

**YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING**  
**June 12 - 14, 2018**  
**MINUTES**  
**Little Salmon Village**

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**DAY 1: Tuesday, June 12, 2018 – Regular Meeting**

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

**REGRETS:** Dennis Dickson, Eric Schroff

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

**SUPPORT:** Colleen Henry (Minute Taker)

**PUBLIC:** Christine Cleghorn (Director, Fish & Wildlife, YE), Karen Clyde, Tim Dewhurst (Teslin RRC), Eric Fairclough (Director of Lands and Resources for LSCFN), Rebecca Freeman (Manager of Lands and Resources for LSCFN), Kirby Meister (CO Services), Mike Sutor (Dawson Regional Biologist), Janice Sibbeston (Executive Director Enhancement Trust)

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**OPENING PRAYER** – Carl Sidney

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**WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION**

John Burdek welcomed everyone and introduced the new members.

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**ADMIN AND FINANCES (TAB 01)**

**A. AGENDA REVIEW**

John Burdek reviewed the agenda.

Additions:

- A discussion about on-the-land meetings was added to the in-camera session on Day 3.

**Motion – 2018-11:** That the Board accept the June 12 - 14, 2018 agenda as amended.

**Moved by:** Frank Thomas

**Seconded by:** Shirley Ford

**Passed by:** Consensus

There was a round of introductions. Graham Van Tighem provided a few comments about the on-the-land meetings, logistics and the Little Salmon Village venue.

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## **B. EXECUTIVE REPORT (TAB 02)**

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

### Comments/Discussion:

- “Ethics” versus “respect” – First Nations don’t have a corresponding word for “ethics”. Respect is something that everyone can use and relate to. Ethics are used to create laws, but we are not dealing with just Yukon government laws. There are traditional laws and other types of knowledge.
- BC/Yukon wildlife management – There is a disconnect between management strategies along both sides of the border. There is a need to make inroads with BC government. Building relationships and educating people is the best opportunity for success. Members discussed options such as organizing an exchange with game guardians. Frank Thomas provided an overview of discussions and meetings in northern BC. BC is working to establish a “northern voice” as the head government office responsible for the region is located in Victoria on Vancouver Island. There is slow progress.
- Grizzly bear harvest closure in BC – Average harvest is 70 to 100 each year. First Nations are concerned about increased predation due to the closure. Wildlife has been devastated due to predators and hunting pressure. Safety and human/wildlife conflicts is also an issue. President of the Tahltan First Nation spoke with government in Victoria and there was no uptake. Sometimes the Board needs to invite itself to public meetings of conservation groups to inform them of management and issues.
- Grizzly bear ban – Christine Cleghorn provided information on Auditor General’s audit report of the grizzly bear program. The grizzly bear ban was of immediate concern and BC government is working on compensations to outfitters. BC continues to work on compensation and the widely disparate public. There was broad public support for a ban. BC government is trying to figure out how to manage it and respond to the audit. Carnivore management is expensive. BC has a huge influx of caribou funding and is looking at ways to redirect those funds to address grizzly bears.

- Wetland policy/Yukon Conservation Society meeting – The Trust provided \$10,000 for the meetings and education on the wetlands policy. One condition was to include someone from EMR, which deals with off-road vehicle use.
- Caribou work in Swan Lake/Rancheria area – Graham provided an update on collaring, census and recent work from 2006. There were a number of BC projects (GPS collaring). More detailed analysis can be provided. Yukon government would like to deploy collars on both sides of the border at Swan Lake, Little Horse Ranch and Rancheria at the same time. BC hasn't been able to provide collar funding. BC has a caribou plan in place and has put collars out in Swan Lake and has prioritized the Atlin herd this year. Regarding TTC, Teslin RRC and Kaska involvement, a conversation needs to happen once money is in place.
- Environment Directors Meetings – Meetings take place in May and October. The May 2020 will take place in Yukon. The Board, RRCs and First Nations can prepare a presentation about the transboundary caribou work. Frank Thomas provided information about the COSEWIC presentation which worked well. Certain presentations and people stand out. People often forget the details of meetings but remember the highlights.

**New Action Item 2018-10: Northern Wildlife Symposium** – Executive Director will follow up from the Northern Wildlife Symposium (Dease Lake), and determine what, if any, official trans-boundary First Nation agreements are being applied within the deliberations.

**New Action Item 2018-11: CYFN General Assembly** – The Executive Director, Chair John Burdek and member Carl Sidney will attend the CYFN General Assembly in Mayo.

**New Action Item 2018-12: RRC AGW** – The Executive Director will send a detailed update following the RRC AGW including agenda items, resolution and general discussion.

### **C. FINANCIAL UPDATE (TAB 03) – D. Sheldon**

Diane Sheldon provided a financial report up to May 31, 2018. There were no questions.

**Motion – 2018-12:** That the Board accept the YFWMB Financial Report to May 31, 2018.

**Moved by:** Frank Thomas

**Seconded by:** Ken Taylor

**Passed by:** Consensus

## ACTION ITEM REVIEW (TAB 04) – G. Van Tighem

Graham Van Tighem reviewed the action item list.

<b>Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board Status of Action Items 2018</b>	
<b>Action item 2018-04:</b> YFWMB staff will follow up with Mary Vanderkop on the following: arrange an update presentation at future Board meeting regarding the tick situation in Yukon and Board's submission regarding <i>Animal Health Act</i> .	<b><i>Completed Graham provided an overview of BC veterinarian, sampling and analysis</i></b>
<b>Action item 2018-05:</b> YFWMB staff will reinstate the Trapping Working Group upon the completion of the Unfurled event and begin the process of determining next steps.	<b><i>Ongoing. Awaiting final report.</i></b>
<b>Action item 2018-06:</b> YFWMB staff will collect information about northern BC/Yukon government caribou work near Swan Lake and Rancheria.	<b><i>Completed. Board recommendation sent to Minister of Highways and Public Works.</i></b>
<b>Action item 2018-07:</b> The Board will provide contact information to Teslin and Bill Oestreich.	<b><i>Completed.</i></b>
<b>Action item 2018-08:</b> YFWMB staff will send a thank you to RRC Chairs for attending the chairs meeting.	<b><i>Completed.</i></b>
<b>Action item 2018-09:</b> The Board will send a letter to Dickson Outfitters congratulating Dickson Outfitting for their receipt of the Frank Golata Outstanding Outfitter award. The Trust will send letters to outfitters regarding projects.	<b><i>Completed. Board sent a letter and met with Dave Dickson. YouTube video of Dave Dickson's speech is online.</i></b>

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

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

### Comments/Discussion:

- YESAB Chair – Wendy Randall is the new chair and was the original executive director for YESAB.
- 17th North American Caribou Workshop – Yukon government will send someone. It is a science and technical workshop. Culture is a main reason people are interested in

having caribou around. We depend too much on biologists. There should be cultural components in discussions. Culture is the people. A biologist with the best intentions but who can't get through to people and leadership won't have much success.

- Letter #9 – This item should be added to the media update. The Alsek has been hit hard for the last decade or more. It won't go away and it affects people and animals. Juvenile work has started in the ocean and helps provide forecast.
- Letter for meeting in Dease Lake – The Board is in contact and expects information. Christine Cleghorn provided information about the directors meeting in Ottawa and New Brunswick.

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#### **APRIL MINUTES (TAB 06)– D. Sheldon**

Member reviewed the meeting minutes for April 10 - 12, 2018.

##### Corrections:

- Page 21 under bullet number 3 – Collaring, take out the first “will”.

**Motion – 2018-13:** That the Board approve the minutes for April 10 – 12, 2018 as amended.

**Moved by:** Dave Andrew

**Seconded by:** Shirley Ford

**Passed by:** Consensus

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#### **WORKING GROUP MEMBERSHIPS (TAB 07) – G. Van Tighem**

Graham Van Tighem provided a brief introduction and reviewed the list of working groups and members. Tecla Van Bussel revised the member lists.

##### Comments/Discussion:

- Angling Working group – The focus is on communication and challenges regarding catch and release angling. Robert Perry is doing an analysis.
- Communications – The focus is on website, broad communications and calendar.
- Fish and Fish Habitat – The focus is on challenges due to recent changes to the federal Fisheries Act.
- Licensed Hunting – The focus is on licence fees.
- Non-Consumptive Use – The focus is on tourism and wildlife viewing issues. (I.e. grizzly bear viewing)

- Policy, Regulation and Legislation – One focus is Yukon Wildlife Act regulation change process and any other policy, regulation and legislation that arises.
- Scholarship – Review student essays and make recommendations on scholarship awards.
- Trapping – This was previously discussed on the agenda.
- Wildlife Habitat – This group deals with any issues arising that will include wildlife habitat discussions, (i.e. resource roads). Recommendations go to the ministers of Environment and Energy, Mines and Resources.
- Wildlife Management Plans – Bison, wolf, grizzly bear, elk et cetera.
- Standards and Response (CO Services) – Larger more active role in dealing with COs. Some work has been successful including performance evaluations of COs, more involvement of First Nations and RRCs in hiring COs, hunter education ethics, hunting regulations and licensed hunting.
- Personnel Committee – This committee deals with hiring, administrative challenges and includes the chair and vice-chair.
- Trust working group – The Executive was selected in April. It is limited to four, however technical review work is open to all members.

**New Action Item 2018-13: Working Group List** – Staff will update the working group list and distribute to Board members.

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#### **DIRECTOR OF LANDS AND RESOURCES, LSCFN – E. Fairclough**

Eric Fairclough welcomed the Board to Little Salmon Village and provided an overview and history of the village, population, other villages in the region, outstanding negotiations and claims with the federal government regarding highway, trail system and a BC court case regarding confidentiality of traditional knowledge.

Additional information will be provided on Day 2.

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#### **COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE (TAB 08) – T. Van Bussel**

Tecla Van Bussel provided a communications update on:

- the grizzly bear plan including coordination, writing, graphic design;
- Fisheries Act, YSSC and DFO meetings and engagement;
- UFA Presentation;

- Alsek RRC interpretation of UFA in Department of Environment (to be discussed at the RRC AGW);
- Correspondence and weekly media roundup;
- website updates;
- iPad setup;
- SharePoint;
- Public review of Grizzly Bear Management Plan and survey results;
- DFO summer engagement on Fisheries Act policies and regulations;
- wetlands policy meetings; regulation change public; and
- the calendar.

Comments/Discussion:

- SharePoint shared document – There is no way to provide individual comments on documents without sharing them with everyone. Tecla will look into iAnnotate software to see if it can be used with SharePoint and will install if possible.
- RRC AGM – Report on the AGM will be emailed to the Board.

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**40 MILE CARIBOU UPDATE (TAB 09) – M. Suitor**

Mike Suitor provided an update on the following:

- background of the herd;
- population estimates, trend and distribution;
- international recovery planning; current status;
- International recovery goals included moving the herd back into Canada ;
- harvest management process;
- conservative harvest rates;
- Yukon’s allocation which is 35 percent and the US which is 65 percent;
- Harvest Management Committee, terms of reference and members (3 from Yukon government and three from Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in);
- harvest data;
- Board engagement;
- Harvest Management plan, draft table of contents, principles, goals, objectives;
- migration data (collaring);
- Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in issues to be addressed and other issues raised;
- outfitters;
- regulatory tools;

- hunt tools in place to manage hunt;
- hunt details;
- caribou harvest geographic zones;
- Porcupine caribou PCMA user communities and overlap of herds;
- next steps;
- research on habitat use, response to land use, qualities of habitat, population model; and
- population model to assess harvest impacts.

Mike distributed a backgrounder document on the herd and a harvest plan.

Comments/Discussion:

- Population declined in the 70s due to harvest pressure.
- The herd moves a lot, as a mass. In 2013, the herd came into the territory in the beginning of October (about 50,000 to 60,000).
- The committee will include someone from Porcupine Caribou Management Board. 40 mile caribou have been hit along the Dempster Highway.
- Scientists say there are too many animals in the herd. They say the same thing with salmon. Board members would like to see something concrete. A PhD student is working on this issue now.
- Alaskans want Canadians to harvest this year.
- There is intensive management between half and three-quarters of the carrying capacity. If the herd exceeds the carrying capacity the population will decline. The focus is on ensuring growth, even a reduced growth.
- The Alaska Harvest Management Coalition includes representatives of advisory councils and receives direction from communities. The herd will continue to grow 1 to 2 percent. Collaboration with Alaska has been positive.
- Sometimes caribou don't come into Yukon. With the large migratory herd, the calving ground is in Alaska and is the anchor to which they always return. As the herd expands, the range gets bigger. In the 1990s, people estimated that if the herd were around 50,000 they would return to Yukon.
- Dease Lake sample collection and testing – Graham Van Tighem provided information on sample collection training and testing in the Dease Lake region. Mike provided information on discussions with Alaska regarding sample collection. A check station was setup on the highway and 200 samples were collected, of which 20 were full samples and 180 were focused samples. There was a lot of variability. Sampling will help collect baseline data on animal health and it is a good way to involve people.
- The herd is expanding into major mining areas. It is hard to say if there are any affects.

- The historical range came up into Kluane region at one time, so there is a large change. Historical knowledge can help inform the bigger picture.
  - Another presentation will be provided and the Board can provide feedback and recommendations.
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### **RRC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING UPDATE (TAB 10) – G. Van Tighem**

Graham Van Tighem provided an update on the RRC AGM and agenda, including: resolution process; honoraria increases; Department of Environment review; Minister Pauline Frost; wetlands policy; lakeshore management; SFN salmon management plan; Northern Tutchone May Gathering; Traplines in overlap areas; Minister Pillai's discussion on ORVs, resource roads and mining; Yukon Parks strategy; grizzly bear management plan update; pharmaceuticals in lagoons; and resolutions.

A copy of the draft agenda was included in meeting kits for the Board's reference.

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### **BRANCH UPDATE & ATAC ROAD AGREEMENT (TAB 11) – C. Cleghorn, K. Clyde**

#### Branch Update

Christine Cleghorn provided a branch update on the following:

- Porcupine Caribou and drilling in the refuge, technical committee, draft submissions, PCMB, CPAWS and Washington hearings and presentations to the panel (Minister Frost will attend). An environment impact statement to be released between mid-November and early January;
- Boreal caribou herd as a species at risk. Canada was obligated to develop a recovery plan. CPAWS filed a court action due to inactivity by federal government. Christine provided information on the Peel plan and response showing action and stewardship. The Peel consultation to be wrapped up early 2019. An analysis of boreal caribou habitat and needs are taking place with attention to preserving integrity of consultation. The Peel process is also intact. Information will be provided to Board in fall.
- Troy Hegel has left. His position has been divided into caribou and sheep and goats.

#### Elk Working Group Update

Karen Clyde provided an update on: elk working group; habitat enhancement; recommendations to ministers of EMR and Environment; conflict hunt; map of the proposed 2018 elk conflict hunt area; evaluation of the hunt; and the minimum count of 188 (last year it was 229).

### Comments/Discussion:

- Annual budget on elk – The surveys cost \$12,000.

### ATAC Agreement

Christine Cleghorn reviewed the ATAC Agreement. A copy of the agreement between Government of Yukon and Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in was provided in meeting kits for members' reference.

A map of the Beaver River Land Use Plan area was distributed.

Christine raised two points:

1. Does the Board want to engage? Yes
2. What does this look like with respect to timelines, partners, April 30 regulation change deadlines, policy and legislation working group? "What do we know about access and harvest?"

Karen Clyde provided an overview of participants. The intent is to complete the work in a timely manner.

The Branch is still determining how this will look. The Board will contact the department to discuss further.

**New Action Item 2018-14: ATAC Road Engagement Process** – The Board will work with Environment Yukon and affected First Nations and RRC's on the ATAC Road engagement process.

### CO Services

Kirby Meister, the North Regional manager from Dawson City, provided an update. Gordon Hitchcock sends his regrets. He was unable to attend due to conflicting dates with another meeting. Gord has been the director for a month. Kirby provided a brief update on the following:

- Staffing vacancies – There are vacancies in Teslin district and Watson Lake. There is funding for two trainees based in Whitehorse and working across the territory. There is also temporary funding for: a human wildlife conflict specialist, including contract work on data analysis; funding for database development; specialized training; a research project on conflicts with bears; and the mining industry. Harlon Inkster is the First Nation Conservation Liaison Officer. The Ross River CO was moved to Faro.
- Restorative Justice Initiative – Officers have gone through basic training provided by BC CO services. A set of policies will be developed and cases will be run through the initiative and will inform the policy writing.

- Trapline administration – Mark Callan has helped RRCs and Lands and Resource departments get traplines back into circulation.
- Hunter education program – Liaison with Department of Education and community outreach.
- Joint patrols with Lands and Resources staff, engagement with RRCs and community meetings.
- 17 conservation officers in the field in Yukon.
- Deputy conservation officers – Local people with basic training can help fill gaps. Budget for one or two in each community.

Comments/Discussion:

- A map of districts and the number of COs in each district will be sent to Tecla.
- Staffing – There is outreach to the local First Nation or RRC with respect to hiring. The first time this was done was in 2016. Community members from three communities were invited to sit on the interview panel. Teslin took the opportunity and it was a positive experience. This practice will be done in the future.
- Cooperation – In the past Park wardens collaborated with COs, RCMP et cetera. Now agencies operate in silos. Agencies have to be open. COs work with Park enforcement wards in Haines Junction and DFO officers in Whitehorse.

**DAY 2: Wednesday, June 13, 2018 – Regular Meeting**

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

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

**SUPPORT:** Colleen Henry (Minute Taker)

**PUBLIC:** Christine Cleghorn (Director, Fish & Wildlife, YE), Tim Dewhurst (Teslin RRC), Eric Fairclough (Director of Lands and Resources for LSCFN), Janice Sibbeston (Executive Director Enhancement Trust), Jody Pongrass, Kirby Meister, Tom Jung, Tyler Kuhn, Matt Ball, Sheila Garvis, Eric Fairclough, Chief Blackjack

**DEFINITION OF EDIBLE MEAT (B. Bears) – J. Pongrass, K. Meister**

John Burdek provided a brief introduction of edible meat for black bears.

Kirby Meister discussed the following:

- Board's one-page recommendation regarding edible meat developed in 1992 (circulated for members' review). The recommended has been used by government for 26 years.
- First Nations use of wild meat to feed dogs is not considered waste under the Wildlife Act and First Nations make the decision for their own people.
- The courts will likely apply the same standards to grizzly bear.
- Variety of opinions among First Nations on bear usage.

A handout about Yukon government Proposal 9 regarding edible meat was distributed for members' reference.

Comments/Discussion:

- Hide versus meat – If the hunter chooses the meat, he can leave the hide. Currently people don't have to take any meat. Education is an important component.
- Parasites/Disease – Are there parts of a bear that shouldn't be used? The Animal Health Unit could assist in this regard. Members discussed the trichinosis scare in pork and susceptibility of bears. There was a trichinosis study on black bear tongues and diaphragms in NWT.
- Hunters take hide but are not necessarily using it. Maybe we should be more literal. If hunters are harvesting bears for food they should take the food. Currently they can take all the meat.
- Harvest season – Some hunters would rather harvest bears in July instead of May, but the season is open in May and closed in July.
- Medicinal use – Medicinal uses for bear parts have to be considered. First Nations need to be involved and included in discussions.
- Conflict kills – People don't even take the hide. Lots of communities don't consume bears but they are impacted. Some cow moose don't have calves due to bear impacts and predation.
- We are in a different era. Look at issues in today's context.
- The Board would like to see options for consideration.
- Illegal trade (gall bladder, paws) – Demand changes perspective. Not all people who possess bear gall bladders or paws obtained them illegally.
- Culture – Culturally, bear claws and hides are important (i.e. traditional dances). That is different from taking trophies and should be considered differently.
- Eagles example – Alaska bounty on bald eagles. Numbers declined because of it. First Nations were penalized, but they didn't decimate the eagle population. It is important to keep the history in mind.

- 1992 definition – First Nations harvest to meet cultural/traditional needs. Final agreements speak to this as well. Does subsistence include culture? “Subsistence” is defined in the agreements but doesn’t match what is being said.

Within a year the package will go to Committee. From an enforcement perspective it should be done properly rather than quickly.

**New Action Item 2018-15: Edible Meat Definition** – The Board will work toward developing recommendations on the definition of edible meat for black bears through the Policy, Regulation, and Legislation Working Group.

### **AISHIHIK WOOD BISON MANAGEMENT PLANNING – T. Jung**

Tom Jung attended on behalf of the bison technical team and provided an update on the following:

- Bison technical team members and observers;
- *Management Plan for the Aishihik Wood Bison Herd in Southwestern Yukon 2012* review process and update. The plan was provided in meeting kits for members’ reference.
- There will be three workshops over fall and winter to: 1) review all gathered information (data rich); 2) determine goals and actions of the new plan (two- to three-day workshop); and 3) review the written revised plan (the writing phase will be approximately two months).
- Completed work including: regular population counts; work with CAFN; impacts to caribou, moose and sheep;
- Alistair Bath from St. John’s, Newfoundland has worked on a bison management plan in Alaska and will be brought up to Yukon. (Search Alaska Bison Management Plan). He is also a qualified social scientist.
- End product would be a draft plan delivered to the Board. It is up to the Board to decide how to do the review process.
- Timeline: Start in October or November with a target end-date of March 31, 2019 (or within two months following March 31, 2019).
- There will be a public survey on broader perspectives, support and vision for bison in Yukon (similar to the grizzly bear survey). It will go out in the fall ahead of the second workshop.
- What do we want for a population size in the future? Estimating 1,300 adults, there was a harvest of 202 in 2017. There is a balance to bring the population down, but also to bring the harvest down. A high harvest also means increased hunters on the land and impacts to First Nations. So far harvest keeps rising.

### Comments/Discussion:

- 30 or 40 percent of bison permit holders would not harvest moose if they had a successful hunt.
- One of the best sources of information was the 2015 Hunter Effort Survey. Over 800 people indicated the reason why they wanted to harvest bison, 11 said it was for trophy, most said for meat, less than 10 percent said for experience.

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### **GRIZZLY BEAR CONSERVATION PLAN – T. Jung, T. Kuhn**

Tyler Kuhn provided an update on the Grizzly Bear Conservation Plan. The plan was circulated to First Nations, Inuvialuit and transboundary First Nations but there was not much feedback or many comments. Key actions and goals were well received.

Feedback included the following:

- There is a need to do more to capture traditional knowledge, how it is used and how it will be used in future decisions;
- Include references to indigenous cultural values and laws and incorporate them into the planning process;
- One First Nation doesn't support hunting within traditional territory;
- First Nations raised concerns about how they were involved in the process of developing the plan.

A new section will be added to cover governance, jurisdiction, wildlife management in Yukon, complexities, and the diversity of players including governments, boards and councils.

Tyler reviewed the key changes to the actions. In addition to setting territory-wide actions, First Nations will be engaged to identify the individual actions as priorities will differ for each First Nation.

Suggestions for First Nation involvement were:

- If there are concerns from First Nations that want to be at the table, and are not at the table, it should be considered.
- First Nations not represented by the Board wanted to have their voices heard separately from government.
- The Board looks out for wildlife for the entire territory, including First Nations that don't have agreements. It is an issue of who speaks for those First Nations.

### Comments/Discussion:

- Working group members have completed a lot of work.

- The wolf management plan tried to be inclusive, but some people still aren't happy. It tried to be more inclusive with the GBMP. The Board is always making improvements but there were misunderstandings. Some First Nations thought they were being told what the plan would be, but it was really about information gathering.
- The plan was inclusive of a lot of Yukoners. People outside Yukon were envious.
- Old Crow, Fishing Branch – Fewer salmon resulted in fewer bears (which impacted economic development) and bears moved to Dempster. Local knowledge in one area was verified in another area.
- The “soft loop” is concluded. The working group and Yukon government are satisfied. The next step will be public engagement.
- Public survey rollout (infographic)– Christine Cleghorn provided an overview of the Engage Yukon website and feedback to Yukoners (what we heard). The working group sent a letter to Christine indicating its preference to not publicize the survey results first. If the infographic goes out sooner, there will have to be a communications piece. Two questions about harvest need to be included. There were 1,399 survey responses. If survey results are provided, the whole survey should be provided.
- The plan is composed of a lot of feedback and the survey is only one piece of the puzzle. The working group engaged with community. Having that survey infographic released ahead of the plan is a “slap in the face” and could set expectations about the plan. The summary cherry-picks and might send out a completely wrong message.
- Don't completely rely on internet for survey distribution. Some people don't have internet access.
- Products for public release: Summary, full report for the public survey, the management plan, and supplementary information to the plan (incomplete).
- There is an ability within the plan for locals, First Nation, RRCs to have a micro plan for their areas. The main plan is a roadmap.

#### Proposed approaches for release of materials:

- Put the plan out online and by mail and push it out to RRCs and friends. At the same time release a document “10 things to know about this plan” to provide context. Would this take a lot of time? It would be preferred if it could be quickly done.
- Public engagement in the fall which would include community meetings and workshops around the territory so people can have a face-to-face conversation about what is in the plan, to be wrapped up by early November.
- Release the plan with a summary description.
- A summary of public survey could be discussed with the working group to plan something more acceptable rather than just releasing it quickly.

#### The way forward:

- Tecla and Tyler will work together on communications pieces.
- By the end of next week the plan could be released. An internal approval process for messaging is acceptable.
- Exert influence on timing of release for survey results. The summary of public survey can be released after the results.
- The plan will be released through the Board website, government website, cover letters and the plan will be sent to First Nations, RRCs and associations. The messaging that accompanies the plan should emphasize that the intention is to give people time to review the plan over summer and that public engagement will occur in the fall. This message should come from both the Board and government.

**New Action Item 2018-16: Grizzly Bear Conservation Plan Announcement and Release** – 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:

- 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.

## **YUKON AGRICULTURE POLICY REVIEW – M. Ball**

Matt Ball, Director of Agriculture branch, provided information on Yukon Agricultural Policy Review and consultation, including the initial policy from 1982 and the 2006 policy, review and update. Matt asked what the Board would like to see in terms of agriculture for the next few years. There is a lot of local foods in the stores such as eggs, vegetables, meat products which has been positive.

Matt also provided information on:

- Electric fencing workshops, education for farmers and costing.
- Issues that are hard to tackle such as big herds of elk or bison would be a challenge to manage on farmlands. Department of Environment has been working on strategies.

A discussion document for revising the 2006 agriculture policy was provided in meeting kits for members' reference.

### Comments/Discussion:

- Members discussed conflicts and interactions between wildlife and agriculture.
- Budget for Elk – Over the past five years, \$100,000 has been spent on compensation and fencing. The branch provides 10 percent of the cost for fences.

- Domestic sheep and goats interfacing with wild populations –The branch has known this has been an issue for a while. The Agriculture branch has been educating farmers about fencing. There are no regulatory tools, but the farmers are good stewards and want to make sure they are doing what is right and often install fencing according to the guidelines. There will be better quantification of where the sheep and goats are and the branch is looking at other regulatory tools so ensure people are adhering to the rules.
- Pneumonia that wild sheep can get from domestic sheep is serious. It would be devastating to any wild sheep population. The Board will keep pushing that this is a serious problem and would like to work with the Agriculture branch and Department of Environment to develop regulations if necessary. Domestic sheep have been in the Yukon for 125 years. There haven't been any issues in recent times. Domestic species testing is underway.
- Voluntary or mandatory registration (similar to elk) – Regulations on game farming is a model. We cannot prevent people from bringing sheep into Yukon if they are passing through to Alaska. People purchasing sheep in Alberta don't need permits to bring them into Yukon. There is freedom to move between provinces/territories.
- Planned agriculture subdivisions – Who determines where they will be? They take into account years of planning in an area and the agriculture subdivision is added. YESAA process is included. There is an opportunity for applications.
- Recent recreation areas in Kluane Lake are in the middle of a soapberry patch. This causes problems with the bears. Now we have to deal with a situation after the fact. Culture is important to people in Yukon and should be considered in decision-making.
- First Nations are not agricultural people. As people move in we have to have respect for each other. If people are going to move in for agriculture, they should know something about people in the area. The branch is moving forward on planned approach and cultural values are being taken into account.
- Agricultural land application – A lease is called “an agreement for sale”. There is a seven-year contract with government to grow crops. At the end of the contract, the lessee receives title for that land. From that point on they have ownership. The branch is examining tools to make sure people are farming their land. Underutilization is being addressed. Taxation is a tool (i.e. rural residential tax rate versus farming tax rate). Agriculturally zoned land is limited to 15,000 hectares which is 0.03 percent of the land base.
- Consultation is ongoing until the end of June.
- There is a 15-question public version of the survey.
- The Board was asked to fill out either the stakeholder document or the short public survey.

**New Action Item 2018-17: Yukon Agriculture Policy Letter** – The Executive Director will compile list of questions and comments and draft a letter regarding the Yukon Agriculture Policy.

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#### **CARMACKS RENEWABLE RESOURCES COUNCIL UPDATE – S. Garvis**

Sheila Garvis, co-chair of the Carmacks RRC was recently reappointed for five years. Sheila provided information on: Carmacks RRC; mandate; partners; members, vacancies and challenges; meetings; guests; initiatives, activities and meetings; trap line guidelines review; and five-year community fish and wildlife plan.

Sheila was really helpful in organizing the Board meeting in Little Salmon Village.

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#### **LITTLE SALMON CARMACKS FIRST NATION PROJECT UPDATES – E. Fairclough**

Eric Fairclough, Director of Lands and Resources, provided an update on First Nation projects including: resource development and impacts; Free Gold Road and gateway project/road authority with Selkirk First Nation; Mount Nansen staking and activity; placer mining; mining working group; quartz versus placer mining; reclamation versus restoration; impacts to migration of Klaza caribou herd and changes in hunting patterns; lack of in-depth studies; bison hunting and use of snow machines in valleys; elk; influx of people; decreased salmon population; fishing closures on Frenchman Lake; Mandanna Lake regulations and public consultation to be completed on July 12; salmon management plan; and land use planning on settlement land and Northern Tutchone Council.

#### Comments/Discussion:

- Stocked lakes program – the First Nation takes advantage of stocked lakes, but very little. It was discussed at the GA and there needs to be more input from citizens.
  - Mining companies – Rock Haven is Canadian (Mount Nansen), Gold Corp, placer mining is from everywhere, China, Gold Rush mentality.
  - Exploration and activity has occurred since the early 1990s.
  - There are impacts on salmon due to copper from tailings leaching into the river.
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#### **LITTLE SALMON CARMACKS FIRST NATION – Chief R. Blackjack**

John Burdek welcomed Chief Blackjack. Following a round of introductions, Chief Blackjack welcomed the Board to Little Salmon Village and provided a history of the village; family

history; traditional medicine; history of river transportation; and sheep, calving area and hunting.

Little Salmon Carmacks Atlas shows trails within the traditional territory.

Comments/Discussion:

- Value of on-the-land Board meetings.
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**DAY 3: Thursday, June 14, 2018 – Regular Meeting**

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

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

**SUPPORT:** Colleen Henry (Minute Taker)

**PUBLIC:** Tim Dewhurst (Teslin RRC), Janice Sibbeston (Executive Director Enhancement Trust), Mark O'Donoghue (Mayo Regional Biologist), Emmie Fairclough (Teslin Tlingit Council), Michael Draper, Brian Bell

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**YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT TRUST**

See Yukon Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust minutes.

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**NORTHERN TUTCHONE REGIONAL BIOLOGIST UPDATE – M. O'Donoghue**

Mark O'Donoghue provided an update on the following:

- Introduction, personal history, and position;
- Community fish and wildlife planning, documents, workshops, May Gathering discussions, and priorities;
- local knowledge recording and mapping;
- NNDFN interviews to identify habitat protection area;
- land use planning and habitat protection planning;
- student interviews with hunters, trapper, fishermen, berry-pickers on a variety of topics;
- an annual diary is produced from interview results;

- and a poster of information;
- moose decline in Mayo;
- local hunters keep track of observations each fall;
- maps are distributed for people to record what they are seeing. The project has been ongoing since 2001. 13 year review is available online.

The following documents were circulated:

- the Community-Based Fish and Wildlife Work Plan Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation Traditional Territory 2012-2017;
- Community-based Fish and Wildlife Work Plan NNDFN 2014-2019;
- Mayo Community Ecological Monitoring Project Local Knowledge Interviews 2015-2-16 Summary (local knowledge interviews);
- Community Moose Monitoring Project Mayo Area 2018;
- A Range Assessment for the Klaza Caribou her in the Dawson Range of West-central Yukon;
- Sheep Range Assessment: Dawson Range;

A copy of the annual diary was also circulated. Copies are available, but only 40 were printed.

Mark provided an overview of environmental assessment and range assessments and presented a map of mining ranges in the traditional territory. There are two active mines in the region and three are upcoming. There has been a huge boon in placer mining. Main issues are: mining project proposals and impacts to wildlife; increased hunters and hunting pressure; moose population decline; lower numbers of salmon; Mayo dam; and impacts to trout spawning areas.

#### Comments/Discussion:

- Sometimes we are locked into processes that are 20 – 50 years old, sometimes too much emphasis is put on something that has been done for a long time but they may not be the best approach. It is valuable to take a different perspective/approach.
- Sharing TK and forecasting has been avoided as TK is confidential. It is in big demand.

Mark O'Donoghue provided an update on the Mandanna Lake Management Plan including:

- Deputy Minister meeting with LCSFN and Carmacks RRC to discuss the process. A decision was made to setup meetings with Bernard Stehelin (lodge owner) and to do a public consultation. There have been two meetings with Stehelin and the First Nation and the Fish and Game Association.
- There is an online public consultation which will close in July.
- Recommendations from the government will go back to the Board.

- Mandanna Lake First Nation Fishery – management plan says whatever regulations you have, you have to allow for ?? Ended up with a compromise.
- Period of consultation, take the general period, pull together a proposal and it will be brought back to the Board. Mark O’Donoghue will check to make sure his understanding is correct.
- Limited catch of five is difficult to enforce.

Graham provided the following update on the Board’s position:

- There is potential to negatively affect relationship with LSCFN.
- This issue has been characterized by Yukon government as a good news story – recovery of lake trout, liberalization of harvestability.
- When this proposal was screened in October, it had changed to maximum of five fish. It was difficult to go through and identify misinformation. There was a deadline to get the proposal into the public document for review. The lodge owner only heard about it on a Wednesday and the document had to be ready for the following Monday. Board makes provisions for public involvement. The intent is to respectfully consult First Nations RRCs, and the public. The Board decided to screen it out to avoid going into a process where there is an irate business owner impacted by regulation change.
- It didn’t set anyone up for success.
- The plan itself included the regulation change but the Board didn’t see the plan until the deputy minister provided it at a meeting.
- Catch and release discussion has to be discussed in Yukon before a precedent is set.

The final consultation will be on July 12.

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## **RESOURCE ROADS CONSULTATION – M. Draper**

Mark Draper provided an update on resource road consultation including: consultation and engagement; June 12, 2018 workshop and discussions; resource road regulations; survey/questionnaire (online and paper copies provided to board); discussion paper; and policy options and feedback on regulations.

When the consultation is completed the drafting will begin. The deadline for completion is June 2019. If there is interest, individual meetings with the Board or RRCs can be arranged. Mark provided his contact information.

The Highways and Public Works framework document regarding construction of resource roads, concerns. The public starts using the roads and it. Roads originally intended for resources purposes and are then turned over to the public for

Mark provided further details on the following:

- Ensuring roads remain under Energy, Mines and Resources jurisdiction;
- Managing access;
- Other users interested in using the road (First Nation, miners, trappers, outfitters) will need permission or an agreement from the road builder;
- Strengthening closure, remediation, and decommissioning under terms and conditions;
- Permits and user agreements (cradle to grave).

Government is committed to working on engagement until July 23 or 24. There will be an opportunity for further discussion after those dates if necessary. There is no restriction on two-way communication on these issues.

Comments/Discussion:

- The original highway was the river and original communities can no longer be found. They have gone back to the land. The way things are done today, communities don't go back to the land. This should be a discussion point.
- Resource roads switch from EMR jurisdiction to Highways because the public use them. It becomes a regulatory dead zone. Provide ability to transfer regulations from EMR to Highways and Public Works and it will be a public road. There should be a clean process for transfer.
- Framework for quality will look at different standards so they are appropriate for use (i.e. superhighway versus just wide enough to drive a truck through).
- YESAB screening is a critical part.
- Regarding ownership, a land-use permit will be issued to use the land. It doesn't preclude other users from using the road. The roads provide the permit holder access to conduct resource activity. They have the authorization of having the road for the purposes of mining. If another entity wants to access the road, they would talk to the proponent and work out a deal for access. If they can't reach an agreement, there could be a binding arbitration.
- Mitigation – There are other models in Yukon (*Forest Resources Act*). Everyone would like to see one approach to resource extraction. Is it possible to “cherry-pick” from other pieces of legislation to help harmonize?
- Decommissioning – The document says it is related to new and existing roads. What happens if we decommission roads currently used? Would it create more access? Currently there are thousands of kilometres. Focus is on new roads. There is no jurisdiction to decommission public roads.
- Unmaintained highways – If someone wanted to improve the road for resource use, it could transfer to Energy, Mines and Resources which is a formal process.

- Gated roads – Other users may be interested in having a key to the gate. If the regulations were in place, and the condition of the road was to have it gated, a YESAB screening could give other users an opportunity to provide input and request access. The proponent would be encouraged to discuss options with other interested parties.
- Access and impacts to wildlife – There should be a baseline study and hunting should be limited until impacts to wildlife are determined before allowing hunting.
- There should be consultation with Champagne Aishihik, Little Salmon Carmacks, Kwanlin Dün, Ta'an Kwäch'än Council regarding Nordenskiöld.
- If a company wants to close a road and other users don't there would be another discussion about whether to make the road public. That road would be held with users, boards, First Nations, councils, et cetera.
- Fenced/gated roads – Currently no one is regulating fenced or gated roads. There is a lack of EMR officers and COs. On one road a fence was ripped out. Where are the resources to enforce regulation? This was discussed at the workshop. Jurisdiction is also an issue. If people aren't ripping the gate down, they're driving around it and ruining terrain around the gate. One option is to create bermed fences. There will be different management practices for different areas. It will be a challenge, but what we have now doesn't work either.
- Perhaps there should be a road strategy for Yukon.

**New Action Item 2018-18: Resource Road Consultation** – The Board will follow-up on the Resource Road Consultation and prepare a submission.

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## **MEMBERS TIME AND MEETING RE-CAP (IN CAMERA)**

### Grizzly Bear conservation plan

Graham Van Tighem read Resolution 2018-01 and preamble, addressed to the Minister.

**Motion – 2018-14:** That the Board approve Resolution 2018-01 as presented.

**Moved by:** Frank Thomas

**Seconded by:** Ken Taylor

**Passed by:** Consensus

### On-the-Land Meetings:

Members discussed the on-the-land meetings including: comforts, environment, elements, basic inventory of necessities. A list of minimum requirements will be developed.

### Seal fees and public perceptions

The Executive will have discussions with minister and develop a resolution for the future to see if it is possible for the Board to receive funds to put into conservation projects.

### Funding spent on elk

Invite both ministers to a Board meeting and ask them both how much is spent on elk. Write a letter requesting full costing of elk management from departments of Energy, Mines and Resources (Ag branch) and Environment.

**New Action Item 2018-19: Elk Harvest Management Issues** – Executive will meet with Yukon Fish and Game Association, First Nations, and RRCs on the Elk Harvest Management issues.

### YESAB

Under the UFA the Director of Environment should be a resource for the Board. How is the Board able to determine what is going on at YESAB? It is a gap. Determine the Board's needs and discuss them with Christine Cleghorn. She may not think of it.

### Recap

Graham Van Tighem provided a recap on the following: transboundary conversations; working group lists; RRC AGW; CYFN GA; edible meat (working group); Grizzly Bear Resolution letter; Carnival Cruise Lines and White Pass buyout correspondence and discussion; Southern Lakes gathering; fee increase; ATAC road; Agriculture policies and Board comments; Michael Draper on Resource Road Consultation follow-up and correspondence; elk issue; and new approaches.

**New Action Item 2018-20: Carnival Cruise Lines and White Pass** – 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

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**CLOSING PRAYER** – Dan Cresswell

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