

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

MEETING April 15 – 17, 2019

MINUTES

High Country Inn

DAY 1: Monday, April 15, 2019 – Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Carl Sidney, Dave Andrew, John Burdek, Ron Chambers, Danny Cresswell, Michelle Dawson-Beattie, Dennis Dickson, Ken Taylor, Blanche Warrington

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

SUPPORT: Colleen Henry (Minute Taker)

IN ATTENDANCE: Janice Sibbeston (YFWET Manager), Christine Cleghorn (Director, Fish & Wildlife, YE), Sandy Smarch (Teslin RRC), Miles Johnson (Co-Chair Land Management Board, CTFN), Roberta Wally (Carcross/Tagish First Nation), Mac Watson (local outfitter Yukon Outfitter Association), Barb Coppard (Environment), Rita Johns (Lands Management Board, Carcross/Tagish First Nation)

OPENING PRAYER – Carl Sidney

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

Carl Sidney welcomed everyone and provided opening remarks.

BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Graham Van Tighem provided an overview of the Board appointments. Nine of 12 Board positions are filled. Michelle Dawson Beattie and John Burdek have been reappointed. There are three YG vacancies. There were no updates on when the Board review will be completed.

Comments/Discussion:

- Minister of Environment said the Board still has quorum. There are six First Nation, one Federal and two YG representatives. Most things the Board votes on affect licensed hunters. *Members of the Board represent the entire Yukon, not just those who nominated them.*

ADMIN AND FINANCES (TAB 01)

A. AGENDA REVIEW

Carl Sidney reviewed the agenda. There were no additions or deletions.

Motion – 2019-05: That the Board accept the April 15 – 17, 2019 agenda as presented.

Moved by: Dave Andrew

Seconded by: Ken Taylor

Passed by: Consensus

Questions/Comments:

- Moose Management Framework includes harvest management framework. There will be a background presentation leading into discussion about the regulation change and tools. The presentation will be 15 minutes.
- The YSSC call of interest regarding membership will be discussed on Day 1. The Board is seeking interested CYFN nominees to participate.
- Yukon River Panel dates overlap with the Board meeting dates in December.

B. EXECUTIVE REPORT (TAB 02) – G. Van Tighem, J. Burdek

Graham Van Tighem reviewed the Executive Report provided in meeting kits. There has been no communication from government regarding the Board review.

Comments/Discussion:

Forty Mile Caribou Management Plan — Non-lethal wolf management means sterilization. Herd growth is great if habitat can sustain it. Alaska has concerns about a potential crash which would impact everyone. Yukon Government looks at habitat on a broader scale. Alaska's focus is on an annual scale. It is a healthy, challenging debate. There are discussions about calf weights and range. The panic levels are low and philosophies for management are different between Yukon and Alaska. Alaskan biologists are lobbyists.

Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in's message was strong regarding population. Yukon emphasized a little

growth and has adopted a philosophy of foregoing harvest for growth. This year it was agreed Yukon would start harvesting and Yukon government is in negotiation with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. One thousand animals are a lot to harvest. YG is in government-to-government negotiations. The herd is at 78,000.

- We're trying to manage to less. In Alaska they have so many people who want to harvest.
- The minister has met with the chief but there was not a lot of success. There is an active discussion. It would be helpful to come up with a small harvest and there should be at least 20 or 30 permits so there is some attempt to cooperate with Alaska.
- The Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee facilitated an educational exchange with Alaska. They have said there was an over-population of moose due to global warming effects on vegetation and shallow water.

If ~~we have~~ to harvest, then it can be done under an organization. If it is just opened up then there is more potential for a free-for-all, similar to what currently happens with bison. There are trails and tracks everywhere. There are two problems: How would you manage it? What would you do with it? The people who are doing that are different from those in the villages. We don't want another "bison show" with the caribou. In Alaska, state troopers won't get out of their trucks because it is dangerous from all the shooting. People shoot cows by mistake and because they are not supposed to harvest them, they leave the animals and carry on hunting. There is a population shift of hunters. Management is still the word. The Board should take a second look at it and do something that makes better sense than what happened with the bison. There should be more training for bison hunters.

- Dawson Fur Show — There were not many RRC representatives there. There were many trappers. The fur show focused on fur handling. Why don't they drum their fur? It increases the value.
- The deadline for regulation changes is 15 days.
- ORV concerns — There could be concerns regarding archaeological sites.
- ATAC road was approved by YESAB but the land use plan is still being developed. The document is eight pages long and the Board's responsibility is section 1(h). There was a presentation in February.
- The Board review has generated a lot of interest from RRCs, outfitters, public and associations.

- Taku River Tlingit First Nation is interested in working with the Board on transboundary issues.
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C. FINANCIAL UPDATE (TAB 03) – D. Sheldon

Diane Sheldon reviewed the March 31, 2019 variance report provided in meeting kits. The surplus each year is getting lower. The historical transfer has ended.

Comments/Discussion:

- The Board can carry forward 15 percent of the budget.
- Yukon government allowed a little extra time to spend the historical surplus.

Motion – 2019-06: That the Board accept the YFWMB Variance Report to March 31, 2019 as presented.

Moved by: Ken Taylor

Seconded by: John Burdek

Passed by: Consensus

FEBRUARY YFWMB MINUTES (TAB 04) – D. Sheldon

Diane Sheldon reviewed the minutes.

Questions:

- The Trust is separate from the Board which is why Janice Sibbeston is listed under the public.
- Page 6, Director's update. The first bullet refers to "conservation plan", but doesn't specify which plan.

Motion – 2019-07: That the Board approve the minutes for February 12 - 14, 2019 with amendments and clarifications.

Moved by: John Burdek

Seconded by: Ken Taylor

Passed by: Consensus

ACTION ITEM REVIEW (TAB 05) – G. Van Tighem

Graham Van Tighem reviewed the Action Item list.

Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board Status of Action Items 2018-2019	
Action Item 2018-14: The Board will work with Environment Yukon and affected First Nations and RRCs on the ATAC Road engagement process.	<i>Ongoing. There was a meeting with Ken, Carl and Blanche. This will be a broad conversation.</i>
Action Item 2018-16: The ED will draft and send a letter to the Minister of Environment and cc the Director of Fish and Wildlife announcing the completion of the draft Grizzly Bear Conservation Plan and recommending the release of this plan. In addition, the letter will include recommendations to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release the public survey on grizzly bear conservation following the release of the plan, and • Urge the Minister not to release the summary communication piece on the public survey on grizzly bear conservation. 	<i>Letter from the minister on the bear plan. This will be further discussed during the meeting.</i>
Action Item 2018-19: Executive will meet with Yukon Fish and Game Association, First Nations, and RRCs on the Elk Harvest Management issues.	<i>Executive Director will follow-up and obtain more information in the future.</i>
Action Item 2018-20: The Executive Director will follow up on the recent purchase of White Pass and determine a strategic manner to engage with the new property owner and address the issues of telegraph wire. This will include sending a letter to the company, premier Sandy Silver, Minister John Streicher, and the Federal Minister of Environment Catherine McKenna	<i>Executive Director has received correspondence from White Pass.</i>
Action Item 2018-23: The Board will draft a response letter to CYFN and government regarding the Board review, particularly as it pertains to parameters and scope of discussion, the federal government inclusion and the short timeline. The draft letter will be sent to Board members for review.	<i>All requested information was sent to Stratos including perceived challenges, capacity, recommendations, engagement, publications, operating procedures and admin policies. Interviews</i>

	<i>have taken place. The timeline has been extended to April 30.</i>
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Comments/Discussion:

- The next Yukon Forum meeting is in May.
- Comments made in the House regarding appointments was confusing. Christine was not able to provide clarification.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW (TAB 06) – G. Van Tighem

Graham Van Tighem reviewed the correspondence provided in meeting kits.

Comments/Discussion:

- #2 – The Board had a role in taking the regulation change forward. If a regulation change impacts a business, there will be an additional 60-day review. The Board provided a recommendation. Christine provided an overview of catch and release fishing and said there is an opportunity for the Board.
- #7 – Kluane Lake Research Summit — They’ve been conducting research for 40 years. Information is going to be shared with the community. The community should be able to provide direction on research projects. Ron Chambers and Dennis Dickson will attend on May 30 and June 1 in Burwash. Michelle will be the alternate.
- #9 – Public Engagement: Survey – Motor Vehicles Act — The Board will not fill out the survey but will submit customized comments.
- Letter from Dan Keyi RRC — Graham provided an overview of the resolution from Dän Keyi regarding their proposal for the YFWMB to conduct a YG Department of Environment.
- Action Item 2018-20 – Response from White Pass was in the February Board package. They want to work with Carcross/Tagish First Nation but don’t understand how. The easiest is for them to provide funding. Danny Cresswell has a copy of the correspondence.

NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR/VICE-CHAIR, CHAIR OF THE YFWET AND YFWMB (TAB 07)

Motion – 2019-08: That the Board move in-camera.

Moved by: Ron Chambers

Seconded by: Ken Taylor

Passed by: Consensus

The Board passed the following motions while in-camera:

Motion – 2019-09: That the Board approve John Burdek as Chair.

Moved by: Ron Chambers

Seconded by: Danny Cresswell

Passed by: Consensus

Motion – 2019-10: That the Board approve Michelle Dawson-Beattie as a Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee representative.

Moved by: Ken Taylor

Seconded by: Dave Andrew

Passed by: Consensus

Motion – 2019-11: That the Board approve Ken Taylor as Vice-Chair.

Moved by: Dave Andrew

Seconded by: Michelle Dawson-Beattie

Passed by: Consensus

Motion – 2019-12: That the Board approve Dave Andrew, Blanche Warrington, Carl Sidney, Ken Taylor as the Enhancement Trust Executive.

Moved by: Ron Chambers

Seconded by: Michelle Dawson-Beattie

Passed by: Consensus

Motion – 2019-13: That the Board move out of camera

Moved by: Ron Chambers

Seconded by: Ken Taylor

Passed by: Consensus

Action Item 2019-01 – The Board will review the operating procedures.

The operating procedures will be discussed at the next Board meeting.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE (TAB 08) – T. Van Bussel

Tecla Van Bussel provided a communications update. A copy of the update was provided in meeting kits.

Comments/Discussion:

- Wetlands Policy — Two more roundtable discussions are expected. A draft will be completed following the final discussion. First Nations feel there should be a land use plan before there is any policy. Tecla will continue to be involved in the policy drafting working group. Board members are welcome to discuss any issues with Tecla. The trust

funded a Yukon Conservation Society (YCS) workshop. YCS and other organizations were there. Workshop reports have not been brought forward or incorporated into the policy development. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon Government have completed work. There is strong representation from Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and from organizations such as YCS, Ducks Unlimited and mining.

- Calendar — Photographers are paid \$400 for the big photos. There is a working group for the calendar (Communications Working Group). Working group members include Michelle and Ron.
- Yukon Land Use Planning Workshop — An outcome of the workshop was the direction to develop a resolution to the Yukon Forum to begin work on cumulative effects in Yukon.

FISH AND WILDLIFE BRANCH UPDATE (TAB 09) – C. Cleghorn, M. Clarke, R. Florkiewicz

Christine Cleghorn provided a branch update on: seven new staff including three planners in the habitat planning program; wildlife capture work and program review; adaptive changes for 2019-2020; Board's role and work on adaptive changes; adaptive management and regulation change proposals, transparent permit adjustments and Board's level of involvement (recommendation, motion in the minutes or acknowledgement).

Matt Clarke provided an update on Finlayson caribou herd including: 2017 population estimate of 2,700 animals; Finlayson herd has declined with a one percent sustainable harvest (27 animals); discussions with Chief Caesar and information about Ross River's harvest and use; and zero permits for 2019.

Yukon government reviewed adaptive measures with the Board in February. Rob Florkiewicz provided an overview of the process. Further discussions will be held on Day 2 with RRC Chairs.

Comments/Discussion:

- Finlayson caribou herd
 - Population — In the early 80s the best estimate was 1,800 animals. It wasn't a full estimate. Wolf control started in 1984. The first true estimate was 3,000. What is normal? Pre-recovery it was around 3,000 animals.
 - Recovery — First step is minimizing harvest. Next step is to have meaningful dialogue with Ross River and Kaska about use, observations and understanding. Management plan of 2012 discusses aerial wolf control as a last result. There will be a discussion with trappers. The conversation has not been started.
 - Sustainability — Can the environment sustain more animals? Thinking about the size of the herd, the access by the road is one of the biggest challenges. They are

easily accessible on their winter range. There are impacts on the landscape right now, but none that will decline the herd. Ross River has been working with Sahtú Renewable Resources Board on a larger planning process.

- Knowledge — Does the department have an idea why there is a decline? The department looks at the game guardian program in 2000 to 2004.
 - Forty Mile Caribou — Yukon is not exercising its allocation of caribou harvest. The conversations are ongoing with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in which has started a subsistence harvest. There may be an opportunity to offset the harvest pressure on the Finlayson herd.
 - Planning — Yukon government is still in the engagement phase. It will be hard to implement the plan without Kaska's involvement. In the coming months there is an opportunity for the conversation to evolve. Waiting isn't going to solve the problem. There is opportunity to develop a collaborative action plan. It isn't an "all-or-none" situation. Small parts of the plan can go ahead and feed into the overall process.
 - Predator trapping — Teslin has people who target wolves. Teslin Tlingit Council is considering providing financial incentives. With Finlayson predator program 80 percent of predators were removed. That is the level required to see an increase in ungulates.
 - Legislation — BC First Nations come into Yukon and harvest. Can the area be changed for designation? Yukon has legal mechanisms to enforce non-Yukon First Nation residents from harvesting Finlayson (*Wildlife Act*). The local First Nation has subsistence rights but they do not apply to First Nations coming from someplace else. They are not aware the problem exists until government meets with First Nations.
 - North Canal check station — There is the perception that Finlayson caribou are tagged, but they are actually Red Stone.
 - Robert Campbell Highway — Are Finlayson harvested along the highway? It is assumed so. Would the government consider putting a no-hunting zone along the highway? That discussion will have to take place with the First Nations. It can't be closed for conservation, only safety.
 - Licensing structure is being contested by Ross River First Nation.
 - Managing the herd isn't about closing it to hunting. That is a management action and a first step.
- Regulation proposal procedure is a lengthy process. Adaptive management is to be more responsive but is not carte blanche. We have procedures that must take place.
 - Game Management Zone 7 East — There was going to be an adaptive management component. It will be in effect next hunting season.

Yukon government will develop a process chart for the adaptive piece and bring it back to the Board.

JUNE MEETING LOCATIONS – K. Taylor, G. Van Tighem

Ken Taylor and Graham Van Tighem reviewed meeting location options. Three options are Silver City, Moosehide and Tagish resort. Ken and Graham will inquire if Tagish resort is available. Graham will look for options within a one hour drive of Whitehorse.

December meeting will be changed to December 11, 12 and 13, 2019.

MEMBERS TIME – IN CAMERA

Members discussed the following:

- Adaptive management;
- Executive discussion with the department regarding Board concerns and lack of department reports and presentation for meeting kits;
- Letter from Dän Keyi RRC regarding government review. This will be discussed with RRC Chairs.

DAY 2: Tuesday, April 16, 2019 – RRC Chairs Meeting

PRESENT: Carl Sidney, Dave Andrew, John Burdek, Ron Chambers, Danny Cresswell, Dennis Dickson, Ken Taylor, Frank Thomas, Blanche Warrington

RRCs: Ian Fraser, Mark Weirda (**Dawson RRC**); Brenda Alfred, Jerry Kruse (**Selkirk RRC**); Laura McKinnon, John Carney (**Alsek RRC**), Barb Shannon, Franklin Patterson, Blair Andre (**Mayo RRC**); Sheila Garvice, Allen Skookum (**Carmacks RRC**); Sandy Smarch, Frank Johnstone (**Teslin RRC**); Stefan Howarth, Norm Adamson, Charolette O'Donnell (**Laberge RRC**); Pauly Sias, Sandra Johnson (**Dan Keyi RRC**); Ken Reeder (**Carcross/Tagish RRC**)

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

SUPPORT: Colleen Henry (Minute Taker)

IN ATTENDANCE: Christine Cleghorn (Director, Fish & Wildlife, YE), Janice Sibbeston (Enhancement Trust), Matt Clarke (Regional Programs, Environment), Sophie Czetwertynski (Ungulate Biologist, Environment), Todd Powell (Director, Environment), Rob Florkiewicz (Harvest Coordinator, Environment), Mark Callan (Senior Advisor, Aboriginal Relations); Rita Johns, Art Johns, Cam McKinnon, Hannah Turner, Darius Elias (Fish & Wildlife Manager, Vuntut Gwitchin FN)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS — C. Sidney

Carl Sidney said the opening prayer and welcomed everyone. There was a roundtable of introductions

RRC CHAIRS UPDATES:

1. Teslin Tlingit Council – Sandy Smarch provided an update on the following:

Moose management plan with Teslin Tlingit Council (TTC). A couple areas are in the red zone. The moose population is low. Seven moose were hit on the highway. There are lots of wolves all over. Government depends on trappers to fix the wolf problem, but it's not working. We need something more on the wolf situation.

- Wolf and salmon program are ongoing and the RRC will seek additional funding.
- Trout study on spawning beds is completed and the report has been delivered.
- Trapping was poor this past winter. There are no tracks or sign. Requested a study from the game branch. It could be due to lack of snow. Teslin area had 20 inches all winter. Two winters ago, we had rain in the middle of winter and it froze everything and since then it has been bad. There are no mice either.

2. Dawson RRC — Ian Fraser provided an update on the following:

- Forty Mile caribou herd is doing well. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in and Yukon government are working on opening a hunt. Two members went to the Harvest Management Coalition. We just got results back and they were positive.
- The youth trapping program in the schools is going well. Would like to expand on this to go on the land. There are five small traplines. One is open for youth to use. The RRC is looking for someone to coordinate. COs asked the RRC to take over the traplines and to look for applicants. The other option was to make it into a no-trapping area. The RRC took it over and made it into five smaller traplines. The RRC tries not to put the same person in there. It is usually someone who has small kids. There are restrictions: no Conibears, no snares, markings. There hasn't been any negative feedback. Contact information is provided. One trapper is more than willing to take youth out.
- There was a moose sausage-making workshop. It turned out well. This is the second workshop. The RRC is planning on doing it again this year.
- Timber supply analysis is ending. It started last fall with the local knowledge resource project and we have the results for second year. There were 20 participants. It is falling into place. There were 150 questions. It will provide an overall view from trappers, miners, hunters, berry pickers, fishermen.
- Gold Corp is still in their YESAB application process. The RRC commented with concerns on increased access. They are working on ways to mitigate it. Forty Mile caribou expanding their range don't want to interfere with that.
- Highway signage — In the last 10 years there have been 25 moose hit. There were no injuries. Highways has cut back foliage on the roads to increase visibility. There were a couple hit with transport trucks. Some were hit with small vehicles. There is good h a b i t a t between tailing ponds and airport and visibility is low in the spring and late fall when there is no snow and it's dark. If we keep it knocked down and get some signage it should help. The meat is salvaged. This spring a cow and a calf were both hit. Whatever meat isn't salvaged is used by trappers. If companies have to pay a penalty then the drivers are directed to slow down. Pictures of the wreckage are posted on Facebook and used as an education tool to encourage drivers to slow down. Salvaged meat is often not fit for human consumption because of adrenaline.
- Sheep hunting course was well attended. People were interested.

- Dawson Fur Show — Trappers said martin prices went down. Fur prices were low.
- North Fork hydro project — Talking about activating the whole ditch. There is a feasibility study and the RRC is involved.
- Youth mentorship — Emma Tomtom is our youth member. She has been an asset to the council and will hopefully help the RRC reach more youth. It is a good way to get people involved.
- Website — The RRC has a Facebook page. Emma has updated it and it is a good tool to share information.
- SARA Presentation — The RRC got the presentation. It wasn't only caribou, but wolverine. If the rest of Canada is having problems with wildlife, but the north isn't, they won't be grouping it. They want to make sure the territory has a management plan in place. The main message was to pay more attention to the information coming from COSEWIC.
- AGW — Dawson RRC will be hosting the AGW. The full-time secretariat position will be filled, hopefully in May.

3. Selkirk RRC — Jerry Kruse provided an update on the following:

- Newest member is Andy Silverfox.
- AGW for 2018 — It took a lot of time to organize. The RRC hired a coordinator and facilitator. It turned out well and there were a lot of positive comments. There was a resolution to review the Department of Environment. Now it is the YFWMB that had a review. Planning takes a lot of time and energy.
- It is very busy. Met with Mike Callan regarding trapping. There are two changes to the moose regulations.
- Salmon is a main concern.
- Cost and financing — With the number of activities funding is spread thin.
- May Gathering — As part of the fish and wildlife management policy, fish and wildlife are discussed and recommendations are made to government or local people.
- Grizzly bear and management — There will be another meeting. The number of bear encounters were tremendous in Carmacks. Everyone wants to know what to do. The safety of the children and general public is a big concern in the community. Education is a big part (i.e. garbage).
- Policy and procedures have been updated. Cost of an auditor is over \$7,000. Financial agreement with government says we're responsible for where funds go and how it's spent and that we must have an audit. Is there a way to turn it around and make

government pay for the audit? Every year the Board and the RRCs have to get an audit. Subcommittees don't have to have an audit every year. There is an inconsistency in the application of the agreement. Who is the audit for? If you don't need a big audit, why have it? Take another look and see who is reading the audit on our behalf. Funding is tight.

- Kathleen Zimmerman of Aboriginal Relations required another signature prior to release of payment. It might come in on April 24.

4. Alsek RRC — John Carney provided an update on the following:

- Community-based fish and wildlife work plan — Pine Creek fish habitat project through RRC surplus. Environmental Dynamics Inc. (EDI) worked on Pine Creek trying to enhance habitat. Hopefully it will bring back Arctic grayling. EDI has done electro fishing. They went back this spring and there will be monitoring through the summer.
- Wetlands work — Creek habitat restoration and wetlands is another issue. Beavers are natural and ponds are natural. There will be discussions. There were rivers otters in the creek as well.
- Moose population is a big topic. Much of the area is on permit system for harvest and is difficult on the locals. 80 percent of the people live in Whitehorse. There is lack of opportunity for locals. Alsek integrated moose management plan and wolf reduction program was established with three-year funding. The review was carried out by a third party. They recommended discontinuing the program. People were seeing results and there was a positive effect on moose populations. There was a lack of communication with trappers who had participated and had not been informed of the review. People are discouraged.
- Revitalized trapping industry — Traps were purchased for sign-out.
- Timber harvest planning — RRC works as part of the CAFN traditional territory and forest management branch reps. They contracted out the first project for a timber harvest plan for Quill Creek. It is the first plan to be done through industry. There was a presentation and feedback. CAFN attended.
- Public meetings — People care about the local resources and management. There are large turnouts to meetings. For example, the ORV meeting had 60 people attend which was a surprise.
- Intake for regulation change proposals — There were 42 plus proposals to the RRC from the public. They will be sorted to identify regulations with help from Graham and others. There will be a meeting on April 25.
- YESAB applications — Some are very straight forward. Having local knowledge is beneficial. There is one for fishing on Aishihik Lake.

- Wildlife collisions — YG is looking at programming brush management along the side of the highways. Collisions between Whitehorse and Burwash Landing are a concern. A young person died last year and people are still dealing with the loss. There have been some close calls. RCMP are pulling people over to give warnings. Instead of putting signs up, put up wildlife cut-outs. There is a government website to comment on highway safety. It would be a good idea to discuss it at the AGW. People can tip lights on and off to oncoming drivers. A lot of drivers don't know what it means. In the Southern Lakes the RRC works to reduce collisions and there is an LED sign out all winter. Lars Jessup has contact information. Government put up solar panel lights on a trailer near Sheep Mountain.
- Aishihik hydro licence renewal — Renewal is coming up. CAFN is quite concerned.
- Appointments — There are struggles with appointments and maintaining quorum. One co-chair wasn't renewed and another member who reapplied wasn't renewed. People are away and there is no quorum. The RRC is waiting on three appointments. The RRC would like to see if the minister would consider advancing the application process so that there is no gap. CAFN already nominated members, but government still has to approve them.

5. Carmacks RRC — Sheila Garvice provided an update on the following:

- Community fish and wildlife plan review and five-year plan. There was a meeting with Yukon Environment and Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation lands department. There was a community survey, dinner and meeting involving conservation officer. There was also artwork from school children. The plan is published and there will be a community dinner to celebrate and distribute the plan.
- Placer mining — Focused on rules, impacts and monitoring. At previous meetings the RRC was exposed to the mapping of the placer mine claims and process for awarding claims. The meetings involved EMR officer.
- Traplines, cabins, overlap issues — RRC met with Mark Callan and the conservation officer. They processed one trapline possession reapplication and made recommendation to LSCFN. They rejected the recommendation and the process is on hold until they make a final decision.
- Negotiated fishing management plan on Mandanna Lake — It is still under negotiation with the outfitter and Yukon government.
- Canada wetlands workshop — Attended the workshop by Yukon Conservation Society and attended the wetlands policy development roundtable. The RRC is very concerned about lands management in the area and climate change.
- Moose management — There discussions and council members participated in the moose count survey.

- The community survey in relation to research project on wolverine.
- The purchase of bat houses to put around the community.
- Considering purchasing bear-proof garbage bins and reminding the community about bear safety.
- Plans to educate the community about single-use items including plastic bags and disposals. The RRC will be purchasing reusable cotton bags to be distributed by the store and is also looking at putting together potlatch bags. The aim is to encourage greater awareness on issues with ocean plastic, climate change and impacts on salmon and other wildlife.
- Six permanent members and no alternates. Meetings are well attended, but sometimes it is difficult as meetings are planned at the last minute and the majority of the council are employed so it is difficult for members to leave their jobs.
- There was a concern that the Yukon government consulted community through Engage Yukon website. Many people don't have computers and can't participate.

6. Mayo RRC — Franklin Patterson provided a printed copy of his report. He highlighted the following:

- Thank you to Shannon for doing a good job and holding everything together.
- Highlights: Bear smart program with the community, Wildwise, YG and COs attended a public meeting. Looking at ways to prevent bears from coming into the community.
- Mayo moose management unit — Numbers were taken by the regional biologist and there are concerns. Regulation change proposals. Cut permits to 11 tags for Mayo area for licensed resident hunters. There are no collisions because there are no moose.
- Conservation officers — There are concerns that there are not enough COs during hunting season. COs don't have enough time to be out everywhere.
- A high school student is the RRC youth representative. Kids aren't interested in what's going on in the outside world. We need to get them interested.
- Wetland forums — Mayo area is full of wetlands.
- Burbot fishing — Oliver attended a meeting. Regulations on burbot were high. Yukon government is trying to get the count so they will shut down the regulation. There is no way to count burbot on the river. There is concern about how many burbot people can catch and how many hooks they can have out.
- Meeting with McPherson RRC and Dawson RRC — Shared ideas on caribou, moose and climate change. With the snow melt there is a big concern for forest fires.
- RRC Day was hosted in Mayo. Thanks to those who participated. It was a successful day.
- Victoria Gold is up and running. They're not in production yet, but there are 500 people hired. There are a lot of new faces, families and friends visiting. It will have a major impact on the area (moose hunting).

- The wolf handling workshop was held last April including five local trappers with the department.
- The RRC still continues with the YESAB files. There is no land use plan in place. Yukon government needs to get going with the land use plan. They called it the Peel watershed land use plan, yet Peel watershed is way up in the mountain, quite a ways away from Mayo.
- Salmon resiliency workshops, presentations and meetings.
- ATAC road on the bottom half of the Peel watershed. Proposed road to go up into main moose habitat area funneled into Mayo. They proposed a one-year plan. No one feels that is long enough. Looking to stall the process. One year is not enough time to understand the impacts. It is a big money boom and brings other problems.

Carl Sidney welcomed Art Johns, a founding member of the YFWMB, to the meeting. Graham Van Tighem also provided welcoming comments.

7. Laberge RRC — Stefan Howarth provided an update on the following:

- Struggles with appointments and meeting quorum.
- YESAB reports, water licensing and land applications flood the office.
- Wetlands policy roundtables attendance.
- Shallow Bay water quality testing is ongoing in partnership with Ta'an Kwäch'än Council and Environmental Service Inc.
- Met with Minister Ranj Pillai and Michael Draper regarding ORV regulations.
- Attended meetings for elk, caribou and moose management.
- Southern Lakes caribou in the classroom program work with RRCs and First Nations.
- Elk/Agriculture conflict meetings;
- Southern Lakes Forestry Management plan.
- Meetings with Aboriginal Relations from ECO and Environment to try and resolve issues.
- Workshops on strategic planning and team building, Chapter 16 and Roles and responsibilities of the board because of the large changeover.
- Attended Pelly AGW in June.
- Muskrat camp — Norm Adamson is requested to attend next year.

8. Dan Keyi RRC — Pauly Sias provided an update on the following:

- Ongoing wildlife observation project — Working with the community to refine the goals. Surplus funding is being used to review the project. More information is available from the office.
- Community projects — people are invited to contribute to the annual work plan. There is a dinner in Destruction Bay and Burwash Landing.
- Annual open house is on May 14.

- Wildlife collisions — We used to have lots. Department of Highways has done a lot of brushing and there has only been one moose hit. Working to get something at Sheep Mountain. This year we had eight sheep killed. Suddenly with the help of Parks Canada and Yukon Government and Kluane First Nation (KFN) we have a flashing sign. There have been no sheep hit since then. We have talked about salt on the roads that attract sheep. Wild wise has made signs and brochures warning tourists.
- Sixth annual fishing trip on Kluane Lake with school kids and daycares. Noticed decline of chum. Many eddies that were spawning areas.
- Council members will go door to door to talk to people about bear attractants. Last year bears weren't a problem. There are lots on the highway and numbers are increasing.
- Lot of interest in water level of Kluane Lake, impacts to wildlife, safety concerns and research. DKRRC and KFN will host a meeting on May 30 to June 1. It will give people an opportunity to inform future research and create an ongoing dialogue about traditional knowledge and science.
- Muskrat camp took place the last week of March. The camp caught the tail end of solid ice. In other years we had weather of -35 or -40. It was different this year.
- Started reviewing trapline allocation criteria and guidelines. Co-hosted meetings with Kluane First Nation. Criteria review is ongoing as is KFN policy development. Aiding local trappers by providing wolf snares and trapping bait. Want to offer fur handling workshops this coming fall. Trapping has been hard. People had everything set and then there was rain. It was not successful.
- Working with KFN to address strategic forestry management.
- Unable to attend the past AGW but hope to attend November's AGW in Dawson.
- Executive Director was able to go to wilderness first aid training and participated in lateral kindness workshop. Wherever possible we partner with KFN for staff training.
- New human resource policy with updated terms of reference for Executive Director.
- Camera project — Successfully recording photos of wildlife including moose, bear, hares, lynx, wolverine, wolves, deer. Hare population is crashing. A short video was produced and can be viewed on the Board's website and DKRRC website.
- Used surplus funding for Kluane Lake school proposal for fish net program.
- Comment regarding fire near Kluane Lake — People had no idea who started it. The area is not the same. People can do things and nobody knows who did it. In Aishihik area, half the islands were burnt off. Local people don't do that. It was people who come and camp. Fire is one of the worst things you can have.

Carl Sidney welcomed Darius Elias.

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

- Muskrat camp — The second muskrat camp was held last year. The camp was cancelled this year. 20 kids in total attended. We got eight muskrats and a beaver. It has been a great event. Norm Adamson attended. Tried to use the Squanga Lake campground. It took three weeks to get the permit to use the day-use campground. Everything is slow and bogged down. One concern was bears but the RRC didn't think it would be an issue with 40 people and snowmobiles around.
- Cisco project has been completed. Elders provided traditional knowledge. EDI came and did sampling on the lake. The information will be posted online. The cisco are healthy but the numbers are low.
- Outfitter brings meat which is processed and shared with elders, single moms and those in need. Would like to access more.
- Grizzly bear conservation plan — It is a huge concern. There is a big problem in Southern Lakes. People don't believe in roadside hunting.
- Trappers gathering to hear concerns and observations — There are door prizes, gas cards and snare-making. Trappers don't have the opportunity to harvest a late game moose. They asked for bait. Can we get one moose out of 10 permits to share? 300 chum salmon was purchased from Dawson as bait starter. Talk to game guardians in TTC regarding bait. They could probably bring some or you can pick it up.
- Road kills — Some animal meat can be salvaged. It is a problem.
- Community meetings — Hosted four meetings in Mount Lorne, Marsh Lake, Tagish and Carcross. Working toward fish and wildlife management plans and will work with Carcross/Tagish First Nation on a community-based plan. It is Whitehorse's back yard. We are constantly hammered. There is a lot of pressure.
- On-the-land gathering will be a three-day event on June 7 – 9.
- Membership appointments is a hardship. The RRC can't form quorum.
- Want a workshop to review the spirit and intent of agreements.

Darius Elias provided an update on North Yukon which consisted of the following:

- There are 55,548 kilometres of traditional territory to keep an eye on. Of that, 31,200 is protected for all time. Signing off on the last management plan for the area that borders with NWT and comes down the Bell River to the confluence of the Porcupine River. There will be a signing ceremony for a protected area on the May long weekend.
- Beginning the third management plan for Vuntut National Park. It is 4,345 square kilometres. Fishing Branch management plan needs to be redone along with the bear management plan and conflict plan.

- Re-established dozens of water monitoring and quality throughout traditional territory measuring a variety of things, mostly salmon.
- Climate change emergency — We're dealing with a rapidly changing environment. Some tributaries in Fishing Branch area are de-watering and we don't know why. Yukon River Panel provided \$125,000 for egg fertilization, similar to Dead Man. That project will take place this summer to try to increase the level of survival.
- Experiencing large slumping that blocks off the Crow River due to melting permafrost. We will study the mercury and methane release and clogging of rivers and creeks.
- Caribou work ongoing in partnership with YG on collaring the local biological sampling of the Porcupine caribou herd.
- Signed a native user agreement for Porcupine caribou herd among self-governing First Nations in the north. It will be announced fairly quickly.
- Remote camera sensing in various areas throughout the traditional territory in partnership with various levels of government.
- Salmon sonar project has been tremendously successful and will continue in partnership with DFO.
- Traditional pursuits program assisting hunters and trappers to go out on the land or to purchase equipment is ongoing. The policy will be reviewed to ensure efficiency.
- University research projects on muskrat in Old Crow Flats is ongoing and there should be a final report.
- Migratory moose population in Old Crow Flats was known in the 1980s through traditional knowledge. It has just been verified through science. The population is in the hundreds. It is the only migrating moose population.
- Peel watershed senior liaison committee process will be concluded and recommended plan will be provided to parties.
- Working closely with North Yukon RRC and partners.
- Game guardian is constantly out in all areas. He's doing a good job and we have submitted a proposal to the land guardianship program to complement the work. There are 182 working days for citizens to work on the salmon project or with researchers in the traditional territory. Water is a priority.
- Finalizing first ever community-based salmon plan. It will include an international aspect.
- Comment: Bear project at Fishing Branch — Bear population was down because salmon weren't there. Outfitters in Dawson said there were more bears in Dawson than they had ever seen. There is a cause and effect. That is why we have to talk. Our problems are not standalone. Communication is so important.

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

- Interim Chair, Chair and Vice-Chair, Trust, YSSC (Carl and Michelle), appointment expirations (Frank and Shirley), staff (Graham, Diane, Tecla). Janice Sibbeston is the trust manager. YSSC's new ED is Elizabeth MacDonald.
- Discuss the audit at the AGW. Staff works for a month to prepare for the audit.
- Graham attended muskrat camp with CTRRC and taught fishing, fish ecology, wilderness travel and responsibility. There were 30 kids.
- Northern wildlife symposium in Dease Lake and discussions on transboundary issues and impacts.
- Partnerships with YESAB, work and relationships.
- Wild sheep foundation and new associations.
- Yukon River Panel.
- UFA, Board, practices and programs.
- Peel and Beyond workshop.
- Animal Health Act, domestic/wild sheep encounters and animal control order.
- Meeting with First Nation lands and resource directors.
- Author Graham White's chapter on UFA, YFWMB and work.
- Wild wise work and the City of Whitehorse with attractants.
- On the land meeting at Little Salmon Village and discussions with local leaders.
- Elk management, working group meetings, conflict and management plan.
- Discussion regarding Unfurled and challenges.
- AGW and conversations regarding Board honoraria, cost of living increases, federal rates for travel.
- Mayo RRC day.
- Wild sheep working group meetings, game management zone 7 east regulation changes and issues, ORV access, influx in communities.
- Edible meat definition (bear) and regulation change.
- CYFN GA.
- Fish and Game Association, Wild Sheep, Board review and participation.
- Dän Keyi RRC youth camp for chum salmon and lecture on habitat.
- Carcross/Tagish RRC meetings in Tagish and Mount Lorne.
- School bison hunt.
- Forty Mile caribou transboundary herd, recovery plan, Yukon harvest (1000 animals a year), Yukon government.
- Angling working group, barbless hooks, Mandanna Lake, Teslin Lake.
- HEED and discussions regarding social media.
- Wetland policy.
- ORV regulations.

- Trapper working group.
- Grizzly bear management plan, government-to-government consultations and First Nations issues and concerns with the plan.
- Regulation changes, reconfiguring approaches and changes to public meetings.
- Media involvement.
- Fisheries Act review and supporting YSSC.
- Permit hunt authorizations recommendations and reconfiguration.
- Moose harvest working group and presentations on changes to management.
- Dawson Fur Show.
- AGW resolutions need to come out 60 days in advance to allow for discussion among RRCs prior to the meeting.
- ATAC road section 1(h) regarding harvest regime.
- *Motor Vehicles Act* review.
- Board review (Yukon Forum) and Alsek RRC's resolution regarding Department of Environment. RRCs are encouraged to let Alsek know whether they support it or not.

MOOSE MANAGEMENT FRAMEWORK DISCUSSION — YG & G. Van Tighem

Christine Cleghorn provided an update on the moose management framework including: concerns; options; displaced pressure; discussions with the Board and recommendations; the need for local conversations and solutions; presentation to the Board and RRCs; refining regulation change proposal; framework for moose management in Yukon document; Board recommendations to Minister of Environment regarding the framework document update; tools required by First Nations to manage licensed harvest; and timeframe to January/March 2020.

Comments/Discussion: (government responses are in italics)

- Permitting system — One group of people ignored is the trappers, especially non-aboriginal. Will they have to get a permit like everyone else? There should be some giveaway for trappers, especially those on the land. *To comments in response, the toolkit offers other strategies to manage moose more closely without having to get to permits everywhere. Permits have their value, but maybe that's not what we want. It's not a given. In the toolkit there is something that references moose for trappers. We can look at it. Additionally, encourage your RRC to comment. The old framework is very prescriptive. The Board and department want the next iteration to be useful to identify tools, usage and options. Non-First Nation trapper can take a moose up to the end of January but not in a permitted area.*

- We're at the beginning of a conversation that various leaders have been asking us to have. I've heard non-stop that there needs to be a profound local voice and needs to be the impetus for a lot of the conversations. The status quo is well-established regulation change process which takes time and is limited. We have a moose harvest management guideline which is outdated based on a small-scale public review. Technology is available now that wasn't available then. We need to have those conversations. This is a long, slow process when a population starts to decline. One observation over the years is that putting something on permit doesn't mean a population will recover. Southern Lakes moose has been on permit for 40 years and has not yet recovered. Local voice is a big part of it.
- Teslin traditional territory has two areas in the red zone already. When you look at everyone, that's very important. Quit shooting cows. Younger generation hunters harvest cows and don't take time to look for bulls. We need to look at predators: black bears, grizzlies, wolves. There are way too many. Haven't heard of anyone killing black bears in a long time. There was a big blowout around roadside hunting. All this other stuff won't work. We need to get hard on the issue. We're getting further into trouble. Everybody is.
- Do the same benefits apply to hobby trappers? People come from other parts of the world. Is that what the benefits are for the same reason? Trappers formed the traplines because it was open to everybody everywhere. Trappers got together and made rules to help families out. Back in those days everyone lived off the land. Art, Alex Van Bibber — they outfitted in the fall and trapped in the winter. Are we still talking about the same thing today or in the future when more and more people are becoming hobby trappers? Is that the same principle we looked at historically? If we do like big parts of Alaska with reality show trappers, they get the benefits. Nothing stays the same, but sometimes it does because nobody questions it.
- 22 years ago the main topic I started with the RRC and the discussion was the same as it is now. Back in the day trappers got two moose, now it's one. Trappers had an opportunity to take a moose further in the bush. If we go to a permit for a quick fix — there are so many band-aids on this thing, we're watching it slowly crumble and we're not dealing with it on a whole. Why don't we permit the whole Yukon and get it over with. We're not dealing with it as a whole. The moose are getting eaten more and more. We talk about the swarm hunting. In Teslin, in Morley, I got a grip on wolves, we were worried about too many moose being hunted in 1023. It was the most heavily hunted zone. We did the numbers and 10 percent were getting harvested annually. We were right and we were over hunting. Trappers are predator control. We overhunted the zone but the zone allowed it because we were doing predator control. Just permitting it

won't solve it. We're band-aiding and not curing it. If we're going to permit, permit across the whole Yukon. But all Yukoners should have a say.

- *The initiative discussed in December was a broad-scale Yukon-wide approach addressing the problems on a broad scale. We're not talking about one-offs.*
- Is anyone having this conversation with northern BC? We have influx from BC hunters in Carcross and Teslin. Teslin has gone to Dease Lake and sat in meetings and this is the same things they're talking about. We wanted to join forces to get something done in BC. It's being talked about. BC is going through an organization. Tahltan and outfitters are getting together to make it happen. There have been three meetings so far. The Board, Teslin and TRTFN were there as well.
- In Mayo, we had someone come up with a one big game per year. Changing the act for resident hunters so they have two years or five years. The unfairness comes in the local residential hunters. The first to go should be the outfitters. People are actually eating the meat and then there are trophy hunters. There are no counts done in the area. We need to look at doing counts. Darius said there were migrating moose. It could be where our moose are going.
- *Regarding BC, YG has regular communications with BC on a number of issues. Strength is shown when we show progress on issues.*
- What is the forecast for hunting pressure 10 years from now? That's what we want to get an idea on. Haines Junction has been a permit area for a long time. There are concerns that if you're applying for a permit the number of people you're applying against is growing exponentially. Locals are concerned their opportunity to get a permit is reduced. People are anxious to see people showing up from a long way away. How can local chances be improved? From the timber harvest plan you will displace animals and put more roads in there and hunting pressure will increase. Is our opportunity going to get worse? *If we were to look at Yukon moose management on a territory-wide approach, licensed harvesters take 700 animals, not all out of permit zones. We can identify opportunities to reduce harvest pressure. Population has been rising two percent. If the population is 50,000 ten years from now we will see an increased number of licensed and moose tag holders. It will be a noticeable increase. First Nation populations are increasing and so is subsistence harvest rights. More individuals have access through their rights. Those are big picture things to think about. We want to engage with community. We want to find solutions to create local opportunities and spread pressures out.* There will be a lot more pressure and less moose. There will be more pressures on populations.
- We have to be realistic. More people are hunting than they used to and that is part of the problem. We have \$80,000 jet boats, toy haulers, drones, float planes and electrolytes. A big part is technology. Our responsibility is to have a fundamental change

of people's attitudes in the territory. "I didn't get my moose." There is a perception of values. We need education around it too.

- Access is a major issue. We're looking at moose management. Are you looking at infrastructure management as well? Are you looking at habitat degradation over time? *It's a timely comment. A recent article published showed one of the biggest effects on caribou population was access. One tool that comes up is managing trails and having designated trails. When communities have their conversations, designated trails can apply in some areas. The situation is different in different parts of the Yukon. We have to look at the entire Yukon but strategies have to be quite different. Hunting around Pilot Mountain is different from hunting in Mayo.*
- Putting in rules and regulations is fine, but there is no means for enforcement. Hopefully somebody can get government to start increasing game wardens. It also relates to ORV enforcement. Who will enforce ORVs? We need to have game wardens to enforce rules. That's not happening in Mayo right now. First Nations have game guardians, but they need to have some power.
- On access, if you can afford a quad, we will be all over you, but not if you have a jet boat or float plane. We're not talking about all modes of transportation. Sometimes you create nice highways for local wolves. If you had your finger on the button to manage moose in Yukon, if you had the budget and you're a moose biologist, what would you do? *I'm the numbers person. The presentation you received, I put the numbers together. The solutions are hard. They are social decisions on how to deal with low numbers. Situations are different in different areas. It's never going to be perfect, but people need to think about how big the problems are in the different areas. How much does harvest need to be restricted? In some areas we're at the sustainable level. Where we are confident we can use alternative tools. Keep in mind that in places where harvest isn't double what it's supposed to be, make it accessible to folks, but allow people to take their kids out. They may be unsuccessful, but they can still go. I would look at every area. The more I look at the maps, the more I see there are different problems in different areas. You also need the support of local people.*
- Shakwak job there was 100-man camps so there was a no-hunting area which is 24 hours. There were a lot of moose coming back and road hunters are shooting at them. How many do they wound? If there is a no-hunting corridor in Mayo, Whitehorse hunters won't go there. Check stops sharpen your pencil, making sure you have trigger locks on. Some people have three tags and three different guns.
- We're outfitter trophy hunting, but all meat is taken out and we donate meat to Teslin. The bigger issue is licensed harvest, why don't we talk about other things like prescribed burns, predator control, so that we don't have groups fighting over the same small piece of the pie. Make the pie bigger. It might make life easier if people can harvest bears etc.

- The biggest predator of all is us. We let other people come into the Yukon and they only have to wait a year to become a predator. We have to look at it that way. The history of North America is you come from somewhere else and you can harvest. We're the last area of this whole show. In Alaska, when they made their land claims settlement, they made their harvesting rights. The non-First Nations wanted to harvest so they made a subsistence law. When it was 50,000 people in Alaska it wasn't a problem. Now there are almost 500,000 people in Anchorage. There are pushing to one million. They get subsistence harvest rights within a year because they voted it in for themselves. The state troopers do not get out of their trucks when the hunt is on because of extreme shooting. First Nations don't go there to hunt even though they have the right. If we don't control it for ourselves, do you think the next group coming in will do it for us? No. "Yukoners first" is okay. Some people move to Yukon because they can. That's how people hide. We're all thinking the same thing. How come we can't resolve our issue? One of the old First Nation saying was: Lots of caribou here used to be. Is that going to be our term 20 or 30 years down the road?
- Regarding new technology and hunting experience, whether you're successful or not, can we restrict the use of new technology for part of the day? In Alberta, you couldn't use ATCs. People can go out to hunt and may or may not be successful, but you're not taking advantage of access. You're doing it on foot and restrict for part of the day and do hunting for part of the day. We have tools to be successful 100 percent of the time if we want to be. But do we want to be?
- Politics is how we manage wildlife which is odd. Political decisions may have no influence on the moose population or bear depending on where you're from. *From the department's perspective, we identify a problem that needs to be addressed. We see we are harvesting unsustainably. We don't want to push our problems further into the back country. Wildlife management is people management. We are fortunate to have these structures like the Board and RRCs. There is a sweet spot and if we can situate ourselves there we will get to where we want to be.*
- The moose harvest framework is a good place to start. It's 15 years old and needs updating. There may be some new ideas but it's a good place to start. It maintains the RRCs' independence. It's not just permits or nothing. There are other tools in there that go the whole range. We need to look at it overall. Review the framework for when the Board comes to talk to RRCs individually to talk about specific areas.
- *When you're having your conversations about tools, nothing you say is set in stone. With wildlife management changes should be adaptive. Give it your best shot, if it doesn't work, you can change it. Have a number of options. All of this will change over the next few years. You might not get it right the first time, but that's okay.*

- On enforcement and access, a big part of access is putting licences and visible identification on vehicles so that there is some way of reporting when people break the rules. Everybody likes freedom, but given that we know where we are going with technology and access it might be a good idea to keep these things in mind.
- How can I turn this into more equipment. At a meeting in the basement of the Gold Rush, someone was going to propose no hunting along highways in Yukon. It's easy for you to say when you go down river, but I have to hunt along roadways because I'm not able. Change is tough. Hunters adapt fast. When the ORV regulations come in, they will sell more boats. Moose hunting is about, "Let's plan our year. Reserve time for moose hunting." It's special because it's an annual event and is planned first every year. Bison hunting doesn't fall that way. Hunters will always adapt. Bison hunting had a huge impact on the area. Change is difficult but hunters will adapt faster and in ways you don't know yet.
- A number of years ago my mother was a special constable with a badge. It was another pair of eyes and ears on the land. There were a number of people who were maybe deputized. Trappers are a step up from the average citizen who comes to the Yukon and lives in Whitehorse. There could be more recognition. They spend their time looking out for the areas allocated to them. Yukoners have to be possessive to the Yukon. When you earn your time and prove you're a Yukoner and understand what it means then you can have what the rest of us has. Not just after a year. It's on us to say this is what we like. Wolves are learning how to get bison. I also feel strongly about the wolf clan and the cultural side.
- There is little conversation about, "What I'm willing to give up". If we talked about that we might get closer to what's possible and we might find out we're not afraid to have big ideas that we think might not sell. We had to start with educating people in Yukon. First Nations have a right. The rest have a privilege. I have to start thinking about giving up my privilege to hunt every year and hunt every second or third. I'm thinking of all these things I can give up. Maybe if we think about what we are willing to give up maybe we will come up with solutions that will work for everyone.
- In the 80s I read the synopsis every year to look for the loopholes. It used to say we have about 40,000 moose. It says we have 70,000. How is that possible? Surveying is better. It used to say we had 4,500 wolves. What is the real number? Out of 70,000 moose, five percent is a big number. Are we taking that many? There were more taken in the 80s and 90s by licensed hunters. If we're still taking the same number, where is the problem? We're not dispersing, we're slam dunking in zones. *If you talk about moose as one population then 700 out of 70,000 is one percent and is sustainable. We have people going to certain areas and harvesting at a higher level than is sustainable. We divided regions into zones. In southern Yukon most accessible areas have sustainable*

or above sustainable rates. It is sustainable if we spread out. We also need to be organized about how to spread it out.

- I respect how Environment has to manage challenges which are huge. I don't know that they hear the voice of the First Nations and the voice of the licensed hunters and outfitters. We need to disperse the hunting, but elders in Ross River can't go further out. It won't fix everything. We need to stop fighting and think about what we want. When I was a licensed hunter growing up, I wasn't forced to get involved in management. When I became an outfitter I had to read the guidelines etc. There may be 3,000 moose harvested and there maybe 30,000 calves. What's eating the moose? We should look at what we want as Yukoners and try to deliver that message in Yukon instead of arguing.
- I was born and raised on the land and I had to get a moose in March because my grandmother, aunties and uncle depended on me to get that cow moose. It was medicine for them. I respect that and always will. It doesn't happen today because all the elders have moved on. They would eat the unborn calves. They did it forever. To talk about moose management, basically it's people and predation management. Nobody is getting all the wolves that they should. The culling practice has disappeared. Nobody is hunting bears. Last fall all cow moose had no calves in Ross River. The bears are taking all the calves. Wolves and predation, ravens are good scavengers too. We have to look after everything, not just moose. The government should be putting on a workshop for RRCs, the Board, First Nation governments and talk about all issues: caribou, predation, bears, moose. They should be talked about all the time. All we're doing is band-aiding. We have to deal with everything, fish and wildlife and environment. Let's get a handle on it instead of trying to fix one problem.
- *As I look ahead at where we go from here, I feel good. I wanted to highlight the framework and pump air into the tires. As we're getting to the regulation change proposal we will loop back to RRCs. I want to reiterate that there are 12 people in various offices in regional programs keen to keep working with RRCs. If you need other resources pulled into your conversations, let government know.*

TRAPLINE ALLOCATION AND OVERLAP ISSUES — M. Callan

Mark Callan provided a brief background. He is working with ECO as an implementation advisor in Aboriginal Relations until July. He provided an overview of the trapline allocation and overlap issues. He has been working with and had discussions on an initiative to address traplines in overlap areas as agreed up with First Nations and recognizing them to be under the mandate of RRCs. He has met with the four First Nations and there is support. He will clarify the role of the Government of Canada and the RRCs. The initiative would introduce new traplines under their

umbrella. The Government of Canada wants to be kept informed but they do not need to be signatory to the agreements. In 2013, the four First Nations signed an administrative agreement. It shows agreement among First Nations for traplines that may be designated as category 1. The final agreement suspends the trapline administration mandate of RRCs in overlapping area. YGs position has been to allocate traplines as long as First Nations agree. In some cases First Nations have not had those discussions. It would be beneficial if there was one process. It is not an amendment to the final agreement or a legal modification. It would be an operational agreement of all parties involved to create efficiencies, fairness and more trapping opportunities for all Yukoners. It is being rolled out to First Nations and RRCs. It could be moved to other areas of Yukon to operate in the same way.

Regarding the trapline admin questionnaire sent out last year, Mark sent out a response. It is rare to speak to all RRCs at once. It was valuable to get feedback from the questionnaire. In some cases there were clear feelings and feedback from RRCs on proposed ideas and suggested changes. Mark proposed developing a steering committee and holding a meeting in conjunction with the RRC AGW in November. Mark discussed creating a policy manual to answer questions and provide clear direction. He has applied for funding to hire facilitators, cover catering and room rentals and potentially cover travel support. Ideas are welcome.

Comments/Discussion: (Mark's answers and comments are in italics)

- Would it matter if the First Nation were self-governing? *I have not looked at that yet. I don't think there are any traplines in the 2013 agreement that would require the interaction of non-self-governing First Nations. If there were interest with other First Nation governments we would investigate. Can't see a reason why they can't be involved. It would be a matter of having that conversation and getting some documentation of agreement.*
- Have you thought about what happens with Kwanlin Dün First Nation which doesn't have an RRC? *They are a specific case. I need to reengage with Kwanlin Dün. We have come up with some creative solutions like starting a body similar to an RRC for trapline allocation and oversight.*
- On the north end of my trapline, the territorial government I can get assistance. On the other end, another guy gets assistance. *We have been encouraging utilization. In the Southern Lakes area where there is overlap and some unassigned traplines we have been overseeing a pilot project to give people an opportunity arranged with First Nations. It is a permit for one year to trap on unassigned traplines. If the agreement were signed there may still be a need to continue using permits but there is an opportunity for RRCs to fill that role.*

- There are over 50 traplines tied up in the overlap areas. *There are 28 in the Southern Lakes area. There will be a meeting to clarify the agreement. There is support for the First Nations governments. We just need support from the RRCs.*
- We looked into the one-year permit but there is so much history on lines and family ties that it will create a problem. It seemed like a bad place to go on a yearly basis. *There are issues. In situations where permits have been issued there was support from all governments involved. We have to speak with involved First Nations. It has more to do with traditional family use than trapping. For category 1 traplines, First Nation governments has final decision-making authority and have more say in how they are used.*
- Four regions that overlap are Alsek, Carcross Tagish, Laberge, Kwanlin Dün.
- One year is not good enough for starting off on traplines. You have to make your own trail and that is a lot of work. There were outfitters building cabins on people's traplines and then wanting to lease it to trapline owners. What is your stance? *It makes sense to share cabins. One year permits give people experience on the land.*
- *The survey comments and feedback were compiled and shared with RRCs. Mark hasn't heard back from RRCs since he sent that information out. The information will be valuable for the fall meeting.*
- We've asked for harvest records and have been told we weren't able to access those numbers. Is there any work on getting a more accurate harvest. *Yes. There have been some issues with the data management systems over the past few years. There has been some poor planning. Previously there was an onerous process of gathering all purchase and received forms. Editing those forms and making sure the information is accurate. The data forms are different and the input isn't compatible with the new system. There are problems. There may be other initiatives underway. It is being looked at closely.*
- How do RRCs feel about a mandatory harvest report?
- There is a First Nation cultural component. Back when most people were starting off and living on their traplines, many didn't read or write. It's a powerful part of who we are and our history. There is pressure on older trapline owners to follow rules. They don't see the benefit. It's another way of government keeping tabs on you. I don't want more papers in a place where I want to get away from it. When you're out there on the land, you're the smartest person for what you know in your backyard. Now somebody wants to add control. It's not an indicator of whether you're a good trapper or not. I share my trapline with my family. There is pressure from outsiders who want traplines. Wolverines would say, "They didn't get me." That's between him and me. It's getting to a point where you have to go get a wolverine now because you didn't get one last year. We never trapped otter because they would go after beavers and we didn't have beaver dams. It shouldn't be up to someone else. You're taking the management away from the

people on the land with the knowledge. Who and why are we changing that? This is the last part of our history that we have for ourselves. Younger generations aren't into trapping and it's not a big part of their lives. We have to look at why we're asking for more things. If there's a good reason for it then fine.

- I had a problem with trapping course. People had to redo it again because there wasn't a record.
- The category 2 lines and First Nations not having their say — When Teslin RRC sits down and talks about traplines there are 10 people sitting there, five YG and five TTC reps. They are commercial lines. If you want to move that fur they track it. There is a huge crossover on the cultural end. Now it's to the point where there is more cottage industry than raw fur sales in the Yukon.
- Category 2 — either use it or lose it. The amount of impact on the trapline by bison is insane. Our cabin has been broken into twice. We don't make skidoo trails anymore. I'm on a foot trail. We're limited on what our capabilities are. We didn't trap last year. There are special circumstances where there is a high volume of people. If I'm a lynx I'm not going to stick around. You have to take those special circumstances into consideration. My trapline is passed down from my great grandmother and has a lot of significance.
- *These are issues people are passionate about. This issue needs to be discussed further. Hopefully we can get a meeting together to discuss these issues. There are First Nations that pay no attention to RRC recommendations. I encourage everyone to work with their First Nation governments. When I say, "Use it or lose it", those aren't YG decisions. Those are RRC decisions. Make the guidelines clear regarding special circumstances. YG is trying to enable RRCs to do their job.*
- November meeting at the same time, after or before the RRC AGW. Government is open to any ideas.
- Having Mark on the agenda was a follow-up from AGWs in the past where overlap and underutilized traplines. We brought this up constantly and now someone's dealing with it.
- The Board has a trappers working group.
- Fur harvest report — The regulation change last year was for a mandatory seal and report for martin. Trappers commented and said to do a harvest report like they used to do. That was an outcome from a public review.

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD REVIEW – G. Van Tighem

Carl opened the floor to questions and comments regarding the review. Graham provided an overview of the review including: potential completion at the end of April; Stratos interviews;

Board direction to become part of the review; review document including regulation change information, responsibilities, challenges, capacity, UFA presentation, operating procedures, admin policies and MOU with RRCs; questions from associations; Yukon Forum; Board as a primary instrument for management; and the lack of federal government involvement in the review.

Comments/Discussion:

- Wetlands — At the last discussion, I was encouraged about how RRCs and First Nations came together. By the fourth meeting there were quite a few participants. Finally the RRCs were sitting down with First Nations and commenting on policy.
- Is it hampering the Board? It's holding up appointments. That's the biggest concern. It's also holding up appointments to RRCs. It makes it hard to plan the future for people who are involved in many different things.

DAY 3: Wednesday April 17, 2018 – Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Carl Sidney, Dave Andrew, Ron Chambers, Danny Cresswell, Dennis Dickson, Ken Taylor, Blanche Warrington

REGRETS: John Burdek, Michelle Dawson-Beattie

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

SUPPORT: Colleen Henry (Minute Taker)

IN ATTENDANCE: Janice Sibbeston (Manager, YFWET), Charolette O'Donnell, Norm Anderson, Christine Cleghorn, Todd Powell, Sandy Smarch, Mac Watson, Miles, Mike Draper

ENHANCEMENT TRUST — J. Sibbeston

Refer to Enhancement Trust minutes.

OFF ROAD VEHICLE REGULATION DEVELOPMENT – M. Draper

Mike Draper provided an update on ORV regulation development which included: regulation development; workshop with stakeholders and report (on EngageYukon.ca site); six policy

issues; 60-day consultation and engagement; online questionnaire (1,000 responses); direct contact with meetings; 15 open house sessions in Yukon. The engagement period closed on April 8. Consultations are still ongoing with First Nations. The department will release a *What we heard* document. Department of Highways is conducting its own survey. ORV proposals will be used to support planning processes and can provide regulatory tools.

Key issues that arose are: licensing (licence plates, licensing number, registration, insurance) in ORV management areas; management proposal process and community participation; one-time use considerations; proposal review process; snowmobiles (not included); and ORV management areas include creek or river beds.

Next steps are to develop a *What we heard* report to be finalized within the next month. Afterward the regulations will be shaped. The department will brief the RRCs and the Board (June meeting).

Comments/Discussion:

- ARGOs with tracks are considered ORVs;
- One-time — If everyone else goes in “one-time” there could be cumulative effects. The work will be in the proposals.
- Enforcement — Natural resource officers will be EMR’s enforcement arm. This does not include RCMP. Infractions fall under the *Territorial Lands Act*. RCMP will take care of highways.
- Designated roads — People want to take the family out for weekend rides. Non-maintained roads will not be affected by these regulations. It does not apply to federal land or traditional territories. There are roads in Southern Lakes region that people used to drive trucks on and they are now overgrown. Quads are still going in.
- Satellite imaging is not bad. RRCs and First Nations can also help determine what is an un-maintained road and Crown land. It will depend on the proposals as they come in.
- Meetings should be held for owners and non-owners.
- ORV management areas will be identified as required. There is a lot of variation across Yukon. Whitehorse has a lot of concerns, where as Old Crow has few concerns. Proposals will have to be flexible to address differences of landscape and situation in each area. There were concerns about the Dempster Highway.
- Nothing will be Yukon-wide as an ORV management area.
- The department will build a process to support the regulation and will be either in the regulation or a separate document. The target for completion is late fall.
- Decision body — Director of Land Management branch of EMR will make decisions based on recommendations following the screening process, working group process

(including First Nations and RRCs), and a public process. The regulation change process is similar and takes three years.

- Traplines in management areas — Conversations will take place with trappers to obtain usage. If it is snowmobile only, there will be no impact. If the trapper uses rubber tires in the summer there will be a discussion to see how the trapper's usage can be mitigated. This would also apply to outfitters.
- Outfitters — Some use ORVs and some don't. Every member of the Yukon Outfitters Association wants the department to move forward with something. This same conversation took place six years ago. Some outfitters may have to change their business model, but everyone will have their say.
- There were strong opposing views regarding the regulations.
- There are existing road networks.
- Regulatory steps to the regulation — Once the *What we heard* document is released the department will form a framework for the regulation and hone in on the processes and support. The *Summary Convictions Act* will be revised for enforcement and ticketing. If there are no major changes then once the draft is finalized, and First Nations are involved in an ongoing basis, it will eventually go to Cabinet for approval. Once approved it will come into effect. Implementation will be by Land Management branch. Support regulation may be brought into parks or to local planning exercises.
- There may be early interest to submit proposals near or after the effective date. One is the Whitehorse area.
- Information sharing is key. Game guardians may play a role in educating the public. Mike will look at opportunities with First Nations. Emphasis is placed on changing people's behaviour in the back country. Enforcement is an expensive process and the department lacks resources. It will hopefully be the last resort.
- Education is the biggest part. Carcross/Tagish First Nation has game guardians constantly on the land and has an extensive program in the Southern Lakes region. First Nation final agreements are not all implemented. They have to call the department.
- Will the department consider areas closed to everything except foot traffic? Yes. It depends on the proposals.
- Cultus Bay has regulations. The area is environmentally sensitive.
- First Nations have to have more meetings among themselves so they know where they all stand.

MEMBERS TIME AND RE-CAP – IN CAMERA (closed to media)

Christine Cleghorn provided a status update and clarifications on the following:

- Little Salmon Carmacks RRC negotiations has been completed on Mandanna RRC. That regulation change requires a federal change. YG continues to communicate with the operator.
- The Champagne Aishihik moose recovery program was three years with the possibility of extending for five years. CAFN's lands director is in place, and the department and CAFN will move forward on the fifth year. There is a five-page document that will be jointly released with RRCs and First Nations on what we learned and challenges.
- The minister isn't holding up any RRC appointments. Jen Muir will discuss it with Alsek to find the hold ups (YG and First Nation appointments). All appointments should be rectified in the next couple days. The letter is about gaps.
- Graham provided an overview of RRCs Executive Directors meeting regarding member appointments and renewals. Some RRCs would like Yukon government to continue sending letters to Board or RRC members. RRCs may want this included in the letter.

Members discussed the following:

- Appointments — A letter will be sent to government addressing concerns;
- Audits — A discussion with RRCs will be tabled to the AGW;
- Department of Environment's adaptive moose management consultation;
- An updated list of RRCs will be provided to the Board;
- On-the-land meeting venue for June 11 to 13, 2019;
- Regulation changes for Southern Lakes caribou closure and request for support letter;
- Regulation change for wolf bag limits (7 and 7). It will be sent to the Board;

Action Item 2019-02: The Board will draft a recommendation to government from the Board and RRCs regarding an appointment process to avoid vacancies and gaps. The Board will circulate the recommendation for review and comment. The letter will be sent to government after two weeks.

Action Item 2019-03 — The Board will draft a letter to government stating that the adaptive management presentation at the YFWMB meeting is not consultation, and the working group should be reconvened as soon as practicable.

The letter will be copied to RRCs and delivered at the director at the meeting on April 17, 2019.

CLOSING PRAYER — Graham Van Tighem