

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

December 11 – 13, 2018

MINUTES

Kwanlin Dün Cultural Centre

DAY 1: Tuesday, December 11, 2018 – Regular Meeting

PRESENT: John Burdek, Ron Chambers, Danny Cresswell, Michelle Dawson-Beattie, Dennis Dickson, Shirley Ford (PM), Carl Sidney, Ken Taylor, Frank Thomas, Blanche Warrington

REGRETS: Dave Andrew

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

SUPPORT: Colleen Henry (Minute Taker)

PUBLIC: Janice Sibbeston (YFWMET Manager), Nicole McCutchen (Manager, Species Program, YE), Jodie Pongracz, Adam Grindy (Teslin RRC), Laura McKinnon (Executive Director Alsek RRC), Christine Cleghorn (Director, Fish & Wildlife, YE)(PM), Tyler Kuhn (Biologist Information Specialist, YE), Tom Jung (Senior Wildlife Biologist Biodiversity, YE), Julie Thomas (Species At Risk Biologist, YE), Cameron MacKinnon (Alsek RRC)

OPENING PRAYER – Graham Van Tighem

WELCOME AND OPENING REMARKS

John Burdek welcomed everyone and provided opening remarks.

ADMIN AND FINANCES (TAB 01)

A. AGENDA REVIEW

John Burdek reviewed the agenda.

- Day 1 — “In camera” will be changed to “Board Business”.
- Day 3 – Climate change and the boreal forest discussion. Graham Van Tighem provided additional information. The Board will ask for a climate change report from Kluane Adamek who is attending COP 24 in Poland.

Motion – 2018-20: That the Board accept the December 11 - 13, 2018 agenda as amended.

Moved by: Carl Sidney

Seconded by: Ken Taylor

Passed by: Consensus

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

Graham Van Tighem reviewed the Executive Report provided in meeting kits.

Graham also reviewed the letter from Yukon government and CYFN regarding the Yukon Forum review. This will be further discussed on Day 3 in members time. John Burdek provided information about the implementation of the UFA and the review. The Board will reach out to Lawrence Joe and Dennis Berry of the Yukon Forum Fish and Wildlife Working Group and invite them to attend the Board meeting.

Comments/Discussion:

- HEED Program — The course is about the wildlife act and regulations but there is almost no ethics discussed at the HEED course. Ethics should include traditional harvesting ethics which is a goal. Respect is a better word and broad in scope. First Nations use the word “respect” a lot and they don’t have a word for “ethics”. When we used respect in the grizzly bear management plan people were offended. There is a lot of work to be done.
- Ground squirrels and gophers — These are species that need to be harvested or their populations will drop. Some people don’t understand. Studies have taken place and support this. The Board should help get messages out.
- Permit Hunt Authorization meeting — Graham provided an update on the PHA meeting. Recommendations from Paul Deuling were discussed. There were suggestions to: get rid of the luck of the draw; only get one species instead of four; and to move the draw to

January instead of May or June to allow people to plan. Yukon government had individual meetings with organizations. The PHA will not have all the changes this year.

C. FINANCIAL UPDATE AND AUDIT REVIEW (TAB 03) – D. Sheldon

Diane Sheldon reviewed the variance report. There were no comments or questions.

Motion – 2018-21: That the Board accept the YFWMB Financial Report to November 30, 2018 as presented.

Moved by: Ken Taylor

Seconded by: Frank Thomas

Passed by: Consensus

ACTION ITEM REVIEW (TAB 04) – 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 2018-05: YFWMB staff will reinstate the Trapping Working Group upon the completion of the Unfurled event and begin the process of determining next steps.	<i>Ongoing (Awaiting final report). This is at a standstill. The contractor that completed the unFURled work retained it. The Board may step in.</i>
Action item 2018-07: The Board will provide contact information to Teslin and Bill Oestreich.	<i>Completed. This has resulted in capacity building.</i>
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. The Executive Director will follow-up</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:	<i>Completed</i>

<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. 	
<p>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</p>	Completed
<p>Action Item 2018-21: The Executive Director will draft a response to the TTC letter from August and will send it out following the October meeting.</p>	Completed

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW (TAB 05) – G. Van Tighem

Graham Van Tighem reviewed the correspondence.

Comments/Discussion:

- Letter #1 — Control orders are not reviewed every year. Can a new minister change it instantly? It is a policy associated with a control order which is the animal health act. It is possible to change regulations. Members discussed the possibility of using control orders for ATVs.
- Board newsletter — The Board needs a newsletter to let the public know it is dealing with issues such as catch and release. It will also provide opportunities for feedback.
- Fishing — The Board should work with the government to promote ethical fishing. It is difficult to say no catch and release, but it does need an educational component.
- Social media — A component of the HEED course discusses photographing dead animals. It is becoming a much bigger issue. People’s perception is changing drastically. The Board needs a communication forum. People may believe the Board is making decisions even though it is only collecting information.
- Grizzly incidents — This will be further discussed. There have been further incidents and grizzlies have been killed but there has not been much discussion about it (incident in Watson Lake). Members discussed Jim Shockey’s social media rant.

- Public Service Commission presentation from November 2018 — Nothing further has been discussed. It was an internal discussion.

The letter to the Fish and Game Association will be revised and reviewed in the afternoon.

OCTOBER YFWMB MINUTES (TAB 05) – D. Sheldon

Diane Sheldon reviewed the minutes.

- Christine Cleghorn is considered a member of the public.

Motion – 2018-22: That the Board approve the minutes for October 16 – 18, 2018 as presented.

Moved by: Frank Thomas

Seconded by: Michelle Dawson-Beattie

Passed by: Consensus

MEMBERS TIME (BOARD BUSINESS)

Members discussed confidential Board business. No minutes were recorded.

COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE (TAB 07) – T. Van Bussel

Tecla Van Bussel provided a communications update on:

- the calendar and distribution;
- the Grizzly Bear Conservation and Management Plan;
- the YSSC regulation change proposal process;
- the Yukon Salmon Resiliency Conference;
- Wetlands Policy development;
- correspondence; and
- upcoming work.

There were no questions or comments. A copy of the was provided in meeting kits.

GRIZZLY BEAR CONSERVATION PLAN UPDATE (TAB 08) – G. Van Tighem, T. Van Bussel, T. Jung

Graham Van Tighem provided an introduction and overview.

Graham and Tecla Van Bussel reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the summary of public engagement including: the table of contents; names for grizzly bears; reasons for the plan; topics covered in the plan; the working group; timeline of key activities; plan vision; draft goals; public engagement activities; updating the plan; community meetings summary; public feedback form summary and trends; direct submissions summaries; second draft and next steps.

Ron Chambers provided an overview of the cultural aspects and management. Perspectives can be narrow or broad. To incorporate culture, we can begin simply by utilizing traditional names in indigenous languages.

The following documents were included in meeting kits:

- A Conservation Plan for Grizzly Bears in Yukon — Summary of Public Engagement – October 3 to December 3, 2018 presentation;
- A letter from the Alsek RRC to the Board regarding the draft Grizzly Bear Conservation Plan;
- The draft plan dated December 2018.
- The draft plan with track changes.

Comments/Discussion:

- Tagish meeting — 40 to 50 percent of the 41 participants were Marsh Lake residents. There was a submission from the community.
- Roadside Bears Hunting and Ban — This was discussed during the review of the regulation change. Bears frequent the roadside. Moose, for instance, don't frequent the roadside. The wildlife viewing opportunities are mostly bears. A ban can have implications on subsistence harvesting and would have large ramifications.
- Bear management units — Units based around outfitter areas were proposed. Most of the Yukon is remote and most of the harvest is by non-resident hunters. The units have to be reviewed to assess whether they are too coarse or too fine.
- Wolves are the apex animals which go after smaller animals if possible. Bears go after berries and roots depending on location. Wolves go after smaller animals but can get a moose or caribou. This has to be considered when managing wildlife. At certain times bears are apex animals.

- Presentations — it is important to identify the scale with respect to meetings. There will sometimes be disappointment due to high expectations for the level of detail within the presentations.

Graham, Tecla and Tom reviewed the *Conservation Plan for Grizzly Bears* document with tracked changes.

Comments/Discussions:

- Goal 2 — Take care of the land and other species that grizzly bears require — Part of the intent is to address the ecosystem that the grizzly bears feed on such as berries, salmon, moose which ultimately benefits people and bears.
- Grazing regions — It is important to know and be aware of grazing regions and cycles. Bears were grazing on the upper slope when salmon were running. They have their own options that they utilize.
- Translocation of Bears — Plain language was recommended and wording will be changed. A plain language interpretation could be included.
- Ron Chambers provided an overview of historical practices in Jasper region. Bears moved from one region to another and caused conflict. It would be interesting to discuss this with people who work in national parks to obtain anecdotal information. Just moving bears can cause problems in another place. It is important to have the historical information as some things may not work.
- Roadside viewing and hunters — Awareness of other people's views would be covered in the hunter education and ethics training. People may harvest in the ditch and post it on social media but there will be backlash. Roadside bear viewing causes a lot of accidents.
- Consider ungulates in predator/prey dynamics as per Alsek RRC's recommendation. This has been incorporated.
- Mayo region incident and media — People are walking along trails. The department should not hide areas where bears have been relocated or where bears have caused problems. There are a lot of goals that talk about that information. It was recommended that people should know what bears really are. There are lots of bears on the land and temperatures are warm.

Graham Van Tighem proposed making the last few changes to the clean version of the plan which will be uploaded in the meeting kits for Board members to review prior to the end of Day 3 which will include an in-camera discussion.

DAY 2: Wednesday, December 12, 2018 – Regular Meeting

PRESENT: John Burdek, Ron Chambers, Danny Cresswell, Michelle Dawson-Beattie, Dennis Dickson, Shirley Ford, Carl Sidney, Ken Taylor, Frank Thomas, Blanche Warrington

REGRETS: Dave Andrew

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

SUPPORT: Colleen Henry (Minute Taker)

PUBLIC: Christine Cleghorn (Director, Fish & Wildlife, YE), Brandy Mayes (Operations Manager, Lands and Resources, KDFN), Lawrence Joe, Adam Grindy (Teslin RRC), Dennis Berry, Nicole McCutchen (Manager, Species Program, YE), Sophie Czetwertynski (Ungulate Biologist, YE), Matt Clarke (Manager, Regional Programs, YE), Roxanne Stastyszyn (Director, Communications, Corporate Services), Alex Francis (Regional Biologist, YE), Barb Coppard (Policy Analyst, YE), Rob Florkiewicz (Harvest Coordinator, YE), Kelsey Russell (Ungulate Biologist, YE), Elizabeth MacDonald (Executive Director, YSSC)

Yukon Forum Review of YFWMB – L. Joe, B. Mayes, D. Berry

Board Chair John Burdek welcomed Lawrence Joe, Brandy Mayes and Dennis Berry who attended on short notice to discuss the Yukon Forum Review of the Board. The intent is to understand the scope and intent of the review.

Lawrence Joe provided information on a presentation to CYFN leadership in May 2018 and activities to date, including: meeting with Pauline Frost; the land and resources meeting in Teslin; the conversation with lands and resources directors throughout the Yukon. The Board was a pre-implementation body. A lot has happened in 30 years. First Nations have settled treaties and established governments. Relationships have changed. This is an opportunity to improve and maximize some of the opportunities that were established under the treaty and that come out of case law.

Directors raised concerns about geographic representations. Folks up north are concerned and currently under represented on the Board. Chief Richard Sidney raised concerns that the Board

is supposed to be the primary instrument for management and the view is it is not necessarily the case. Directors raised eight other issues in their resolution.

Dennis Berry provided an overview of the Yukon Forum. The minister and Cabinet meet and discuss issues of concern. A working group for fish and wildlife issues was struck in September. The first meeting was held in October to begin work on issues identified at leadership. There is a newsletter online about other working groups.

This initiative is moving quickly. There is a Yukon Forum meeting on December 14. This is a unique opportunity. There was a five-year and a 10-year implementation review. The Board will participate in this review.

Comments/Discussion/Questions:

- The Board is the primary instrument for management. Why wasn't the Executive Director or Chair involved in this working group? It seems like there is a missing piece in this review. *Members of the working group represent the parties. The letter to the Board was sent before the working group saw it.*
- Where is the federal government? They don't appear to be part of it. *Federal government is not part of the Yukon Forum. However, they were contacted last month and are looking forward to the review.*
- What authorities are initiating this? Is this an automatic review under the UFA? *Two of the three signatories to agreement have brought this forward. CYFN and YG said they wanted this to occur and passed a resolution to that effect.*
- It would come as a surprise to any Board to receive a letter to regarding this two day before the forum. *This decision was voted on. CYFN had a resolution process. From a time perspective it has been four weeks. The letter has been moving through the parties. The working group met as a group four times.*
- The following priorities were identified: trapline compensations; trappers harvest support program; ethics of fish and wildlife harvesting; budget and planning consultation; issues with land leases; mining activities; invasive species; and limitation of harvesting rights of First Nation people.
- Many of the issues that were listed above do not apply to the Board or its mandate – many are led, or have been ignored by Government to date.
- *The working group intends to complete the review by spring (no later than April).*
- With respect to representation, it's up to government and CYFN to appoint Board members, not the Board – why is this a part of the review.
- If the goal is to improve the Board, one suggestion is to consider the regulation review process. It doesn't mesh with government timelines which could be greatly improved. *Those are good recommendations which should be provided.*

- There has to be some improvement to ensure appointees attend Board meetings. Failure to attend board meeting creates operational issues.
- Hunting near new residences — Comments come from interested parties and are ignored. The Chief of Carcross/Tagish First Nation raised this issue along with the Chief from Kluane First Nation. In those regions, people have staked areas and built a houses which is perfectly legal. This happens in critical caribou habitat and makes large no-hunting areas that are important harvest areas for First Nations. *There is a standing letter that speaks to hunting near residences. It is an Act change.*
- In terms of the review, how many years back will it go (when the board was established or current board)? *This has not been determined. It is important to include past board members and past chairs, but there will be a mix of availability and willingness to participate. There is an expectation that reviewers will speak to the current board and staff.*
- In the review, will there be any communication with the implementation working group? There was a lot of work with budgeting, formula financing. *There has not been any communication with the IWG.*
- There was impact on the RRCs. Will there be any communication?
- As soon as Board received the letter, members were defensive. When they ask questions, the review working group defends the government. The federal government is not a part of the review this review really and there are three signatories to the UFA. You have a minister who used to sit on a UFA Board, and the Board has former chiefs as members. The Board does the best it can with the UFA, our limited budget and limited capacity. If things are not working, why didn't the minister and former chiefs do something about it when they were on the Board? We only have five meetings a year. We have limited budget. Our hands are tied. If they want to improve this Board, ask them how they plan to do that. They will have to renegotiate with the three parties. Our goals are laid out in Chapter 16. They should know that. You didn't hear the other side of what went on at the lands and resources meeting. The Board was lambasted. Our Board meetings are open to the public. RRCs, First Nations get our agendas. Only a few RRCs attend. Getting direction from the Yukon Forum to do a review, they should tell us how to fix it, how to work better. *The reviewers are focusing on relationships between two governments. As for being lambasted Lawrence Joe was there as a neutral observer and he didn't see the Board getting lambasted.*
- This review is very complex and we're looking at ways to improve. That is a frustration that has been building. There are volunteers who sit on the Board. The review has to look at resourcing if it wants to see more activity. If it looks at the process and support though the UFA, if it were operating the way it was written it would be better, but some parties are slower to adjust their activities than others. The processes may need to be

revisited. We're more than willing to participate in that. Everybody is interested in that. We want to avoid finger pointing. It won't get us further ahead in the process. We need to be positive and look at improving the processes.

- Timelines are unrealistic if the working is going to do a good review in my opinion.
- The Board had members from Old Crow and Mayo. There are some political aspects to appointments. Realistically it's a good goal to get more Yukon-wide representation, but there are difficulties as well. 30 years is a long time. Lawrence Joe has direct experience with the Board. The *Wildlife Act* has remained un-opened for a long time. It would help in the implementation and realizing the UFA if we could open the Yukon Wildlife Act. Something that has been frozen is honoraria for Board members. \$200 a day is allotted by the letter of the law in the implementation plan. There are things that are frozen which the working group will hopefully look at to help with the administration of the Board. It is a disservice to not have those tools looked at.
- Sometimes projects are identified by the Board. On the regional issue, the CAFN was one of the first signatories on the agreement. When dealing with a Board, you have to think Yukon-wide. Appointees may have regional concerns, but for those sitting on the Board, if there are wildlife issues in Old Crow, Board members are sympathetic to those issues. Wildlife doesn't have a boundary. You will get regional solutions and the wildlife doesn't follow that. You have to have knowledge to understand and the belief that you will pay attention to issues as if you were a person from that community. Mentally I'm trying to be as empathetic to an issue from Old Crow as much as I would be to Southern Lakes and Watson Lake and unsigned First Nation communities/territories. I'm still concerned with wildlife. If you mention caribou, I have to think caribou across the Yukon, not just one particular area.
- A big resource is RRCs. We pay a lot of attention to what they say. They are our source from the areas.
- Honoraria and the FIDIPITY — It is discriminatory to Whitehorse members who never travel. The travel offsets the honoraria. It is discriminatory to RRCs as they are creating false surpluses in their budget. They have surpluses when they should have been raising their honoraria. It should be going up just like everything else.
- Willing to participate and offer success and challenges to improve the Board process.
- *There is finger pointing on both sides. This review will bring all concerns to the surface. It is also about concerns from chiefs and leadership. The Board can address concerns it has as well. Leadership is hearing from you and other people that there are concerns about how it is being run and what's not coming out of it. There are issues about what the board needs. It could benefit this Board and come out with increased budget and honoraria. We should look at it as a positive on both sides.*

MOOSE MANAGEMENT UPDATE — C. Cleghorn, M. Clarke

Christine Cleghorn and Matt Clarke provided a presentation on Yukon moose harvest management including: moose management in Yukon; total mortality by humans; current status; status of moose harvest; current issues; obligations to First Nations and Inuvialuit; how the harvest is shared; when harvest is restricted; how we determine sustainable levels; where moose is harvested; areas at risk; future trends; current issues; and options.

Comments/Discussion:

- Aboriginal harvest — In some areas there is good data from First Nation governments on aboriginal harvest, but in other areas there is no data. Government has estimates based on formulas (one to two times the non-aboriginal harvest).
- Elk is not included as there is not a lot of harvest.
- There is usually a moose hunt prior to potlatches. That is not the same as a resident hunt which is a family-oriented hunt. On a potlatch system, you could have four or five moose hunted for potlatches which can skew the numbers. It is also not just for First Nations. We need more understanding so there isn't a "them and us" situation. It isn't an individual getting it. It is a different purpose. *We have to be aware of the cultural perspective.*
- In the past, harvest restrictions relied heavily on scientific data, and ignored local knowledge.
- Moose population and harvest data in the presentation, is it based on info gathered from hunters' reports? Are you getting any info from First Nation reports? The data is from licensed harvest information. *It does not include First Nation harvest estimates. Some First Nations share info.*
- There is an assumption there were a lot of moose in different areas, but that is not necessarily the case. There was a wolf kill issued in the Kluane area because they thought there was a lot of moose killed in that area. The poison was put out for wolf because they were killing horses. There is a perception that there is more moose there than there really was historically. We used to go up to the border to look for moose. Historically, 60 years ago, people used to travel to White River to get a moose. Do today's numbers take that into account? There is habitat change. "Lots of caribou there used to be". Trying to manage to an expectation that wasn't there historically is an issue.
- Attempt to monitor as change happens. *Expectation management is an issue.*
- Demographics are changing. 60 to 70 percent of harvest is from Whitehorse people.

- Areas at risk is based on recent surveys and current harvest. Redistribution from problem areas would mean moving 300 harvesters to different areas which is substantial.
- *Trends report — Assume hunting pressure will increase. The trend indicates the number of licensed hunters hasn't increased significantly since 2002 (Figure 5 in report). Big game hunting licences looks like a flat trend. There was a peak licence in 1983 as resources were available. There will be more people on the landscape according to the population trend. Rights will still be in tact in a larger First Nations population.*
- Population increase — It is shown that the population in First Nation communities is growing faster than non-First Nations communities which needs to be considered. As the population grows and becomes healthier, you will see First Nation harvest increase more rapidly than it has been in the past.
- Technology — Future trend will grow if government doesn't do something about it. There are lots of conversations about increased trails.
- There are challenges to the metrics that are applied based on work from the late 80s and 90s. It is a very non-specific approximation.
- Half of the First Nations are not recording harvest. We have to communicate this information to First Nations. If we don't get the numbers from First Nations, we can't reduce the licensed hunters. We need to communicate this to First Nations to get an accurate harvest number.
- Climate change impacts — Moose don't start moving until after September 20. Global warming is changing the process and timelines.
- First Nation and non-First Nation management — At one time First Nations saw the moose as the government's moose and wildlife as they were managed accordingly. Today, First Nation governments having their own management. There is a perspective that "they are our moose". There is a transition time for First Nations to see it that way. In today's context, we're the managers. We have to the message out that those are not our moose - they are everyone's.
- Albino moose — Elders didn't want anyone to harvest it. There was no law against harvesting it, but the elders didn't think it was the cultural thing to do.
- The expression, "Did you get your moose?" That puts an onus on people to harvest. It becomes a personal challenge. It is a wrong position to take. Some people may be embarrassed because they didn't get their moose.
- To be a Yukon resident hunter they have to have one-year residency, maybe this should be extended.
- Everyone hunting as licensed hunter has their data included in the trends, just not first nation harvest data – this should become mandatory.

- Influential books — Women hunt because of organic food now. Is that a trend? *That data is not available to include in the presentation. There is a rising trend. People from the south had parents who didn't hunt but now they want to hunt after reading those books.*
- How many First Nations provide harvest data? *Northern Tutchone nations report through May Gathering (3 nations). Teslin is getting theirs off the ground, but they don't share their data. Carcross/Tagish First Nation and Ta'an Kwäch'än Council are building their programs. CAFN is the most open.*
- Do you adjust that number or use the number they give you? The multipliers are only used where we don't have data.
- Areas at risk — There are three circles, Ross River, Watson Lake, north of Haines Junction. They are unsettled areas. Those areas don't show up as having sustainable harvest issue. Government has moose population data for those areas.
- Monitor at Burwash — Board members provided information about the monitor in Burwash area which was funded through Enhancement Trust.
- History and culture — Culturally First Nations had boundaries. For Klukshu, certain families had rights to a certain area and only those families were allowed. That was culturally accepted. That went out with history and now we're getting back into the same thing. RRCs are the cultural group who say we don't want everybody to come and hunt in our areas just because we didn't out hunt in our area. It's an awareness that this is how those cultural laws came about back then. We're sending people over to other areas which increases pressure there. Cultus Bay is an example. There were boundaries as to who could be where. We used to have restrictions back when there were no restrictions.
- ATVs — You need a comprehensive plan. Putting restrictions on two MMUs creates political problems (moving people to other areas). We need to have a comprehensive plan for all Yukon.
- This isn't like the grizzly bear management plan. We have been doing moose management for a long time. We're starting with areas where there are no issues. We have the idea that First Nations and RRCs know issues in their areas. Let's get off the piecemeal approach.
- Manage toward an overall comprehensive solution.
- Information sharing — Get the First Nations on board and stress the importance of sharing that information. In Ross River, there are more bears than people realize. A lot of cow moose had no calves. Bears may be taking calves. It is important to get information in that region.
- Potlatches and hunting — That information is not recorded and hasn't been taken into account.

- Options should also include changing regulations for bison and elk harvest. That's an issue that the government brought forward. They want the Board to manage what they brought in as a problem. Open the regulation for hunting elk and bison. They're creating havoc on moose territory. They will be moving into Teslin in the next five or 10 years.
- Transboundary issue with BC — Working with Environment in BC. They put their boats in at Teslin and hunt in Teslin Lake. The moose don't know boundaries. They could be harvesting Yukon or transboundary moose. People come from downtown Vancouver and put their boats in and hunt in BC.
- This presentation leads to two options. This has been around for a long time. This Board has been critical of management that mirrors band-aid or piecemeal approaches. There is a lot of corporate communication with the department over the years about taking a more comprehensive approach. We have a working group that can have some involvement in steering this. It would be of benefit for the Board to be involved in options, given that at some point the Board will have to carry the communication with the public. It is similar to wild sheep/domestic sheep communications.
- The campground lakes with fish, it was a problem coming a long time ago. When we shut down lakes, government got a lot of flak. People aren't stupid. We need to do an education component and explain the moose population aren't as robust as you think. Many hunters come from Outside. There is nothing wrong with saying limit your harvest. People want to know where their food comes from and they want options. They can be redirected to organic farm-raised beef or they can have a quarter of a moose instead of a whole moose. We can tell them, "Start restricting yourself", as long as they know it is for the common good.
- We can look positively at option one if it leads to option two.
- Predation, cow-calf ratio — It's hard to give a blanket answer but we do have the UFA and we do have different RRCs with information. How can we make a decision without having actual facts, not just part of them? We have partners who are interested in working with government. Yukon First Nations (seven) and the Board have made it clear that we need to do something different. We need to work together and communicate, but we're not going to be in a position that we have all the exact, right info. We have to do the best with what we have. We can't imagine a First Nation or RRC not wanting to talk about this with government. *We have structures in place to talk about things properly.*
- Tintina Trench — There are lots of hunters, predators. They are hiring professional trappers and teach wildlife guardians to take out total packs of wolves and Teslin is getting involved. There must be more things across Yukon that we're not dealing with. We should have to do all of these things and not just a couple. Managing all the predators, not just the human ones.

- We talked about the trapping work. We can't have this conversation without talking about predator control. We have a wolf plan. We have tried one goal and had mixed success. We're still doing our trapper workshops. We're not moving to Yukon-wide predator management to solve this. Today, on this issue, we've heard people want us to work differently. It will move people into areas of discomfort.
- How successful has the trapper program been? How many years has he been doing it? Christine Cleghorn will provide that information at a later date.
- There are tons of traplines that aren't being utilized. People go through training program but there are many underutilized traplines or overlapping traplines. We could leverage this process into that conversation.
- We have to do total management, not partial management.
- Grizzly bears — A lot of people won't go for large-scale wolf or grizzly control. Won't it make sense to make those hunting rules on those animals more liberal and maybe it will help the moose a little bit.
- If we took it from a wildlife perspective, what perception would we have? We as humans feel we're entitled to everything. Entitlement seems to be the name of the game. If I want to build something, I go build it. If I'm a moose maybe I don't have a say, but why should you build something at my crossing. We do that all the time. It keeps going like that. Growth management — we always have to grow everything. Yukon Electric is at a maximum. They will have to find something else because people keep coming. Consider Oregon. They have not encouraged people to come. We keep showing the glossiest photos and biggest fish and moose racks in advertisement. We're growing at a rate we can't maintain.
- Think about it from the moose's perspective. Record breaking moose, caribou, everything from outfitters. The largest moose is going to populate. We take old bulls. The old ones are relied on to show the way. Outfitters are coming. That is the perspective. 700,000 plus moose. People think it's not a problem. We have a lot to do with it because we're not recording our numbers. Elders are not always showing the way with respectful practice of hunting.
- Decisions on sheep and bringing in additional closures and turning areas that weren't permit areas into permit areas. People didn't really give a lot of thought to it. In more recent years, it does pertain to moose populations also. We talk about hunting as a negative thing. We have done it for centuries and more. We don't talk about disturbance unless it is about ORVs. Disturbance has to be recognized. It is given little attention. There weren't rams/ewes on the mountain anymore up the Wheaton River. Traffic pushes ewes. They don't adapt well to disturbance and they move out of their normal ranges. Quota will be more accepted if it's done holistically. Other disturbance

affects moose. They have their favorite areas. It is problematic if they are pushed out of those areas.

- Make a minor change? Increase? People are respectful and there are a lot who don't know anything. After a year, they may not know much. It is not enough. Someone was hunting bison with a fat bike. Maybe we need to increase the term to qualify as a resident hunter. *Government has looked at that. However, that doesn't help moving 300 hunters out of the red zone. If there will be 10,000 extra people here in 10 years, it could be part of the solution.*
- Elk hunting training and permission from First Nations — Moose hunters should have to take training. They should have to really understand it. To get a permit, they have to take training.

There is an appetite from the Board and there has to be more discussion and more things have to be considered than just hunters. It is premature to pick option one or option two. Maybe there is a graduated step. Regulatory working group might be best to continue exploring this. The Board will activate the working group and explore this further.

FINLAYSON CARIBOU UPDATE — A. Francis

Alex Francis reviewed a presentation on the Finlayson caribou herd including: an overview; herd range; exploration areas within the range; overlaps with outfitter concessions; population monitoring history; fall composition surveys; population estimates and wolf control; harvest management (1998) and PHA; history of licensed harvest; subsistence harvest; current caribou management guidelines; harvest history; current harvest regime; and communication with Ross River Dena Council. A copy of the presentation was included in meeting kits.

Comments/Discussion:

- A composition survey is done in the fall and is the number of calves, bulls and cows. They fly over mountain blocks every year to develop an estimation.
- From 1990 to 1996 the numbers drop by about 1500. How many licensed hunter permits were there?
- 30 permits does not equate to 30 animals. The rule of thirds applies, 1/3 don't hunt, 1/3 do – and are unsuccessful, and 1/3 are successful.
- We have charts of wild life and salmon. We should include the numbers of people. The people population doesn't go down. The survey shows the number of animals available to harvest, but we never show the numbers of people. The land gets smaller and the areas where they're feeding gets smaller.

- The situation that came to a head last fall, everybody has been fairly patient. This morning the minister sent a letter to the Board Chair saying we are anticipating a community meeting in Ross River on the Finlayson herd in January, pending the First Nation election. She has invited John Burdek to attend with her. There was an expression of partnership and moving forward together.
- There is a strong emphasis to include Liard First Nation as they hunt that herd also. They have made it clear they have a strong interest in this herd. Government will be meeting with both.

WILDLIFE BRANCH UPDATE — C. Cleghorn

Christine Cleghorn provided an update on the Porcupine caribou herd, the agreement and the management board. Parties to agreement were in Whitehorse to discuss responses and 2019. The harvest data work has been collaborative. It has set the stage to work collaboratively now. WMAC north slope management plan east of the Babbage River and NWT border (withdraw order for development). Updated plan should roll out in the next year.

How do caribou use those areas? Are there protections we should put in place?

Forty Mile Caribou

The department has been working on this file for a long time with Dawson City RRC and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in. Government has continued to look at harvest. Chief Joseph and Minister Frost have exchanged letters outlining their positions on pace and scale of harvest. Snowfall in Alaska caused the herd to break up into smaller groups. We won't see a humongous migration from January to March. We anticipate there will be a licensed and subsistence harvest in 2019.

Matt Clarke provided an overview of the herd including: monitoring, metrics, habitat; harvest management coalition and meetings; the plan for next four to five years; and pressure to demonstrate that Yukon is using its allocation so that Alaska doesn't take it. Government is working with Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in to develop licensed harvest allocation which doesn't create problems. A meeting is set for February to report progress to the coalition. There is a detailed report in the meeting kits.

Comments/Discussion:

- When would the harvest would ideally start this winter, but is unlikely. It will most likely be open to harvest in the winter. Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in is making use of caribou. There would be a threshold opportunity in summer and in the winter when they come in large numbers. The impetus is to have them recolonize regions in Yukon. When that happens, we can talk about management. We would use flexibility in conjunction with other user groups. It could be a threshold hunt.

- Animals don't cross in some cases. If they cross at the wrong period of time, like winter, who wants to harvest a bull? It could be wasting an animal the dogs don't want to eat. Numbers don't consistently move back and forth. It is hard to set up a management regime if they don't cross the road. We're dealing with third parties that have arrived and created laws we have to live with.
 - We can't deal with wildlife excluding history.
 - Graham Van Tighem and John Burdek will attend the meeting in Tok on behalf of the Board.
-

YUKON SALMON SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE AND BUDGET APPROVAL – E. MacDonald

Elizabeth MacDonald provided an overview of her background. She also provided an overview of the *DFO-YSSC Contribution Agreement – Schedule F*, which was included in meeting kits.

Comments/Discussion:

- Audit — Federal government can decide to audit the subcommittee. The second level of scrutiny is the Board. DFO looks at the details of the budget.
- Insurance is liability insurance (similar to WCB coverage).
- Once the budget is approved by the Board it will be sent to DFO.
- Much of the administration will fall to Elizabeth if Carmen doesn't stay on.

Motion – 2018-24: That the Board approve the budget of the Yukon Salmon Subcommittee as presented.

Moved by: Frank Thomas

Seconded by: Ron Chambers

Passed by: Consensus

Comments/Discussion:

- The International Year of the Salmon will be five years.
 - There will be a salmon gathering in Fairbanks in January for two days.
 - Lower Yukon River people have to be told that either they stop fishing or the six- to eight-year-old salmon will longer be there. The more the fish comes in the north, the harder they fish.
 - We need to do a strategic planning session.
 - Takhini River sonar project should be moving into a restoration activity.
 - AFN chiefs committee on fisheries — Carl Sidney was invited to attend and discuss Klukshu and salmon issue.
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MEMBERS TIME

Members discussed the following:

- Yukon Forum YFWMB review and letter from the Minister of Environment regarding mandate and concerns;
- Purpose of Yukon Forum. The next meeting is Friday, December 14, 2018;
- List of issues to work on from Lands and Resources Directors meeting for the working group;
- Bison and elk management by government;
- Board resources, challenges, opportunities and efficiencies;
- 10-year implementation review of the Board;
- Director of Fish and Wildlife as the technical advisor to the Board;
- Finlayson caribou harvest and PHA;
- First Nation harvest data, collection opportunities and gathering process;
- Moose recovery thresholds;
- Licensed harvest trends report and media reports on tags (600 in 80s and 1600 in ??);
- 40 Mile caribou and transboundary and subsistence harvesting issues in Alaska;

Action Item 2018-22 — The Executive Director will obtain a copy of the CYFN Resolution requesting a review of the Board.

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.

DAY 3: Thursday, December 13, 2018 – Regular Meeting

PRESENT: John Burdek, Ron Chambers, Danny Cresswell, Michelle Dawson-Beattie, Dennis Dickson, Shirley Ford, Carl Sidney, Ken Taylor, Frank Thomas, Blanche Warrington

REGRETS: Dave Andrew

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

PUBLIC: Christine Cleghorn (Director, Fish & Wildlife, YE), Janice Sibbeston (Manager, YFWMET), Nadele Flynn (PhD Student, Climate Change), Tom Jung (Senior Wildlife Biologist (Biodiversity), YE)

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT TRUST – S. Ford, J. Sibbeston

Refer to Enhancement Trust minutes.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND THE BOREAL FOREST (TAB 13) — N. Flynn

Nadele Flynn provided an overview of her background and history and gave a presentation on her PhD research in Yukon, including: changes in average annual temperature and precipitation in Yukon (2.5 degrees); influence on Yukon's boreal ecosystems; ecosystem resilience and physical space; big questions regarding regional climate change, local climate change and individual to biome; biome mapping to predict future effects; bioclimate zones and relationship to climate and climate change; climate normal periods; climate variables; boreal low subzones; modelled bioclimate zones; tree-growth response; study areas; field data; tree-ring analysis; climate reconstructions; resiliency and resistance of tree species to extreme climate events; long-term trends; changes in jet streams; and extreme events adaptation and influence.

A copy of the presentation and a letter from Nadele Flynn to Graham Van Tighem were included in meeting kits for members' reference.

Comments/Discussion:

- The oldest tree so far was 300 years. Size doesn't always indicate age.

- Volcano eruption in Malaysia — Effects can be observed in the tree rings if they impacted ability to take advantage of early spring melt or if it shows a low-growth year.
- Earth's tilt — Long and short-term cycles change (decade and millennial oscillations) are impacted by changes in the Earth's tilt. There are also key connections to ice ages. Data is available.
- Land-use planning council has a tree slice from a 1,300 year-old tree.
- Kluane Lake — There are tree stumps under the water for 100 years or more. It might give 200 years of information beyond the live trees. It might be interesting for someone doing a climate reconstruction.
- Classification system with a mapping component — Nadele will explore how classification will help understand how species in communities develop under this climate regime and how that information can help us understand the future and resilience.

BISON TECHNICAL TEAM UPDATE (TAB 14)

Tom Jung provided an overview of work to begin on the new bison plan.

- There will be four workshops. The first will be held in March to review current status and activities since the last plan in 2012. There are 62 items to review. Another workshop will identify goals and objectives. Two subsequent workshops will work on the actual plan. The department is talking about the idea of having public meetings in communities that are relevant to bison management, namely Carmacks, Haines Junction and Burwash Landing, as part of the workshops.
- A world expert planner, Alistair Bath, will attend from Newfoundland. He did the same thing in Alaska. He is currently working in Alaska on a sheep management plan.
- The bison technical team includes members the Board, Kluane First Nation, Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation, Champagne and Aishihik First Nation, Alsek RRC, Carmacks RRC, Dän Keyi RRC and Laberge RRC, federal government, Yukon government, Fish and Game Association, a local outfitter and Parks Canada.
- The plan will be completed by the end of 2019.
- There will be a role for the public, but that is for Christine and John to sort out.
- The department is talking about doing a human dimension survey.

Tom Jung also reviewed the *Hunting reintroduced bison in the Yukon: the influence of regulatory changes on harvest patterns* PowerPoint presentation provided in meetings kits for members' reference.

Comments/Discussion:

- Bison are heading up to White River country. Alaskan bison are on the Logan glacier-side.
 - In 2001, 2011 and 2012, the ratio of male to female harvest was close to 50:50 which is challenging. Division to harvest north or south was used to spread out harvest of bison.
 - It is sometimes difficult to identify the females. It requires a quick-decision shot.
 - Bison disease sampling program indicated the herd passed the test and there was no disease.
 - The last count was in 2016 and there were 1,253 or 1,258 adults. If government secures funding another count will take place in summer 2019 (every three years). Tom Jung is looking for another person to do the modelling to review count and harvest data. This will hopefully be done for the next meeting.
 - It is cheap and easy to do the count in July as the herd comes together in an open place.
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MEMBERS TIME

Members discussed the following:

- The letter to Yukon government regarding the grizzly bear plan;
 - Motion – 2018-25:** That the Board recommend the grizzly bear plan with additional items as outlined in the letter to Yukon government.
 - Moved by:** Frank Thomas
 - Seconded by:** Ron Chambers
 - Passed by:** Consensus
- The letter from Yukon government and CYFN regarding the review of the Board and a letter of response;

Graham will send a copy of the resolution and the draft letter in response (Action Items 2018-22 and 2018-23)

Members also discussed:

- Overlapped traplines;
- UFA and Chapter 16 definition of conservation, Ross River moose populations, caribou permit hunts;
- Elk harvest;
- Caribou;

CLOSING PRAYER — D. Cresswell