

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
April 29 and 30, 2020
MINUTES
Zoom Video Conference

DAY 1: Wednesday, April 29, 2020 – Regular Meeting

PRESENT: John Burdek, Danny Cresswell, Michelle Dawson-Beattie, Dennis Dickson, Sebastian Jones, Dawn Kisoun, Franklin Patterson, Carl Sidney, Ken Taylor, Randy Taylor

REGRETS:

STAFF: Graham Van Tighem, Diane Sheldon, Steve Hossack

SUPPORT: Colleen Henry (Minute Taker)

IN ATTENDANCE: Ryan Hennings (Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife, Environment), Janice Sibbeston (YFWET, Manager)

OPENING PRAYER, WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Danny Cresswell said the opening prayer.

John Burdek provided opening comments. Appointments for Ron Chambers and Blanche Warrington have expired. Appointments and reappointments will take longer due to COVID-19.

ADMIN AND FINANCES (TAB 01)

A. AGENDA REVIEW— J. Burdek

John Burdek reviewed the agenda. There were no additions

Motion – 2020-06: That the Board accept the April 29 and 30, 2020 agenda as presented.

Moved by: Ken Taylor

Seconded by: Dawn Kisoun

Passed by: Consensus

EXECUTIVE REPORT (TAB 02) — G. Van Tighem, J. Burdek, K. Taylor

Graham Van Tighem provided opening comments on impacts and adjustments due to COVID-19. He reviewed the Executive Report provided in meeting kits.

Comments/Questions:

- Transfer Payment Funding Agreement — Graham provided an overview of the discussions with Kathleen Zimmer. Graham drafted a response and copied it to RRCs. RRCs have requested a meeting with the Board for next week. Ken and John provided additional comments. The Board has a year to address these concerns.
- CTRRC Meeting regarding moose regulation changes — Randy Taylor attended the meeting. There was no one from government that attended although they were invited through Ryan Hennings. An invitation to attend this Board meeting was sent to Ryan but there has been no response. It was suggested that the Board Executive have a discussion with Ryan regarding communication between the Board and the department. Ryan has said any meeting coordination should be sent through him. The Board would like to ensure there is participation from the department when needed, otherwise it will impact the ability of the Board to conduct its business. A recommendation of the review deals with improving efficiency. The Executive will have a discussion with Ryan and provide an update to the Board.
- Dall Sheep Permits — Graham Van Tighem provided an overview of the Dall Sheep Working Group recommendations. The government has issued permits through sheep management units contrary to the working group recommendations. A biologist in the department stated publicly that it was a recommendation from the Board, which is not the case. The biologist later acknowledged his mistake. The Board will draft a letter to the Minister and Ryan regarding this matter.
- There are concerns with catch and release mortality in Southern Lakes region. Signs will be posted.

FINANCIAL UPDATE (TAB 03) – D. Sheldon

Diane Sheldon reviewed the unaudited financial report from April 1, 2019 to March 31, 2020 provided in the meeting kits. She also provided an overview of the surplus and carryover for new board members.

Motion – 2020-07: That the Board accept the financial report as presented.

Moved by: Ken Taylor

Seconded by: Dawn Kisoun

Passed by: Consensus

FEBRUARY MINUTES (TAB 04) – D. Sheldon

Amendments

- Page 12: The date at the top should be changed to February 19, 2020.
- Page 4: Centre of page, in most cases the elk “were” there before the farmers.

Motion – 2020-08: That the Board accept the minutes as amended.

Moved by: Ken Taylor

Seconded by: Dawn Kisoun

Passed by: Consensus

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW AND OUTCOMES (TAB 05) – G. Van Tighem

Graham Van Tighem reviewed the correspondence and the listing provided in meeting kits.

Comments/Discussion:

- Letter #5 to Minister Frost re: Wild Board/Animal Health Act — The Board needs to be more specific and concise when drafting recommendations to avoid misinterpretation.
 - The letter regarding timelines for Eurasian wild boar wildlife act changes is the only outstanding letter.
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FISH AND WILDLIFE BRANCH UPDATE – R. Hennings

Ryan Hennings joined the video conference to provide an update on the following:

- COVID-19 impacts to the department.
- Adaptive changes to PHA — People are using the online service. It is open until May 21, 2020.
- Species and field programs with respect to COVID-19 — The focus for fisheries will be lakes within a day's travel of Whitehorse.
- Fall/winter surveys are planned to go forward with the travel restrictions in mind.
- Special guide license lottery — The decision on special guide licenses has been postponed until May. Further updates related to travel restrictions will be provided in the next two weeks. Exposure of people traveling from other regions and risks to Yukoners will factor into decisions.

Comments/Discussion:

- Fish work is going to be concentrated around Whitehorse which is a good thing as those lakes are the hardest hit.
- Public Regulation meeting in Whitehorse in December — Cameron did a presentation on the regulation change proposal to reduce burbot catch. There was push back from the public. Has there been any work scheduled around the larger lakes and burbot population? *Ryan will follow-up with Robert and Cameron.*
- Has there been any indication from the Chief Medical Officer about the outfitting industry in Yukon? *More information from the CMO on travel restrictions will be forthcoming. He will not make any specific recommendations on outfitting. Industries will have to see how restrictions fall within their industry. Outfitting clients are predominantly American citizens. The pandemic in the states is not solved by any means. The border remains closed and that is out of the Yukon industries' realm right now. Outfitters typically book three months in advance. Outfitters are having conversations with their clients themselves. Hunting is not a service and has not been deemed essential. It is a complicated file and there are a lot of factors involved.*

- Spring bear hunt — Yukon outfitters do not do a lot of spring bear hunting traditionally. Because the borders are closed and there are travel restrictions, there are no spring bear hunts conducted by outfitters.
- Is there any uptake in sales of tags/seals? *No. The question has been asked, but there has been no increase.*
- People are expressing increased interest in harvesting big game (moose, caribou). From a management perspective, I am expecting increased pressure and effort to harvest. Has the department given this much thought? Are there any contingency plans for a huge increase of moose harvest? Also, with First Nations, there is an increase of hunting already in Teslin. The impacts will be tremendous. There is a lot of pressure with BC hunters. Will Environment Yukon meet, help and assist First Nation governments to make a plan for the hunting season this year?
- *Food security is a concern for everyone. The department cannot regulate subsistence harvest unless we get into conservation concerns with total allowable harvest. If TTC or CAFN have concerns and want to put limits on the First Nation citizen harvest, they can. Currently before the board there are three proposals to manage harvest.*
- First Nations do not have the power for enforcement. Yukon government has the power to enforce. How will the government assist First Nation governments if they put laws in their traditional territories? Will the government be able to help them? *I cannot answer that. I can speak to the wildlife regulations. We have no ability to regulate subsistence harvest. I cannot speak to Justice questions.*
- The CMO has recommended that Yukoners do not travel between communities or from Whitehorse to rural communities. It is problematic for hunting season. This is a health issue and is up to the CMO to make guidelines or orders, however, this is an issue. What is your perspective on traveling between communities come hunting season? *The recommendations will be in compliance. We don't have authority to tell hunters where they can or can't go. This is a changing file. What it will look like and what will be in place on August 1, it's too early to say. With the one-government approach, we will be following and messaging out to hunters the consistent message whatever the travel restrictions are by the CMO.*
- Have you been warning hunters about not traveling between communities when they pick up their tags for the spring bear hunt? *We have been giving the message to Yukoners to travel within a day of Whitehorse and to bring enough supplies to avoid entering communities.*
- Can you tell me the legal status of wolf dens? Is there any protection under the law? It is protected under the Wildlife Act. Section 91 applies to actively used dens or dams. If the pups have left the den it is no longer protected. *The intent is to protect the breeding season and home of the wildlife. If it is no longer used, that would no longer apply as the habitat is no longer being used.*

**NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR/VICE CHAIR, CHAIR OF THE YFWET, AND YFWMB (TAB 07)
IN CAMERA**

Motion number 2020-09 Carl Sidney was nominated for the position of Chair of the Board effective May 1st, 2020 – until May 1st 2021. Nominated by John Burdek, seconded by Ken Taylor. Approved unanimously by the Board.

Motion number 2020-10 Randy Taylor was nominated for the position of Vice chair of the Board effective May 1st, 2020 – until May 1st 2021. Nominated by Carl Sidney and seconded by Ken Taylor. Approved unanimously by the Board.

MEMBERS TIME — IN CAMERA

No minutes were recorded.

DAY 2: Thursday, April 30, 2020 – Regular Meeting

PRESENT: John Burdek, Danny Cresswell, Michelle Dawson-Beattie, Dennis Dickson, Sebastian Jones, Dawn Kisoun, Franklin Patterson, Carl Sidney, Ken Taylor, Randy Taylor

STAFF: Graham Van Tighem, Diane Sheldon, Steve Hossack

SUPPORT: Colleen Henry (Minute Taker)

IN ATTENDANCE: Ryan Hennings (Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife, Environment), Janice Sibbeston (YFWET, Manager)

YUKON FORUM FISH AND WILDLIFE REVIEW UPDATE (IN CAMERA) — J. Burdek, K. Taylor, C. Sidney, G. Van Tighem

No minutes were recorded.

Motion – 2020-09: If the supplemental budget in relation to the Forum review is not accepted and/or there are further substantive requests put forward at the May Yukon Forum Fish & Wildlife working group meeting, the Board will pull back and proceed to work through the Stratos recommendations on its own with its own funds.

Moved by: Ken Taylor

Seconded by: Sebastian Jones

Passed by: Consensus

MOOSE HARVEST MANAGEMENT UPDATE — J. Burdek, G. Van Tighem, S. Hossack
In camera session. No minutes were recorded.

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT TRUST UPDATE — J. Sibbeston, C. Sidney,
Refer to Enhancement Trust minutes.

MEMBERS TIME — IN CAMERA
No minutes were recorded.

DRAFT