

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

October 17-19, 2023

MINUTES

McClintock Bay Adventures (Marsh Lake)

DAY 1: Tuesday, October 17, 2023 – Regular Meeting

PRESENT: Michelle Dawson-Beattie (Chair), Sebastian Jones (Vice Chair),
Cheyenne Bradley, John Burdek, Ken Taylor, Randy Taylor, Franklin
Patterson, Pearl Callaghan, Dawn Kisoun

ZOOM: Blanche Warrington

REGRETS: Ron Chambers, Danny Cresswell

STAFF: Graham Van Tighem, Diane Sheldon, Steve Hossack

IN ATTENDANCE: Sandy Smarch (TTC), Shawn Wassell (YOA), Micheal McKay & Gifson
Varghese (McKay & Associates Ltd.), Aaron Florian (Outfitter), David
Dickson (Outfitter)

WELCOME AND OPENING PRAYER – Dawn Kisoun

1. ADMIN AND FINANCES (TAB 01)

A. AGENDA REVIEW— M. Dawson-Beattie

Michelle opened the agenda for review prior to approval. As the auditors are here the suggestion was made to have the financial reporting section prior to the Executive report. This would allow the auditors to give their report and then be free to leave.

Motion – 2023-13: That the Board approve the October 17-19, 2023, agenda as amended.

Moved by: Dawn Kisoun

Seconded by: Ken Taylor

Passed by: Consensus.

B. FINANCIAL UPDATE: - D. Sheldon

1. YFWMB Audited Financial Statements 2022-23 – M. McKay, G. Varghese (McKay & Associates Ltd.)

Gifson reviewed the 2022-23 Audited Financial Statements with members.

Comments/Questions:

It was noted that there was a typographical error on page 12, “Scholarships” was spelled incorrectly.

Motion – 2023-14: That the Board Accept the March 31, 2023 Audited Financial Statements as presented and amended.

Moved by: Ken Taylor

Seconded by: Randy Taylor

Passed by: Consensus.

2. Variance Report as of September 30, 2023 – D. Sheldon

Diane reviewed the September 30, 2023 variance report with members.

Motion – 2023-15: That the Board accept the September 30, 2023 variance Report as presented.

Moved by: Randy Taylor

Seconded by: Dawn Kisoun

Passed by: Consensus.

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

Graham reviewed the Executive report provided under Tab 2 in the meeting kit.

Comments/Discussion:

- In reference to “Treaty Obligation”, possible that it is time to involve our Member of Parliament.
- Suggestion made to talk to other territories as they could have similar issues, would make for stronger voice in Ottawa.
- As the Regulation Change Working Group has not met for quite awhile, an update would be beneficial. Members were informed that Steve was in the process of setting up another meeting to update members. He has been working with government to finalize documents and to come up with a visual to provide a clear picture of how everything would flow within the consultation process.

2. JUNE 2023 MINUTES (TAB 04) – D. Sheldon

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

Comments/Questions:

- Page 5 – replace “white” with “woolly” mammoth;
- Remove “Franklin Patterson” from Present to Regrets section on day 1.

Motion – 2023-16: That the Board accept the minutes for June 6-8th, 2023 Board Meeting Minutes as amended.

Moved by: Ken Taylor

Seconded by: Cheyenne Bradley

Passed by: Consensus.

3. 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:

#2023-11	Send letter to Grizzly Bear Protection Society outlining Grizzly Bear Conservation Plan and issues with their website.	Although document lists this as “Outstanding” a letter has been sent and will make correction.
#2023-12	Submit comments on Mineral Legislation Review in conjunction with Legislation and Regulation Working Group.	This is still outstanding; Graham has contacted them and they have said that we can still submit our comments which we will be doing shortly
#2023-14	Arrange site visit at Casino Mine in conjunction with Selkirk RRC and Selkirk First Nation.	There has been no uptake as of yet; issue with capacity as well as receptivity to idea. Possibility that Board could pursue on own if still want to have site visit.

Comments/Discussion:

- **Regarding 2023-14,** can be a bit of a tricky thing because if we were to do a site visit to Casino it would be delivered by Casino so would see only what they want you to see.

Could be worthwhile if we could take an expert with us who could interpret things from our perspective. It is a possibility that we could partner with Yukon Salmon Sub-Committee as believe they would be interested.

- **Regarding 2023-7, Draft and circulate letter re: Wild Boar in the Yukon.** Is there any updates regarding letter sent? *Did get a response (letter #6 in correspondence) which basically said that our comments would be taken into consideration.*

Members discussed what next steps should be taken regarding. It was pointed out that the Board has been expressing concerns to government regarding wild boar over the past 2 to 3 years and keep getting same response. Suggested options included going public with the Board's concerns; requesting to view the draft regulations they are proposing in relation to wild boar Animal and Protection Control Act.

Action 2023-22: A follow-up letter to be sent in response to letter # 6 received to see where they are at in regard to wild boar proposed regulations, letter will reiterate the Board position and also include the resolution that was passed at the 2019 RRC AGW to ban wild boar in the Yukon.

4. CORRESPONDENCE REVIEW (TAB 06) — G. Van Tighem

Graham Van Tighem reviewed correspondence letters 1-24 provided under Tab 6 in the meeting kit.

Comments/Questions:

Letter#7 - addresses concerns by Alsek Renewable Resource Council regarding sheep surveys in Kluane Park, have put a lot of good questions to the Minister Clark regarding harvesting, PHA's and managing for long term productivity. The Ungulate Working Group may want to review at next meeting.

Letter#9 - Although there seems to be more support for bison within communities than in prior years it was pointed out that there are still serious concerns being raised in relation to cabin usage and damage to trap lines.

Letter#10 - This letter regarding Yukon Outfitter Quota guidelines will be discussed during in-camera session later today and it is also on the agenda tomorrow.

Letter#11 – this could potentially be accessed for funds for habitat restoration which has been discussed within the Ungulate Working Group.

Letter#13 – This is a request from the Training Policy Committee for input into the development of training modules for UFA Board members. Graham informed members that he is working on this.

Letter#15 –The Aishihik Wood Bison Management plan is now at the government-to-government consultation stage.

Letter#18 - have talked with the Grizzly Bear Protection Yukon Society since their receipt of Board's letter, they are interested in meeting with Board; have begun to shift focus away from regulations to attractants.

Letter#19 - in camera discussion

Letter#20 - will bring this letter to the CAST Working Group.

Letter#21- Steve has been attending workshops regarding wolverine. Tom Jung along with a couple of students have been doing work on wolverine and disturbance in the gold field area near Dawson ; the results might be of interest to the Board.

Action 2023-23: The Executive Director will request a presentation by Tom Jung regarding his work on wolverine and disturbance at the December Board Meeting.

Letter#23 - the finalized Chisana Caribou Management Plan will be presented on December 14, 15 & 16th in Burwash/Destruction Bay/Beaver Creek. Both Graham and Michelle will be a part of the presentation team.

5. FISH AND WILDLIFE BRANCH UPDATE (Tab 07) – John Ryder, Robert Perry (Environment Yukon, Fish & Wildlife Branch)

John provided an overview of the Department Update document provided in board kit.

- There are currently a number of surveys underway. A number of Caribou herds have been either surveyed or are in the process of being surveyed. Weather conditions this fall have not been ideal but have managed to get most surveys done. Numbers look favorable for herds surveyed so far, lots of calves.

(Q) What about the Clear Creek herd, were you able to find them? Believe last time survey attempted were not able to find any sightings. (R) We will be attempting to survey them again this year. Do have concerns due to the high level of placer mining activity in area and inability to find them.

- A composition survey was just completed on the Finlayson Caribou herd and initial numbers look favorable; they are slightly up from prior survey. (Sebastian said he would be interested in report when completed.)
- Regarding the Pelly herd, the bulk of the herd is in Kaska territory and are working at gaining endorsement from Kaska on collaring.
- A number of sheep surveys have been completed. There are concerns in some areas – Kluane is one. The Arkel and Pilot Mountain surveys had to be postponed due to lack of helicopter availability. In response to enquiry regarding the Brooks range and follow-up survey, members were informed that two survey reports would be coming out shortly

online, population numbers are okay but not great and there are concerns.

- Fish surveys were done on Tarfu Lake, Little Atlin Lake, Caribou Lake. The department will be putting forward regulation changes for Little Atlin regarding Lake Trout. Lake trout numbers are much lower in spin survey just completed compared to previous one done. A grayling survey was done on Granite Creek. Surveys were also carried out on Frenchman and Kluane Lakes. Did see a shift in size composition in Kluane, not clear why. In response to question regarding Teslin, members were informed that the creel survey data was in the process of being entered now. Question was asked if white fish and pike had been looked at in Little Atlin, response was that catch compositions reflect that although catch rates remain pretty much the same there has been a shift to smaller pike being taken, not seeing as many large ones. Effort rates have gone up considerably and this is cause for concern.
- A population estimate for Grizzly Bear was done in Tombstone Territorial Park using genetic work. Data is being collated now. Did find that a lot of Grizzlies hit the hair traps but very few black bears. The Beaver River results are in and numbers seem to be lower than what previously was estimated; area seems to be predominately black bear area but not sure if that has always been the case. We are finding that black bears tend to do much better in disturbed areas than Grizzlies. Tendency is for Grizzlies to be displaced.
- Are currently running camera trap surveys in the Mayo area, Kluane Lake area and Coffee Creek, are looking at cumulative effects and biodiversity in these areas. Question was asked if the biodiversity was in general or specific to species? Response was that for the Kluane area it is all species, in the gold fields wolverine is the focus but the way the traps are set up it can be used for all.
- Funding has been received under Canada/Yukon Bi-lateral Nature Agreement to look at rare and endemic plants in Yukon.
- Are planning a fairly large moose survey in the Nahanni Range Road and Hyland River area, funding made available through the Yukon Resource Gateway Project. This will take place in November. Another survey planned for Dawson area.
- Are looking at what to do on our side of the border in relation to the Nelchina Caribou. There has been significant decline in numbers. Alaska has stopped subsistence harvesting on their side due to concerns.
- The Chisana Caribou Management Plan is going out for public review in November and will than finalized.
- Fairly active in Fish & Wildlife five-year workplans with Champagne Aishihik, Teslin Tlingit and Nacho Nyak Dun First Nations.
- Bison Management Plan is out for consultation until November 3rd.
- Tagish Habitat Protection Area plan was approved last year, implementation is going rather slowly, reaching agreement on specifics within plan is taking time. Are trying to work with Kwanlin Dun on the Lewes River Habitat Protection Area plan, they are not ready to engage just yet as they are pretty tied up around issues in relation to Whitehorse rapids generating station right now.
- Wetland policy implementation is another area being worked on across departments, looking at wet land classification, mapping standards, identifying where they are and which ones are significant, and regulatory requirements with EMR

- Surface disturbance mapping is another area being worked on, key input when looking at land use decisions making.
- Bilateral Nature agreement which was signed in 2023 has provided funding to look at species which normally don't get much attention, namely, wolverine, pikas and brown bats. This agreement has allowed for additional staffing.

YUKON WHITEFISH SPECIES AT RISK DESIGNATION AND MANAGEMENT – Vesta Mather, Oliver Barker (DFO, Species at Risk)

Vesta provided a brief overview on the white fish species being considered for listing under SARA. These are three species pairs of whitefish which are found in:

- Dezadeash - European Whitefish (small bodied) and European Whitefish (large bodied);
- Squanga – European Whitefish (small bodied) and Lake Whitefish (large bodied);
- Little Teslin Lake – European Whitefish (small bodied) and Lake Whitefish (large bodied).

There is a pair in each lake and are unique to and irreplaceable in each lake. A general distinguishment is large bodied and small bodied. They are identified as species pairs because they both occupy the same lake but are isolated in their spawning and habitat preference. They have diverged into two species and do not interbreed.

In 2018 the three pairs were assessed as threatened based on the areas in which they exist in that they are in single, isolated lakes which makes them prone to the effects of human activities in a short period of time. They have a low resilience to any outside impacts.

In 2021 a recovery potential assessment was completed by Department of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO). This provided more scientific information on current status, species requirement assessment and current threats. Another requirement is Indigenous Cultural Significance and both Teslin Tlingit Council and Carcross Tagish First Nation have provided reports addressing this. A cost-benefit analysis will also be undertaken as well as engagement and consultation with First Nations, boards, stakeholders, and public.

When all the steps have been completed a regional recommendation will be developed by DFO and provided to the Federal Fisheries Minister who will provide it to the Federal Environment & Climate Change Minister. As this is specific to Yukon, the Federal Environment Minister will be looking to solicit a formal recommendation from the Board and RRCs. It will then be submitted to Cabinet who will decide if these white fish should be listed/not listed/ or referred back to COSIWIC.

There are multiple ways that the Board can engage and provide feedback, one is by participating in the development of management scenarios which DFO is currently in the process of drafting. Other opportunities would be through the regional consultation processes scheduled for 2024 as well as the final formal federal consultation prior to cabinet decision.

(Q) Does habitat protection come with SARA listing, or does it have to be specifically identified in some kind of recover plan? (R) *Immediate protection is on species residence, but it is hard to apply to fish, critical habitat would have to be identified which would happen in a legally required time frame, believed to be 1 year, and once that happens than a habitat order would be put in place. In a case like this it would probably apply to the whole lake.*

YUKON OUTFITTER QUOTA GUIDELINE REVIEW – IN CAMERA

Chair opened floor to Aaron Florian, Vice President, Yukon Outfitters Association to provide presentation to Board. Aaron Florian, Vice President, Yukon Outfitters Association's presentation to the Board included the following:

- Thanked members for the opportunity to discuss concerns on outfitter quotas.
- Outfitters have a true respect for the wilderness and wildlife the lives in it. We depend on it to make a living and like a farmer who harvests, we need sustainable, long-term, heathy wildlife populations.
- Have a strong belief in sustainable harvest as we don't have a future in what we do if we don't harvest sustainably.
- Are supportive of Board's work around ungulate enhancement and also have a great deal of respect for the Board and the role it plays.
- Letter received from Board regarding Outfitter quotas was very disappointing and untimely in that it was just before the start of our hunting season. That the Board would take this on as an initiative was surprising to us.
- We have been struggling with Yukon Government around quotas and guidelines over the last couple of years. We recently met with the Premier and he has assured us that the guidelines would essentially stay intact.
- Would like the board to hear our perspective before any final decisions are made.
- Guidelines were progressive when developed, all outfitters on quota in Yukon, many have been in place for the last 25 years.
- Quota guidelines are not perfect but don't believe need to be blown up and re-started from scratch.
- Believe that First Nations should be involved more, approach YG has taken has not been effective for anyone, they have removed all players and making decision in isolation.
- Would like to ask Board to postpone any final decision until outfitters have a chance to speak to board.

Motion – 2023-16: That the Board move into in-camera.

Moved by: Sebastian Jones

Seconded by: Cheyenne Bradley

Passed by: Consensus.

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

October 17-19, 2023

MINUTES

McClintock Bay Adventures (Marsh Lake)

DAY 2: Wednesday, October 18, 2023 – RRC CHAIRS MEETING

PRESENT: Michelle Dawson-Beattie (Chair), Sebastian Jones (Vice Chair),
Cheyenne Bradley, John Burdek, Ron Chambers, Randy Taylor, Pearl
Callaghan, Dawn Kisoun

Selkirk RRC-Jerry Cruse (Co-Chair), Jerry Alfred (Co-Chair), Brenda
Alfred (ED)

Mayo RRC – Barb Shannon (ED)

Laberge RRC-John LaVallee (Co-Chair), Charlotte O’Donnell (ED)

Carmacks RRC – Allan Skookum (Co-Chair), Vera Charlie (Co-Chair),
Kim Ayles-McKay (ED)

DanKeyi RRC – Sian Williams (Co-Chair), Brenda Carson (ED)

Teslin RRC – Sandy Smarch (Chair), Frank Johnston (Vice-Chair),
Minnie Clark (TTC Member)

Carcross/Tagish RRC - Don Toews (Chair)

Dawson RRC- Nick Wozniewski (ED)

ZOOM: Blanche Warrington, Randy Taylor, Mark Wierda (Co-Chair, Dawson
RRC)

REGRETS: Franklin Patterson, Danny Cresswell

STAFF: Graham Van Tighem, Diane Sheldon (zoom), Steve Hossack

IN ATTENDANCE: Janice Sibbeston (YFWET Manager), David Dickson (Kluane FN Citizen),
Shawn Wassel (YOA) Shawn Raymond (Outfitter), Barney Smith, Aaron
Florian (Outfitter)

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS: – M. Dawson-Beattie

Michelle welcomed everyone and opened the meeting with round table introductions.

OPENING PRAYER – Jerry Cruise

RRC UPDATES:

Lebarge RRC:

The following update was provided by John LaVallee:

- Outhouse project on Lake LaBerge and Yukon River, 18 outhouses and 18 fire pits. Thanks to Graham Van Tighem and Rangers for help for getting these in. Have had positive feed back, they are being used, hope to do an annual check up.
- held a shore clean up on Lake LaBerge, opened up to people to participate, provided gift cards and had a celebration at end. Hard to remove some of the tires as full of sand. Good turnout.
- In response to question regarding council membership, Charlotte said that they were down 2 members and do not yet have a 2nd chair, no meetings over the summer as were not able to get quorum.
- Graham spoke to his involvement in the outhouse project, a great project that he would like to see extended all the way to Dawson.

Carmacks RRC:

Allan Skookum, Co-Chair, explained that they didn't have a formal report. He went on to say that:

- They did host the RRC AGW in April which was very successful. Following the AGW however, due to health issues of their Executive Director they had to shut the office down for a bit.
- A new Executive Director has been hired and we will be getting the office up and running again. He went on to say that:
- A meeting is scheduled for November to discuss the potential of an outhouse project, First Nations Lands Department will be part of the meeting.
- In response to question regarding council membership they have full membership.

DanKeyi RRC:

Sian Williams, Co-Chair provided the following:

- first meeting following the summer break was just held, assessed what was done last year and developing this winter's work plan;
- have a wildlife observation project with community members that we have been running every year, it is a questionnaire, and we are looking at potential changes to enhance and possibly switching to every two years rather than yearly;
- have a camera trap project at north end of Kluane lake area; individuals monitoring provided a presentation to community members, they also upload various wildlife videos to a you tube channel.
- have a lake monitoring project but have not yet collected data from the equipment we had in the lake over the summer, we were not able to retrieve them so they are still out there collecting data.
- Shawn Taylor, the Regional Biologist, has provided a fish population update based on spin data, despite changes to lake there seems to be no changes to trout but looks like

there has been an impact on white fish. Hope to get to data next summer from equipment in lake provide additional information.

- Ongoing program with Kluane school, we provide support to the fish net program as well as the muskrat camp in the spring. Also looking at other opportunities to work with students.
- In terms of council membership, we have two new members but lost two so still have two empty seats.

Dawson RRC:

Mark Wierda, Co-Chair and Nick Wozniowski, ED provided the following:

- Council membership is down by two; did request that the intake applications be closed early to enable an earlier appointment process to take place. Never did get a response to our request.
- Did a salmon recovery workshop. Have been doing this project for a number of years, Chinook Salmon get stranded in pools; traps are set to capture them and they are then transferred back into the Klondike River. This year's numbers were very low, approximately 80 compared to thousands in previous years. Also, this summer were able to access funding to hire youth to work with us. Part of the project consists of doing inventory on the mainstream of the Klondike, this was the first year that no salmon were caught in the inventory traps.
- Are planning a sausage making workshop this fall. We have purchased our own equipment and meat will be donated by local outfitters. Plan is to hold two workshops this year as it is very popular. Sausages go to participants and any left over are distributed within the community. Also, hope to make the equipment available for use to community members in the future.
- Local knowledge surveys will be taking place in next little while, currently in the process of hiring someone to do the interviews. These surveys provide valuable data.
- Fur show will be held again next year. The fur show last year was successful, a lot less fur but it is very much a community-based event.
- Still working on moose collision project.
- Youth trapping video being worked on, skinning workshop with students in February, utilize trapline around Dawson near dump.

Selkirk RRC:

Jerry Cruise, Co-chair, provided the following:

- having trouble with appointments, membership approved by First Nation but still awaiting appointment by Minister;
- held a fish canning course, not lot of turn out but was positively received by those that did attend.
- I-pads have been purchased for members and had a two-day training course on how to operate them, will look at having further training.
- May gathering is a 3-day event where all 3 Northern Tutchone communities come together and discuss common issues and participate in various events.

- Every year our council has a cross-cultural trip. We went to 5-mile lake in Mayo this year. We do this so that our members get to know each other which helps when coming together for meetings. It is a team building exercise.
- Outfitter supplying meat, 8 moose this year; meat was distributed throughout community.
- Participated in Yukon Salmon Sub-committee meetings as well as the River Panel meetings, salmon are very important to Pelly people.

Mayo RRC:

Barb Shannon, Executive Director, provided the following:

- Have been struggling with membership for the last 3 to 4 years,
- Work continues on the Mayo Fish & Wildlife Plan, right now it is being reviewed by Yukon government; will hopefully be finished in near future.
- The moose threshold hunt was successful; very few non-local hunters showing up.

Teslin RRC:

Sandy Smarch, Chair, provided the following:

- We have had a lot of change over in the office over the last couple of years which does cause some disruptions but managing best we can.
- Are down one council member, it is a Beaver Clan vacancy and have not found anyone yet.
- Will be trying to get the youth trapping program going again this winter; last winter took 16 youth out on the Smarch trapline where they learned how to set snares, did catch one wolverine;
- We get a lot of hunting pressure in our area; this year the low water has kept people away.
- Have been working with Teslin Tlingit Council, Yukon University and Yukon Government in partnership trying to understand how to transform forests to mitigate wildfire risks.
- In response to question regarding past concerns with BC hunters, Sandy said that they are currently in discussions with BC, will be attending a meeting with TTC Chief in Vancouver at end of month. They will be sitting down the Minister to discuss concerns.
- In response to question regarding bears, Sandy said that there are still issues in that very few people hunt bears and they do impact ungulate calves. It has been a while since there has been any issues with bears coming into the community.
- The Carcross/Tagish RRC informed participants that they were also looking at fire protection and that Dorothy Cooley would be coming to give a workshop.
- In response to question regarding complaints from local Teslin members regarding Styrofoam washing up on shore and the speculation that it was coming from work being done on bridge, information was provided that the issue has been brought to the attention of the Natural Resource officer who was going to check it out, also EDI does have people onsite and monitoring takes place on a daily basis and reports are sent directly to TTC Lands Department.

Carcross/Tagish RRC:

Don Toews, Chair, provided the following:

- The Carcross/Tagish RRC has been very busy, an “On the Land Gathering” was held in June which was well attended. Great discussions took place on moose and caribou and fish.
- Moose surveys as well as local knowledge surveys on moose were completed and presented at the On the Land Gathering. It was found that some of the sub populations of moose have done fairly well. In general, there has been an improvement over last 30 years. Discussions focused on moose management going forward.
- Southern Lakes Caribou, the council was heavily involved in the recovery; it happened because of 6 First Nations getting together and saying it wanted caribou on landscape. Caribou were down to 300, now there are 3000. Hold cultural/school learning so young people will have knowledge of what it took to bring the caribou back. There is no harvest as of yet, but discussions are ongoing.
- In terms of fish discussions, engaging young people was a focus and the importance of engaging them in fishing. A brochure, done jointly by the Carcross/Tagish First Nation and the Carcross/Tagish RRC, was produced which addresses catch and release concerns and these will be distributing to anglers.
- Progress has been made in trapping in the Southern Lakes in the sense that we have a number of younger trappers out actively trapping. The council provides trapping incentives for wolf harvesting and pelt handling as well as mentorship of young trappers on trapline. Trapping is important as trappers are our eyes and ears on the land.
- Appointment process is broken, we are not allowed to know who has applied, RRC’s need certain types of individuals i.e. youth, women. Think we need to collectively work on the process. They say cabinet needs to approve yet UFA says the Minister. This shouldn’t be a political process.

Alsek RRC:

Via a written report, Cassandra Wheeler, Executive Director provided the following: (report read by Steve Hossack):

- Pine Lake trout survey completed, found that all lake trout caught were small bodied, slot size is ineffective in this lake;
- Just wrapped up a series of snorkel surveys on Kathleen river system looking at how lake trout use the system in spawning; found that trout did use river system for spawning; a write up on the project can be found on website;
- Council has also been focused on forestry, namely the Quill Creek timber harvest area, large gaps in terms of what is occurring and what needs to be done.
- do have a full council this year.

YUKON OUTFITTER QUOTA GUIDELINES REVIEW – Graham Van Tighem, Ron Sumanik

Graham provided background history on the development of the Outfitter Quota Guidelines. Guidelines were developed by YFWMB in partnership with Yukon Government. Process was

started during pre-implementation and finalized in 1995. These guidelines provided certainty to outfitters as well as a set of procedures for all to follow. This document was produced when the only RRC was Mayo, and the final agreements were not in place. Most RRC's and First Nations did not participate in the development of this document. There are many things within the document that will stand the test of time, but other things need to be addressed. Wildlife is a public resource, there is no intent to sink the outfitting industry, modernization is needed. Yukon Government has sent a letter that invites the board to lead the review of the outfitter guidelines, but no path forward has been determined at this time. The aim of the board is to be transparent around this issue.

Ron Sumanik thanked participants for the opportunity to present and provided the following background personal and career information - Yukon resident since 1967, hunting background, biologist, lead negotiator for Yukon Government in land claims, moved on to policy and was the director of Oil and Gas under EMR. There is a desire to re-open the guidelines, there are issues around access, harvest sharing policy and employment of guides. Tasked with rebuilding relationship between Yukon Government and industry and addressing the following topics:

- outfitter quotas, tool was established multi-year quotas, both department and outfitters were in agreement, 5-year quota provided stability. In 2021 department recognized that using *Wildlife Act*, Section 54 incorrectly, operating certificate expires annually and can't put multi year quotas on annual certificate. Are looking at Section 50 as a possible way to address.
- meat sharing- have heard multiple perspectives – department would like to understand better what the issue is, reluctant to get involved in distribution of meat; all outfitters have different methods of distribution and as far as know it is working;
- resident hunters/First Nation accessing areas within outfitter concession – as population grows there is more access requirement; is an issue that needs to be addressed;
- harvest sharing policy: allowable harvest needs to be determined, start with conservation, constitutional right of First Nation, followed by resident and then non-resident.
- Employment of guides – there is a declining trend for Yukon residents being employed by the industry.

In closing his presentation, he re-iterated that the Intent is to repair relationships and that the industry is valued.

YUKON WILDLIFE ACT REGULATION CHANGE PROCESS REVIEW – V. Van Tighem, S. Hossack

Steve Hossack provided the following update:

- have been working over the last several months with colleagues at Yukon Government to improve the existing regulation change process;
- last reg change cycle was in 2019 and coming out of that, government came to the realization that they could have advanced some proposals outside the 16.8.0 process; this potential option is being explored;
- with adaptive management some proposals could be advanced outside of reg process;

- reviewed Yukon Government's process proposal document included in board kits which spoke to realigning the reg process to section 16.7.16;
- are looking at improvements to tracking documents being used, having firm timelines in place for deliverables; as well as public engagement and that First Nations have a greater role and ensure that they are consulted early on in the process;

HABITAT PROTECTION STRATEGIES – CTRRC – Don Toews, Lars Jessup

Don Toews provided the following in his presentation:

- the question we asked was how we were going to manage fish and wildlife for 20 to 30 years down the road.
- So much is happening in the southern lakes that are impacting fish and wildlife in terms of habitat. The RRC is constantly responding to land use and land development proposals. Individually they can be small but as a whole can compromise important fish and wildlife habitat.
- As per the CTFN Agreement we have 3 proposed Habitat Protection Areas (HPA) the Tagish River, the Lewes Marsh and the Agay Mene Environment Park. To date one has been developed and it does not cover fish and fish habitat.
- The Tagish River is very important to lake trout populations throughout the whole southern lakes.
- Highly unlikely that a land use plan would be on the horizon for the southern lakes, especially since it has taken some 30 years to do one and half.
- We put the question to public, thought we could address areas to protect in that way. Key and critical habit areas/ wetlands/ under *Wildlife Act* can designate areas as special critical areas and can be done through regulations, other area is critical caribou rearing areas (takes place in old growth forests). Right now, have roads going through caribou winter range and we are trying to address mortality.
- Critical habitats identified. We used traditional knowledge to identify. We also worked with experts for information to support decision-making. Public support is important.
- We developed document, supported by public, that could be used when addressing proposed projects. There are so many developmental proposals in southern lakes so needed a strategy/plan to address concerns. We have found that If reference southern lakes caribou than we are listened to.
- Is an ongoing process and will continue to work on protection strategies.

YFWMB UNGULATE WORK GROUP UPDATE – M. Dawson-Beattie, S. Hossack

Graham provided overview of working group membership, the vision of the working group and work to date. Have met with a number of RRC's to gain input and will be reaching out to those we still need to meet with. Will also be meeting with some NGO's. Making change in one area affects other areas. We are looking at management areas and whether they are they adequate and or need adjusting. Lars Jessup has been working on this with the Ungulate Working Group to help explore areas and develop reports i.e, predator prey dynamics, prescribed burns and how they can be used to enhance habitat. Future work consists of analysis of moose populations and

harvest data, harvest data in relation to recovery strategies, off-road vehicles and habitat and re-writing the moose management toolbox.

FINANCIAL WORKING GROUP, TPFA AND UFA IP REVIEW – G. Van Tighem, R. Taylor

GVT reviewed the development of this financial working group and groups involved. Working group struct to start pushing back on Yukon Government trying to control board. Had to prevent micromanaging by government. The group has held a number of meetings with directors to start address concerns around deliverables and even the language used within the TPFA. The work is being done for board but also for the RRCs.

CONSERVATION ANGLING STEWARDSHIP TEAM (CAST) – G. Van Tighem, S. Hossack, D. Toews (CTRRC)

Graham reviewed objectives and goals of CAST. This group has been quiet but are looking at getting group up and running again. Goal is to promote sustainability of fish and encourage respectful use of fish. Will be meeting in late October to determine next steps.

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

October 17-19, 2023

MINUTES

McClintock Bay Adventures (Marsh Lake)

DAY 3: Thursday, October 19, 2023 – Regular Meeting

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

ZOOM: Blanche Warrington, Randy Taylor

REGRETS: Franklin Patterson, Danny Cresswell, Pearl Callaghan

STAFF: Graham Van Tighem, Diane Sheldon Steve Hossack

YUKON FISH AND WILDLIFE ENHANCEMENT TRUST – K Taylor, J. Sibbeston

Refer to the Enhancement Trust minutes.

YFWMB STRATEGIC PLANNING OUTCOMES – M. Dawson Beattie, G. Van Tighem

Facilitated by Steve Hossack, Board Members reviewed and discussed the strategic planning exercise documents included in the Board Kits. All four goals of the Strategic Plan developed in Silver City in 2021 along with potential implementation actions in relation to each goal were discussed.

MEMBERS TIME:

Motion – 2023-17: That the Board move into in-camera.

Moved by: Sebastian Jones

Seconded by: Dawn Kisoun

Passed by: Consensus.