

# **YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING**

**June 11 – 13, 2019**

## **MINUTES**

### **Southern Lakes Resort**

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#### **DAY 1: Tuesday, June 11, 2019 – Regular Meeting**

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**PRESENT:** John Burdek, Ron Chambers, Danny Cresswell, Carl Sidney, Ken Taylor, Blanche Warrington

**REGRETS:** Michelle Dawson-Beattie, Dennis Dickson

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

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Janice Sibbeston (YFWET Manager), Christine Cleghorn (Director, Fish & Wildlife, YE), Sandy Smarch (Teslin RRC), Coralee Johns (Carcross/Tagish First Nation), Michael van Aanhout (STRATOS), Vicky Weekes (STRATOS via teleconference)

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#### **OPENING PRAYER, WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

John Burdek said the opening prayer and welcomed everyone to the meeting. There was no quorum. The meeting will be informational only.

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#### **ADMIN AND FINANCES (TAB 01)**

##### **A. AGENDA REVIEW**

John Burdek reviewed the agenda.

- Matt Ball, co-chair of the Elk Working Group will attend for the Elk conflict presentation.
- Cameron Sinclair's presentation will move to 9:00 a.m. on Day 3. The Trust presentation will follow.

**Motion – 2019-14:** That the Board accept the June 11 - 13, 2019 agenda as presented.

**Moved by:** Ron Chambers

**Seconded by:** Carl Sidney

**Passed by:** Consensus

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## **B. EXECUTIVE REPORT (TAB 02) – G. Van Tighem, J. Burdek, K. Taylor**

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

### Comments/Discussion:

- Beaver River Land Use Plan – Graham and John provided an overview. There were RRC concerns about the Board’s involvement. The Board is an advocate for the plan but is not involved at the local level. Graham followed-up with the RRC. Additional information will also be provided in the branch update.
- Trail cameras — Trail cameras were deployed during the St. Elias bison hunt. Footage indicates there is a lot of activity and wildlife in these regions and they are still using these locations despite ongoing hunting and trapping activities for years.
- Executive meetings — John Burdek provided an overview of executive meetings with the branch as another level of engagement to clarify role and responsibilities.
- Tahltan Guiding Outfitters is part of the Northern Wildlife Symposium and although it was scheduled to take place on November 15 and 16, 2019 in Dease Lake, the dates will be changed as it conflicts with an RRC AGM meeting.
- ATAC River meetings will take place soon.

### Moose Adaptive Management and Harvest Guidelines Review Process

Graham Van Tighem provided an overview. The Board is preparing an update of the guidelines along with the adaptive management proposal Yukon government is providing. Christine and Graham have edited the guidelines and the tools will be updated. Three letters of engagement have been drafted for signature by the Minister and Chair of the Board. They will be sent to Board members for review.

### Comments/Discussion:

- Regarding licensed hunts in the “red zones” and options — Teslin region has two “red zones”. The Board is looking for suggestions from RRCs to develop tools. Meetings with RRCs and First Nations will take place. The goal is to avoid displacing pressure. There is a lot of pressure on traplines. Government is looking at giving the minister the ability to use moose management tools recommended for moose management units by the RRC

and First Nations through the Board. It will take two to three years to move through the regulation change process before the minister has that ability. Government doesn't know First Nation harvest and are using estimates when they say the harvest is in the "red zone". Teslin RRC does a door-to-door survey.

- In the far past, the moose was "government moose". Now with First Nation governments they are "our moose" and our management has to come into play. Non-First Nations are in a race to harvest. That is tougher to address. People have come to Yukon specifically to hunt. If there is enough pressure with people who already live here then encouraging people to move here because they want to hunt is another message to consider.
- We need to educate the public that the world has changed and people won't be able to go out and get "their moose" as often as they used to. That process should be started ahead of any regulation changes.
- TTC (Teslin Tlingit Council) is reviewing and revising a management plan which will hopefully be in place in one to one and a half years.

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

Diane Sheldon reviewed the May 31, 2019 variance report provided in meeting kits. There were no questions or comments.

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#### **APRIL YFWMB MINUTES (TAB 04) – D. Sheldon**

Diane Sheldon reviewed the minutes. Going forward the minutes will be marked as draft.

##### Amendments/Comments:

- Page 3, third bullet, specify that the ed exchange was under the Yukon River Panel.
- Page 3, fifth bullet, remove the last bullet under 40-mile caribou herd.
- Page 12, under Dawson RRC, change "Coney bears" to "Conibear".
- Page 33 – Michael Draper was to provide an update at this meeting. He is not on the agenda. Ken Taylor had a brief discussion with Michael and there is progress. Christine Cleghorn provided additional information.
- In the future, nominations and elections should be included in the minutes. As the elections were in camera it will remain as is in the minutes. In camera sessions will be further discussed under the Board review update.

The minutes will be amended and approved at the next meeting.

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

Graham Van Tighem reviewed the Action Item list. (1:38)

<b>Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board Status of Action Items 2018-2019</b>	
<b>Action Item 2019-01:</b> The Board will review the operating procedures. The operating procedures will be discussed at the next Board meeting.	<b><i>Ongoing. The operating procedures will be sent to the Board in the coming weeks.</i></b>
<b>Action Item 2019-02:</b> The Board will draft a recommendation to government from the Board and RRCs regarding an appointment process to avoid vacancies and gaps. The Board will circulate the recommendation for review and comment. The letter will be sent to government after two weeks.	<b><i>Completed.</i></b>
<b>Action Item 2019-03:</b> The Board will draft a letter to government stating that the adaptive management presentation at the YFWMB meeting is not consultation, and the working group should be reconvened as soon as practicable. The letter will be copied to RRCs.	<b><i>Completed.</i></b>

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**CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW (TAB 06) – G. Van Tighem**

Graham Van Tighem reviewed the correspondence provided in meeting kits.

Comments/Discussion:

- Letter #4, Southern Lakes caribou and continued BC Licensed harvest — With vehicle collisions there is an unsustainable harvest rate for a recovering caribou herd. Collisions have increased due to not only increased caribou population but also increased traffic. BC is actively participating in dialogue which is a positive development. The bull-to-cow ratio has doubled but the calf-to-cow ratio is below the sustainable level (29 per 100) which implies they are unhealthy or there is a significant predation problem. More information will be provided on Day 2.

- YSSC (Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee) letter regarding *Fisheries Act* discussion paper and request for comments — This item was not on the list but was raised by a member. Tecla provided an update. Elizabeth asked the working group for comments which were submitted to federal government on behalf of the salmon committee and the Board. Tecla provided support on *Fisheries Act* review while Elizabeth worked part-time.
- Letter #8 from YFGA (Yukon Fish & Game Association) regarding YFWMB appointments — John Burdek provided an overview of the letter. Board appointments will be further discussed during the Board review update.
- Letter #10, C/TRRC (Carcross/Tagish Renewable Resource Council) On-the-Land Gathering — Graham provided an overview of the meeting and the visual representation of the discussions that took place. Members also discussed visual aids to help maintain discussion focus (stuffed fox, gold fish).

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**YFWMB REVIEW UPDATE — J. Burdek, K. Taylor, STRATOS Consulting (V. Weekes, M. van Aanhout)**

John Burdek provided a brief overview of the process. Vickie Weekes joined the meeting via teleconference and provided a presentation of the following: introduction and background of the review; purpose of the review; methods used in the review; findings and recommendations. Vickie informed members that the presentation was similar to the one given to CYFN leadership. No hard copies were included in meeting kits. The *June 11, 2019 YFWMB Review Update Presentation* document was produced from the audio recording. (Appendix A)

**Comments/Discussion: (*responses from presenter are in italics*)**

- “Consumptive” is used broadly and refers to human uses (not necessarily edible consumption). Trapping, fishing and hunting. This is more cultural use than “consumptive”.
- “Public input” is not a clear-cut difference between First Nation and non-First Nation participants. There were no clear patterns identified. First Nations organizations discussed bringing the *Wildlife Act* into conformance with the UFA.
- Public engagement — ***There was some good input which validated interviews and materials drawn from documents reviewed.***
- Website responses — ***The number of responses will be sent to the Board.***
- Honoraria — Raising honoraria was flagged as a way to gain diversity. This may be an erroneous connection. The Board’s honoraria has been the same since 1993. People on the Board are not in it for the money. They are interested in fish and wildlife. The Board gets a budget increase every year. We are tied to the \$200 honoraria because of the

government and the Funding Agreement. It hasn't limited the background and diversity of members on the Board. The Board has nothing to do with appointments. The appointments are made by CYFN and Yukon government. ***We heard that participants didn't feel the process had always been followed. There is consensus around bigger picture objectives to see good fish and wildlife management. Some people didn't feel the processes had always been respected. Having a diversity matrix is a good opportunity for the Board to identify skills and gaps.***

- There is a lot of perception as to what the Board's role is.
- Diversity — It is out of our hands. There aren't many people who put their names forward to sit on any boards and committees. We have one young person. Regarding regions, it is out of our hands as to who applies. The Board has no control. It is better to provide recommendations to First Nations or Yukon College.
- Funding — Most people who sit on the Board are interested in fish and wildlife and want to make things better. We're facing increases in population and activities (fishing). People don't sit on boards because we make recommendations. It's up to government to turn those recommendations into laws.
- Universal mandate — These 27 recommendations will take a long time to implement and by that time there will be a whole new Board. This is a not a long-term position. The only ones who are in for the long haul are staff and there are only three of them. It is difficult for them to do their jobs with only three.
- Collaboration — One recommendation should be more collaboration with Yukon government. That wasn't included. Communication needs to be increased and there needs to be more collaboration.
- The Board wants a copy of the report including the 27 recommendations to digest it better. RRCs would also like a copy. ***The recommendations are still a work in progress. They will be provided to the Yukon Forum joint working group and are subject to change. Questions and answers will give the Board a comfortable feel for the breadth of the recommendations but they are going to working group of the Yukon Forum for further review and finalization. The report and recommendations are still a work in progress.***
- Honoraria — One objective is to have younger people involved. They can't take three days off work five times per year. To help them participate we need better remuneration. Raising it may attract younger people, but it is not the magic bullet. Finding skilled people to sit on every UFA board is difficult. The CYFN selection process is onerous and considers gender, age, diversity et cetera.
- Funding — This is an issue with the operations and management of the Board. In the survey of participants, was this addressed more intensely with the participants? Funding is an issue. ***There is a short section in the report on the Board's budget. STRATOS has***

**heard that the base budget has been static and participants think it is inadequate relative to the Yukon government. Without strategic plans to set priorities, activities and conduct reviews it is difficult to say whether the budget is inadequate. It is difficult to assess when the mandate is not clear or when there are areas of overlap and duplication. It leads back to the discussion about roles of parties and evolution over time. There is an opportunity to do a reset, but until that reset happens it can't be assessed. Once the clarity regarding mandate and actors is identified the Board will be in a position to take a closer look at the budget.** Will these points be referenced in the report? **Yes.**

- Appointments — We should be suggesting what we thought we needed to be strengthened in the appointment process. I understand we should be assessing that on a regular basis and providing feedback to CYFN and governments to provide guidance on what the Board needs. **This is exactly the intent.**
- There has been a change in history and the Yukon which has evolved in a number of ways. Perception and understanding of what a board is can't stay the same. Circumstances change continuously. It's hard to get a consensus-type board to meet that expectation. The idea is to have the diversity of members with different backgrounds and experiences. We need all of it. The person who knows the tracks in the snow and on the ground is just as important as the one who knows to work the computer and electronic equipment. We're all trying to head in the same direction. We need diversification. You have to have respect for the other parts that are quieter. You can't just create a shopping list for nominators. Those who manage the board have to work through that. We have to have diversity in Yukon.
- The Board is not limited with respect to what it can do in terms of fish and wildlife. UFA was drawn so that the Board wasn't limited but was empowered to work with Yukon government, First Nations and RRCs. We've approached things from that perspective. This approach has kept us within the letter of the law of the UFA. There is no limit in some respects to what we can do.
- Resignations — Two members resigned because they became chiefs in their communities. We have three former chiefs and a deputy chief. Who has that kind of leadership involved in a group like this anywhere? Leadership of First Nations for the Yukon have been involved in this Board over the years and they put a lot of commitment into it. It speaks for itself. You can't ask for more than that.
- Engage Yukon survey — I would be interested in seeing the number of surveys handed in. Anyone can fill surveys out. You can be a newcomer or a tourist. **There wasn't anything in the survey that wasn't already seen or heard elsewhere. The things we heard or saw added additional weight to things we had already heard.**

- Regarding ethnicity, we have a huge Filipino community. Is this what you were referring to? **Yes.**
- Going to Carcross you have a six fish limit for grayling. Ten or 15 people will come and fish and half will go home with their fish. The rest will return and get their limit.
- Is the Board the instrument of fish and wildlife management in Yukon? Carcross/Tagish First Nation has a big lands department. There is a Land Management Board (LMB) with six members, one from each clan. Each clan decides who will go. They are the instrument and they tell the department what to do and what their priorities are. They don't make recommendations. They tell people what they can and can't do. Leadership, Executive Council, elected chief and six appointed clan members on Executive Council can't override them on a lands issue. If they want to build on the land, they have to get permission from the LMB. Who does the Board direct? It makes recommendations. We talk about priorities, are we going to set our own? Our priorities are protecting fish, wildlife and habitat for anybody in any uses.
- What are the priorities of the Yukon Forum for fish and wildlife in the Yukon? That's our priority. How can we implement it when we can't make anything but recommendations? It's a political process. To make a difference you have to become chief or be higher up in the department politically to make a difference. If we're making recommendations, we're not an instrument of anything. Yukon government has to determine what their priorities are. Every big game species is either no hunting or under permit in the Carcross/Tagish traditional territory. We're losing the battle trying to pretend we're the instrument of fish and wildlife management in Yukon.
- It seems like visitors have more rights than people who were born here. We take care of our land and respect the decrease in populations. People come and take our fish and game and leave while we're trying to conserve and protect.
- Diversity and youth — There are fewer young people going on the land and there are fewer trappers and hunters despite incentives.
- Board members exchange a lot of information off the record. The basic frustration is we're going through these same exercises and we still have the same difficulties.
- ***Collaboration is a key theme in the recommendations between the Board and all actors. There is great leadership and wisdom. Some recommendations may not be exciting but they are the "nuts and bolts" that form the foundation to be able to achieve the bigger objectives.***
- ***Strategic planning is about coming together to determine/identify priorities going forward. We rarely have the time to reflect on change, what it means and how to go forward. This review has been an opportunity to do that. The recommendations are about the whole regime and the Board's position within that regime.***
- Communication can play a significant role in changing perspectives.

- Yukon Forum resolution — Not one item leadership pointed out were brought up in the whole review (trapline compensation, trappers harvest support program, ethics of fish and wildlife harvesting, harvest allocation, increased terms of Yukon residence, et cetera). These were the issues that came up in the Yukon forum and none of it was brought up. The Board has dealt with most of the issues on the list to try to improve them or send communication. Some the Board is not responsible for.
  - The Chief who moved or seconded the resolution had a different motive when he made the resolution. He thought it was about bringing the Wildlife Act into conformity with the UFA. The process has been stressful for some.
  - At what point will the Board review with 27 recommendations and provide input? ***The Yukon Forum working group will convene a meeting. The presentation will be provided by STRATOS with a final report. The working group will formulate recommendations for government. The Minister of Environment hasn't seen the recommendations yet.*** The Executive will consolidate it and send it out to everyone for review and feedback.
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#### **COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE (TAB 08) – T. Van Bussel**

Tecla Van Bussel provided a communications update. A copy of the update and a list of working groups were provided in meeting kits for members' reference and review.

#### Comments/Discussion:

- Kluane Research Summit — Historically the institute didn't share their research with the community. This is changing and more and more projects involve locals including youth.
  - The fish in Kluane Lake have the lowest levels of mercury in Yukon.
  - Wetlands Policy — Many said a land use plan should be developed before the policy. We can't wait for all the land use plans to be completed. The hope is the policy can provide tools for protection in the interim.
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#### **MEMBERS TIME – IN CAMERA**

No minutes were recorded.

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## DAY 2: Wednesday, June 12, 2019 – Regular Meeting

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**PRESENT:** John Burdek (Chair), Ron Chambers, Danny Cresswell, Carl Sidney, Ken Taylor (Vice Chair), Blanche Warrington

**REGRETS:** Michelle Dawson-Beattie, Dennis Dickson

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

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Christine Cleghorn (Director, Fish & Wildlife, YE), Janice Sibbeston (Enhancement Trust), Sandy Smarch (Teslin RRC), Tom Jung, Matt Clarke (Environment), Lars Jessup (Environment), Shawn Wasel (Yukon Outfitters Association), Mac Watson (Yukon Outfitters Association), Tyler Kuhn (Environment), Diana Dryburgh-Moraal (Environment), Karen Clyde (Environment), Bruce McLean (Environment), Ryan van der Marel (Environment), Rob Florkiewicz (Environment), Jodie Pongrass (Environment), Shawn Taylor (Environment), Piia Kukka (Environment), Julie Thomas (Environment), Laura MacKinnon (Alsek RRC), Peter Knamillar (Environment)

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### **FISH AND WILDLIFE BRANCH UPDATE — C. Cleghorn**

Christine Cleghorn provided an update on the following:

- Grizzly bear management plan which should be completed by the end of June;
- Finlayson caribou – May 27 court decision;
- Forty Mile caribou and upcoming meetings;
- Branch staff list and position postings;
- Beaver River Land Use plan;
- Regulation changes and adaptive changes processes;
- PHA.

### Comments/Discussion:

- Staffing shortage — Is this across departments? Have you considered a part time assignment with another department? *There were a bunch of retirements and job descriptions had to be updated. There are other branches with vacancies. An attempt to*

*reach out to other departments was unsuccessful as other departments face the same issue.*

- Wildlife Act — Changes are proposed every six months. Generally, a government includes it in their platform as needed. The last time the *Wildlife Act* was opened for change was 2002.
- 2015 regulation change proposals are late due to the election. The 2017 package is also moving. Drafting will take place in the next six months.

The Wildlife Management Changes and Adaptive Process flow charts were distributed.

#### Sheep Hunting Subzone 715

Matt Clarke provided an update on the 2015 regulation change proposal to put five subzones in zone 7East on permit hunt for sheep (between Whitehorse and Kusawa Lake), including: background/proposal; sheep working group; Board regulation change recommendations; 2015 surveys; and a recommendation to submit a regulation change to open subzone 715.

#### Comments/Discussion:

- Graham Van Tighem provided a background on working group discussions and Board support for the regulation change. *One recommendation was to place the subzones on permit. That will be for 2020.* The closed zone was recommended to be opened. There was Board support.
- Board quorum — There may be a way to summarize past discussions and circulate to the current Board members. The worst-case scenario is it will be further discussed in October when the Board has quorum.

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#### **WOLF MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW – P. Knamillar, L. Jessup, S. Taylor, R. van der Marel**

Ryan van der Marel, Pete Knamillar, Lars Jessup and Shawn Taylor reviewed the *Wolf management and plan implementation review (2019)* presentation provided in meeting kits. Topics included: history of Yukon wolf management; *Wolf Conservation and Management Plan (2012)*; wolf management tools and options; wolf programs; Southern Lakes wolf monitoring, 2019 (this does not include trapping); why monitor wolves; what government is doing; who is doing what; study area (map); guidance from management plans (from 2012); wildlife coordinating committee; Yukon wolf conservation and management plan goals; Alsek moose recovery including background, objectives, implementation, evaluation (2018), changes in wolves trapped, project continuation, trapline activity, recommendations for other projects; and WCMP Implementation Review (2019).

A summary of Wolf Management Tools (costs and effectiveness) was also included in meeting kits for members' reference.

### Comments/Discussion:

- Aerial wolf control allows for the opportunity to be selective, whereas other options don't.
- Poisoning — It was also used to protect outfitters' horses. It is quite expensive.
- Rebounding wolf populations — Populations can regenerate in a short period of time. Creating messaging to emphasize that may help the general public to accept options. There is scope for increased education and outreach.
- Wolf population estimate (5,000) — Wolf surveys conducted in the territory. The total Yukon hasn't been surveyed, but the number is a modeled estimate. Survey data for Nisutlin area for 2011 and was around seven or eight per thousand square kilometres.
- Trapping — How many trappers are active in Yukon? There is an incentive program in NWT. Has government looked into those options? Some communities don't believe it is working and snaring is cruel. There would be more success if people were allowed to "run" them but some consider it harassment. *The department is working on incorporating breakaways on snares.* Sometimes they don't work. Governments need to help RRCs, First Nations and outfitters more.
- Teslin Tlingit Council Traditional Territory — Moose population is in the red zone due to three wolf packs, increased hunting pressure and increased automobile accidents. *YG needs to do "more". What is more?* Put money back into helping trappers. First Nations and RRCs provide incentives if they have surplus funding. YG can help provide traps. Not everyone has time to go out trapping. YG is getting pressure from RRCs and First Nations and those who want to see wolves. There needs to be a balance.
- Ground-based monitoring — People can call in and report sightings which could trigger an aerial survey. Fixed wing aircraft is often cheaper than helicopters and there are many around. This is a pilot project.
- Wolves are not easy to trap. Even though trappers are out there it is hit and miss. Not everyone is good at it.
- Live trapping is extremely difficult. Government is looking for dens now.
- Observations from increased wolf harvest has resulted in an increase in diversity in age span of animals on the land. Some impacts are hard to measure. It is important to have the big picture including multiple variables (i.e. calving and lambing).
- Increased hunting pressure and moose recovery. Bears are another predator that need to be considered.
- Cultural perspectives — 40 percent of food is wasted. By contrast, hunters used to use 100 percent of moose harvested. First Nations used to harvest ground squirrels. We put emphasis on moose and sheep, but don't forget about the rest of the food sources which we may need to reinstate (ground squirrels, rabbits, fish).
- Wolf Conservation Management Plan Implementation Review (2019)

- The timeline is very aggressive, especially considering capacity issues in First Nations. *The department can provide an outline including a timeline to circulate to the Board.*
- A few activities will need to take place during the summer. The review packages need to go to First Nations as soon as possible.
- RRCs can be notified of the implementation review after the Minister of Environment sends a letter to the Chiefs.

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### **BISON MANAGEMENT PLAN REVIEW — T. Jung, T. Kuhn, R. van der Marel**

Tom Jung and Ryan van der Marel provided an update on the Bison management plan review including: history and status of Yukon bison; implementation of the 2012 plan; development of a new plan; and delivering a public survey. A copy of the presentation was included in meeting kits.

#### Comments/Discussion:

- Roles and timelines for the 2012 Bison Management Plan Review — Timelines are compressed and with the moose and wolf plan it will be a huge workload for the Board, First Nations and the public. *Bison plans have been completed with the tech team. Alastair Bath completed the Alaska plan in three workshops. He will facilitate workshops in Yukon. It is hoped the bison plan process will be as painless as possible.* Groundwork has been laid by the technical team.

Tyler Kuhn reviewed the *from bears to bison: Advancing public engagement to support wildlife management in Yukon* presentation provided in meeting kits.

#### Comments/Discussion:

- Random samples — The Board has engaged in random samples in the past which produced some favourable results. It gave a good result for the exercise that was undertaken and brought in people who would otherwise not have engaged. In the past, bringing in a third-party data analyst was useful.

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### **CARCROSS-TAGISH RENEWABLE RESOURCES COUNCIL UPDATE — K. Reeder**

Ken Reeder was unavailable to present.

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### **DAY 3: Thursday, June 13, 2018 – Regular Meeting**

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**PRESENT:** John Burdek, Ron Chambers, Danny Cresswell, Carl Sidney, Ken Taylor, Blanche Warrington

**REGRETS:** Michelle Dawson-Beattie, Dennis Dickson

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

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

**IN ATTENDANCE:** Janice Sibbeston (Enhancement Trust), Cameron Sinclair (Environment), Coralee Johns (Carcross/Tagish First Nation), Matt Clarke (Environment),

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#### **YG SENIOR FISHERIES BIO INTRO AND SUMMER PROGRAM UPDATE — C. Sinclair, M. Clarke**

Cameron Sinclair, the senior fisheries biologist, provided a fisheries update on the following: Yukon stocked lakes program; angler harvest survey; lake trout and lake whitefish stock assessment; Southern Lakes Lake Trout Movement (telemetry program); aquatic invasive species; fishing regulation update; and 2018 review. Copies of the 2019 Fisheries Update were distributed and included in Tab 6 of the meeting kits.

#### Comments/Discussion:

Name changes — Names of some lakes are changing. It is important to stay on top of names. Kathleen Lake is changing to Mät' àtäna Män. Geographical place name changes are signed off by the minister. Managers have to be part of the change and use the new names. Maps have not yet caught up to the changes.

- Southern Lakes telemetry project — There have been no salmon pings.
- Aquatic Invasive species program — Yukon works with BC, Alberta and Saskatchewan. The largest threats are from canoes/kayaks.
- SPIN survey — SPIN survey is the standard method for assessing lake trout. Cameron provided an overview of the survey process. The surveys are not 100 percent lethal, but there is mortality. As much data is collected as possible before the fish are given away for consumption.
- Telemetry program — The program helps track where fish are going and helps determine protection areas. Over time the data will provide seasonal movement and interconnections.

- Board and fisheries — Graham Van Tighem provided an overview of Board activities, Angling Working Group, regulation changes and provisions for public involvement, management plans and Board review.
- Haircut Lake (off South Canol) — Because the lake has inflow and outflow and it is not isolated. Government didn't want to introduce species to a broader drainage and therefore it is no longer stocked.
- Request for working group discussions — A member requested discussions regarding Kokanee fish and radio telemetry. It was requested that maps be brought to the next working group meeting.
- Catch and release — This is a big concern of the Teslin RRC. People are putting on Facebook that they have caught and released 160 lake trout over a weekend on Teslin Lake. The lake trout are smaller and there are fewer. The department needs to do more education on catch and release. The Board has also been working to promote education on catch and release.

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#### **RESPECT FOR FISH TRUST PROPOSAL — D. Zimmerman**

Dennis Zimmerman provided an overview of the Respect for Fish proposal including community and angling values; complex socio-ecological system; angling strategy; demographics, motivations, behaviours and values; catch and release (global conservation messaging); public angling meetings; and shared values. Dennis reviewed a PowerPoint presentation focused on the following: purpose of the focus group; progress to date; what is respect for fish; goals/solutions; how to achieve the goals; fishing survey results and questions; Keepemwet Fishing; project next steps; project supporters; Angler Focus Group (June 11, 2019) and insights. The Board encouraged Dennis to engage with the Angling Working Group.

#### Comments/Discussion:

- Guiding — Guides need to promote respect for fish.
- If we make rules, we have to be able to back them up. Apps exist to indicate where people can park RVs, sometimes in private areas.
- Subsistence fishing in Alaska was created to offset First Nations fishing. It has opened the door for over harvesting and causes huge problems.
- The survey should have included a definition of angling. Dennis can work with the Board to develop a robust survey.
- This information should be passed to outfitters. Dennis will meet with YOA.
- Education and schools — We show youth how to fish with nets but the handling part isn't handled well. We don't have many summer projects, especially with netting. They

should still learn how to handle fish on an individual basis (grayling). Even if we don't agree with catch and release, we should still ensure people do it correctly if possible.

- It is more effective to converse with people instead of talking to them. We have a responsibility to incorporate this information in a way that doesn't make people defensive.
- Is the Board putting their logo on the report? This is an important question which has to be answered.
- Ethics versus respect — With First Nations "respect" is a word they can accept. There are different meanings and degrees for ethics.

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#### **CYFN GENERAL ASSEMBLY — Dawson City**

John Burdek and Graham Van Tighem will attend the CYFN General Assembly on June 26 and 27, 2019. Carl Sidney may attend

#### Comments/Discussion:

- Executive seems to attend most events. It was recommended that sometimes executive members step back and allow other members of the Board to attend. Graham will notify other members of the Board (Dennis and Michelle) that there is an opportunity. It is critical that the Chair of the Board attend.
- Regional appointees — It would be good for members from other regions to become acquainted with other regions.

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#### **YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT TRUST — J. Sibbeston, C. Sidney**

Refer to the Enhancement Trust minutes.

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#### **MEMBERS TIME AND RE-CAP – *IN CAMERA***

Members time was in camera

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#### **MEETING ADJOURNED — CLOSING PRAYER**