

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
October 16 – 18, 2018
MINUTES
Gold Rush Inn

DAY 1: Tuesday, October 16, 2018 – Regular Meeting

PRESENT: John Burdek, Dave Andrew, Ron Chambers, Danny Cresswell, Michelle Dawson-Beattie, Dennis Dickson, 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), Janice Sibbeston (YFWMET Manager), Tim Dewhurst (Teslin RRC)

OPENING PRAYER – Carl Sidney

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION - John Burdek welcomed everyone and introduced the new members.

ADMIN AND FINANCES (TAB 01)

A. AGENDA REVIEW

John Burdek reviewed the agenda.

- Addition – Day 3, 4:00 In-camera discussion with the Deputy Minister, Ed van Randen and Public Service Commissioner

Motion – 2018-15: That the Board accept the October 16 to 18, 2018 agenda as amended.

Moved by: Ken Taylor

Seconded by: Frank Thomas

Passed by: Consensus

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

Graham Van Tighem reviewed the Executive Report provided in meeting kits. Draft AGW report will be completed as soon as possible.

Comments/Discussion:

- CYFN Lands and Resources Meeting – Graham and John provided an overview of the meeting at Brooks Brook. There was an ad hoc discussion of YSSC. Participants at that meeting discussed numerous pressures facing First Nations on their traditional territories. The Board offered assistance and would like to participate more in those meetings. The meeting also raised concerns regarding our in-camera sessions. We need to hear back from directors as to what they want to hear back from the Board. The Ed will provide a letter and we will respond properly. First Nations with final agreements work directly with federal government and Yukon government. Whatever their expectations are of this Board, we can reply and state what we can and can't do based on the UFA. We have a media scan weekly, we send out agendas every time, but the Board doesn't receive First Nation's agendas – nor do they keep the Board apprised of their activities. They are meant to work directly with the governments but the Board is advisory to them and Government. They may be concerned that the Board will get in between them and the governments, but that has never been our intent.
- TTC has raised potential regulations changes and we will have to work with TTC and support their proposal as long as it has technical and biological merit. We need to be careful that when Boards slide into administration, they are less effective in their decision-making and recommendations to government. It may be helpful to convey the Board's position on this. The letter should quote the UFA to outline the Board's job. We invite them to our public meetings. They are decision-makers and the Board makes recommendations with their input. The Board is made up of appointees. If they have big issues, they should be talking to their appointees to take it up with the Board and be speaking with CYFN or the Minister. We're not a group unto ourselves. You appoint us to represent you with respect to wildlife in the Yukon, we speak for wildlife, not politics. We are here on behalf wildlife because they cannot speak for themselves. Communication is important. There is a lack of communication between the Board and First Nation governments and we feel we are doing our share when possible. The Board was not notified about the discussion they were going to have about the Board. The Board will continue to follow-up on communications.

- Meeting with the Minister – Did the Board take any formal positions on issues? No. The Board stated our role as a UFA Board. We were there as a third party to sit in on discussions with the minister and the Yukon Fish and Game Association. They are looking to find a voice for Ross River. Finlayson caribou decision was flawed but the Board wasn't involved in the decision-making, that was Ministerial decision making.
- Peel Public Engagement – This engagement is happening right now. They want to present to the Board. They have gone back to the final consultation of the original plan and are proceeding from there.
- Board Honoraria – Honoraria is frozen. Why isn't government involved with this? This is administrative. We're taking the lead because government hasn't. We're presenting this at the implementation working group this fall. Why shouldn't the government be helping? Why wouldn't we ask Christine to help us? Part of the problem is that the government is telling us to follow the UFA. We're stopping ourselves. The research revealed that we have every right to do it. We're doing it to ourselves. If we're breaking the law it's up to the government to tell us. If this is a situation 20 years from now, we won't get anybody to sit on the Board. Same subject was brought up with other boards and Councils. The Boards aren't supposed to fundraise. First Nations gave up a lot to have boards, why is government so set against them? Governments have made agreements for us to be here, we have to remind people that the bureaucracy doesn't run the boards. Not all boards are equal. There is a different formula for others. There is a federal formula and a territorial one. This issue needs to be addressed. RRCs need help to get organized. That is what the Board is doing. If you stay within your budget you can increase your honoraria. They should be going along with inflation. There is a false surplus because they aren't paying their members enough honoraria. The working group has representatives from federal government and territorial government. This is the responsibility of Implementation Working Group. The Grand Chief supports the idea of raising honoraria as per cost of living.
- December YFWMB Meeting – Members discussed conflicting meetings with the Yukon River Panel and the Yukon Water Board. Board members need time to prepare. Members voted to keep the original dates of December 11 to 13, 2018.
- Boards and Councils – Vacancy on the Board will be advertised and the position may be filled by December, but most likely February. This should be mentioned during the meeting with the minister.

Action Item 2018-21 – The Executive Director will draft a response to the TTC letter from August and will send it out following the October meeting.

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

Diane Sheldon reviewed the independent auditor's report. Michael McKay was unable to attend.

Comments/Discussion:

- Some expenses are set, but other expenses are flexible (working group meetings).

Motion – 2018-16: That the Board approve the independent auditor's report as presented.

Moved by: Frank Thomas

Seconded by: Dave Andrew

Passed by: Consensus

Diane Sheldon reviewed the financial update to September 30, 2018.

Motion – 2018-17: That the Board accept the YFWMB Financial Report to September 30, 2018 as presented.

Moved by: Frank Thomas

Seconded by: Shirley Ford

Passed by: Consensus

Diane Sheldon discussed bank signing authority. Currently all Board members can sign as per the operating procedures. It was suggested the number of signors be changed to six.

Graham provided an overview of the process. Chair, Vice-Chair, Trust Chair, future Trust Chair, Ken Taylor, Carl Sidney and Dan Cresswell.

Motion – 2018-18: That the Board change the signing authority in the operating procedures to six or more as.

Moved by: Frank Thomas

Seconded by: Shirley Ford

Passed by: Consensus

Board members John Burdek, Ken Taylor, Shirley Ford, Blanche Warrington, Carl Sidney, Danny Cresswell, Frank Thomas will attend TD Bank on Thursday between 1:00 and 2:00.

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

Graham Van Tighem reviewed the Action Item list.

Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board Status of Action Items 2018-2019	
Action Item 2018-03: YFWMB staff will follow up with Rob Florkiewicz to arrange a presentation regarding the Finlayson caribou herd at a future Board meeting.	<i>December Board mtg</i>
Action Item 2018-13: Staff will update the working group list and distribute to Board members.	<i>Completed.</i>
Action Item 2018-14: The Board will work with Environment Yukon and affected First Nations and RRCs on the ATAC Road engagement process	<i>December Board mtg</i>
Action Item 2018-15: The Board will work toward developing recommendations on the definition of edible meat for black bears through the Policy, Regulation and Legislation Working Group.	<i>This will be discussed on the agenda. Recommendations will go forward.</i>
Action Item 2018-16: The ED will draft and send a letter to the Minister of Environment and cc the Director of Fish and Wildlife announcing the completion of the draft Grizzly Bear Conservation Plan, and recommending the release of this plan. In addition, the letter will include recommendations to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Release the public survey on grizzly bear conservation following the release of the plan, and • Urge the Minister not to release the summary communication piece on the public survey on grizzly bear conservation. 	<i>Completed. The letter was sent in June. The release went well.</i>
Action Item 2018-17: The Executive Director will compile a list of questions and comments and draft a letter regarding the Yukon Agriculture Policy.	<i>Completed</i>
Action Item 2018-18: The Board will follow-up on the Resource Road Consultation and prepare a submission	<i>Submission was drafted and submitted (in correspondence)</i>
Action Item 2018-19: Executive will meet with Yukon Fish and Game Association, First Nations, and RRCs on the Elk Harvest Management issues.	<i>Completed</i>

<p>Action Item 2018-20: The Executive Director will follow up on the recent purchase of White Pass and determine a strategic manner to engage with the new property owner and address the issues of telegraph wire. This will include sending a letter to the company, premier Sandy Silver, Minister John Streicher, and the Federal Minister of Environment Catherine McKenna</p>	<p>Completed</p>
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Members discussed setting up an ATAC Road Engagement working group. Ken Taylor and Frank Thomas were interested in participating.

Christine Cleghorn will see if Rob Florkiewicz is available to attend the Fish and Game Association’s presentation on Day 3.

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW (TAB 05) – G. Van Tighem

Graham Van Tighem reviewed correspondence.

Comments/Discussion

- Letter #2 – Some hunters were sensitive of the communication piece and felt it was accusatory.
- Letter #3 – We need more on the land training.
- Letter #4 – Voluntary whether municipalities want to fall under the act. Act is with Highways and Public Works (computer systems and data management within government). Christine said it wouldn’t likely affect the Board. She will work with Graham on ATIPPable issues.
- Letter #5 – “Thinhorn sheep” is a term which was not historically used. How can someone come along and use this term? The Board can look at this culturally and we don’t haven’t to accept it. We have learned to accept Dall. We need to watch out for these types of terminology. Culturally we need to reintroduce ourselves to our own people. We didn’t come this far with land claims to go backwards.
- Letter #14 – In-camera discussions means no media. RRCs are usually involved. We may indicate “Board Only” or “No Media”. An explanation may be all that is needed.
- Letter #16 – Mark Callan sent an RRC trapline administration questionnaire. Board members discussed ground-based monitoring and remuneration for trappers. It was suggested the trapline working group deal with this issue.
- Letter #17 – Shore-lunch – Many people would like to see a regulation change. Even if you brought your fish back to a cabin or camper it is illegal. It isn’t enforced, so it may be an administrative change. Hunter education will also be discussed on Day 2.

- Fur trapping working group – There was a good point to educate the youth. It should be brought to unFURled or the trapping working group to work on developing interest of youth.
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JUNE YFWMB MINUTES (TAB 06) – D. Sheldon

Members reviewed the meeting minutes for June 12 to 14, 2018.

Corrections:

- Page 6, Director of Lands and Resources, LSCFN - E. Fairclough – Eric Fairclough’s full name should be used to eliminate confusion with Emmie Fairclough.

Motion – 2018-19: That the Board approve the minutes for June 12 – 14, 2018 as amended.

Moved by: Ken Taylor

Seconded by: Carl Sidney

Passed by: Consensus

Tecla Van Bussel updated the list of working group members. The list is located in the Working Groups folder within the Resource Documents tab on the SharePoint site.

WETLANDS POLICY UPDATE (TAB 07) – T. Van Bussel

Tecla Van Bussel provided a wetlands policy update. A draft policy was included in meeting kits for members review. The next roundtable meeting will be in January or February. She recommended someone from the Board participate on the drafting team. She volunteered to participate on the drafting team unless another Board member wishes to participate. Public engagement will occur in 2019. The next meeting will be held in January or February.

Carl Sidney also attended the recent roundtable and provided information.

Comments/Discussion:

- Tr’ondëk Hwëch’in attended the roundtable. The reclamation policy is targeted to reclaiming wetlands. The policies are at two different levels.
 - It was recommended the drafting team use plain language instead of terms used by those with advanced degrees.
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YFWMB CALENDAR & COMMUNICATIONS UPDATE (TAB 08) – S. Ford, T. Van Bussel

Tecla Van Bussel and Shirley Ford provided a communications update on the 2019 calendar proof and committee. Tecla reviewed the communications update provided in meeting kits.

The 2019 calendar proof, a communications update for October, a draft annual report and an ad for Environment and YFWMB were provided in meeting kits for members' review. In terms of outside contributions to production of calendar, Yukon Government will be providing \$3500 through the purchase of 3.5 bottom bars and Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee \$1000 through the purchase of 1 bottom bar.

Comments/Discussion:

- 2019 Calendar – This is a great product. Members were asked to help with distribution in mid-November to help ensure the calendars are in communities before offices close in December.
 - 2017-18 Annual Report – The annual report will be posted to the website when the audit is completed. The photos were provided by staff and some were freely available.
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ANIMAL HEALTH ACT/REGULATIONS UPDATE & WILD BOAR (TAB 09) – M. Cattet

After a round of introductions, Marc Cattet introduced himself and provided his background and work history. Marc provided an update on the *Animal Health Act* and *Regulations* and wild boar including: staffing; new regulations; wild boar issues (escaped boar in Mendenhall Subdivision) and public engagement;

A copy of the Animal Health Unit Update, the *Animal Health Act* and the Board's July 23, 2018 letter to Minister Pillai and Minister Frost were included in meeting kits for members' reference. Tecla added the new regulation to meeting kits.

Comments/Discussion:

- Sheep reportable hazards – Communications will be sent to veterinarians.
 - Respiratory disease If a sheep or goat owner notice their animals are coughing, they are obligated to report that to the Chief Veterinary Officer.
 - *Mycoplasma ovipneumoniae* (Movi)
- Categories of hazards – clinical syndrome (respiratory diseases), exposures (toxins), transmissible (ex. chronic wasting disease, anthrax)
- Sheep or goats, individuals or those in herds, will be required to have permanent identification (ear tag) and an information log. Prairie provinces have a record of movement (ROM).
- Transboundary travel – There were some concerns about the transportation of animals in and out of the territory (i.e. from or to Alaska). Movement of animals into the

territory will require a permit. Some people who are traveling long distances may ask local farmers to rest their animals on their farms. They run the risk of introducing disease on their farms. Some people let their horses graze on the land. Letters have been sent to First Nations and communities. Enforcement is an issue.

- Timelines regarding regulations – The regulations are complete. The next step is specific to mitigating respiratory disease in sheep. It is a joint initiative with the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources. The Agriculture branch has to have discussions with stakeholder groups. The Board spent a lot of time helping develop the Animal Health act. As far as regulations go, it is important for the Board to be kept apprised and know if they have work to do in terms of public review. The sooner they know the better. The regulation is completed and available to the public. The next piece addressing issues of Domestic sheep will be released shortly.
- Enforcement – The ultimate authority is the Chief Veterinary Officer. Conservation officers and natural resources officers will be asked to step in. Vets can also report.
- Mandatory fencing – There may be difficulty if people need to fence. Compensation program is considered under the new regulations.
- RRCs in communities – RRCs have eyes and ears open to activities in their own backyard. They have received a letter and should be brought into the discussion.
- Wild boar escapement in Mendenhall subdivision – There was no risk of disease. Wild boar are not as much of a problem in Yukon as southern jurisdictions due to cold winters (they don't survive). However, the climate has changed quite a bit and wild boar may soon be able to survive the winters. Officers took three to four weeks to capture the wild boar and the individual was fined \$400, which is a slap on the wrist. It highlights the gap in the legislation. There should be a justifiable penalty. Members discussed options such as imposing a ban, containment, strict regulations and enforcement. The public engagement will provide an opportunity to gather viewpoints in six broad areas including: protection of animals, control of animals, feral animals, exotic animals, enforcement and regulations around having multiple animals.

G-BEAR MGMT PLAN UPDATE (TAB 10) – F. Thomas, G. Van Tighem, T. Van Bussel

Graham Van Tighem provided an update on Grizzly Bear Management Plan including: edits; soft loop through First Nation governments; government-to-government consultation; release and communications; meetings in Tagish and Dawson; presentation and revisions; summary and comments; and the Board's final recommendation to the Minister.

Tecla Van Bussel provided an update on the press release and the public feedback form. They are both available on the website.

A copy of the plan, the public engagement form, an August 21, 2018 letter from the department and the Board, the August 22, 2018 press release and the results of a public survey were included in board kits.

Comments/Discussion:

- Christine Cleghorn provided information about the government-to-government consultation.
 - Bears in communities – There are no berries and bears are in the community every day.
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MEMBERS TIME (IN CAMERA)

Members discussed the following:

- North Canol check station information;
- Finlayson caribou, permits and government engagement with Ross River;
- Wolves, population, harvest, management and pressure on moose; and importance of trapping.

DAY 2: Wednesday, October 17, 2018 – Regular Meeting

PRESENT: John Burdek, Dave Andrew, Ron Chambers, Danny Cresswell, Michelle Dawson-Beattie, Dennis Dickson, 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), Janice Sibbeston (YFWMET Manager), Tim Dewhurst, Harvey Jessup (Chair YSSC), Jodie Pongracz (Fish and Wildlife, YE), Kevin Johnstone (CO Services, Whitehorse), Carrie Ekholm (Acting Director Finance & Client Services), Rob Florkiewicz (Fish and Wildlife), Scott Clark (Director, Information Management), Mac Watson (Yukon Outfitters), James McGrath (Renewable Resource Coordinator, TTC), Robin Johnson (Client Services, YE)

BRANCH UPDATE (TAB 11) – C. Cleghorn

Christine Cleghorn provide a branch update on the following: branch reports which are available online; Arctic drilling and Porcupine caribou; information about calving grounds (Don Russell report); United States consultation with Canada before developing in the refuge; Canada's diplomatic note regarding the need for consultation; Minister Frost's work to keep the federal government engaged; International Porcupine Caribou Board meeting; permit hunt authorization; elk/agriculture conflict; and Mandanna fisheries regulation change. The Fish and Wildlife Branch reports from 2017 and 2018 were provided in meeting kits.

Permit Hunt Authorization

A tender was issued to have system review which should be completed by November. Yukon government is meeting with key user groups. The information should be available for the next Board meeting. Jodie Pongracz is leading public meetings and will attend later in the day.

Elk/Agriculture Conflict

An update was provided in meeting kits. Hunters were asked to report back about their experience. Six elk were harvested. Both PHA elk were harvested. All working groups established under the elk plan have wrapped up and have submitted their final reports. The

branch isn't seeing as many groups of elk. The pressure seems to be reduced. Some residents don't mind the elk. The government has implemented many of the recommendations from the Elk Management Plan already.

Mandanna Fisheries Regulation Change

Christine provided the results of the public survey engagement and a letter of support from the Carmacks RRC. There were a lot of people who had issues with catch and release. Yukon government is still interested in moving forward with the regulation change. She asked the Board to consider how to engage. From the summary of the Department's public engagement, it seems like there is a lot of misunderstanding and few understood the proposal. This will be further discussed during members time, but the Department's public review will add little clarity to the decision and pending recommendations that must be made.

Comments/Discussion:

- Porcupine Caribou/ANWR
 - Environmental impact statement will provide an overview of the drilling areas. Population rises and falls. How do you measure the contribution of the impact from development on the population decline?
 - We have to be careful in discussions on the calving grounds and protection of caribou. Canada can't dictate what Alaska does. Alaska has been somewhat cooperative with respect to salmon. Alaska is interested in the health of the wintering grounds – that is Canada's responsibility.
 - There are multiple conversations with Alaska. Yukon government has been working well with Alaska on Chisana and Forty Mile caribou herds.
 - Saleem Dar will be presenting later in this meeting and will discuss the recovery plan. A huge part of the work is information.
- There was a lot of confusion about the Faro PHA from members of the public. It states on every hunting permit that the Faro Threshold is a Permit Hunt... some public think this is a draw – should be re-worded.
- North Canol check station – A photo of the check station was provided in meeting kits. The check station was successful. On September 15th, Kaska didn't want people hunting after the 15th but people had the legal right to hunt. People were very respectful, polite and helpful. There were no changes around the 15th. Did they use local people? Yukon government hired a local person to work at the check station.
- A caribou biologist, Kelsey Russell, will start on November 5.
- Tess McLeod will work at Carcross/Tagish First Nation for a year.
- PHA – Letter from Paul Deuling – That letter was sent to the minister as well. Jody has scanned other jurisdictions. These were insightful contributions. Graham provided Paul

with an update. Graham is following submissions and is getting information from Wild Sheep Foundation and Back Country Hunters.

- Finlayson – It was recommended that we work toward fulsome conversation around Finlayson. Have the discussion around policy, future harvest management/conservation strategy to address issues proactively. This should be a substantive agenda item for December. Ross River will have an election the beginning of November. An election won't change the situation. Yukon government will have a discussion with Ross River and make sure. The Board should collect as much information as possible to have a worthwhile discussion. We can have a discussion before the December meeting. The Board wants to have an informed discussion, not start the conversation in December. Ross River needs to be part of the conversation.
- Cultural component – Culture is a big part of who First Nations are. We are working to establish laws. The cultural component helps inform the why. Make sure that all agencies and governments pay some attention to culture and include it in overall discussions. Bear study included how people feel about the bear spiritually. If that wasn't introduced in the discussion it would be a completely different discussion. The cultural component has its own power and makes a difference with management. We need history to help make decisions and to help others make decisions. We need to use it as a tool for some decisions. Develop a program to do something about beaver. Their fur is not worth a lot right now, so they aren't trapped a lot, but beaver are destroying fishing stock and historical sites (Tatshenshini). They are the animal emblem for Parks Canada.

CONSERVATION OFFICER SERVICES UPDATE (TAB 12) – G. Hitchcock, J. Welsh

Gordon Hitchcock introduced himself and provided his background and history. He has been the director for six months. He provided an update on the program areas within the branch including: staffing of the branch (two vacancies); Teslin's hiring practice including participation from the community and TTC; enforcement actions (charges, warnings, investigations and orders); human/wildlife conflict, response and draw on management and capacity resources; North Region update; enhanced officer presence near Ross River (check station on the North Canal); bear occurrences across northern Yukon; mining and exploration in Dawson, Mayo, Ross River and Carmacks areas; Forty Mile caribou migration patterns; First Nation partnerships and on-the-land events; Dawson trapping course; Mark Callan's trapline administration update; management of overlap areas in the Southern Lakes region; environmental education youth program; conservation action team; and Ways of Knowing curriculum. He also provided information on conduct and behaviour of conservation officers. They are bound in legislation and policies and procedures.

Graham Van Tighem provided background and history between the Board and CO Services including: enforcement; partnerships; standards and response/review committee; recommendation to Minister Frost and her response; Board responsibilities under the UFA; community and RRC involvement in CO Services hiring; COS personal performance plans; the concept of a review similar to Yukon police council; and Yukon *Wildlife Act* regulations changes.

Jim Welsh provided an update on hunter education including: a summary of the program; voluntary supplementary training classes; a summary of the year; “sight in your rifle” clinic (full with a 40-person wait-list); school bison hunts; lunch and learn sessions; basic wilderness first aid; upcoming map workshop; mandatory training program for the elk conflict hunt; upcoming activities; food bank program; field dressing and meat care workshop; videos on field dressing and fish handling; attending First Nations and cultural events to learn; YFWMB and Hunter Education. The Board was invited to attend upcoming events to help pass on their knowledge. Jim will send a list of meetings to the Board.

Comments/Discussion:

- Animal wounding – It means a lot to wildlife if they are getting wounded. If that many people were interested there were a lot of people who were unsure about their rifles.
- Timing of training and courses – Timing is an issue. It is not good to have a course on sheep hunting on July 31. Yukoners don’t attend courses in the summer.
- Hospital program – Hospital is still receiving meat. There is enough for both the hospital and the food bank. The meat must be fresh for environmental health reasons.
- YFWMB and Hunter Education – Message to take what you need. People don’t need to harvest sheep, caribou, moose and a bison. How much is left in their freezers? How much is wasted? Kids learn a lot about sustainability. Things that we try to regulate out of our generation is natural to the younger generations. There are a lot of organic food hunters and many families collaborate to harvest and share. Graham provided comments about the Hunter Education course. There is emphasis on mentorship and students were encouraged to find experienced hunters to learn from.
- Collaboration – Gordon Hitchcock provided information on collaboration with Inuvialuit Game Council and future opportunities with Ross River.
- Creative sentencing and funding – Enhancement Trust has helped fund HEED and school bison hunts. Were fines in BC directed to funds? Is there a way conservation officers can recommend that? CO Services can recommend creative sentencing, and through legislation we can divert funds.
- First Nations hunter moose confiscation – Recommend working with First Nations lands and resources departments to work with their citizens regarding what is and is not legal. A pamphlet is being developed. Jim met with Kwanlin Dün First Nation on this issue.

- Common charges – Field staff couldn't identify a pattern with wildlife. Jim approached the Board and other wildlife associations for input into the HEED course. Use of barbed hook is high. If the Board is aware of the issues it can help get the message out to RRCs.
- History of trappers – As a group they established trapping lines. It is interesting to have local people speak about the value of courses in their local regions.
- Meeting – It is important for the Board to meet with CO Services. Three former chiefs are on the Board and two past members are now chiefs. Communication needs to flow both ways.

PERMIT HUNT AUTHORIZATION REVIEW DISCUSSION (TAB 13) – C. Cleghorn, J. Pongracz

Christine Cleghorn introduced the Permit Hunt Authorization (PHA). Graham Van Tighem provided information on the working group meetings. This discussion was based on the outcomes of those meetings looking at the PHA review. PHA system was audited in 2000-01. The hope is to improve, simplify and streamline the PHA and build trust.

Jodie Pongracz provided an overview of the PowerPoint presentation, *Permit Hunt Authorization Review Consultation*, provided in meeting kits.

Comments/Discussion:

- Notification time – The Board received a letter from Paul Deuling stating there was not enough time for someone to organize their hunt after receiving their notice of authorization. The new system will provide notification in March providing four to five months' time to prepare.
- Priority versus lottery – People moving into the territory will be at the bottom while people who have been here for several years will move up the priority list. There is a random component within each priority level.
- Public engagement will begin November 3, 2018.
- Hunting synopsis – Yukon government used to publish the chances of winning a permit in a hunting synopsis. It included the number of permits available in a subzone, the number of applications from the previous year and the number of successful hunts. It is intended to provide that information again.
- Hunter IDs/Duplicates – Hunter id numbers hold the entire history. Duplicate names have been a problem in the past. Environment is at the top of list with government for a common id.
- Public engagement and feedback to the Board – Would there be a feedback loop to the Board prior to the Board making a recommendation? The public consultation will be

completed by the first week of December and the department will come to the Board with that information. The Board will make a final recommendation afterward.

- Adaptive provisions – The Department approached the Board in March with a table of adaptive provisions for 2018. The list will grow as the Minister’s adaptive abilities change over time. If there is a draw earlier in the year the discussion could be moved to December instead of March.

YUKON FISHERIES PROGRAM UPDATE (TAB 14) – R. Perry

Robert Perry provided an update on the Yukon fisheries program for 2018, including: fisheries sampling program; creel program; stocked lakes program; and sundry (placer mining and commercial fisheries review). A copy of his presentation was included in meeting kits.

Comments/Discussion:

- Alsek river system – There are 14 species of fish in Alsek a pacific drainage river and is unique. There are a couple of landlocked lakes in Cultus that contain trout. There are concerns about the loss of water in Kluane. The fish could become extinct if there is a cold winter. The department is considering sampling in 2019. A genetic study requires a good number of fish. Any fish taken should be labelled with the date and location taken.
- Trout genetics study on Teslin Lake – This type of study is in the literature. There is some homing to various sites so there will be individual identities within Teslin Lake. There will be some mixing but there will be some homing and fidelity. A very large sample is needed to get a sample signature.
- In-lake incubation – Fish have evolved to live in these lakes and they are unique. We shouldn’t tamper with those populations. Food sources are unique as well. For example, there are two growth curves in Kluane Lake based on different food sources. This will be further discussed with the working group.
- Burbot in Dezadeash – The population is healthy. When the population of fish collapses, they are smaller and younger. There are a lot of old burbot in Dezadeash.
- Moose Lake – The stocked lakes project was funded by the Enhancement Trust. The YESAA process has finished and the registry was updated to be completed and approved. An ad will be in the Whitehorse Star. The fish will be added as early as next spring. Stocked lake signage along highways can cause traffic hazards (near Rancheria)
- Dempster Highway Enhancement Trust project – Several years back the Trust funded a project on the Dempster Highway regarding suspended culverts. Robert informed members that to his knowledge culverts are deep enough that water was flowing freely. It doesn’t appear to be a problem anymore.

Interested members were encouraged to put their names forward for the fishing working group.

YUKON SALMON SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE (TAB 15) – H. Jessup

Harvey Jessup provided a brief update on the following: staffing and new hire for Executive Director; wild salmon policy implementation plan and consultation; meeting in Klukshu, chinook and sockeye escapement, fishing closures and proposed summit; transboundary panel and meeting; Yukon River escapement (68,000); YSSC recommendations; retention vs non-retention; regulation change proposals; Yukon River Panel meeting in December; Yukon River education exchange; annual Anchorage treaty meeting and reports; Nathan Miller will be replaced by Steve Smith from DFO; International Year of the Salmon and funding for story of the salmon people project; and US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. 68,000 chinook cross the border. At the mouth of the river there are 160,000 chinook, four million chum, as well as pink and Coho salmon. We get one species in Teslin. This frustrates Yukoners.

The 2019-2020 budget will be provided to the Board Chair and Vice-Chair.

Comments/Discussion:

- Alek River system –No one fishes along that river system from Alaska to Klukshu. If the escapement numbers aren't met it means everything is happening down river. Alaskan authorities delayed opening of sockeye for three weeks. 88 chinook were caught in Dry Bay.
- There is a First Nation conference call with DFO on October 30 to discuss the Yukon River run. Harvest in Alaska will not be known until the April meeting.
- Pacific Salmon Foundation conference in Whitehorse – Dennis Zimmerman is the local contact. It will be held from November 20 to 22, 2018. They like to fund hatcheries and they are interested in the uptake in Yukon.
- Transboundary Panel also include Taku and Stikine Rivers.
- Cultural component – Members have visited communities and schools to connect culturally. There was also information on the net exchange program. It is frustrating to hear
- With the low water trend (no snow, no freshet) people in Alaska won't have anything in their fridges. Every year the lakes are dropping. Majority of fish are four or five years old and that is not healthy.
- Lee Clayton has experience dealing with senate committees in Washington. He is a fisherman and a member of a First Nation. He may be a good resource person.

FISHERIES ACT REVIEW AND UPDATE (TAB 16) – T. Van Bussel, H. Jessup

Tecla Van Bussel provided an update and provided an overview of proposed changes to the Fisheries Act and current status of Bill C-28 presentation provided in meeting kits.

Harvey Jessup said the majority of the Board's recommendations were accepted in the parliamentary bill that went to the Senate. Yukon currently does not have a senator. He recommended the sub-committee and Board continue to pay attention to the process.

The following were provided in meeting kits for members' review:

- the Board submission to the Parliament of Canada Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans;
- the Board and YSSC submissions (August 28, 2017);
- the Fall 2018 FOPO amendments update;
- the Bill C-68.

DAY 3: Thursday, October 18, 2018 – Regular Meeting

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

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

PUBLIC: Christine Cleghorn (Director, Fish & Wildlife, YE), Janice Sibbeston (YSSC), Tim Dewhurst, Saleem Dar (Environment Service, Canada), Shannon Stotyn (Canadian Wildlife Service), Jamie Davignon (Stantec), Zoe Morrison (Stantec), Charles Shewen (President, Yukon Fish and Game Association), Gord Zealand (E.D., Yukon Fish and Game Association), Shawn Raymond (Outfitter, Concession 20), Jen Hare (Dept. of Environment), Ed van Randen (Deputy Minister of Environment), Pamela Muir (Public Service Commissioner)

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

See Enhancement Trust minutes.

SARA UPDATE, YUKON UPDATE INCL. BARREN GROUND CARIBOU – S. Dar

Saleem Dar provided an update on the species at risk and reviewed a presentation provided in meeting kits. Topics included: *Species At Risk Act* (SARA); should caribou be added to the SARA? And changes if caribou were added to SARA; and consultation.

Shannon Stotyn provided an overview of caribou designatable units (map); barren-ground caribou; why Porcupine caribou was included; and why COSEWIC said “threatened”.

Graham Van Tighem provided an overview of the COSEWIC meeting hosted in Whitehorse as well as the Board presentation at the event.

Comments/Discussion:

- COSEWIC made a recommendation to SARA two years ago. How this affects Yukon in terms of development is unknown. There has been no identification of critical habit. It will probably put some pressure on Alaskan, but it wasn’t part of consideration. United

States has a long-standing endangered species act. The Canadian SARA limits species considered to those that spend time in Canada. The American act lists other species outside of the states such as tigers and rhinos.

- Why can't there be sub-categories? Porcupine caribou are 25 percent of the total population and they are not in trouble. This is a good point and has been made elsewhere, however there was no biological reason to separate the Porcupine caribou. One member suggested they must have different DNA. Different creeks have different fish DNA so the caribou must have different DNA.
- Caribou facts including:
 - Cycles – caribou don't cycle the same way. If patterns of cycling we may be in an offset situation.
 - Lifespan of caribou is estimated to be eight or nine years. Caribou never keep still. They have large hearts.
- Each herd could be addressed separately. For the Porcupine herd we will continue with the status quo.
- There is no long-term history of the herds to determine if this has happened before. Some groups may have wandered away due to events. Making decisions with short-term history means we run the risk of doing things we shouldn't really be doing. In places like Alberta, development is behind changes. People don't want bears in backyards and there are more backyards now. In caribou region, there aren't many backyards yet. Maybe changes are due to other reasons. If you can't manage to what wasn't, why do you keep managing to what never was. Maybe you're not supposed to manage to that. Why are certain populations doing well now? Will they do badly later?

PEEL WATERSHED FINAL CONSULTATION – L. Cabott, Z. Morrison (Stantec)

Zoe Morrison provided an update on the Peel Watershed final consultation. She reviewed a PowerPoint presentation provided in meeting kits for members review. The presentation included the following: why we are here; time line to today; community consultation events and online engagement; upcoming consultation; the planning region; planning process including intent and goals; sustainable development; statement of intent; goals; land use designation system and maps; landscape management units; general management direction and recommendations; and the implementation plan and rollout. A copy of the presentation was provided in meeting kits for members' review.

Graham Van Tighem provided an overview of the Board's involvement in the development of the plan. The Board supported the original plan.

Comments/Discussion:

- Claims in Conservation Areas – There are a lot of claims in the conservation area. Those who have the claims can work them if they can show they can do it without creating a road. Yukon government will deal with claims on an individual basis.
- Meetings – Consultants have not heard from the mining community yet. They will meet with the Chamber of Mines, the Klondike Placer Miners and other stakeholder groups.
- Outfitters will need to operate under the goals laid out in the plan. It was suggested the goals of the land use plan laid out to comply with outfitters have operated for 80 years. There are five outfitters right now. There is no intention to shut down outfitters. Graham Van Tighem provided an overview of outfitters operating in the area. The consultants will meet with them.
- The plan will be revisited every five to 10 years.
- In the end, parties will make a final decision on the plan. Stantec is tasked with pulling together all the information they hear. That information will be provided to parties, Yukon government and the four affected First Nations. Parties will then determine what, if anything, needs to be changed.
- How does this affect the fish and wildlife? This is a concern of Board members who look at things on a Yukon-wide scale. This issue is emotional to people on a personal basis. People have to be the caretakers of their backyard. The Board is mandated to help them take care of fish and wildlife in their backyard.

The survey ends on November 16. Stantec will provide its report by the end of November. If the Board communicates directly with the minister it will have more leeway. Parties are looking to approve the plan in January.

YUKON FISH AND GAME ASSOCIATION – C. Shewan, G. Zealand

Chuck Shewen and Gord Zealand provided an update on the following: concerns about Yukon government; wildlife population management; four-page letter to government asking to be involved in discussions with Ross River and others; proposed meeting with the Premier; permits for the Finlayson herd, management and concerns; meeting with the Minister; negotiating wildlife outside the UFA; the association as intervenors in RRDC case to issue permits; check stations; meeting with outfitters; long-term management and over harvesting. The Association also provided a brief overview of feedback from hunters. The association also wanted to confirm they and the Board are on the same page. The Board has jurisdiction throughout the Yukon and recommends decisions come through the Board. There are a lot of issues important to the association including: rebuilding PHA, outdoor training for youth, hunting, deer permits, collection of unpaid fines, hunter education camp, and fundraising.

John Burdek provided additional comments about the meeting with the minister. The Board made it very clear that government had to respect the mandate of the Board, First Nations agreements and management for the Yukon. There is more than just the Finlayson herd.

Comments/Discussion:

- Leadership and mandates – There are different mandates. The Board is not mandated to tell other organizations whether their governance accounts for anything or not. Ross River sits in on CYFN leadership meetings. This is a leadership issue and should be dealt with by CYFN, whereas the Board’s mandate is fish and wildlife. This issue should go the Premier, federal government and CYFN. The Board was setup under the UFA under the assumption that all First Nations would be in agreement. Afterward First Nations stepped out of that. Do we manage where there are no agreements? That is a political question. We can’t lose the connection with the community. The Board has reached out to non-settled First Nations many times, and they have to have some input into the process. This is political. Community input is necessary for good decision-making. The Board is lucky to have the information from communities and organizations. Hopefully Ross River will be a partner soon.
- Respectful hunting ad – The association has spent a lot of time trying to address the issue of respect and knew there had been progress. They believe they had been addressing the issue and the highlighted that with the minister. The association has been told to be respectful numerous times and takes issue with that. There were additional comments including the following:
 - The Board was a partner in creating the ad which was based on feedback from communities and First Nations. The ad was intended for Yukoners, from Yukon. It wasn’t just for the Ross River area.
 - Christine Cleghorn was asked to provide input on this issue. There is fog around the issue and has to do with the Ross River election. Since June she has appreciated that communities are trying to work together. She suggested an informed discussion at the next Board meeting. That discussion can’t take place without significant partners. This and the PHA are her top priorities.
 - The Board doesn’t want to wait until December. They would like to work on it in the interim and have a presentation for the December meeting. Also, it is not just the caribou, it is moose too.
 - Finlayson has been on a draw for a long time. Hunting isn’t the problem.
 - Decisions have to be based on information from the Kaska – from the community.

IN CAMERA at the request of YG - The Deputy Minister of Environment and the Public Service Commissioner attended the meeting for an in-camera discussion.