with Department of Justice but are not at a stage to say they will do it but are taking it under consideration.

- Transmission – Infected animals breathe out the bacterial infected mucous which becomes airborne and can be transmitted over short distances. Healthy domestic sheep are carriers and transmission to wild sheep is nose-to-nose. The separation fencing, typically electric outrigger, keeps the wild sheep away. It is hard to get an infection going.
- Goats and sheep – Usually domestic goats will infect wild goats and domestic sheep will infect wild sheep because they are more closely related. Strains like their own species but it is possible to for goats to infect sheep and vice versa.
- Big horn sheep are under more stress than thin horn sheep.
- Alpacas and llamas – They are outside the family of sheep, goats and muskox which are closely related. There may be micro plasma species in llamas and alpacas, but they are in the camel family and are quite far removed to wild sheep and goats. Keeping pack goats out of the high country is a big priority. There isn't good evidence that Movi exists in strains in llamas or alpacas that could be a risk, which is not to say that other things might not be there. BC concluded that we're better off not having llamas and alpacas in the high country. When you don't know that it's safe, let's assume that it's not.
- Fencing requirement – This isn't in the regulation at this point. There is a financial incentive and pressure to do it. Every time the media reports on this issue, people phone Agriculture branch to inquire about receiving funds for their fencing. Double fencing is supported, but usually page wire fencing with an electric outrigger is used. It is not regulated but is something that is discussed. Is there a way to make that type of fencing mandatory for people who have sheep and goats? Should there be a registry program so that people who have sheep have to let the government know? There is always a degree of resistance. People came to the Yukon for the freedom to have the lifestyle they want.
- Game farming industry disease – It only takes one animal. Registration or permit to own animals.
- Yaks are cattle and not a concern.
- Cases in Yukon or Alaska – No cases of disease in Yukon or Alaska. They have had positive test results in Alaska. Yukon has not had any positive test results in the 200 (approximate) tests done to date. BC has not had positive test results in thin horn sheep. There have not been outbreaks, that we know of, in thin horn sheep anywhere. It is possible it has occurred, and no one knew.

- Alaska sheep – Numbers are steadily declining. Alaska has not shared any information with Yukon about whether there was a Movi link. Positives were found all over the state within seven or eight zones, some bordering on the Arctic Ocean. There wasn't a cluster. Wild Sheep Foundation is tracking the population. They are keeping their stakeholders informed, but there is so much they don't know. They are keeping Yukon informed. Detection in Alaska may influence collaring and testing in Yukon.
- Contaminants in fish – The main contaminant is mercury. Work is carried out through the Northern Contaminants Committee and remains of high interest. Funding has been secured for a mercury analyzer to be housed at Yukon College to allow for testing within Yukon. Mary Gamberg is the person to talk to about contaminants and has done work on caribou and fish. There is funding available for community-led projects. Mary Gamberg is an independent consultant.
- Excessive dog mushing on trails – Dogs can transfer illness to wolves and coyotes, but not foxes. Most dogs are vaccinated, especially sled dogs. The main risks with adults are intestinal and external parasites, mange and lice. Lice is prevalent in the wolf population in Alaska. It results in hair loss and it damages pets. Alaska used baited meat with an anti-parasite drug and managed to eradicate lice in wolf populations.

3. ANGLING & FISHERIES MANAGEMENT IN YUKON – Teslin RRC, G. Van Tighem

Sandy Smarch provided an overview of the Teslin RRC's concerns with catch and release in Teslin Lake, Quiet Lake and Big Salmon Lake. People go on Facebook and talk about catching 165 trout in a weekend. The trout are in trouble. Education is needed to help fix the problem.

Graham Van Tighem provided information on: previous work on angling; catch and release; the Board's involvement historically; the angling working group, members and questions being considered; restrictions on different lakes and government's biological studies; tools such as barbless hook restrictions; government publications and regulations; competing philosophies of what you can do versus what you should do; education materials; selective harvesting; Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust projects; Robert Perry's (Yukon government) historical data and analysis; effective catch and release and Dennis Zimmerman's PhD work.

Comments/Discussion:

- This is a huge topic and affects everybody. It is a huge issue for Teslin. This may be something the RRCs would like to discuss at the AGW.
- Catch and release regulation change in Carmacks – There was some concern that regulation change would set precedent for other lakes. Further discussion should take

place in June. It may also be helpful to have scientific and professional advice and solutions on impacts.

- Guides – This is the type of thing guides should be communicating to their clients. Clients may not want to quit fishing, the guide is the person who should be educating the client about respect. Both sides of the discussion is important. People pay thousands of dollars to go fishing. We take it for granted. Solutions can sometimes be simpler than they think. Some fish come up from 150 to 200 feet and can't take five or 10 minutes of play. Lactic acid can kill them and releasing them after they have been reeled in won't do any good. Outfitters have to police their people. The bottom line is respect and it is something we can work on.
- Education – “One and done”. People who are ice fishing can pull their fish in and they're flopping on the ice, getting cut up. Putting them back into the water after that can't be good for them. People have a lot of equipment such as down riggers and fish finders. Fish don't stand a chance.
- Lake trout – Restrictions manage for simplicity. Should we be managing for the fish. We may reduce the lake trout, but not pike. Those are big questions to consider.
- Messaging – People should know that they are killing 10 percent of the fish they catch and release.
- Demographics – People who have large boats or people who use stocked lakes. If people don't use the stocked lakes why not? It would be beneficial to have the demographics because then you know who you are managing to.
- Fish handling – People don't know how to handle fish anymore. Is there a way to look at education? How do we educate people on how to handle fish?

4. UNFURLED PROJECT – North Yukon RRC

Jason Van Fleet provided an update on the UnFURled project and distributed a report on phase 1 and phase 2. His update included: information on activity leading up to the celebration; trappers meetings in Old Crow and expenses to participate; “I'm fur real” marketing campaign, marketplace, celebrations and partners; changes to the fur culture and re-engaging territory; First Nation and fur trading history; industry perception; alternating event with Dawson City Fur Show; Gertie Tom's sales and experience at the celebration; pop-up boutique; \$400,000 in exports of Yukon fur; sewing industry and stories; reducing dependency on auction houses; fur showdown and judging; fur receiving booth; Yukon Hospital Foundation tree auction; Fur ball; community sewing pilot projects; April 17, KDCC brainstorming session to create a proposed fur industry action plan; fur pompoms Arctic Winter Games fur products for 2020; and the legacy plan and “what we heard” document to be developed. Detailed information in the final report.

DAY 2: Wednesday, April 11, 2018 – Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Frank Thomas, Dave Andrew, John Burdek, Ron Chambers, Dan Cresswell, Dennis Dickson, Shirley Ford, Jim King, Eric Schroff, Carl Sidney, Blanche Warrington,

STAFF: Graham Van Tighem, Diane Sheldon, Tecla Van Bussel

PUBLIC: Christine Cleghorn, Sandy Smarch (TRRC), Tim Dewhurst (TRRC)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

5. ADMIN AND FINANCES (TAB 05)

A. AGENDA REVIEW

Frank Thomas reviewed the agenda for days 2 and 3.

Motion – 2018-05: That the Board accept the April 11 – 12, 2018 agenda as presented.

Moved by: Ron Chambers

Seconded by: Dave Andrew

Passed by: Consensus

B. EXECUTIVE REPORT

Graham Van Tighem reviewed the Executive report provided in meeting kits for members' reference.

Comments/Discussion:

- Meat wastage – There is no one checking BC hunters in the Teslin area. Teslin RRC has been communicating with BC government regarding BC transport regulations. This has also been discussed with Minister Frost. The BC regulations are being discussed in the BC Cabinet. BC Union of Chiefs should be involved in discussions. TTC is involved in BC First Nations Summit which meets quarterly. Hunting pressure is a huge issue. BC First Nations are aware and setup roadblocks on Highway 37(north Kelowna Road) which is why hunters are coming further north. BC hunters move into Morley Lake in the fall. A tremendous amount of garbage is left behind. Teslin has a voluntary hunting closure in October/November. There was a presentation from BC about the state of affairs with chronic wasting disease. The Board letters in 2014 and 2016. Members discussed the

Northern Nation Alliance which was setup 20 years ago and outcomes. The Board should send another letter. This topic will be further discussed during members time. This discussion should include other departments including Tourism and Culture and Highways and Public Works.

- YTA discussions on regulation changes (shortening wolverine season) – Graham Van Tighem provided information about his discussions with the President of the Yukon Trappers Association regarding two regulation changes and miscommunication between government and the YTA. Graham also provided information on discussions with trappers during the public consultations.
- Fisheries Act – Members discussed the positive working relationship between the YSSC and DFO. DFO is working hard to get people to the table. Advisory groups are large. It was recommended that the Board keep an eye on the advisory groups and ensure Yukon isn't fit in after the fact.
- Elk and Agriculture conflicts – Members discussed elk accidents versus moose accidents. Could government be liable for a vehicle accident involving a species introduced by government? Christine Cleghorn provided information on a court case in BC involving bison and government liability due to management actions. It hasn't gone to trial yet. A fortune has been spent on a non-native species.
- Elk subzones – Graham Van Tighem discussed putting this on the agenda for further discussions.
- Yukon Wild Sheep Foundation – Christine Cleghorn provided information on discussions with the Wild Sheep Foundation funding of \$25,000 and the government collaring project. The Board discussed the seal fee regulation change proposal and the intention to put the funds to conservation. The Board was later told the funds would go into general revenue. Members suggested the government look for opportunities to use funds from the foundation which could potentially be received annually. The Board will attend the banquet.

C. FINANCIAL UPDATE – D. Sheldon

Diane Sheldon provided a finance report to March 31, 2018. The variance report was provided in meeting kits for members' review.

Comments/Discussion:

- Historical Transfer Agreement – Diane Sheldon provided information on the historical transfer agreement.
- Alex VanBibber scholarship – Expenses total more than \$2,000 because it includes honoraria for review of scholarship applications.

Motion – 2018-06: That the Board accept the YFWMB Financial Report from April 1, 2017 to March 32, 2018.

Moved by: Eric Schroff

Seconded by: Jim King

Passed by: Consensus

6. FEBRUARY MINUTES (TAB 06)– D. Sheldon

Member reviewed the meeting minutes for February 20 to 22, 2018.

Comments/Discussion:

- Trapping working group – Graham Van Tighem provided an update on the working group and UnFURled. A meeting will take place on April 17, 2018.

Motion – 2018-07: That the Board approve the minutes February 2018.

Moved by: Carl Sidney

Seconded by: Dave Andrew

Passed by: Consensus

7. ACTION ITEM REVIEW (TAB 07) – G. Van Tighem

Graham Van Tighem reviewed the action item list.

Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board Status of Action Items 2018	
Action item 2018-01: YFWMB ED will complete and submit report requested by INAC for the Yukon Final and Self-Government Agreements Five Year Report (2012-2017). (February correspondence-Ltr#4)	<i>Completed. Government will review and publish the reports.</i>
Action item 2018-02: YFWMB staff will follow up on letter from Yukon Conservation Society expressing interest in engaging with the Board on wetlands. (February correspondence-Ltr#4)	<i>Completed. Met with Sebastian and Mike about wet land policy; YFWET funding for engagement strategy;</i>
Action item 2018-03: YFWMB staff will follow up with Rob Florkiewicz to arrange a presentation regarding the Finlayson caribou herd at a future Board Meeting.	<i>Outstanding; to be presented and discussed in June</i>
Action item 2018-04: YFWMB staff will follow up with Mary Vanderkop on the following: arrange an update presentation	<i>Completed. Met with Mary Vanderkop; Emily Chenery is modeling ticks</i>

at future Board meeting regarding the tick situation in Yukon and Board's submission regarding <i>Animal Health Act</i> .	<i>and may be able to attend a future meeting next April or May. ED will contact her.</i>
Action item 2018-05: YFWMB staff will reinstate the Trapping Working Group upon the completion of the Unfurled event and begin the process of determining next steps.	<i>Completed. ED has re-engaged with trapping working group and has had discussions with Frank Johnstone.</i>

8. CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW AND OUTCOMES (TAB 08) – G. Van Tighem

Graham Van Tighem reviewed correspondence provided in meetings kits for members' review.

Comments/Discussion:

- Letter # 12 regarding seal fees – Board members discussed whether the public knows about the fee increase. The Board has met with Fish and Game Association and has discussed this with the Yukon Outfitters Association. The Yukon public has not been notified. The Board will dissolve their involvement as the original intent to use the funds for conservation has not been met. Graham Van Tighem will follow up with the Fish and Game Association.
- Letter #15 regarding Michelle Peter – Shirley Ford provided information on her discussions with CYFN and Michelle Peter regarding trust matters and legal issues.
- Letter #16 regarding Forest Resources Management Plan – Members asked if it was in compliance with Chapter 17 of the UFA. There was no reference to Chapter 17 in the letter. Graham will follow-up. Interested Board members who want to attend can let Graham know. Eric Schroff will attend one day.

10. JUNE (ON THE LAND) MEETING LOCATIONS

Members discussed possible meeting locations for the June meeting including: Frances Lake or Simpson Lake on the Campbell Highway; Coffee Lake near Ross River; and GA sites at Little Salmon River and Airport Lake near Carmacks.

Graham Van Tighem will investigate options and report back to the Board.

9. NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR/VICE CHAIR, CHAIR OF THE YFWET – In Camera

Members discussed nomination and election procedures for the Chair, Vice Chair and Chair of the Trust.

YFWMB Chair

Nominee: John Burdek accepted the nomination.

Motion – 2018-08: That the Board approve John Burdek as Chair of the Board.

Moved by: Shirley Ford

Seconded by: Ron Chambers

Passed by: Consensus

Vice Chair

Nominee: Frank Thomas accepted the nomination.

Motion – 2018-09: That the Board approve Frank Thomas as Vice Chair of the Board.

Moved by: Blanche Warrington

Seconded by: Carl Sidney

Passed by: Consensus

YFWET Executive

Shirley Ford, Blanche Warrington, Dave Andrew, Carl Sidney

Motion – 2018-10: That the Board approve Shirley Ford, Blanche Warrington, Dave Andrew and Carl Sidney as members of the Enhancement Trust Executive.

Moved by: Ron Chambers

Seconded by: Frank Thomas

Passed by: Consensus

YFWET Chair

Nominee: Shirley Ford accepted the nomination.

YFWET Vice Chair

Nominee: Blanche Warrington accepted the nomination.

The Trust Executive will hold discussions and confirm the Chair and Vice-Chair.

10. FISH AND WILDLIFE BRANCH UPDATE – C. Cleghorn

Christine Cleghorn provided a Fish and Wildlife branch update on the following: grizzly bear management draft plan, soft loop through First Nations and deadline of April 30, 2018 for comments; Mandanna Lake regulation change consultations with outcomes to be presented at

the next meeting; staff vacancies and recruitment; three-year Alsek moose recovery program and evaluation CAFN and Alsek RRC with final report in mid-May; stocked lakes program which went through YESAB and passed; aquaculture policy; and the wetlands policy forum funding was the same as that used for the climate change strategy and RRCs were not included in funding as it was seen as part of their normal mandate to address.

Comments/Discussion:

- Grizzly bear management plan – The draft plan will be provided after April 30, 2018. If there are substantive changes then there will be a board meeting and consultations will be postponed until further discussions can be had. First Nations have the first part. The second part doesn't have to go through the same review process. The Board will receive the plan in June and provide comments by September or October.
- Regulation changes should be in within the next cycle.
- Collaring – There are 45 collars for Dall sheep. The department will work will be done with outfitters. How do we get the most information? The collars will be divided into three groups of 15. The collars will last for five years and then fall off. If an animal dies it will be recovered. Mary can still do studies on the dead sheep. Statistically if there are seven live sheep wearing collars at the end of the five years the department will be happy. The project region is not yet known. Some positive tests in Alaska were in the north coast. Not thinking of doing much in Game Zone 2, but Mary will let the department know if there is value in that. More info will be available in June.
- First Nations and RRCs – Some RRCs have encouraged the department to do this study. Parks Canada is also interested. First steps are to determine the filter on this, the top five locations and then the department will go out and have discussions with the First Nations and RRCs about their interests and objections. That will be done through the regional biologists.
- Alsek moose recovery project years 4 and 5 – Focus of the project was moose recovery. Goal 4 of the wolf management plan says: “Don't do initiatives like this unless it is in the context of recovery plan or actions for ungulates”. There is the science piece the department has taken on to do wolf surveys, moose census and recruitment surveys. Then there is the trapper piece. Parks has also been involved in survey work. The contribution agreement talks about running the wolf trapping support piece, the science piece with biologists and the trapping support piece. There are chunks to address and feed into what is useful and challenges. Part of that was for CAFN to engage their community in moose management planning.
- Aquaculture Policy – This refers to commercial aquaculture operations. The federal definition is different. The department is trying to create a regulatory circumstance that applies to whatever circumstance might come. A policy requirement should be

considered so that people would have rescind their licence if they are not doing what they are supposed to and have the lake go back to the public.

- YESAB approval to stock certain lakes – If there is a new lake to be stocked, it still must go through YESAB. Assuming they would be stocking it according to the list of pre-approved species, it would still have to go through YESAB but it should require going through the whole process.
- Correspondence regarding thin horn sheep harvest working group – The reply from the minister includes response to access to ATV hunters and non-hunters and public engagement. One Board member has been to every meeting and has not seen a person from Environment. He would encourage the Department of Environment to attend those meetings and provide input. Regarding the statement that as a land-based activity, ORV use should be addressed through land use regulations and not hunting regulations – that shows an extreme naivety because EMR has said their focus is on the ATVs on the trail and people who are operating them. The reason for people being there is not in their realm of consideration. The reason people are out there will be directly related to the Department of Environment. If they are hunters, they are going there to hunt. The correspondence shows there is a complete disconnect between the departments. Yesterday there was a clear message from the Minister about the sheep issue which was, “Thank you for staying vocal, thank you for your work on this.” It helps when the Board pushes. There is some reflection about that statement which is, “Board, please stay involved.” In the future, the Board will deal more and more about access in all sorts of areas for all sorts of things. Every biologist presenting to the Board is asked about their main concern for the species or herd and the answer is always access. The disconnect about the ORV use being addressed through land use regulations and not hunting regulations is a complete disconnect and the Board has to know that statement was made.
- Thin horn sheep working group, including Board members and Department staff, made a recommendation regarding the permit hunt on the permit. That recommendation came from Environment staff. The minister came back and said it didn’t make sense. Christine Cleghorn said she would have to research the regulation change proposal.
- Use of ATVs and ORVs in alpine areas, by both hunters and non-hunters. ATVs off road staying on trails. It goes beyond hunting. The regulations should be synchronized and reflected in the hunting regulations and the land use regulations. ORVs cannot be used to hunt bison but can be used to retrieve the animals. Nothing says that someone who are not hunting can’t go in there with ORVs and drones to scout for hunters. There are a lot of ramifications. As far as ORV regulation is concerned, it should probably be under land use regulations, however as far as a hunting or wildlife regulation is concerned, when that decision is made by experts and by people who know what they are doing it

should automatically be taken up by EMR as gospel. They shouldn't have to redo that. It should happen in one place and be automatically applied.

- Pilot Mountain – went on permit and increased quite a bit in the last couple years because of ATV access. It used to be harder to get into (horse or long day hike). The government was monitored trails with cameras.
- Zone 7 and letter from Board – It was a long process. Since nothing was happening with ORV through EMR, the Board discussed other ways to do this. Permit hunt was an option and it went through as a recommendation. Christine Cleghorn will follow-up in writing promptly.

Graham Van Tighem reviewed correspondence 7 (February 22, 2018 Minister Frost's response to letter #7a) and 7a (December 15, 2017 Board correspondence to Minister Frost regarding the Thinhorn Sheep Harvest Working Group) in Tabs 8 and 11.

Comments/Discussion:

- Troy Hegel is leaving the department. Many of the discussions and decisions were made because of the information Troy brought to the table. It was a new way to look at that area because it is a transient population. It is hoped that information continues on.
- Letter 7a, Recommendation 4 – In partnership with the Board and Departmental staff, redistribute Permit Hunt Authorizations throughout Game Management Zone 7... – At some point the department will attend a Board meeting with maps and information on what this would look like. It is an adaptive change which will not likely happen this season.
- Issue 2 identified by the working group regarding Harvest pressures/distributions to other GMZ – We should still talk about this. There are serious concerns coming forward. There will be redistribution of pressure for unsuccessful PHA recipients.
- Christine provided comments on the letter. There is an initiative around hunter ethics that captures selective harvest fishing. The department has someone who works on this full time. How can we best work with the systems we have? We will make the permit changes, make the quota changes, broaden the coalition and messaging and educating ourselves and others. We will have another regulation change intake in a year. The department is interested in continuing talks.
- Is the department really ready for conversations about quota changes with the outfitter community? Christine Cleghorn said that conversation doesn't start and stop with outfitters. The department has to have discussions with unsettled First Nations who haven't agreed to a 75/25 split first. The department has signalled to the outfitters that this is a priority, but these conversations will take time. In the past year one outfitter asked for a sheep quota. There is good collaboration right now with the YOA. The question is simple, the process is quite complicated.

- If we can make progress or solve the ORV issue it totally changes the discussion. It is part of game zone 5. Is there a way to look at time for no ORV-use on permitted sheep? Christine Cleghorn will respond in writing to Graham which will provide traction.
- Issue 4 identified by the working group regarding outfitter quotas – The minister’s response is that interim sheep quotas will continue to be implemented as described in the Guidelines to Establish Outfitter Quotas which is the eight-year rule. It is not being implemented.
- General message is that the Board can make recommendations about game management subzones and PHAs but the working group still needs to talk about access, harvest pressure and redistribution, public education, ethics, outfitters quotas, regional and territorial approach to communications and First Nation harvest. It needs to be inclusive and it needs to have the right information to deal with the issue of Dall sheep harvest.
- Mine at Quill Creek – When they are working they have a sheep monitor. Now you can go right up to the top of the mountain with a four-wheeler. There should be some reclamation to fill in the holes. The sheep are used to the equipment. As long as they are above, they are in the game sanctuary and they are tame. It is like shooting a dog. The mine is shut down and the roads are open. Anyone can go in there and kill and sheep. There isn’t even a gate there. It’s in the game sanctuary, but that is just for honest people. Kluane First Nations can harvest in there, but there is a draw for a licence.

11. 2017-18 WILDLIFE ACT REGULATION CHANGES UPDATE (Tab 11) IN CAMERA – G. Van Tighem & T. Van Bussel

Graham Van Tighem provided an overview of the March 16, 2018 letter from Minister Frost regarding Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board Recommendations on the 2017 proposed hunting and fishing regulation changes. The minister has indicated her support, instead of acceptance, for recommendations that require Cabinet approval. The letter was included in meeting kits for members review.

Comments/Discussion:

- Proposal 4 – Includes Nares River which may be a mistake. Graham will doublecheck. Tecla Van Bussel checked the original letter and Nares River was included.
- Proposal 6 – Posting additional signage: Members discussed signage and examples from New Zealand which include QR codes.

- Proposal 7 – Aquatic invasive species inspection/decontamination authority: RRCs may want to discuss this at the AGW. Teslin Lake and Lake Bennett are lakes to be considered.
- Proposal 8.2 – Close extended moose hunt and issue more permits in season: Environment of some places we’re trying to manage don’t lend themselves to being managed for what we’re trying to manage for. Moose go through, but it’s not moose country and we’re trying to manage moose in the area. People think there is no moose there now, but it could be that they were never there. Elders who have been out and who paid attention have important information. People used to follow moose for two days. Early history has to play a big role in decision-making.
- Proposal 14 – Youth Hunters without HEED course under age 12: It should simply say that under 12 years of age you can hunt small game but it has to fall in line with rules that are already in place. It says a 10-year-old can go hunting with a 12-year-old, but a 12-year-old can’t go hunting unless they’re with someone who is 19. Something is not right with the wording. The legislative drafters should pick up the mistake. It is not the intent of the proposal, but that is the way it reads.

Graham Van Tighem will draft the final recommendation letter regarding the thinhorn sheep working group and the Minister’s March 16 ,2018 letter.

A member discussed using the term “thinhorn” sheep and how it was introduced. Dall sheep is the name First Nations can relate to. “Thinhorn” related to Dall sheep and Stone’s sheep.

12. JUNE (ON THE LAND) MEETING LOCATIONS

This item was already discussed in the morning.

MEMBERS TIME

Members discussed the following items:

- RRC mandates;
- BC meat wastage;
- Possibility for Teslin CO licence, jurisdiction and cross-conditions in both Yukon and BC;
- Export permits and road checks;
- Fish and wildlife directors’ meetings and opportunity for Christine to have discussions with other jurisdictions about collaboration at the director level;

- A review of boards and committees of the UFA to determine effectiveness. Results could be shared with fish and wildlife directors;
 - Review of reciprocal fishing licences in Alaska and Yukon;
 - Wildlife management advisory board in northern BC including the BC association and Tahltan guiding organization, Tahltan government, TTC and Taku River Tlingit; and
 - Sheep working group (letter to Christine).
-

DAY 3: Thursday, April 12, 2018 – Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Frank Thomas, Dave Andrew, John Burdek, Ron Chambers, Dan Cresswell, Dennis Dickson, Shirley Ford, Jim King, Eric Schroff, Carl Sidney, Blanche Warrington,

STAFF: Graham Van Tighem, Diane Sheldon, Tecla Van Bussel

PUBLIC: Christine Cleghorn, Bill Oestreich, Sandy Smarch (Teslin RRC), Tim Dewhurst (Teslin RRC),

13. YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT TRUST

See Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust minutes.

MEMBERS TIME AND RE-CAP (IN CAMERA) – F. Thomas, G. Van Tighem

Tahltan Guide Outfitter Association

Bill Oestreich, vice-president of Tahltan Guide Outfitter Association from Dease Lake provided information about the wildlife management initiative in Dease Lake area with Tahltan and Kaska First Nations. Taku River Tlingit have been invited to participate and Teslin Tlingit Council will be invited to participate in the future. Members discussed: outreach to Kaska First Nations to share Conservation Officers for jurisdictional overlap; Teslin valley gap; addressing regulation changes; transboundary issues; hunting pressures at the south end of the lake; meat wastage and BC regulations; Carcross caribou meeting with BC participants; cultural connections and the J-Treaty; Southern Lakes hunting pressures and voluntary moratorium; co-management model; First Nations culture with respect to the pipeline; and UNDRIP and reconciliation. Graham will provide Bill's contact information to meeting participants if requested.

Terms of reference for the group will be completed. A meeting focused on habitat is planned and will be confirmed.

UFA Presentation

Graham Van Tighem provided a presentation to the Board on What the Board is, who the players are in Fish and Wildlife in the Yukon, a brief history of Yukon Land Claims, Understanding Knowledge in wildlife management, the Board and the UFA, Roles of the Boards and Councils in the UFA, decision making in wildlife management, and the future of wildlife management. A copy was provided in meeting kits.

Members comments included: YSSC should be included; there was a basic respect for negotiators and the agreement was collaborative; traditional knowledge is acknowledged by the Supreme Court of Canada as legitimate; other boards should use something similar to get their messages across; indicate this is in draft when it is presented to leadership; the target audience is public and new people in government; streamlined presentation is really valuable; it is way better than a lot of the presentations government uses internally; include a little more detail about the UFA and other final agreements; it has to be ongoing; it can be adjusted depending on the audience; Board members should have input; negotiators reviewed it and definition of “interpretation” was acceptable; add introductory remarks about management prior to the signing of the UFA and creation of boards and committees; and the definition of conservation includes use. Overall Board members were extremely impressed by the presentation and commended Graham and Tecla on the presentation.

Elk Management

Members discussed elk management including: increasing permits and recommendation to government; uncertain population counts (229 last year and 180 this year) – there should be 29 permits; increased traffic; grouping of 110 in one location between Whitehorse and Haines; enforced speed limit in elk and bison regions; RRCs should be dealing with local issues; elk core zone/buffer zone; elk-agriculture conflicts; survey area; winter ticks; managing because people don't like to see animals shot; liberal permit hunt opportunity for bull elk to reduce risk on the highway; declining numbers of permits and declining harvest; unnatural increase due to lack of bear predation; permit consistency; elk is the number 1 hazard; elk brought the ticks which can kill the moose; government spends hundreds of thousands a year on elk but not on indigenous species; elk as an alternate species to harvest them; Braeburn elk (100 animals) and no harvest; engaging First Nations; information on the elk meeting including agriculture conflict, habitat enhancement and compensation working group; comments from CAFN and concerns; 2016 management plan and Board recommendations on alternate feed sources; and food sources in agricultural areas and impacts due to lack of successional changes in vegetation from wildfire.

Telegraph Wire Removal

Veronica Gventsadze has been in touch with the Trust about a petition to the federal government regarding telegraph wire removal in BC and Yukon. The Board agreed that the petition should be forwarded to Board members, RRCs and the Department of Environment. Members discussed: the “Clean up the lakeshore” campaign; historical research; wire snippers to cut the wire and coiling dangers; 27 moose caught in the wire.

Review of Chapter 16

Members discussed creating a parking lot of issues for discussion including: definition of conservation; youth engagement in RRCs; liability issues to teaching children on the land; and examples from other initiatives.

Moose Management

Graham Van Tighem provided information about an interview-based project and will follow-up to verify facts.

Action Item List

- **2018-06:** The Board will gather more information about northern BC/Yukon government caribou work near Swan Lake and Rancheria.
- **2018-07:** The Board will provide contact information to Teslin for Bill Oestreich.
- **2018-08:** The Board will send a thank you to RRC chairs for attending the meeting.
- **2018-9:** The Board will send a letter to Dickson Outfitters congratulating them on their recent receipt of the Frank Golata award.

Next Meeting

Next meeting location will be set. Board members were asked to submit their topics for discussion for the on-the-land meeting.

Board Members

The Board thanked Jim King for his service on the Board and Jim provided comments to the Board members and staff recognizing each member’s individual contribution and staff’s dedication, professionalism and efforts.

Graham Van Tighem thanked Frank Thomas and Ron Chambers for their service as the Chair and Vice-Chair. He also provided comments on the work achieved over the past couple years and commended each for their dedication, support and ability to work as a team.

CLOSING PRAYER – Carl Sidney