
YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

June 6 to 8, 2023

MINUTES

Downtown Hotel, Dawson City

DAY 1: Tuesday, June 6, 2023 – Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Michelle Dawson-Beattie (Chair), Sebastian Jones (Vice Chair),
Cheyenne Bradley, John Burdek, Ron Chambers, Danny Cresswell,
Franklin Patterson, Ken Taylor, Randy Taylor,
ZOOM: Pearl Callaghan, Dawn Kisoun, Blanche Warrington
REGRETS:
STAFF: Graham Van Tighem, Diane Sheldon, Steve Hossack
SUPPORT: Colleen Henry (CAH Services, Minute Taker – from recording)
IN ATTENDANCE: Janice Sibbeston (YFWET Manager), Dave Dickson, Catherine Pinard
(Wildlife Harvest Biologist, Environment), Marc Cattet (Director Fish
and Wildlife, Environment), Tom Jung (Senior Wildlife Biologist,
Environment), Catherine Pinard (Wildlife Harvest Biologist,
Environment)

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER

Michelle Dawson-Beattie called the meeting to order at 9:05 a.m. There was a roundtable of introductions and a review of the meeting procedures. Members acknowledged the passing of Roger Alfred and his contributions to the Yukon Salmon Sub-committee work, to fish and wildlife in general, and to Doòli. There was a moment of silence.

ADMIN AND FINANCES (TAB 01)

A. AGENDA REVIEW— M. Dawson-Beattie

Michelle Dawson-Beattie reviewed the agenda provided in Tab 1 of the meeting kit. Chief Darren Taylor was unable to attend.

Motion – 2023-08: That the Board approve the June 6 to 8, 2023 agenda as presented.

Moved by: Sebastian Jones

Seconded by: Ken Taylor

Passed by: Consensus.

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

Graham Van Tighem provided some background and history of the Board's experiences in Dawson City with respect to the RRC, the Dawson regional land use plan, and the Dawson City Fur Show. He reviewed the Executive report provided under Tab 2 in the meeting kit.

Comments/Discussion:

- North American Ungulate and Caribou Conference — May 8 to 12, 2023
 - Ron Chambers provided information on the conference. He pointed out the importance of caribou in Canada (caribou on the Canadian quarter) and he discussed using the name “Dall sheep” instead of “thin horn sheep”. First Nations have used traditional place names that were changed.
 - Sebastian Jones volunteered to deliver his presentation from the conference at an interim Board meeting.
 - Kluane Research Summit — May 26 and 27, 2023
 - Ron Chambers discussed research that had been ongoing in the Kluane region for over 40 years that has yet to be shared. We must speak up and request the information. Other agencies must be willing to take the information.
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C. FINANCIAL UPDATE (TAB 03) – D. Sheldon

Diane Sheldon reviewed the financial statements to May 31, 2023, provided in the meeting kit.

Motion – 2023 - 09: That the Board accept the financial report to May 31, 2023, as presented.

Moved by: John Burdek

Seconded by: Ken Taylor

Passed by: Consensus.

D. APRIL 2023 MINUTES (TAB 04) – D. Sheldon

Michelle Dawson-Beattie opened the floor for comments and discussions.

Comments/Questions:

- Correct Franklin Patterson's name.
- Page 5, Letter 9 — Change “Ken provided an overview of his discussion with Shawn...” to “**Michelle** provided an overview....” Change “Graham said this can further...” to “Graham said this can **be** further discussed....”
- Page 16, under Mining Legislation Engagement, at the end of the second bullet under “Comments/Questions”, change “We wanted to ensure has...” to “We wanted to ensure **that the Board** has....”
- Page 18, Action Item list, “Send letter to Grizzly Bear Protection Society clearly outlining Board's (blank)”. Add in “concerns regarding their grizzly bear conservation plan and issues with their websites. The Board doesn't have issues with the plan because it's our plan. This needs a little work. It may be intended to read, “... the Board's stance regarding the Grizzly Bear Conservation Plan.

- When we are reviewing minutes, we are pinpointing the accuracy. After the minutes are moved or passed, the Board members discuss issues arising from the minutes that require follow up. There are two different stages. A lot of questions about the minutes pertain to action item follow up. Graham explained his action item document and review process.
- Page 2 — Discussion regarding annual audits — Sebastian asked for information on who pays for the annual audits. The Board pays for the audit as part of the agreement with Yukon government. The working group will continue to address this.
- Page 16 — Discussion regarding the Board not being invited to the industry and NGO engagement:
 - Had the Board exerted itself and insisted upon engagement, we would have had a seat at the table from the beginning. The concern was that it appeared as though Industry and NGOs have more influence in the process than UFA mandated boards and committees. It’s also up to the Board to insist on having a place at the table if there are resources to support that.
 - There was no firm timeline on the minerals legislation. This will be an unresolved issue when the current government’s mandate ends.
- Page 17 — Bilateral Nature Agreement presentation — This information was also presented at the meeting with the Tagish RRC.
- CAST Working Group — The working group will help the Board focus more on fish and some of the concerns and problems with fish conservation.

Motion – 2023-10: That the Board accept the minutes for April 25 to 27, 2023 as amended.

Moved by: Cheyenne Bradley

Seconded by: Sebastian Jones

Passed by: Consensus.

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

Graham Van Tighem reviewed the Action Item document provided in Tab 5 in the meeting kit.

ACTION ITEMS:

#2023-9	Submit comments on Roads to Resources Regulation Review	Completed and submitted to Michael Draper.
#2023-10	Email N. Tuchone RRC’s regarding concerns around status of Klaza Caribou in reference to proposed Casino Mine	Graham sent the letter but has not yet received written responses.
#2023-11	Send letter to Grizzly Bear Protection Society outlining Grizzly Bear Conservation Plan and issues with their website.	Outstanding. Graham will send the letter after the meeting.
#2023-12	Submit comments on Mineral Legislation Review.	Outstanding. Graham will send draft comments to the Board for review after a follow up meeting with EMR.

Comments/Discussion:

- 2023-11 – Letter to the Grizzly Bear Protection Society — Steve Hossack provided information on the society’s activities regarding their petition and outreach at the farmer’s market which has raised controversy and contention at the market. There are several petitions in the community. Steve also provided information on the society’s proposed regulation change and the Board’s response.
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CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW (TAB 06) — G. Van Tighem

Graham Van Tighem reviewed correspondence letters provided under Tab 6 in the meeting kit.

Comments/Questions:

- Letter #1 — Invitation to Engage on the *Animal Protection and Control Act* Regulations — The public engagement will be ongoing until mid-July. The letter is close to completion. This will be sent in late June. Graham noted that the Board was very involved in the development of the *Animal Protection Act*. Steve discussed the benefit of writing a formal recommendation letter. Ken asked Executive to determine whether this item should be included in the meeting agenda for clarification and firm direction from the Board.
- Letter #4 — Casino & YFWMB Meeting Summary Minutes April 26, 2023
 - Casino Mine staff have asked the Board to keep them apprised of the Board’s thoughts and comments before submitting anything within the formal processes.
 - The Board is diverse and can provide perspectives that people from Outside would never know. That increases the Board’s value. If they are doing this in good faith, the Board should provide input.
 - The Board needs to be cautious with some of the big corporations and must be clear on the corporation’s expectations of the Board.
 - This will be incorporated into their engagement. The staff are trying to genuinely address concerns. Graham has made it clear that Casino’s outreach efforts are not a form of consultation.
 - The project is massive and there is potential for disaster and there are economic benefits. It is important to keep getting information and make an informed decision.
 - The Board should also focus on what will happen when the mine shuts down.
 - If members are interested, a site visit could be arranged.
 - The Board should be proactive. How will the Board and the Selkirk and Carmacks RRCs partner up on this? The RRCs know more about that area than the Board. If there is a site visit, the Board should work with RRCs and First Nations to identify areas and values that are important to them. It should not be driven by Casino.
 - The minutes mention that Ken would send an email regarding his concerns around mitigation and staffing. He did not do that and will leave it to Executive to decide when to ask those important questions.
 - Sebastian suggested that the Board keep the Casino project in mind when it crafts its response to minerals legislation.
 - Keep relevant RRCs and First Nations involved or aware in the draft correspondence.
 - Graham will send the Board information on a 30- to 60-minute interview with Board members regarding socio-economic issues like housing, jobs, and the economy.

- Would it be beneficial for the Board to organize a meeting with Casino and the relevant RRCs and First Nations in one room? We can get a better perspective on the land from the people who live there.

UNGULATE WORKING GROUP UPDATE (TAB 07) – M. Dawson-Beattie, G. Van Tighem, S. Hossack

Michelle Dawson-Beattie provided an update. Lars prepared a document entitled, *Review of Yukon Plans: Relevance to Moose and Caribou Management Review for the Ungulate Working Group*. A copy was provided in meeting kits.

Graham Van Tighem provided the 2023 NACW Presentation entitled, *The Umbrella Final Agreement and Ungulate Management* in meeting kits. He also presented an overview of the upcoming May Gathering and the Board's presentation. The Board has contracted Lars Jessup for another year and the Trust has transferred funds to the Board for this work. The work and engagement Lars is doing is in line with the Board's strategic goals.

Steve Hossack will summarize meeting notes from all community meetings and share them with the Board members and any government staff who might be interested.

There will be a further discussion with the Ungulate Working Group members and the Dawson RRC in the evening of Day 1 (RRC Meeting).

AISHIHIK BISON PLAN PUBLIC REVIEW SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS – G. Van Tighem, S. Hossack, T. Jung

Graham Van Tighem provided an introduction and background information. Graham and Tom Jung reviewed the presentation, entitled *The DRAFT Aishihik Bison Plan: An Overview*, provided in meeting kits. Topics included: bringing bison back; bison stewardship; supplemental information; population status; previous bison plans; the new bison plan; summary of key directions in the draft plan; roles and timeline; the Aishihik Bison Technical Team; planning process and workshops; long-term vision; plan goals; adaptive management; guiding principles for adaptive harvest management; interim harvest guidelines; and roles and timeline.

Steve Hossack reviewed the Public Engagement What We Learned June 2023 document provided in meeting kits. He summarized the contents of the plan.

Comments/Questions:

- The term "introduced" has a different connotation than "reintroduced". The fact that there is a history of bison in the Yukon needs to be common knowledge so that people feel better about them.
- Q) What happened to the original bison? Why did they disappear? A) We don't know what happened to them. The Yukon, Alaska, and NWT used to be mostly grassland. When the Yukon became more forested, bison, white mammoth, and horses became constrained to smaller patches. At the same time, the bison were adapting and becoming more forest oriented, but probably not fast enough. The prevailing theory is that they were adapting, but

they were squished into smaller areas, and there was a lot of hunting which resulted in smaller populations.

- Q) If the bison population was overhunted back then when they didn't have snowmobiles, what are their odds of survival today? A) We are in a great situation for bison. We have no indication that there is overhunting. At the same time, these bison exist in an island. If we do mess up and overharvest, the bison won't just repopulate.

Continuation of discussion on Day 2.

Graham Van Tighem discussed the Board's next steps to review the "What we learned" document and provide either a letter of support or a letter outlining issues the Board would like to see changed in the plan. He acknowledged the development of the plan facilitated by an outside professional with participation of the bison technical team including First Nations, RRCs, government representatives, and Board members. He extended appreciation to Steve Hossack for developing the "What we learned" document. The intent of the online survey was to create an opportunity for the public to answer questions as they relate to specific goals within the management plan. He is seeking a recommendation, or set of recommendations, to the Minister of Environment. Graham reviewed each goal in the plan.

Comments/Questions:

- Some communities are concerned about the concentration of hunters and conflicts. The plan covers that, but it does it go far enough. It's moving in a good direction.
- We characterize it as a re-establishment of bison in the Yukon which is important when it comes to changing cultural practices and becoming more familiar with bison again.
- Farms with horses and cows have been introduced. The only difference is that the land is cleared with horses and cows – they are contained, but not with bison. If we can accept one, why can't we accept another. We must look at the perspective of how it is accepted.
- Communication must go out broadly and in more depth to First Nations as the herd expands. One example is White River First Nation who wants to be more engaged through the management planning process.
- One suggestion is to have a mandatory bison-specific clinic (or a part of the HEED course) that people attend to receive a hunting seal or permit. Would it require a regulatory change? There is support at different levels. It would help mitigate concerns. It would also enhance the communication goal.
 - It used to be mandatory permit condition, but there was considerable push back because it was an administrative burden on the department, and it was a burden to some hunters who felt they didn't need to take the course. It was also considered a barrier for some hunters. The department was mandated for many years to reduce the herd. If you want to reduce the herd, why would you require competent hunters to spend time taking this course? Also, it was an issue that the department couldn't commit to holding the course in communities. People had to come to Whitehorse on a weekday and it wasn't feasible.
 - As stated in Outcome 2, action 1: to provide training on safe and ethical bison hunting. It is in the plan to a degree. Perhaps the mandatory versus voluntary is the big ask. We will craft some language for this recommendation.
 - This conversation would be better in an implementation plan to achieve goals and outcomes.

- Will there be an implementation plan established for this plan? There is on committee established to ensure the plan is implemented. Some plans turn stale because people aren't sure who is responsible to take on the implementation.
 - The bison technical team is the body that does the implementation.
- It would be helpful to have language under roles and responsibilities about the implementation. That would also address concerns shared through the public survey and community meetings. Managers know this so well, but it is sometimes not provided to the public. This would also help with buy in.
- Wounding loss — There were no comments in the survey about wounding loss, but it is a prevalent issue with bison. This needs to be improved upon.
 - Bison are very tough to hunt. Bison can disappear into the herd and a hunter may not know if they hit one or not. Can the shoot again? That's an individual decision, but we shouldn't leave it up to individuals themselves. Bad actors always end up affecting those who follow the rules. We can't manage in the same way that we manage for moose.
 - This discussion fits into the last outcome of Goal 3.
- Effects of bison on the ecosystem — Q) How much of an affect have we seen to date? A) Bison are good for maintaining grasslands in the boreal forest.
 - Some rare plant species are doing better in areas where bison are using those grasslands. A lot of comments in the public survey were around those concerns. This is the missing link for a lot of people. People who attended the community meetings heard this, but what about everyone else? An additional document might help people understand the bigger picture. We must keep repeating this message because people forget.
- Securing habitat for the Aishihik bison population — We do not need to be too focused on the federal requirements. We can forge our own way if we want to identify key bison habitat. That could potentially morph into some kind of special status for some bison habitat.

Action Item — Graham Van Tighem will draft a submission to support the plan in general, with emphasis on specific comments, concerns, and issues raised by the Board members, and will circulate that to the Board prior to submission to the minister.

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT

- **Kluane Region Sheep Update — C. Pinard**
- **DOE Update — M. Cattet**
 - a. Catherine Pinard provided an update on the sheep concerns in Kluane First Nation Traditional Territory. A copy of her presentation was provided in meeting kits. Topics included: sheep management units in Kluane First Nation Traditional Territory; the 2022 survey; Brooks Arm surveys; population structure; Brooks Arm harvest; estimated harvest rate; harvest by hunter type in Brooks Arm; and management action options.
 - b. Marc Cattet provided an update on the Department of Environment's new department staff and First Nation-Yukon government groups that are hindered by limited capacity. If the Board wishes to push for conformity amendments to the *Wildlife Act* within this current government term, he suggested the Board send a letter to Yukon Forum. The Yukon Forum and CYFN needs to be brought into this and be made aware that nothing is

happening with respect to amendments. There are a lot of other things that need to be addressed within the Act.

Comments/Questions:

- The Yukon Forum Fish and Wildlife Working Group has not met. The Board used to interact with that working group. Since the workshop on roles and responsibilities has been put on hold, there hasn't been any interaction. Since then, there have been two meetings. When the working group is reactivated, the Board would like to attend.
- Regarding conformity, the action is for the Board to go back to the Yukon Forum which had a resolution to bring the act into conformity with Final Agreements. This is their own resolution, the government needs to take up the mantle.

Meeting Adjourned at 4:38 p.m.

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

June 6 to 8, 2023

MINUTES

Downtown Hotel, Dawson City

DAY 2: Wednesday, June 8, 2023 – Regular Meeting

PRESENT:	Michelle Dawson-Beattie (Chair), Sebastian Jones (Vice Chair), Cheyenne Bradley, John Burdek, Ron Chambers, Danny Cresswell, Ken Taylor, Randy Taylor,
ZOOM:	Pearl Callaghan, Dawn Kisoun, Blanche Warrington
REGRETS:	Franklin Patterson
STAFF:	Graham Van Tighem, Diane Sheldon, Steve Hossack
SUPPORT:	Colleen Henry (CAH Services, Minute Taker – from recording)
IN ATTENDANCE:	Janice Sibbeston (YFWET Manager), Dave Dickson, Catherine Pinard (Wildlife Harvest Biologist, Environment), Marc Cattet (Director Fish and Wildlife, Environment), Alice McCulley (THFN Fish and Wildlife Projects Coordinator), Tom Jung (Senior Wildlife Biologist, Environment), Russ Giesbrecht (Tombstone Outfitters), Noah MacFadgen (Policy Analyst, Environment), Monica Krieger (Executive Director, Yukon Salmon Subcommittee), Dan Reynolds (former outfitter), Paul Boyce (Regional Biologist, Environment), Nick Wozniowski (Dawson District RRC), Alice McCulley (Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in First Nation)

YUKON WILDLIFE ACT REGULATION CHANGE APPROACH FOR 2023-2024 (TAB 10)

– G. Van Tighem

Sebastian Jones chaired this agenda item. Graham Van Tighem provided an overview. Topics included:

- Collaboration with Yukon government over the next few months;
- Developing the work plan;
- Spring deadline for the new process;
- Backlog of regulation changes;
- Tracking document on the website; and
- Reasons for revising the process such as improving efficiency, transparency, consultation, and public engagement.

They will make better effort to ensure everybody had a clear understanding of the process at the working group meetings. Noah MacFadgen provided an overview of the process once the minister receives a recommendation from the Board. Any regulation change must go to Cabinet which is the final decision-making authority for all regulation changes. Sometimes the processes

do not align with the Yukon government boilerplate regulation change process. Cabinet will review and apply their own lens which is not necessarily the same as the ministers.

The regulation change process jurisdictional review was included in meeting kits.

Comments/Questions:

- There will be a considerable backlog of regulation change proposals next year. They will be triaged and dealt with according to highest priority relating to conservation. Several RRCs have notified staff members that they are waiting to submit proposals.
 - The process will be fully operational by next spring to accept proposals in February, March, and April 2024. The deadline will be April 30. There will be a public review in the fall of 2024.
 - It may be advantageous to put out a notice that the Board is actively working on revamping the process and provide the timeline for the intake so they can be prepared to submit.
 - No matter how well the Board does its job, the government/Cabinet is painfully slow with final approval. They are five or six years behind in responding to some things. It may also each Cabinet and be turned down. We need a strategy to engage with the political part of government.
 - Graham will email notice to RRC's re: regulation change process and our plans to accept changes in 2024.
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YUKON SALMON SUBCOMMITTEE UPDATE (TAB 11) – M. Krieger

Monica Krieger provided an update on YSSC activities including: the recent YSSC meeting in Dawson City; the passing of member Roger Alfred; pre-season engagement sessions; educational exchange and the June 11 deadline for applications; funding surplus; PSSI program funding proposal; UFA implementation funding review process and submission; attendance at community events; sharing information with the fish ladder and the salmon appreciation night; summer salmon themed hikes in Miles Canyon; the May Gathering (rescheduled); First Nation salmon projects; weekly Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association conference calls; bi-weekly Yukon River update calls hosted by DFO; in-season recommendations to the minister; August meeting; and the website redesign.

Comments/Questions:

- Roger Alfred — The Board also had a moment of silence for Roger to acknowledge his contributions as a long-time member of the YSSC.
 - Graham commended Monica on her hard work and dedication.
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YUKON OUTFITTERS QUOTA GUIDELINES REVIEW (TAB 12) – C. Pinard, G. Van Tighem

Michelle Dawson-Beattie reviewed the meeting procedures and etiquette.

Graham Van Tighem provided an overview. Topics included: concerns and challenges regarding outfitter quotas; the 1995 *Guidelines to Establish Outfitter Quotas* document (provided in meeting kits); meeting with members of the Outfitters Association executive; and review and update of the guidelines. Graham also provided information on the outfitter quota procedures document which are rules to be followed during outfitter quota negotiations.

Catherine Pinard reviewed her presentation on outfitter quota guidelines provided in meeting kits. Topics included: history; concession with moose quotas; quota process pre-2020; over-quota; allocation framework/guidelines; interim approach; quota process 2022-2023; challenges to guidelines; recommendation #6 and issues; recommendation #7 and issues; appeal processes; transparency; other species; 2023 individual quotas; 2023 quota totals; increase/decrease (until 2022); other issues; licences sold; seals sold; moose harvest; woodland caribou harvest; and sheep harvest.

Comments/Questions:

- History of outfitting — Outfitting played a big role in its time. The image of outfitting has changed. There are a lot of new Yukoners who don't know the history of outfitting and what it is. At one time, the outfitters were a big part of what was going on in the Yukon. They hired local people and at times they were the only employers. A lot of them trapped in the winter because it was a different lifestyle at the time. You need history the history to see how the industry has changed. If we only take today's context, there is a totally different perspective. It is unfair if you don't have the broader perspective.
 - Aaron (outfitter) requested time on the agenda of the next Board meeting to tell a positive story including history of outfitting, guidelines, and benefits of the guidelines.
 - David Dickson will draft a response in a letter to the Board. He discussed the regulation change process and approval from Cabinet. If it doesn't conform to the *Wildlife Act*, someone didn't do their job. Taking out the multi-year quota has turned the industry upside down. Quota procedures could be defined and explained in detail. We have quotas based on what is sustainable. His concession is 15 and has never taken this full quota. Most outfitters don't take their quota.
 - Aaron (outfitter) Outfitters would like to be on the review committee. This is the first meeting. If this goes forward, it will be a collaborative effort.
 - Aaron (outfitter) Lack of multi-year certainty and management — If RRCs have to deal with outfitter quotas every year, that is onerous and takes so much time. We need to streamline this. It is an immediate problem for government, the industry, and the RRCs. This group must discuss how to deal with this issue.
 - David Dickson (Outfitter) Outfitters should have to go to the communities and RRCs to discuss their plans. Without the multi-year quota process, that opportunity is lost.
 - Aaron (outfitter) The last few years have been a significant struggle dealing with quotas with the department because of actions that have been taken that didn't adhere to the principles of the guidelines and procedures. A month ago, the Premier said the guidelines were to be largely upheld. That needs to carry weight. Aaron suggested the Board consider other priorities over the next couple years.

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD WORKING GROUPS – G. Van Tighem

This item was addressed during to the working group discussion on Day 3. The time was used to continue the bison discussion from Day 1.

DAWSON DISTRICT REGIONAL BIOLOGIST – P. Boyce

Paul Boyce introduced himself to the Board. He provided an overview of ongoing annual programming, collaborative projects in the region, and upcoming work. A copy of his presentation was provided in meeting kits.

Comments/Questions:

- Wolverine management plan — Wolverine never had large population numbers. That must be out there so that what we do to manage it is not arbitrarily changed. We have other rules come down the pike that change how we operate, and we haven't been involved in those decisions.
 - Yukon government is looped in with the federal government management plan for wolverine. They have contacted all First Nations and Inuvialuit and they are holding online meetings. They have also set up a working group to draft the plan.

PRESENTATION DAWSON DISTRICT RENEWABLE RESOURCES COUNCIL (TAB 15) – N. Wozniwski

Nick Wozniwski reviewed his annual report provided in Tab 15 of the meeting kit. Topics included: council members; administration; staff; activity report; general administration update; biannual fur show; chinook salmon conservation project; Dawson Regional Land Use Plan; Canada's grizzly bear and wolverine management plans; local knowledge survey project; modernizing outfitter quotas; moose-vehicle collision advocacy; Forty Mile caribou herd; radius trapline; *Forest Resources Act* and regulations; sausage workshop; sheep harvesting/sheep separation; YESAB; Yukon Foundation Scholarship; and the youth trapping program. Nick showed a video of the youth trapping program. It hasn't been released on social media yet.

Comments/Questions:

- Local knowledge survey — Q) Does it include traditional knowledge from Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in? A) TH citizens were interviewed as part of the core group and TH has traditional knowledge surveys that they do as well. We met to discuss our surveys.
- Mining — Q) What is the DDRRC's relationship with the mining community in the Dawson district? A) It's an interesting relationship. Two councillors are active placer miners. It's interesting having their knowledge and input when assessing mining projects. We respond on the new projects with increased linear disturbance and increased access and impacts to wildlife.

TR'ONDËK HWËCH'IN PRESENTATION ON ECOLOGICAL AND LAND MONITORING PLAN – A. McCulley

Alice McCulley introduced herself and reviewed her presentation. Topics included: background to TH traditional territory; ancestral land stewardship; threats to land-based connections; cumulative effects; types of monitoring; ladder of meaningful participation; guiding principles; goals and objectives; the link between monitoring and traditional laws; community priorities; culturally relevant indicators; risk matrix; maps; users of the plan; annual reporting; five-year review; and current projects for 2023-24.

The *Summary Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in Ecological and Land Use Monitoring Plan 2023-2025* document was included in meeting kits.

Comments/Questions:

- Research Summit, Burwash Landing, May 26 to 28, 2023 — Pearl Callaghan provided an overview of the three-day summit on research. She read the list of 10 calls to action into the record:
 1. Understand the socio-political landscape around the research site.
 2. Recognize that indigenous people share the goal to gather and share knowledge about the land.
 3. Find meaningful ways to share and coproduce knowledge.
 4. Seek elders' advice on how to respect animals when studying them.
 5. Provide meaningful ways for indigenous people to experience and participate in science, especially youth.
 6. Use indigenous place things to decolonize the landscape.
 7. Take a course on indigenous history and rights.
 8. Funding bodies need to change their approaches to funding.
 9. Ensure that respective indigenous communities review and grant permission before publishing indigenous knowledge and cultural resources.
 10. Mainstream reconciliation in all aspects of science research from the start to finish.

Meeting adjourned at 4:35 p.m.

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

June 6 to 8, 2023

MINUTES

Downtown Hotel, Dawson City

DAY 3: Thursday, June 8, 2023 – Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Michelle Dawson-Beattie (Chair), Sebastian Jones (Vice Chair), Cheyenne Bradley, John Burdek, Ron Chambers, Danny Cresswell, Ken Taylor, Randy Taylor,

ZOOM: Pearl Callaghan, Dawn Kisoun, Blanche Warrington

REGRETS: Franklin Patterson,

STAFF: Graham Van Tighem, Diane Sheldon, Steve Hossack

SUPPORT: Colleen Henry (CAH Services, Minute Taker – from recording)

IN ATTENDANCE: Janice Sibbeston (YFWET Manager),

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT TRUST – K Taylor

Refer to the Enhancement Trust minutes.

YFWMB WORKING GROUP SIGN UP – G. Van Tighem S. Hossack

Graham Van Tighem reviewed the current list of working groups and members and then provided a detailed description of each working group and activities. A copy of the *Working Groups* draft 2023 document was provided in meeting kits.

Members were updated as follows:

- Conservation Angling Stewardship Team — John, Randy, Cheyenne, Ron
- Communications Working Group — Michelle, Sebastian, Blanche, Dawn
- Finance Working Group — Randy, Sebastian, Graham, Diane
- Fish and Fish Habitat Working Group — Sebastian, Cheyenne, Dawn
- Licensed Hunting Working Group — Michelle, Franklin,
- Policy, Regulation and Legislation Working Group — Sebastian, John, Ken, Randy
- Sharing the Land Scholarship (Alex Van Bibber) Working Group — Dawn, Cheyenne, Ken, Pearl
- Ungulate Working Group — Michelle (Chair), Sebastian, Ken, Randy, Danny
- Wildlife Habitat Management Working Group — Sebastian, Cheyenne,
- Wildlife Management Plans Working Group — Michelle, John, Pearl, Blanche

Additional:

- Personnel Committee (Discussed in December) — Michelle, Sebastian, Blanche, John, Ken

Graham will update the list and send it out to Board members.

RESOURCE ROADS (ADDITIONAL ITEM) – K. Taylor

Ken Taylor requested an on-record discussion on resource roads.

Motion – 2023-11: That the Board amend the agenda to include a discussion on resource roads.

Moved by: Ken Taylor

Seconded by: Sebastian Jones

Passed by: Consensus.

Ken Taylor discussed the presentation on new regulations from Michael Draper at the April meeting. Michael Draper asked for input and a response from the Board. Other than disease, access is the most harmful thing that can happen to wildlife population. We've all talked about access. Casino resource road is close to 150 kilometres into virgin wilderness. ATAC and Wolverine would be in the same category. There are a lot of roads going into places that are difficult to access otherwise. This Board's key mandate is to care for fish and wildlife. The government is proposing to allow three groups to access permits to private roads over Crown land, through First Nation traditional territories, including — scientists, explorers, and First Nations. The concern is that the UFA and the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation final agreement don't mention anywhere that First Nations have a right to use private roads on Crown land. It would provide significant access to significant wildlife populations that aren't accessible right now. The Board will appear hypocritical if we go around the territory telling people that access is a problem, but we support substantial increase in access to areas that are hard to access. He recommended that this clause be removed. Yukon government would never think of putting in a regulation that said First Nation had to apply for a hunting licence. However, they are suggesting you should apply for a permit to access a private road over to your traditional territory.

Graham Van Tighem provided information on operational plans. Michael said that that type of access would have to be included in the mine's operational plan. The operational plans deal with a lot of things, including safety. One example of a safety concern would be if a truck traveling at 60 MPH with a heavy load meets an elder who is looking for moose while traveling slowly on the same road. This would be a liability issue on the private road and the operator would be responsible. That is part of the consideration with that regulation.

Graham Van Tighem will complete his draft and send to Board members for review the week of June 12.

Action Item — Graham Van Tighem will work to finalize the response letter.

MEMBERS TIME AND CLOSING REMARKS (IN CAMERA)

Members had an in-camera discussion. No minutes were recorded.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION ITEMS:

- 2023-1 Draft comments on Chisana Caribou Management Plan **(Complete)**
- 2023-2 Draft letter re: Yukon Outfitter Quota Guidelines Review **(Complete)**
- 2023-3 Complete and share “What We Heard” document for Aishihik Bison Plan Review **(Complete)**
- 2023-4 Set Meeting with Marc and Policy and Legislation Working Group in response to Yukon Wildlife Act Regulation Change Review **(Complete) – June 2nd**
- 2023-5 Request amendments to Yukon Wildlife Act to present to Policy and Legislation Working Group **(Complete)**
- 2023-6 Request Executive be involved in new Yukon Forum Fish and Wildlife Working Group **(Complete)**
- 2023-7 Draft and circulate letter re: Wild Boar in the Yukon **(Complete)**
- 2023-8 Set meeting with Yukon Outfitters Association to discuss Outfitter Quota Guidelines and Pelt Handling letter **(Complete)**
- 2023-9 Submit letter on Roads to Resources Regulation Review **(Complete)**
- 2023-10 Email N. Tuchone RRC’s regarding concerns around status of Klaza Caribou in reference to proposed Casino Mine **(Complete)**
- 2023-11 Send letter to Grizzly Bear Protection Society clearly outlining Board's stance re: Grizzly Bear Conservation Plan and issues with their websites **(Complete)**
- 2023-12 Submit comments on Mineral Legislation Review **(Outstanding)**
- 2023-13 Submit comments on Animal Protection Legislation (Boars) **(Outstanding)**
- 2023-14 Try to arrange a site visit at Casino Mine with Selkirk First Nation and RRC **(Outstanding)**
- 2023-15 Follow up on May Gathering request: present Ungulate WG Update **(Complete)**
- 2023-16 Assemble C.A.S.T during summer months and continue work **(Complete)**
- 2023-17 Send out Yukon *Wildlife Act* Regulation Change update and notice to RRC’s and Yukon First Nations **(Complete)**
- 2023-18 Send letter to Minister of Environment re: Aishihik Bison Plan Recommendations **(Complete)**
- 2023-19 Research and comment on status of Review of Wildlife and Domestic Sheep Control Order **(Complete)**
- 2023-20 Submit letter to Premier, Minister of Environment, Grand Chief, YOA and RRC’s on our recommendation to review the Yukon Outfitter Quota Guidelines **(Complete)**