

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING
April 26 to 28, 2022
MINUTES
MacBride Museum and Zoom

DAY 1: Tuesday, April 26, 2022 – Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Carl Sidney (Chair), Cheyenne Bradley, John Burdek, Danny Cresswell, Michelle Dawson-Beattie, Dennis Dickson, Sebastian Jones, Dawn Kisoun, Ken Taylor

ZOOM: Franklin Patterson Jr., Randy Taylor (Vice-Chair), Blanche Warrington,

STAFF: Graham Van Tighem, Diane Sheldon, Steve Hossack

SUPPORT: OMNI Productions(Bill & Steve), Colleen Henry (Minute Taker via recording)

IN ATTENDANCE: Marc Cattet (Director, Environment), Tim Dewhurst (Teslin RRC), David Dickson (Dickson Outfitters), Larry Joe (Alek RRC), Pete Knamiller (Wolf Program Coordinator, Environment), Amy Law (Fish and Wildlife Planner, Environment), James MacDonald (Chair YSSC), Janice Sibbeston (YFWET), Sandy Smarch (Teslin RRC), Don Toews (Carcross/Tagish RRC)

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Carl Sidney welcomed everyone to the meeting. Danny Cresswell said the opening prayer.

ADMIN AND FINANCES (TAB 01)

A. AGENDA REVIEW— C. Sidney

Carl Sidney reviewed the agenda.

Motion – 2022-05: That the Board accept the April 26 to 28, 2022 agenda as presented.

Moved by: Dawn Kisoun

Seconded by: Michelle Dawson-Beattie

Passed by: Consensus

B. EXECUTIVE REPORT (TAB 01) – G. Van Tighem,

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

Comments/Discussion:

- Bison Technical Team — There have been several meetings over a number of years. Wherever we go, First Nations and trappers speak about problems, conflicts, and the concentration of hunters. These issues have not been addressed in the plan so far. The plan is nearly complete. This complex issue is brushed aside. This should be raised at the next meeting.
 - Trappers Association letter — Graham Van Tighem received an email from the president regarding addressing the bison issue. We have adaptive management for bison. The president will table a letter to the bison technical team on Friday.
 - Chief Smith was very vocal about this issue. Melina Hogan, Eric Fairclough, and Chief Nicole Tom also outlined concerns. The Board will bring these comments forward.
 - On-the-land meeting in June — Carl Sidney met with the tribal chief who is interested in what the Board does. They have many issues in the Kaska country. The chief will advocate for the board.
 - Thinhorn Sheep Summit — Graham Van Tighem will send an email to all RRCs with the link for registration. The meeting is open to everyone. A sheep quota will be on the horizon.
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C. FINANCIAL UPDATE (TAB 01) – D. Sheldon

Diane Sheldon reviewed the financial update to March 31, 2022, provided in the meeting kits. Board members were reminded to submit their timesheets as soon as possible.

Comments/Questions

- Q) Does the surplus carryover affect the next funding transfer payment? A) No. It is accounted for in the budget for the next fiscal year. The Board can carry over the surplus as long as it is under 15 percent.

Motion – 2022-06: That the Board accept the financial variance report to March 31, 2022, as presented.

Moved by: John Burdek

Seconded by: Cheyenne Bradley

Passed by: Consensus

FEBRUARY MINUTES (Tab 2) — D. Sheldon/C. Henry

Diane Sheldon sent out the draft minutes and received corrections.

Comments/Questions:

- Page 2, last bullet — Change PCMA to PCMB.
- Page 3, first bullet — Franklin Patterson Jr. reminded members that Ken Taylor had asked for time on the April agenda to speak to YFWMB travel reimbursement. Was this

discussion supposed to be on the agenda? Randy Taylor clarified that travel reimbursement will be discussed under the policies and procedures discussion. The personnel committee is not finished with the policies and procedures package yet. The discussion may take place in June. It was also proposed that a series of interim meetings to deal specifically with the policies would take place rather than tying up time at Board Meetings.

Motion – 2022-07: That the Board accept the February 15-17th, 2022 Minutes as amended.

Moved by: Sebastian Jones

Seconded by: Cheyenne Bradley

Passed by: Consensus

CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW AND OUTCOMES (Tab 3) — G. Van Tighem

Graham Van Tighem reviewed correspondence in Tab 3.

Comments/Questions:

- Letters #10 and #12— Dall Sheep Adaptive Management Game Management Zone 7 East — The Board advanced formal recommendations. Minister Clark provided an informal response. He needs to either accept, vary, set aside, or replace the recommendation. The Board needs to have further conversation with him in person. We need to continually remind them of their obligations under the UFA and treaty.

Action Item 2022-01: YFWMB Executive Director will draft and send a letter to Minister of Environment, Nils Clark reminding him of his obligations under the UFA and the required protocol when responding to formal recommendations advanced by the Board. (re: Letters 10 & 12-February Correspondence)

- Letter #20 — Fish and Wildlife Branch, mission statement and core principles — The Board needs to remind Yukon government that we don't use the word "aboriginal" anymore.
- Letter # 21 — Sheep zones — This is a report written by a 12-year-old student. Graham Van Tighem will draft a response. Board members are welcome to provide feedback.

Action Item 2022-02: YFWMB Executive Director will draft and send a letter acknowledging the work done on report regarding sheep zones by student and the Board's appreciation in his sharing. (Letter#21-February Correspondence)

NOMINATIONS FOR CHAIR/VICE CHAIR OF THE YFWET AND YFWMB (IN CAMERA)

- YFWMB

Graham Van Tighem reviewed the Board's nomination and election process for the YFWMB. The nomination process was held in camera. No minutes were recorded.

Carl Sidney was acclaimed as Chair and Michelle Dawson-Beattie was acclaimed as Vice-Chair of the YFWMB.

Carl Sidney thanked Randy Taylor for his service as Vice-Chair.

- YFWET

Graham Van Tighem reviewed the Board's nomination and election process for the YFWET.

Ken Taylor was acclaimed as Chair of the Enhancement Trust. The Trust Executive includes Sebastian Jones, Dawn Kisoun, and Cheyenne Bradley.

FISH AND WILDLIFE BRANCH UPDATE (Tab 5) — M. Cattet

Marc Cattet provided an update. He reviewed an update on current topics provided in meeting kits.

Comments/Questions:

- Wetlands Policy — Amy Law provided an overview of next steps. The summary report is online. They are working on integrating polarizing comments from the “what we heard” document. The next version of the policy requires more work.
- Ross River Dena Council/Liard — Negotiations are with the Aboriginal Relations branch on various issues. Marc has provided an overview to the First Nations on the wildlife management advisory council in north slope.
- On-the-land meeting in Kaska Traditional Territory — Carl Sidney let Marc Cattet know that the Board is hoping to host the on-the-land meeting in Kaska traditional territory.
- Aboriginal Relations Branch — People are concerned about the “Aboriginal” in the title.
- Cumulative effects on wildlife — The branch's goal is to understand cumulative effects. They hired a cumulative effects biologist to focus on cumulative effects specifically related to wildlife. However, much of her time has been put toward corporate effects that are interdepartmental. Much of her time has been spent on Dawson regional planning. Regional biologists are engaged. They intend to hire a senior biologist and a cumulative effects technician to focus on cumulative effects as it relates to wildlife. In some areas, the damage has been done and the existing situation is the baseline. In other areas, there are opportunities to compare and contrast adjacent landscapes. There is also historic data to backtrack. There are multiple approaches.
- Question put to Mark regarding Teslin doing their own moose survey and spending a substantial amount of money (\$300,000). Surveys are government's responsibility. Would the government compensate? Marc doesn't know. The moose surveys scheduled for this year are for Nordenskiold River, Nisutlin River/Quiet Lake, and South Canol. The outcomes from the moose surveys in November won't be ready until early summer. Moose survey regions are selected through 10-year rotation, political pressure, direct requests, and traditional knowledge-based concerns.
- Bear surveys — The Inuvialuit are involved with the polar bear surveys. They use biopsy darts to identify bears. With black bear and grizzly bear, the hair is sampled.

- Surveys — A lot of surveys and survey areas have been discussed by the Board and in communities. These areas have all come up in conversations with the Board over the past two years.
 - Placer mining and aquatic cumulative effects — These are huge issues with mining developments and water quality in the Yukon River drainage, including long-term effects from abandoned and Faro mines; effects on juvenile salmon rearing; effects of new road development on wildlife populations. Marc Cattet will send a copy of his presentation to Don Toews. Bilateral work with Canada is happening to expand understanding and assessment of fish habitat quality.
 - Yukon Lands Act — Don Toews discussed a proposal of Yukon government to develop a new act to deal with trail development which is a huge issue in Southern Lakes. We need to do this in the next few years to regulate access. The act is under Energy, Mines, and Resources.
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WOLF CONSERVATION AND MANAGEMENT PLAN IMPLEMENTATION REVIEW (Tab 6) —

P. Knamiller, A. Law

Amy Law provided an overview of the of the *2012 Yukon Wolf Conservation and Management Plan Implementation 2020 Summary Report*. A copy of the 2019-2020 Implementation Review was provided by YG prior to the Board meeting and was included in the Board kits. However, the YG presentation *2020 Summary Report* and the *Appendix A: Progress Assessment Report* were provided following the meeting. Graham Van Tighem sent out the new YG presentations to Board members following the meeting. The Board members will have an opportunity to review and make recommendations to the minister. It would then become a public companion document to the existing 2012 plan.

Comments/Questions:

- Don Toews provided a history of the 2012 Wolf Conservation and Management Plan and his involvement.
- Board members received this document today. The next Board meeting is June. That timeline might work. However, there is an interim Board meeting in May.
- The Board did not attend any of the wolf plan implementation review meetings with governments and RRCs. When the Board found out about the meetings, there were only a couple left and the Board could not attend due to conflict or location. Graham Van Tighem suggested it would be beneficial for the Board to review the feedback from the meetings, rather than just the high-level summaries. He and Steve would like to see the outcomes from those meetings. The big questions posed to the Board are: Do we keep the plan that we have? Do we review the plan? Do we make a new plan? Those are big questions, and the Board needs to know what was said in the communities.
- Amy Law clarified that if the Board and the department agree that the report reflects the views of Yukoners and the Board, then it is agreed to continue with the 2012 mandate, priorities, and goals and to continue working on them for the next 10 years, which could be up for discussion. At the end of that time, we could do another review or renew a plan.

- Pete Knamiller said there was a discussion about reviewing the plan after five years. They knew they would not be able to implement everything in that time. They are reviewing the implementation measures, not reviewing whether they need to write a new plan. They went to communities to determine where to focus priority moving forward.
- David Dickson discussed traditional practices of denning wolves and bears, grizzly bear management plan, declining caribou herd population, and predation. He suggested that predation is the biggest problem, and that government needs to find a way to increase harvest on predators.
- Sandy Smarch said one of the biggest issues in Teslin area is predator management. Teslin RRC has an incentive which has been successful. We're trying to manage, and we have to compete against wolves which hunt 365 days out of the year.
- Peter Knamiller provided information on upcoming engagement with TTC to develop a community-based wolf trapping program based on their intensive wolf trapping program work in Aishihik. There is community interest to see more initiation of wolf trapping programs across the Yukon and in communities. They will develop a plan and approach with Teslin. There is a budget for a carcass submission program for hunters and trappers. Carcasses can also be used to determine demographics of the harvest population and diet analysis assessments. The ultimate goal is to have multiple programs deployed simultaneously. It needs to be community led. Peter Knamiller also provided an overview of a wolf survey in the Aishihik area scheduled for winter 2022-23. There is also renewed emphasis on education around consumptive and non-consumptive use of wolves. Work with Department of Education is ongoing. They are also exploring avenues to work with First Nations. There is potential for youth camps, education camps, public education programs, trapper training, and workshops. This year, Yukon government staff will review and update the learning resource program developed for schools in the late 1990s. They are also targeting a number of publications and outreach materials. The COSD First Nation Liaison Officer is working in communities and setting up training programs for human/wildlife conflict, safety training, backyard audits, et cetera. There is potential to expand that program.
- The Southern Lakes program field research is complete. Final analysis and report writing is ongoing. Peter suggested an update would be appropriate as a whole separate meeting. There is a lot of information. It will be completed by early winter.
- Michelle Dawson-Beattie asked about lessons learned from the Aishihik program and updates for the Teslin program. Peter Knamiller said they were more openminded about the goals of the program, including community input. For instance, instead of having prerequisites like a moose and caribou harvest plan, they will look to build it into the program.
- With the Aishihik program, the moose came back. It wasn't only due to wolves, but also bears that were harvested in that area.
- Graham Van Tighem asked about the diet analysis studies and resources spent when work has already been done and documented. Peter Knamiller provided information on carcass investigation due to changing prey availability to understand how much of the wolves are being sustained and whether that has a numeric response on the wolf population that could potentially result in prey switching or alternative competition concept. That information can be used to direct efforts on trapping programs for greater impact.

- Kill site analysis has been one of the most beneficial parts of the wolf culling program over the last two years.
 - Don Toews provided information on the CTRRC's involvement in the community wolf trapping programs and have provided incentives for the past four years. Community trapping programs must be strategic and sustainable for decades. It must engage tappers every year. How can we make it sustainable? Peter Knamiller said they will ask that of communities. The initial stage of the program will involve getting feedback. He also discussed a crafting component to the program.
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MEMBERS TIME — IN CAMERA

Motion – 2022-08: That the Board move in camera

Moved by: John Burdek

Seconded by: Dawn Kisoun

Passed by: Consensus

Members time was in camera. No minutes were recorded.

DAY 2: Wednesday, April 27, 2022 – RRC Chairs Meeting

PRESENT: Carl Sidney (Chair), Cheyenne Bradley, Danny Cresswell, Michelle Dawson-Beattie (Vice-Chair), Dennis Dickson, Sebastian Jones, Dawn Kisoun, Ken Taylor

ZOOM: John Burdek, Franklin Patterson Jr., Randy Taylor, Blanche Warrington,

STAFF: Graham Van Tighem, Diane Sheldon, Steve Hossack

SUPPORT: OMNI Productions (Bill & Steve), Colleen Henry (Minute Taker via recording)

IN ATTENDANCE: Marc Cattet (Director, Environment), Andrew Serack (Carcross/Tagish RRC), Don Toews (Carcross/Tagish RRC), Alan Skookum (Carmacks RRC), Sheila Garvis (Carmacks RRC), Janice Sibbeston (YFWET), Grafton Njootli (North Yukon RRC), Justin Hooper (Laberge RRC), John Lavallee (Laberge RRC), Charlotte O'Donnell (Laberge RRC), Jerry Alfred (Selkirk RRC), Brenda Alfred (Selkirk RRC), Jerry Kruse (Selkirk RRC), Sandy Smarch (Teslin RRC), Tim Dewhurst (Teslin RRC), Frank Johnstone (Teslin RRC), Brenda Carson (Dän Keyi RRC), Ron Bouvier (Dän Keyi RRC), Louise Bouvier (Dän Keyi RRC), Sandra Johnson (Dän Keyi RRC), David Dickson, Barb Shannon (Mayo District RRC), Ed Johnson (Mayo District RRC), Ian Fraser (Dawson RRC), Mark Wierda (Dawson RRC), Gary Darbyshire (Asek RRC), Mark Nassiopoulos (Asek RRC), Crystal Linklater (North Yukon RRC), Michael Draper (Land Management, EMR), Shirley Dawson (Land Management, EMR), Karlie Knight, Erin Florian (Yukon Stone Outfitters), James MacDonald (Chair, YSSC), Janice Sibbeston (YFWET), Sean Cox (Corporate Policy and Planning, EMR), Brian Bell (Land Management Branch, EMR), Julia Nichols (Land Management Branch, EMR)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS — C. Sidney

Carl Sidney welcomed the participants to the meeting. Randy Taylor provided the opening prayer. There was a roundtable of introductions. Carl reviewed the agenda.

Graham Van Tighem provided an overview of the evening meeting with RRC Executive Directors on April 26. Topics discussed included: the transfer payment funding agreement and approval process; funding challenges; *Wildlife Act* conformity with the final agreements; membership; moose regulation and harvest programs; surplus funding; accounting; honoraria; and COVID safety measures.

RRC CHAIRS UPDATES:

Carcross Tagish RRC

Don Toews provided an update on the following:

- RRC's strength in doing work and raising issues collectively;
- *Public Lands Act* opportunity to manage land use and access;
- Retirement of previous Chair Ken Reeder and accountant Tish Reeder;
- New Executive Director Andrew Serack;
- The 2020-21 work plan with C/TFN and Yukon government;
- Survey work including moose survey and results;
- Wolf collaring survey to identify wolf packs, ranges, and kill sites;
- Carcross caribou herd collaring study;
- Caribou in the schools program implementation;
- Moose management workshop and local knowledge survey;
- Caribou-highway collisions issue and ads;
- Bear awareness and bear proofing ads;
- Membership, appointments, vacancies, and lack of consultation; and
- Regulation proposals, lack of response, feedback, and examples (catch and release).

Comments/Questions:

- Catch and release issue — Q) We see people on Facebook bragging about catching and releasing fish. Between 15 and 30 percent of those fish die. How do we address it? A) Don Toews said their proposal was to limit the number of fish an angler can catch a day to five fish per species. That regulation is already in place on some lakes. Most of the regulations are unenforceable and are there for education. We need to educate anglers. Most anglers will follow it. We need an angling campaign. Most regulations are self-enforced. We have 12,000 anglers in the Yukon. Angling teaches children important lessons about survival on this planet.
- Enforcement is one reason we want to bring the *Wildlife Act* into conformity.
- Wolf predation in the Southern Lakes and impact on moose populations — Q) How will the RRC respond? Will they start culling wolves? A) The reality is that the caribou recovered in the Southern Lakes without a wolf kill. But we have had very active wolf trappers. The RRC provides a pelt handling incentive of \$100 per wolf. The moose haven't increased or decreased. The biggest worry is that we're not training new wolf trappers.

Carmacks RRC

Sheila Garvis provided an update on the following:

- Impacts of COVID pandemic and challenges;
- 2019-24 Community Fish and Wildlife Management Plan;
- Bear proof bins for the school;
- Raised garden beds;
- Bat houses and swallow houses;
- Solar greenhouses for rec centre and school;

- Community draws;
- Distribution of reusable grocery bags and grocery gift cards;
- Yukon University wilderness first aid course;
- Distribution of moose and moose burger;
- Food security group;
- Aerial moose survey partnership with lands and Yukon Environment;
- Surveys on bison, lynx, moose, wetlands, and fish and wildlife management plan;
- Visits to placer mining operations on Mount Nansen for YESAB recommendations;
- Trapline recommendations;
- Upcoming wilderness survival first aid partnership with Yukon University;
- Garden course;
- Workshop on solar energy with potential for a solar package giveaway;
- Earth Rangers class club at school;
- Wildlife outdoor adventures program for eight- to 12-year-old kids;
- Self-sustained outhouses from Wulsh Creek to Carmacks;
- Climate change and salmon course in partnership with Yukon University and LSCFN;
- Specific issues of moose management, bison management, quota meetings, salmon, wetlands and climate change;
- AGW which has been postponed for this year; and
- Meeting with LSCFN.

North Yukon RRC

Stan Njootli provided an update on the following:

- New executive director, Crystal Linklater;
- COVID challenges and board members;
- New computer system to streamline meetings and members;
- Relationship building with the First Nation;
- Membership issues with YG (three members);
- Trip to headwaters of the Porcupine River with elders and youth and YouTube video;
- Increase in moose harvest and changes to caribou cycle;
- Solar panel array and grid;
- Wind study for winter power; and
- Caribou Days which will be held over the May long weekend.

Laberge RRC

Justin Hooper provided an update on the following:

- Membership shortages struggles (three members);
- Outhouse installation project on Lake Laberge and Thirty Mile River;
- Caribou in the schools partnership project;
- Shoreline clean up planning project and partnership with TKC on Lake Laberge;
- Wolf Creek garbage debris project and assessing salmon issues;
- Yukon University scholarships for renewable resources or northern studies; and
- Lake Laberge RRC Facebook page.

Selkirk RRC

Jerry Alfred provided an update on the following:

- COVID impacts;
- New office location;
- Membership;
- May Gathering;
- Annual cross-cultural camping trip;
- Outfitter quota meetings and challenges;
- YESAB applications and mining activity;
- Yukon River Panel post season meeting and low salmon numbers;
- Meat distribution from outfitters;
- iPad purchases for Zoom meeting; and
- New programming for this fiscal year.

Comments/Question:

- Outfitter quota one-year review — We had a difficult time doing a five-year review. I don't know how they will do it every year. Also, why do we only talk about moose and caribou in the outfitter quota review? Why aren't we discussing all the animals? Don Toews stressed the importance of RRCs in the outfitter quota and harvest management planning process.
- Chinook salmon — Don Toews discussed issues impacting salmon including: overfishing, the decrease in salmon size, the decrease in salmon eggs, climate change, the increase in water temperature, and adaptation. Do we want Chinook salmon on the landscape in Yukon? We need to maintain First Nation culture to ensure the salmon survive. RRCs need to have a role.

Teslin RRC

Sandy Smarch provided an update on the following:

- COVID impacts;
- New office administrator;
- Outfitter quotas;
- Revised trapping guidelines;
- *Lands Act*;
- Nisutlin Bay bridge;
- Moose management plan with the TTC;
- Snowfall and flood risk in Teslin;
- Trapping incentive program;
- Membership;
- Caribou rut counts with YG;
- Moose survey;
- Game guardians — there are five in total, with three full-time;
- Spring camp beaver trapping;
- Catch and release on Teslin Lake;
- Trout census;

- Permit hunt on the South Canol; and
- White fish study on Sydney Creek.

Dän Keyi RRC

Ron Bouvier provided an update on the following:

- COVID;
- Catch and release mindset which is a bigger issue than we are familiar with in Kluane;
- Membership changes and the new administrator;
- Office location and Zoom meetings;
- Meat donations and distribution in Kluane Lake area from Silver City to 1118;
- Sausage making workshop;
- Kluane Lake first net program;
- Biome environment monitoring and assessment graduate program;
- Wildlife harvest joint meeting to discuss quota systems;
- Sheep and goat biologist meeting about management units;
- Radio collaring program;
- Parks Canada camera program;
- 2020 community interview and data collection;
- Camera tracking project and trainee hiring;
- Kluane monitoring program and video release;
- Spring open house;
- *Lands Act* presentation in May;
- Zana camp;
- Bear conflicts and culling;

Comments/Questions:

- Zana camp — Q) How do you manage legal supervision for children who attend these camps? A) The Kluane First Nation, government, and the community are involved in the camp. Teachers and elders are involved, and they follow regulations set out by YG. It is a school event and there is a lot of community support. It is a camp for all of the Yukon. Kids from other communities have been invited. The camp takes place over spring break.
- Ice Fishing — Graham Van Tighem discussed the ice fishing camp with Golden Horn Elementary. He offered his services to any RRC interested in setting up an ice fishing camp.
- Spring gathering — The date has not been finalized but will likely occur at the end of May.
- Teslin winter hunting camps — Sandy Smarch provided information about the Teslin moose hunting camp for kids which went through Teslin Tlingit Council. They will take kids down the Teslin River to hunt bears, ducks, geese, beaver, and muskrat. They will also set a fish net. The insurance goes through the First Nation.
- Bear issue — Q) Does the RRC have any insights as to how the Board can help? A) Meetings and community involvement is appropriate. Community members don't go out on the land unless they take a rifle. We need to start by involving more people and by meeting together.

Dawson RRC

Mark Wierda provided an update on the following:

- New members;
- Moose collision program, talking signs, and motion sensors;
- Fur show, school trapping program, and local fiddlers;
- Salmon reconnaissance trips;
- Dawson regional land use plan;
- Local knowledge survey;
- Outfitter quotas and meetings;
- Fortymile caribou herd guidelines, which ties into YESAB to help educate proponents;
- Radius traplines around Dawson;
- Timber harvest plans in the goldfield area;
- Sausage making workshop;
- Sheep harvesting and separation due to MOV;
- Wetlands conservation and guidelines;
- YESAB applications;
- Yukon Foundation Scholarship program;
- Youth trapper program;
- Annual meeting; and
- Grizzly study with hair studies and DNA samples.

Comments/Question:

- Jet Boats impacting salmon spawning — Q) When the salmon are spawning, what can the RRC do to prevent jet boats from going up the Klondike River? A) They looked into the jet boats. It's a transportation issue under the *Waters Act*. They will work on signage that will tie into the salmon program educating people. People don't realize what they are doing. They will also add information to Facebook. They looked into it but they can't restrict people going up there. Steve Hossack is available to assist with photo or video work to help advertise messaging. Sebastian Jones recalls that Yukon Salmon Sub-committee made recommendations to the Dawson Land Use Planning Commission about guidance in the plan. DFO can regulate it because of potential harm to fish and fish habitat.
- Squatter on Traditional Territory — Q) Is the RRC involved with the man who is squatting and trapping without a permit? A) That will be addressed with the land use planning. That is why it needs to be in place.

Alsek RRC

Mark Nassiopoulos provided an update on the following:

- Membership;
- COVID;
- Five-year plan and public comments;
- Butchering and sausage making workshops postponed due to COVID;
- Research on Pine Lake to retain lake trout;
- Open house;
- Trap line allocations;
- Building public profile and public and youth engagement;
- Trapper support, snare making, and tools;

- Ibex caribou observations;
- Timber harvest plan;
- Aishihik dam relicensing;
- Advocating for wildlife surveys for moose, caribou, wolves, bears, bison;
- Definitions of conservation;
- Limited Tatshenshini Alsek salmon runs;
- Salmon habitat enhancement;
- Holistic resource management approach with Yukon government;
- Wildfire protection and wildlife habitat enhancement;
- Bison, sustainable harvest, and the need for population numbers;
- Haines Junction school hunt;
- Stocked lakes projects with CAFN in their traditional territory;
- May meeting with Lands; and
- Conversations with sheep in games zones 5 and 7.

Comments/Questions:

- Bio Blitz — David Dickson said Bruce Bennett from Department of Environment is proposing to do a bio blitz around Beaver Creek. Last year, he did a bio blitz in Tombstone area, and they took 150 people in there. Is anyone aware of this? There are concerns around helicopter activity impacting animals. Sebastian Jones has participated and provided information about the Dawson blitz and Tombstone blitz which was done in conjunction with Yukon parks. If there are concerns, people should raise it with Bruce Bennett.

Mayo RRC

Ed Johnson provided an update on the following:

- Membership challenges and vacancies;
- Financial challenges and surpluses;
- Moose survey in 2021 which confirmed declining numbers;
- Land use plan;
- Outfitter quota meetings; and
- Permafrost workshops and field trips.

RRC Common Issues

Carl Sidney identified issues of commonality among RRCs around bears and trapping. He discussed harvesting other animals such as bears or birds for sausage making workshops. People don't seem to hunt bears anymore. He also asked RRCs how the Board could assist them to address some of those issues. Educating youth is also important and educating on the land is just as important as school.

Steve Hossack discussed changes with the next generation of licensed hunters. Several people enjoy backpacking and "boots on the ground" style hunting instead of roadside hunting. Many communities have bear-related issues. The Board could facilitate messaging to encourage people to get out on the land to harvest more bears. They would have to engage communities and RRCs directly. There is an interest.

Comments/Discussion:

- Frank Johnston provided information on a speech by a retired biologist at the community centre regarding grizzly bear predator management. The biologist recommended targeting grizzly bears and black bears in the spring to help with predator management. He has tried to encourage Teslin to do a pelt handling incentive for black bears in the spring, but nothing has come of it.

BRINGING THE YUKON WILDLIFE ACT INTO CONFORMITY WITH FIRST NATIONS FINAL AGREEMENTS — C. Sidney, G. Van Tighem

Graham Van Tighem discussed bringing the Yukon Wildlife Act into conformity with Yukon First Nations final agreements. It has been over 30 years, but we still have not made this happen. He provided an overview of the strategic planning exercise. The Board constantly hears from RRCs and government that this exercise has been outstanding for a long time. It is a treaty obligation. Section 16.6.13 of the UFA specifies that the Minister shall recommend to the Yukon Legislative Assembly an amendment to the *Wildlife Act* to enable the RRCs to establish bylaws. This will help RRCs to fulfill their mandate more completely. There have been a lot of changes through the regulation change process that affect things Yukon wide. The ability to pass bylaws is an important part of the final agreements. The lack of conformity impedes our ability to manage fish and wildlife. The Act doesn't mention First Nation final agreements and is dated. Graham provided an overview of the three phases of the Act review including: the administrative review, the made-in-Yukon species at risk legislation, and the conformity with final agreements. Phase one was completed. Phase 2 was dropped in 2003. Phase 3 was never started.

So far, the Board met with First Nations to discuss setting this as a strategic goals and priority. Minister Nils Clark indicated that if First Nations are supportive of bringing the *Wildlife Act* into conformity, he would support it as well. The Board wrote letters to First Nations in the summer of 2021 requesting letters of support to the minister. The Board has received letters from Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in, Nacho Nyak Dun, Carcross/Tagish First Nation, and Little Salmon Carmacks.

Since then, Carl Sidney and Graham Van Tighem met with Council of Yukon First Nations Leadership and discussed the ungulate enhancement project funded by the trust, transfer payment funding agreement challenges, and bringing the *Wildlife Act* into conformity. Leadership was supportive as it affects them as well. Leadership will bring this issue forward at the next Yukon Forum meeting.

Comments/Discussion:

- Don Toews provided information on a series of workshops in 2013 to 2015 on this issue. Government's position was that the minister had ultimate authority on bylaws. First Nations said that was not the intention. There is a broader question of bringing the whole act, and other pieces of legislation, into conformity with the agreements. That's a government-to-government discussion. It is clear that RRCs are managing trapping and furbearers. We should push this clause and say this is a clear commitment which hasn't been addressed. At a minimum, he would like to see the RRCs make a joint recommendation to the minister to implement clause 16.6.13. The powers that we were

granted in the agreement were never implemented. They should implement that clause at a minimum. The First Nations have already agreed when they signed the agreement.

- Graham Van Tighem discussed category 1 trapline challenge. Government said they had the final allocating authority and First Nations disagreed and referenced section 16.5.1.2. The Board hopes to persist at advance our system of wildlife management to be more respectful of the spirit and intent of the UFA.

Action Item 2022-03: As per discussion around clause 16.6.13 of the UFA, Executive Director will draft a resolution and send out to RRC's for review and finalize and to bring forward at the next RRC AGW.

- Carl Sidney discussed the Board review which recommended that the Board work closely with First Nations, RRCs, and Yukon government. Our main objective is to be the main instrument of fish and wildlife. Bringing the Wildlife Act into conformity with the UFA was started 20 years ago and was shelved. We want to restart it. We have all the RRC chairs here. We can all make a recommendation now.
- Ian Fraser said that when we did resolutions before, we had them posted ahead of time so we could discuss it with our council members before discussing it at the RRC chairs meeting. We will have to take it back and discuss it with our council. Let's draft something to take back to councils to discuss next steps. We can't commit to it today.
- Charlotte O'Donnell said we need to get the final decision, if there is one, on the overlap issues. Five First Nations have signed on the overlap issues, but she has not heard any more about how it has proceeded. Laberge RRC cannot make any decisions on traplines. That is still done by government. Where is that process? Has it been resolved? That needs to move forward before we can address bylaws.

Action Item 2022-04: The issues around traplines in overlap areas have been longstanding. The Executive Director will investigate this issue to see what movement has taken place and provide an update to the RRC's.

- Don Toews recognized that there are RRC jurisdictional issues in overlap areas. But there is no downside to implementing bylaw powers in the *Wildlife Act*. It won't help the overlap issue. That will be resolved in a political forum.
- Charlotte O'Donnell said that where there is completely overlapping areas, the RRC doesn't have any authority at all which needs to be fixed before an RRC can create bylaws and enforce them. We need to find an option for that.

YUKON'S PUBLIC LANDS ACT — M. Draper, S. Dawson

Michael Draper provided an update on the *Public Lands Act*. Government is in the middle of engagement and consultation using the Discussion Paper provided in meeting kits. RRCs can respond through the engageyukon.ca website or they can respond directly to Michael Draper. Public engagement and First Nation consultation has been extended to the end of May. Comment will be put in an "what we heard document" by the end of summer. They will then prepare to

drafting instructions and regulations. The draft act and regulations will be ready by fall 2023 for the final approval process.

This is just a start of the process. We would like to have broader discussions throughout. Shirley Dawson encouraged RRCs to reach out. She thanked RRCs and elders for time on the agenda.

Comments/Questions:

- Trapline lease — Where there is a trapline lease there are existing policies that only allow that as the sole activity. They are looking at commercial or licence leases or permits that will allow secondary activities to avoid non-compliance and add flexibility for the user.
- Trapline cabin — Q) Is the cabin tied to the trapline? A) If it was a commercial lease and one of the primary uses is trapping, the cabin would have to be tied to that. If the individual didn't want a lease for the trapline anymore, the cabin would have to be pulled out of the concession. If trapping is a primary lease, it is tied to the concession. This is just an idea that they are seeking feedback on.
- Spot land applications — Q) That is a land use planning decision which the regional land use planning commissions should address. Our land use planning process has progressed slowly. This act may do an end run around land use planning. A) Plans in place will be the guiding tool for any development. They are trying to ensure there are tools available. There won't be a rash of applications for wilderness tourism. They are putting a framework in for the act and regulations. Where these activities occur will be based on decision makers balancing what we have with land use plans and priority. They are looking to have the regulatory framework there if they choose to use it.
- Q) Will this new act supersede the land use plans? A) No. When a planning exercise gets started and there are existing third-party rights issued, there will be some titled lots. The department is advocating that at the time that title is issued, it is through a planned lot initiative or an area where there is zoning or planning in place. The rights for leases, licenses, and land use permits can be managed because they are administered by Lands branch. They are not permanent rights as they have an expiry date.
- Q) The current land regime allows me to cut a trail to Watson Lake, as long as it is 1.5 metres wide, and I don't take the wood home with me. That's a bad idea that you need to fix. A) The issue of trails came up with ORV regulations. We don't need an authorization for a trail that is 1.5 metres wide. Does that need to be changed? Comments from the ORV work is yes. He wants feedback on what is a good alternative.
- Q) During the consultation process, is there any appetite for government to put a freeze on most land use activities, except for cases of emergency? Get something in place to protect resources for activities that will change the land so that it is never the same. This work won't happen by next year. A) Rather than looking at a land freeze, how can we better manage activities? The key elements of the act and regulations is putting tools in place so that people can conduct activities under compliance with regulations. Land freezes are a blunt tool. The Lands Act is so outdated that administrators go around it rather than use it. If we can build that, then we can talk to other departments about managing better roads, trails, cabins, and collaborate on monitoring, compliance, and enforcement. We can build the foundation and move into other aspects. ORV regulations are in place. We know access management is a huge issue. This approach is that we can

start with some building blocks. There will be a trickle-down effect on other acts and departments.

- RRCs mandates are fish and wildlife and habitat. This will get the discussion started on how we will manage the public land. ORV legislation and regulations doesn't address snowmobiles, dog teams, ORVs and impacts on caribou habitat. This is an issue in Southern Lakes. There is nothing to manage it. Comprehensive land use planning isn't moving ahead very quickly. We need a discussion on some of these issues.
- Q) There are approximately 500 unauthorized occupants (UO). What are we going to do with them? They want to go in the bush to camp and they start building structures. A) We need to tighten that up. We have weak regulations on what is recreating and what is a permanent structure. The enforcement is documenting it and going to court to prove that the person doesn't have a right to be there and go through a lengthy process to remove the structure. We want a tighter timeframe for enforcement officers to ticket them right away and remove them. The 500 includes First Nations traditional harvesting cabins. We will talk to First Nations about how to better manage those. Some are big game outfitting cabins and trapping that have been documented. Our policy and framework need to be improved. The rest are people who create structures and say they are recreating. We're hoping the new regs and policy approach can bring some sort of form of tenure and allow us to spend more time on the ones that are not. How can we work collaboratively with First Nations on compliance and identification of UOs.
- Q) C/TFN did a land and water declaration. They want to know what is going on out on the land. Danny Cresswell flew over the entire traditional territory in BC and Yukon. They found about six unauthorized buildings. They can get into anywhere with their snowmachines. Some people just stake places. Unless the government conforms all of the acts to fall in place with final agreements, this is a waste of time. If someone is denied agricultural lease and they stake it, they are infringing on First Nation Rights and Title. That has to be the underlying rule. A) They are talking to the mining branch. As we get our act and regulations together, other departments will try to complement them with the placer and quartz acts. If we can meet the residential needs of Yukoners, people won't have to stake claims.
- Q) As a trapper, I must be a Yukon resident to get a trapline and lease. As an outfitter, I must be a Canadian citizen so my leases would be under Canadian citizenship. For commercial wilderness operators, do they need to be Canadian, Yukon, or worldwide to apply? There is a lot of ecotourism and northern lights tourism. A) We have deal with this residency issue. How can we guarantee it will remain Canadian? That is something that we will have to look at. There is a lot of feedback about managing foreign ownership regarding surface tenure. Under a lease we can follow-up if there are activities other than what was originally intended. We will look at foreign ownership.
- This is a really important act and a major challenge for RRCs and the Board through environmental assessment processes in place and a loose framework that has made proactive thinking around land use planning almost impossible. There are things that this framework will have implications that we haven't even touched on. RRCs are overwhelmed with YESAB applications. Budgets aren't going up and we're not getting more staff. Whatever comes out of this, it needs be streamlined enough for RRCs and the Board to participate. It is over and above everything we are already doing.
- We have enforcement officers. The excuse is that they can't be everywhere.

HARVEST ALLOCATION POLICY/OUTFITTER QUOTA PROCESS INITIATIVE — M. Cattet

Marc Cattet provided an overview of two initiatives: development of a harvest allocation policy and modernization of the outfitter quota process. These initiatives could be stand alone. He reviewed the PowerPoint slide included in meeting kits.

Comments/Questions:

- Meetings with RRCs —are going to Cabinet to get approval to engage with RRCs and First Nations. We need to communicate to interest groups, First Nations, and instruments of the final agreements that these initiatives are being considered. At the same time, we're hamstrung in the sense that we can't truly engage. The modernization of the outfitter guidelines will be a two-year process. The harvest allocation policy will take approximately four years, based on other policies.
- Outfitter Quota Appeal Committee and Concession and Compensation Review Board are two boards that overlap in function which needs to be resolved. The other legal issue is around multi-year quotas. Administering the quotas is hugely time consuming. It's not in the branch's interest to have an annual quota.
- Quotas are being held in place until we have a new process in place. RRCs will continue to be central to the process. This is a modernization to make it consistent with current legislation.
- Outfitter guidelines — The fundamental elements of the guidelines have been thrown aside and is disrespectful to the outfitting community, the RRCs, and everybody who put the guidelines together. The cart was put way before the horse in this.
- Terminology — A) There are many different meanings of the terms harvest allocation policy, outfitter quota process, and outfitter quota guidelines. These terms are being used interchangeably. Why was the quota established and utilized as a guideline? People don't often worry about guidelines. Will the modernization of the guideline establish the outfitter quota process enshrined in policy so it can't be open to interpretation? Process enshrined in policy is very different. It can't be changed on the fly. Will they remain guidelines? How does the harvest allocation policy fit in to the quota process or guidelines? A) Guidelines are broader in context and the quota process is part of the guidelines. Where that is going will ultimately be determined through engagement with First Nations, outfitters, RRCs, and the Board. At this time, it will continue to be guidelines. On the harvest allocation policy, the initiative is to develop a policy to harvest different big game species in different areas of the Yukon and to allocate between resident and non-resident harvesters, including those guided by special guides or individuals with special guide permits or licenses. The policy is to allocate consistently and transparently. If both initiatives go forward, the policy will speak to the quota process.
- When we put together the guidelines, we never talked about the resident and non-resident hunters. It was to set the guidelines for commercial use allocation. The requirement for an annual quota is there when issuing a moose hunting licence. Whether they're a resident or non-resident, they can only get one licence to take one animal. That's clearly a quota.

- Outfitting certificates are issued annually. It doesn't specify that the quota must be specified in the outfitting certificate. There is always an annual quota specified.
 - We are working on finding a way to do multi-year quotas that does not result in issues with the *Wildlife Act* or the minister's authority.
 - Q) Does the harvest allocation policy implicate going to total allowable harvest and basic needs levels in the future? A) Don't know. This is something to take into consideration because it is in the final agreements.
 - When we look at a harvest allocation policy that deals with resident and non-resident harvest, what will be the unit of measure? For example, if you look at it by moose management units and say that 10 percent of bulls can be harvested with moose management unit in a remote area and there are 30 moose that can be harvested, one challenge is that residents can no longer access a lot of the remote areas because pilots are being told they can't fly resident hunters into "outfitters lakes". It is becoming a big issue. Very few people have their own airplanes, and it is become harder every year. Numerous people have raised this issue with the Board. Hopefully this will be addressed in the future.
 - Q) If this goes through, what metrics will you be looking for to determine quota numbers in different areas over a year-to-year basis? A) Those metrics would be determined through engagement with RRCs, outfitters, the public, and First Nations.
 - Q) One concern is the lack of reliable counts for moose and bison. It's key to know what is out there. Is population a concern? A) Agreed. If you have specific biologists in, you can bring them in and discuss it. We're always estimating populations and numbers you don't see. We're estimating the population and we're estimating the number of animals harvested when we don't have complete numbers and then we're estimating a sustainable harvest. It's scary that, for the most part, it works.
 - We need to come to a common definition — Yukon government, big game outfitters, RRCs, First Nation governments — we all have to be on the same page. We're here for fish and wildlife. We need to discuss definitions, so we all have the same one.
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YFWMB WEBSITE RELEASE — S. Hossack

Steve Hossack provided an overview of the new website. Board members commended Steve for his excellent and hard work on the website project.

DAY 3: Thursday, April 28, 2022 – Regular Meeting

- PRESENT:** Carl Sidney (Chair), Cheyenne Bradley, John Burdek, Danny Cresswell, Michelle Dawson-Beattie (Vice-Chair), Dennis Dickson, Sebastian Jones, Dawn Kisoun, Ken Taylor
- ZOOM:** Franklin Patterson Jr., Randy Taylor, Blanche Warrington
- STAFF:** Graham Van Tighem, Diane Sheldon, Steve Hossack
- SUPPORT:** OMNI Productions (Bill & Steve), Colleen Henry (Minute Taker via recording)
- IN ATTENDANCE:** Marc Cattet (Director, Environment), Janice Sibbeston (YFWET) James MacDonald (YSSC), Monica Krieger (YSSC), Larry Joe (Alsek RRC), David Dickson, Rhiannon Pankratz (Environment and Climate Change Canada), Paula Pacholek (Environment and Climate Change Canada), Frank Johnstone (Teslin RRC)
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YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT TRUST — K. Taylor, J. Sibbeston

Refer to the Enhancement Trust minutes.

YUKON SALMON SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE — M. Krieger

Carl Sidney welcomed Monica Krieger to the meeting. Monica provided an update on the following:

- Executive Director transition;
- Year-end and final report;
- YSSC meetings and Yukon River Panel international meetings;
- Yukon River Panel communications committee;
- Yukon River drainage fisheries association meeting;
- Discussion with the MP Brendan Hanley and the federal minister’s potential summer visit to the Yukon;
- Pacific Salmon strategy initiative announced in 2021, the Yukon First Nations Salmon Stewardship Alliance, and the revised proposal from 2022;
- Recommendation to minister regarding long-term closures for commercial fisheries;
- Preseason engagement in May with all First Nations, RRCs, and communities to gather input for recommendations for 2022 season which is due in June;
- Community visits;
- Video projects work with Steve Hossack;

- Stream of Dreams Yukon visit in mid-May to early June; and
- Rivers to Ridges program and community visits to distribute the salmon lifecycle games.

James McDonald discussed the Yukon River Panel process and bilaterally agreed upon recommendations to management agencies. The Canada/US representatives were not able to come to an agreement on the management recommendations for this upcoming season. There will be many restrictions across jurisdictions in Alaska and very little, if any, fishing here. James also provided information on the revised scheme and goal for Yukon River chinook salmon. The joint technical committee made the recommendation to raise escapement for Chinook salmon to reach the spawning grounds. That was not accepted by the Panel. They asked co-chairs to make best efforts to find common ground. It's unlikely that we will meet the border escapement objective of 42,500 and there will be many hardships on both sides of the border. James discussed the Pacific salmon strategy initiative and the \$647 million for the Pacific region. Their aim is to get as much of the funding to the Yukon as possible to raise the priority of Yukon River, Porcupine River, and Alsek socks and restore the salmon to historical levels to the extent possible. If we can get \$100 million into the Yukon, that would be a success. Funds could be used for dams, fish ladders, habitat restoration, and conservation and restoration initiatives. The YSSC would be pleased to partner with the Board and anyone else who is interested in salmon to raise this profile and earmark as much of this funding for Yukon as we can.

Comments/Question:

- Education — It doesn't seem there is much education on the First Nations side. There is a voluntary no-fishing. More emphasis can go to First Nations on why we're doing this. Some people were fishing.
- Signage — James provided information on the discussion about interpretive signs along the dikes and berms by the Stewart River. They may have something that can be easily updated so people can see there are conservation concerns and the run numbers throughout the season. It can be updated on a regular basis. Franklin suggested signage around spawning areas, including around Dawson.
- Pacific salmon strategy initiative
 - Q) Is there any consideration around using part of the funding for enhancement or improving the hatchery? They may be more of an appetite for a hatchery now in Whitehorse or in the upper watershed. A) Every idea we can think of should be discussed. The proposal is for the next two years and the goal at the end is to have a plan and concrete projects to move forward.
 - Q) A potential project is the fish ladder around the dam. Assessing that will be a big project. Could the fund be directed toward that? A) The PSSI has a dedicated website on DFO's page which discusses four pillars. This could fall within the conservation and stewardship pillar. There is plenty of information and data going back decades on the dam.
- Chinook salmon as a stock of concern — DFO seems to refuse to start the process for Yukon River Chinook to be assessed by COSEWIC or listed under the *Species at Risk Act*. DFO said that the Chinook salmon hasn't declined to the limit reference point yet. What is the limit reference point? When they completely stop coming over the border, or what? A) James had asked about this specific question. A DFO official indicated that stocks that are considered must decline by 95 percent — five percent remaining stock.

Based on the information they presented on the Yukon River chinook stocks, the official felt the Chinook were not within the risk matrix.

- Run size — Monica provided documentation in the Board meeting kits. The forecast is extremely low. In the last few years, there has been a huge crash in chum stocks. In the US and Canada, the Chinook run is expected to be 99,250. The Canadian component of that is expected to be maybe 45 percent, so \$1,000 to 62,000. The existing escapement goal floor is at 42,500. It's quite possible that the run size, if it's unfinished, won't meet the escapement goal at all based on this preseason forecast. It will be a lean fishing season up and down the Yukon River drainage. It's not a positive outlook.
- Lethal sampling near Eagle Alaska — Sebastian provided information on the 2021 lethal sampling project proposed at the Eagle, Alaska sonar. Given the state of the fish and fisheries, it seemed like the wrong time for scientists to be killing 200 or 300 fish for useless reasons.
 - James will raise this at the subcommittee meeting. The subcommittee makes recommendations to the minister.
 - Cheyenne Bradley said the Yukon First Nations Salmon Stewardship Alliance discussed this with ADF&G. Even with the amount of First Nations opposing this project, it will still go ahead. There will be 500 to 600 fish taken for two years. They will try to get the distribution of the fish killed to come to Yukon. Why can't we go on the assumption that ich is killing them? We can't do to change it. Why can't we already strengthen our management instead of doing these studies to confirm what we already probably know. It's disappointing. It is on the radar of First Nations. Maybe the subcommittee can help, but she doesn't know at this point.
 - James said the subcommittee would support the Yukon First Nation alliance to flush that out. The AROM contribution agreement is position to accept funding to support that.
- Female fish carrying fewer eggs — Q) This was mentioned on Day 2. Is it because of the size of the salmon? Or something else? A) The size of salmon is in decline. The number of eggs is diminishing. There are questions about the quality of escapement. The salmon is less healthy today than 20 or 30 years ago. The number of eggs is less and the health of the eggs is also lower. Their survival rates are in decline. We don't know where the knowledge gaps are or how we can assist or solutions. What is happening in the ocean and Bering Sea is a crucial factor.
- Ichthyophonous — Monica provided information on a presentation at the panel meeting on the missing fish. There have been big discrepancies in the numbers between the Pilot and Eagle sonar stations. They have considered possibilities of what happened between those two stations and Ichthyophonous is the most likely reason why they died between those two stations. There were also big die offs from warmer water temperatures.
 - Q) This is a big concern. This has happened two years in a row. An obvious way to find out more would be to restore the mid-river assessment in the Rampart Rapids areas. There must have been pressure at the panel meeting to restore that. Was there any response from the Alaskan managers to resume or beef up assessment projects? A) We have talked about it. DFO has brought it up as well. There is a funding shortfall in Alaska. The proposed project estimate would be

\$100 million to get it going and then operating expenses. They couldn't commit those resources at this time.

- Sonar project in Pelly Crossing — The subcommittee didn't know much about the project. The restoration and enhancement fund supports these projects. The Klondike River sonar enumerates close to 1,400 chinook salmon annually. Another sonar is at Pelly and others were contemplated on the Porcupine River and Teslin River.
 - Cheyenne provided information on sonars in Pelly and Takhini sonars. They're accurate. They tried to put in a proposal for Yukon River, but there are no suitable areas.
 - Fish ladder by Yukon River bridge — Dennis Dickson worked on a fish ladder by the Yukon River bridge many years ago. It may have collapsed.
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SPECIES AT RISK UPDATE — R. Pankratz, P. Pacholek

Rhiannon Pankratz introduced herself to the Board and there was a round of introductions. Rhiannon reviewed her presentation on species under consideration for proposed listing or status change on the *Species at Risk Act*. The presentation was included in meeting kits. Right now, they are in the middle of consultation period for collecting comments and feedback and other information to inform the minister's decision on the status change for the three species or the proposed listing for lesser yellowlegs. Consultation opened in January and will close in October. They are seeking feedback that the Board would want to be included in the package for the minister's consideration. Rhiannon reviewed the species list provided in meeting kits, and highlighted the barren ground caribou, which includes Porcupine caribou herd, grizzly bear, and wolverine. She also provided an update on avian influenza, or bird flu, which is making its way across North America. There are cases in BC, Alberta, and it is expected to arrive in Yukon. The Canadian Wildlife Service is working with both the Yukon government and the Canadian Wildlife Health Cooperative. A letter was sent to the Board, indigenous organizations, First Nation governments, RRCs across the three territories. It included details about what the disease is, how to stay safe, and where to report it.

Paula Pacholek drew attention to the Yukon South Beringia Priority Place initiative. A presentation was included in meeting kits. Sebastian Jones is part of the committee and will provide an update later.

Comments/Questions:

- Chinook salmon — Q) At what point would you consider a species at risk to put them into that matrix? If the chinook salmon were put on the list, what would be the implications for the US? Would they still be able to fish? A) Environment and Climate Change Canada is responsible for the terrestrial species. She is not familiar with which salmon species are listed under the Department of Fisheries and Oceans. The federal *Species at Risk Act* general prohibitions and protections that are afforded are only within Canada. There would have to be a collaboration between the federal government and the government in the United States if there were to be any protections on the US side.

- Insects — Q) Was there any information on bees? A) There are quite a few species in the Yukon that are at risk, such as the gypsy cuckoo bumble bee, yellow banded bumble bee, the suckley’s cuckoo bumble bee. They are under consideration for addition to the list.
- Snow geese influenza virus — There is a network of people who are taking about this, and some are ready to collect samples. The virus can affect hawks, ravens, chickens, and gulls. It is widespread in what kinds of birds it affects. More information will be forthcoming for harvesters.

BOARD/TRUST UNGULATE ENHANCEMENT PROJECT — G. Van Tighem, F. Johnstone

Graham Van Tighem provided an update. A working group has been struck to discuss how to achieve the goals of this project. The working group includes Randy Taylor, Ken Taylor, Sebastian Jones, Michelle Dawson-Beattie, and Danny Cresswell. Graham met Marc Cattet regarding habitat enhancement and access management. Marc offered a working group representative from their habitat branch to join future conversations. Graham met with Ken Reeder to discussion the possibility for a trapper support program. He also met with Carcross/Tagish First Nation to talk about habitat and trapping components of the program. He and Carl presented general ideas about this project with the CYFN Leadership. They discussed this with Alsek RRC and Fish and Game Association. A summary of notes and meetings held to date were included in meeting kits. The Trust has committed \$50,000 to the board to do this. The next step is for the working group to determine how this project will be carried out.

Frank Johnstone has had discussions with trappers regarding ideas. They put 150 snares along three traplines from Swift River to Carcross. If they run for a three-month block, there would be close to 2,000 wolf snares. They need help to open them, close them, and they need assistance in bad weather. He suggested including a mentorship element to get younger people involved. A lot of the infrastructure is already in the Southern Lakes region. It would take four seasoned trappers to keep those 20 lines open. That is a big undertaking. A one- or two-year project won’t help. We need to include people on the lines more and more. There were hardly any trappers this year because of the weather.

Graham Van Tighem provided information on a research component that the working group will look at. They will look at other components such as habitat, access management, and possibly habitat protection, as well as complications with overlap areas and access to trap lines. Graham spoke with Lars Jessup who is interested in this project.

MEMBERS TIME — IN CAMERA

Motion – 2022-09: That the Board move in camera.

Moved by: Ken Taylor

Seconded by: Dawn Kisoun

Passed by: Consensus

No minutes were recorded.