

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
December 16 & 17, 2020
MINUTES
Zoom Video Conference

DAY 1: Wednesday, December 16, 2020 – Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Carl Sidney (Chair), Randy Taylor (Vice-Chair)

ZOOM: Blanche Warrington, Danny Cresswell, Cheyenne Bradley, David Dickson, Michelle Dawson-Beattie, John Burdek, Sebastian Jones, Dawn Kisoun, Franklin Patterson Jr., Ken Taylor,

REGRETS: Dennis Dickson

STAFF: Graham Van Tighem, Diane Sheldon, Steve Hossack

SUPPORT: Sharon Kerr (Minute Taker)

IN ATTENDANCE: Ryan Hennings (Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife, Environment), Janice (ZOOM) Sibbeston (YFWET, Manager), Larry Joe – PM, Elizabeth MacDonald - PM

OPENING PRAYER, WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Carl Sidney welcomed and introduced everyone. Randy Taylor said the opening prayer.

ADMIN AND FINANCES (TAB 01)

A. AGENDA REVIEW— C. Sidney

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

Motion – 2020-23: That the Board accept the December 16 and 17, 2020 agenda as presented.

Moved by: Randy Taylor

Seconded by: Michelle Dawson-Beattie

Passed by: Consensus

B. EXECUTIVE REPORT (TAB 02) — G. Van Tighem

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

He highlighted two new items that were made available in the meeting kit:

- Executive Director – A year in Review
 - Sheep Management information document
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FINANCIAL UPDATE (TAB 03) – D. Sheldon

Diane Sheldon reviewed the financial report to November 30, 2020 provided in the meeting kits.

Motion – 2020-24: That the Board accept the financial report to November 30, 2020 as presented.

Moved by: John Burdek

Seconded by: Dawn Kisoun

Passed by: Consensus

Comments/Questions:

- Graham advised that a draft workplan and budget has been prepared. It was due December 15, 2020. The final version is to be completed and submitted by March 1st, 2021.
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CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW TAB (4) – G. Van Tighem

Graham Van Tighem reviewed the correspondence to and from the YFWMB provided in the meeting kits.

Comments/Questions:

- Sebastian Jones spoke with Mike Suiter who said there was no harvesting so far this year. The Fortymile caribou are up near the Alaskan border, and the Chisana caribou herd are in the same area.
 - Steve Hossack provided some statics from the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. For the fall hunt, they have issued 17,750 permits. For the winter hunt so far, they issued 4,777 permits. In the fall, they harvested 3286 male caribou, 2120 female caribou and 60 unknowns, meaning sex was not verified. During the winter hunt so far, they've harvested 431 male caribou, 452 female caribou and 1 unknown, meaning sex was not verified.
 - John Burdek understands that the plan between YG and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in has been signed and he requested an update.
 - Graham Van Tighem said that there is a signed Harvest Management Plan which was released at the Yukon Forum. A signed copy is available online.
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October 21, 22, 2020 MINUTES (TAB 05) – D. Sheldon

Diane Sheldon reviewed the October minutes provided in the meeting kits.

Motion – 2020-25: That the Board accept the October minutes as amended

Moved by: Michelle Dawson-Beattie

Seconded by: Carl Sidney

Passed by: Consensus

Comments/Questions:

- Blanche Warrington asked her name to be added to Day 2.
 - Michelle Dawson-Beattie advised her name is spelled incorrectly on page one “Michelle Dawson-Beattie” not “Michele Dawson-Beattie”
 - Dickson is missing the “s” on page 10.
 - John Burdek advised bullet six on page eight should be “tote road” not “toll road”.
 - Carl Sidney asked about the recommendations on page 10 from David Dickon. Graham Van Tighem advised this falls under the RRC’s mandate and YFWMB can work with them
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Working Groups – G. Van Tighem

Graham previously sent a working group sheet out to the members. Some of the members rated the groups from 1 to 10 and others signed up to a specific working group. They reviewed the number of working groups and assigned members according to their choices. They adjusted the groups based on corporate history to ensure fair distribution. There is a list of 10 working groups that are meant to be staging grounds for readiness to respond and participate in activities across the territory. There are other participants in working groups from YG, RRC, Dennis Zimmermann, YSSC, and others as needed.

Another important aspect for the working groups to keep in mind are the budgetary responsibilities. We need to ensure the budget is not exhausted on one working group.

Comments/Questions:

- Sebastian Jones should be listed as an alternate on the Fortymile caribou herd working group. He asked if working groups need to prepare reports for the YFWMB meetings.
 - Graham said there is a requirement for working groups to report to the Board.
 - John Burdek asked if the assignment to working groups is still open for discussion. Can members request a switch between working groups? Graham confirmed members can move between working groups and asked that they inform him and Diane.
 - Sebastian Jones suggested that staff alert working groups and/or Board members of upcoming events that may affect a specific working group so that they can pay attention. Graham tries to incorporate those in his Executive Report and sends out emails and notifications. There was a lot more meetings taking place before COVID, but it slow right now. Carl Sidney said they try to give notice but nothing is moving. Once things start happening, information will definitely come out.
 - Graham Van Tighem said there was still the ability to meet by ZOOM which will really change meetings for the future. He wants to keep meeting by ZOOM to stay in touch with Board members and to follow up with the working groups.
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C.O. Services Update – G. Hitchcock, J. Welsh

- Field Season Update
- Program Successes, Challenges
- Hunter Ethics and Education Program Update – Jim Welsh

Gordon Hitchcock provide an update of the Conservation Services for the following:

- The training Conservation Officers, including their duties and programs they work with, which was completed.
- The number of elk harvested to December 15, 2020 was 36. Of those, 17 have been agricultural conflict harvest permits.
- There were 134 bear complaints, resulting in 12 bears being relocated and 30 bears destroyed. Of those destroyed, 21 were through C.O. measures and nine were due to danger to life or property, 21 were black bears, and nine were grizzlies.
- The work with Fish and Wildlife on a translocation bear project over the next five years. They want to get some good solid data on what happens to translocated bears. So far they have collared six bears.
- The COVID pandemic border enforcement at Junction 37 from April 6, 2020. They are still working with COVID enforcement within the communities.
- The Environmental Investigations Unit which and has proven to be very effective.

Comments/Questions:

- Sebastian Jones asked why CO would have to kill a conflict elk. Gordon Hitchcock said that part of the management plan includes cases where there are issues or occurrences with elk where the land owner demonstrated, and the circumstances demonstrated, that we had to cull the elk because other options were not working satisfactorily and CO Services decided to take action.
- Sebastian Jones asked if the collared bears were taken from Whitehorse or Dawson. Gordon Hitchcock said he recalls there were five black bears and one grizzly. Four were from Whitehorse and one black bear was from Dawson.
- Carl Sidney asked about the TIP Reward program and if it has been used. There are lots of posts on Facebook with information on wasted meat. Gordon Hitchcock advised that TIPP is a really good program. He always tries to ensure this is fully used. Some of the issues he sees are the privacy implications which hinders reporting. He knows they should be communicating and advertising the program.

Hunter Ethics and Education Program Update – Jim Welsh

Jim Welsh reviewed his PowerPoint Hunter education update provided in the meeting kit. He provided a brief overview of the following:

- Hunter Education — He has been providing his workshop virtually which has been very successful. There is a lot of interest. His last course had 50 participants.
- Land-based skills — He has a team of instructors to assist in teaching land-based skills. Some of these are Bob Daffe who teaches *10 Ways To Save Your Life With A Piece Of Rope*. Fabian Smith is a German survivalist who teaches how to light fires anywhere with anything. He is focusing on these fundamental skills to help keep people safe and give them some good knowledge.
- Workshops are not happening right now because of COVID but they are looking at other ways to address this. They are making short one-minute video that are really popular. The last video was a short clip and within 12 hours, they had 7,000 likes.

- School bison hunt program — He thanked the Board and he thanked Graham who attended the school bison hunts for the last few years.
- Field dressing clinics.
- Bison photos — He is looking for bison photos or videos. If anyone is on a hunt, a short clip on any techniques would be appreciated.

Comments/Questions:

- Carl Sidney commented on the meeting with Teslin Tlingit Council Resources Director. They indicated that the CO department is offering to go out and work with the game guardians in relation to different practices and ethics. Jim Welsh said it was his goal and that he feels one role of game guardians is to be mentors in the community and to pass information on to the youth. He has reached out to First Nations to use his program, skill sets, and the Conservation Officers to help empower people. One of the things we're doing in Teslin is the bear spray clinic and bear safety course. It's really popular. They are trying to certify the game guardians to be able to teach that course in the community.
- Graham noted that the number of complaints being shared with the Board regarding Conservation Officers and declined to almost zero... He commended Gord and Jim on their excellent work and noted he hoped to continue working with them into the future.

YUKON SALMON SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE AND BUDGET APPROVAL – E. MacDonald

YSSC Budget

Elizabeth MacDonald reviewed the draft budget for the 2021-2022 contribution agreement. A copy was available in the meeting kit. Al Von Finster was unable to attend and sent his regrets.

Motion – 2020-26: YSSC 2021-2022 Contribution Agreement Budget

Moved by: John Burdek

Seconded by: Dawn Kisoun

Passed by: Consensus

Comments/Questions:

- Sebastian Jones asked about partial salary dollars from other funding agreements. He also asked why YSSC comes to YFWMB for budget approval. Elizabeth MacDonald said funds for special projects come in throughout the year with administrative funding attached. This is used to cover some of her time for the projects, rather than taking it out of their core dollars. As for YFWMB approving their budget, the UFA outlines that requirement and provides for an update to the Board.

YSSC Update

Elizabeth MacDonald provided a YSSC update on the following: virtual preseason meetings; in-season activities; YRDFA; Yukon River Panel; Communications; future and miscellaneous activities; and the DFO review of activities and outcomes. An overview was available in the meeting kit.

Upcoming work includes the following:

- Engagement with FFHPP (partnership with YFWMB);
- Yukon River Salmon Summit Steering Committee (expected in 2022);
- A A R O M;
- Alsek Drainage Working Group — The sub-committee is working with CAFN to create the working group. Hopefully the first official meeting will take place next year.
- Habitat Working Group;
- Mineral Development Strategy, Dawson Land Use and YESAB comments;
- Traditional Knowledge Working Group (partnership with YFWMB);
- Traditional knowledge in decisions/recommendations;
- Traditional Knowledge Advisory Body to the YRP;
- A YSSC recommendation to the Minister for increased funding to cover the expenses of implementing recommendations from 2005/2007 review; and
- the Implementation Review in 2022.

Comments/Questions:

- Sebastian Jones asked if YFWMB, or any other board, provides a similar report to the YSSC. Elizabeth MacDonald said no. The YFWMB update would not have anything to do with salmon, however they have informal conversations as they do work in the same office. They also have two members from the YFWMB on the sub-committee and there is a lot of information exchange. They do work together on different projects as they come up.
- Carl Sidney thanked Elizabeth for her presentation.

MEMBERS TIME — IN CAMERA

Carl Sidney asked for a member to make a motion to go into member's time.

Motion – 2020-27: That the Board move the meeting in camera.

Moved by: Randy Taylor

Seconded by: John Burdek

Passed by: Consensus

No minutes were recorded.

DAY 2: Thursday, December 17, 2020 – Regular Meeting

PRESENT:	Carl Sidney (Chair), Randy Taylor (Vice-Chair)
ZOOM:	Blanche Warrington, Danny Cresswell, Cheyenne Bradley, David Dickson, Michelle Dawson-Beattie, John Burdek, Sebastian Jones, Dawn Kisoun, Franklin Patterson Jr., Ken Taylor,
REGRETS:	Dennis Dickson
STAFF:	Graham Van Tighem, Diane Sheldon, Steve Hossack
SUPPORT:	Sharon Kerr (Minute Taker)
IN ATTENDANCE: (ZOOM)	Ryan Hennings (Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife, Environment), Janice Sibbeston (YFWET, Manager), Larry Joe, Dennis Zimmermann

Carl Sidney welcomed the members and visitors back to day two of the YFWMB meeting. He reviewed the agenda.

STRATEGIC PLANNING UPDATE – D. Zimmermann

Dennis Zimmermann reviewed his presentation provided in the meeting kit.

Comments/Questions:

- Ken Taylor raised two concerns. The first was regarding Dan Lindsay’s participation. He respects Dan’s knowledge and experience, but he doesn’t think the Board should invite any YG employees in their strategic planning process. Dan is under contract with YG and has a vested interest, whether he would agree with that or not. Dan has a certain bias and he put forward the six things he thought were essential, or core, components. We had some pretty serious concerns with some of that work. This isn’t the place for YG to get involved. The second concern is the first slide which contains the phrase “agreed upon”. Agreed upon by whom? Who do you see as the people who are supposed to agree on this? Dennis Zimmermann said he thinks that Stratos is referring to “agree to by all the parties” and that Stratos means YG, YFN, and RRC’s which is a big group.
- Ken Taylor understands that Stratos is trying to have all the parties in the same room, at the same time. This is a big ask for the Board. Dennis Zimmermann said that’s why it’s very important to manage expectations. He hears that's a different process and the executives realized that as well. He hopes this aligns with the feedback they gave him, which is not that different from what Ken is saying.
- Sebastian Jones has concerns similar to Ken’s. The relationship between recommendation seven, which talks about agreeing on a public mandate and then redefining the mandate to a strategic plan — it seems to him that they’re commencing a strategic planning process without understanding what is agreed upon which it seems backward. Dennis Zimmermann said he thinks there are two ways of looking at it. In theory, people on this call right now were positive for part of the implementation of the final agreement, but there are a lot of gray areas in it. The interpretation piece gets played out all over the place and they know that. He suggested a way for this to work is

for the Board to build on its strengths and to articulate and document its position, but not in an adversarial way. He suggested Board members work together, have an internal dialogue, and then present the Board's position on who we are, how we want to proceed, and what we'd like to do. This is a starting point to articulate the Board's values, priorities, and perspectives over the next three to five years, which is what parties to the Yukon Forum has asked for.

- Carl Sidney said Dan would be overseeing this and helping YFWMB. He would not be representing YG. Dan said that he would be willing to take a leave of absence from the office. He would be an asset.
- Randy Taylor said they have discussed this briefly with the Board. He agrees with Ken that Dan should not come on board as a YG contractor. He agrees that Dan can bring in some expertise to the process as an individual, an arm's length contractor, or consultant. They never had any intent to bring him on as a YG contractor. Dennis Zimmermann spoke with Dan yesterday afternoon. Dan was pretty clear that he would be under a YG contract. He did explore this with Dan and, in light of what Carl raised, there is an opportunity to design a strategic planning process. Dan is a good person to provide context and information to the Board. He can provide a presentation and then leave so the Board can continue with the strategic planning. There is a way to find that middle ground to get all perspectives. Dan can present the six recommendations and we can have some dialogue around that. Then no one can accuse the Board of not being informed going into a process.
- Graham Van Tighem said it would be beneficial to engage Dan in the process in a more structured fashion. Whether or not he represents YG, which he did in the past, it might still be beneficial given his experience as past Director and role in the negotiations of the UFA. There is an opportunity to get that wisdom and include it in our process. If the Board is uncomfortable with this, they can discuss it further in January.
- Carl Sidney asked about reaching out to First Nation governments. There is more work to do to incorporate issues that come from the First Nation governments into their strategic plan. We need to reach out to RRCs to ensure they are included. Regarding steps and timeline, we have to take into consideration the First Nations and keep them in mind throughout this process to see how to work with them. Food security is an important issue. A lot of the communities are working on their own food security, which is going to involve bringing in different animals such as pigs, cows, lambs, and goats which has to be considered. Dennis Zimmermann said this is exactly what he thinks they should be doing — reaching out to First Nations, RRCs, and YG. This initial step will provide something to present to them.
- Graham Van Tighem said that, for setting expectations, he wants to be really clear that the strategic plan gets updated every five years. It's five years old now. We're on schedule and there is no issue with the former plan being sunsetted. The old plan is still relevant. The goal is to strategically align our resources based on our mandate and responsibilities, corporate memory, activities, discussion documents, and background information. Most importantly, we can't ignore the objectives of the final agreement. We want to make sure that the strategic plan represents the interests of the Board and is in line with all those things. Strategically aligning resources is really important with 2.8 staff. When the strategic plan is done, it is important that the Board members refer to it and utilize it for the next few years – not just move on without it.

- John Burdek said that, with regards to the conversations today, and looking at the process, he wonders if there should be a lengthier contract. Dennis Zimmermann said that he understands the concern. He wants to align strategic resources based on input from the Board, the Executive, and the direct staff. Then you have something to work with. He would prefer to keep this small, easy, and simple to complete the first part.
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Yukon Fish and Game Association Update – E. Schroff

Eric Schroff provided an update on some of the initiatives they have been working on including the following:

- Disaster relief in Haines Alaska;
- The membership drive;
- Summer students;
- Contribution agreement with the Yukon government, funding cuts, and impacts;
- Fundraising and impacts due to COVID-19;
- Elk conflict hunt;
- Moose adaptive management proposals;
- Changes to the permit height authorization approach to sheep in game management, zone seven;
- Bison conservation and maintenance of hunter opportunity;
- Concerns with hunters and impacts to the land (vandalism, misuse of trapping and hunting cabins). They have several ideas on how to address the concerns through hunter education and safety courses. This could be incorporated into the HEED training.

Comments/Questions:

- Graham Van Tighem discussed the Dall sheep fact sheet. YG wanted a copy so they could review and provide feedback. Steve will send Eric the latest version for circulation after the meeting.
 - Graham Van Tighem congratulated Yukon Fish and Game Association on their 75th anniversary.
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Yukon Forum Fish and Wildlife Working Group Update – C. Sidney, R. Taylor, G. Van Tighem

Graham Van Tighem provided an update from the last meetings. A copy of the minutes were available in the meeting kit.

Randy Taylor wanted to clarify the roles and responsibilities workshop. A two-day workshop had been planned for quite a while. It has been delayed due to COVID. In the minutes from the October 6 meeting, the workshop was discussed. The minutes state that the CO chairs recommended that the Fish and Wildlife Working Group members have this workshop to deal with the Board's roles and responsibilities. He understood that the Board was also going to participate in that workshop, but it wasn't captured in the minutes.

Graham Van Tighem recalled that they were participants in the workshop and not observers. He suggested sending a note to get that clarification.

Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust – K. Taylor, J. Sibbeston
Refer to Enhancement Trust minutes.

YFWET LEGAL ADVICE - NEW BOARD MEMBERS ONLY (V. FRED)

End of Day 2