

**MINUTES
YUKON SALMON COMMITTEE
February 20-22, 2007, Meeting #59
Whitehorse, Yukon**

MEETING DATES 2006-2007

Meetings to Date (2006-2007)

Yukon River Working Group	March 3, 2006	Whitehorse
Yukon River Panel	March 20 (week)	Whitehorse
Placer Regime	March 27-28, 2006	Whitehorse
BNA Workshop	March 28-29, 2006	Whitehorse
Porcupine River Working Group & Old Crow Public Meeting	April 3, 2006	Old Crow
YSC Meeting # 56	April 4-6, 2006	Dawson
Dawson Public Meeting	April 4, 2006	Dawson
Yukon Queen II	May 11, 2006	Dawson
Whitehorse Public Meeting	May 24, 2006	Whitehorse
Porcupine River Salmon Gathering	June 2-5, 2006	Old Crow
Celebration of Salmon	August 26-27, 2006	Dawson
Ross River (tentative Carl to coordinate)	Aug 28-31, 2006	Ross River
Yukon Salmon Committee Meeting #57	September 19-21, 2006	Whitehorse
Yukon River Working Group	November 6, 2006	Whitehorse
Yukon Salmon Committee Meeting #58	November 7-9, 2006	Whitehorse
Yukon River Panel	December 11-15, 2006	Whitehorse
Porcupine River Working Group	January 8, 2007	Old Crow
Yukon Salmon Committee	February 20-22, 2007	Whitehorse
Yukon River Panel	April 3-5, 2007	Fairbanks
Alsek Working Group	April 12, 2007	Whitehorse
Porcupine River Working Group	April 17, 2007	Old Crow
Yukon Salmon Committee	May 1 -3, 2007	Dawson
Dawson Public Meeting	May 2, 2007	Dawson

Upcoming Meeting Dates (tentative)

Yukon Queen II	May 30, 2007	Dawson
Haines Junction (Public)	June 6, 2007	Haines Junction
YSC & DFO Roles Workshop	June 28, 2007	Whitehorse
Faro Mine Tour	July?	Faro

MEETING SUMMARY

1. **Announcements/ Updates**
2. **Review Agenda**
3. **Yukon Placer Regime – Yukon Placer Secretariat**
4. **Youth Contest Judging**
5. **Catch Card Update – Steve Smith**

6. Correspondence – Carl Sidney
7. Review 2006/2007 Budget – Louise Naylor
8. Faro Mine 3D Models (Roger and Bill – Faro Closure Office)
9. Habitat Update – Kelly Hayes
10. Deleterious Substances – Environment Canada (Eric Sauprovich)
11. Yukon Fish and Game Association – Collaboration Discussion (Stewart)
12. Review Calendar
13. Other Business
14. Yukon Geomorphology Society - Regarding River Restoration (Isaac Anderton)
15. Correspondence – Nominations/Panel Funding
16. Review Calendar (cont.)
17. Review Action Items
18. Review Minutes from Meeting #58 (November 2006)
19. Fisheries Act – G. Couture
20. Synopsis and Management Plan – L. Smith
21. Website Review – C. McKinnon
22. Other Business

SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS

Attached as separate section

MEETING MINUTES

Committee Members Present: Carl Sidney, Chuck Hume, Joe Johnson, Esau Schafer, Vicky Josie, Ed Kormendy, Gerry Couture, Craig McKinnon, Dan McDiarmid (9:45), Lorelei Smith (1:30)

DFO Staff: Steve Smith, Louise Naylor

Pubic Present: Jerry Cruise (co-Chair Selkirk RRC), Dorothy Bradley (Executive Director Selkirk RRC), David Bunbary (Laberge RRC).

Meeting brought to order: 9:10

Tuesday **February 20th, 2007 – 9:00 a.m.**

Location: **Large Board Room, 419 Range Road, Whitehorse, YT**

Opening Prayer – Gerry Cruise

1. Announcements/ Updates

- **Youth Contest Judging** – Items on display during meeting for judging
- **Community Announcements**
 - Esau Schafer:
 - Eagle Plains oil and gas development test well at Northern Cross, there may be a hold off in discussion, exploration would occur around the head waters of the

It is believed that this plea of poverty is not true based on their current material assets and business locations in Seattle.

- Carl mentioned that there is a YR DFA meeting coming up and it may be possible to bring up the fish size at this meeting. He attended a symposium in Alaska last week, and spoke on the issue of the subsistence river fishery and the entitlement of Alaskan's to subsistence fish.
- Esau brought up that he had been invited to attend the symposium and he had tried to communicate to other members that he was available to also attend if there was an ability to share costs.
- Agreement among members that Carl should attend the YR DFA meeting. Need to discuss issue of fish size with the upper river fishers, to see if the YSC could build an alliance with them to put forward the issue of sustaining the fishery.
- BD – RRC observer at panel meeting, impression was that the Alaska mouth fishers are more concerned with the money than the resource.
- The scientific argument is there but the political argument needs to be strengthened to weight the importance of this issue. Elders are no longer being listened to at the mouth of the river
- Selkirk RRC asked the YSC if the committee would consider reporting on the fish size issue at the May Gathering.

Action Item#59-1: YR DFA Meeting – Carl Sidney, Vicky Josie to attend on behalf of the YSC, to promoting the fish size case and the possibly of a petition at YR DFA meeting.

Action item#59-2: Board of Fish Meeting: Carl Sidney and Gerry Couture to contact the 4 user groups to see if there is an ability to put forward a petition for an emergency meeting with the Alaska Board of Fish via the upper river panel members.

Action Item#59-3: Fish Size - Draft letter to Department of Fisheries and YTG minister regarding the fish size concerns at the mouth of the river, once record of decision or information is received from the Board of Fish and results from petition. (Gerry (to get info) and Steve)

Action Item#59-4: Fish Size - YSC to send letter with a draft petition to RRC's asking that they manage the petition within their communities. Cc to F&WMB.

Action Item#59-5: Fish Size – YSC to send letter to FN's asking for support in the form of a letter regarding Alaska Fish and Game problems with fish size. Identify that RRC's will be managing a petition within community.

- Alsek Annex Meeting - Chuck
 - Targeting of early run Sockeye instead of Chinook a concern expressed by Chuck, suggested a restriction on mesh size so that the first run of Sockeye is not targeted.
- Porcupine River Working Group (Jan 8/07) – Vicky/Esau/Carl
 - RRC member requested that the chum escapement goal be lowered, more data needs to be gathered by DFO first, prior to further discussions.
 - In a separate meeting with a member of the RRC in discussion with Resource Manager suggested new project for the community. Suggestion that incubation boxes be setup on Porcupine, this need to be discussed with community prior to moving forward with project.
- Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Meeting (Jan 24/07) – Carl

- YSC Chair made a presentation to the YFWMB highlighting concerns and issues of the YSC as well as the make-up of the YSC. Copy of presentation available if requested.
- Impression was that YSC and the Board wanted to work closer and keep each other informed.
- Discussed that a joint letter regarding fisheries Act to be developed on the need to consult.
- Yukon Placer Committee (Feb 16/07) – Carl
 - 8 rationales discussed from streams revision to stream classification
 - Laberge Creek tributary was raised as a concern by some during discussions.
- Meeting with Yukon Fish and Game Association – Carl
 - Discussed ability to have a joint meeting with public.
 - Open to suggestions on new endeavours that could be managed jointly.

2. **Review Agenda**

- Agenda reviewed
- State of the Wildlife conference – add to calendar (Steve S. to contact Harvey Jessup and get back to the committee if Salmon is be part of discussions during conference)
 - Joe asked for clarification of who is responsible for Management of freshwater fish. Clarification was made that YTG does not manage salmon they are responsible for management of the freshwater fish such as whitefish the only exception is salmon and fish habitat which is under the responsibility of the federal government.
 - Executive Director of Selkirk RRC asked if the committee could provide technical assistance to show staff how to assess fish habitat, Steve S. suggested that if technical assistance is what they needed then a request in a form of letter should be submitted to the Area Director of DFO, Carl asked that the request be cc:ed to YSC as “the YSC is the main instrument to deal with salmon”.
- Agenda Gerry Couture and seconded by Ed Kormendy accepted agenda with changes.

Adjourned for Lunch 12:05

Meeting brought to order 1:25

3. **Yukon Placer Regime** – Yukon Placer Secretariat (Jeska Irvine, Rob Thompson)

- Yukon Placer Secretariat presented to the YSC a three part information presentation on the new Placer Regime.
- The regime addressed aquatic effects only, only those activities that are governed under the fisheries act. Is not intended to address land-based placer mining activities which are managed under the Territorial legislation.
- Key components of the new Fish Habitat Management Regime for Placer Mining presented are: Watershed Authorization; Guidelines for the Design; Construction, and Reclamation of Yukon Placer Mines; Aquatic Health Monitoring Protocol; Water Quality Objectives Monitoring Protocol; Economic Health Monitoring Protocol; Adaptive Management Framework; Watershed Sensitivity and Habitat Suitability Classification; and Habitat Suitability Classification Maps.
- Reviewed Risk management matrix table which is used to determine what is permitted in various habitat types.
- Questions:
 - Has the Risk Management framework been used nationally? The Risk management framework are meant to be using daily in risk assessment on a nationally level, the pathways

of effects is used nationally with more common affects, where the Risk Assessment matrix is streamlined specifically for Yukon placer.

- On Watershed are there thresholds identified where enough is enough, or where there is a limit to the amount of mining in the watersheds? Within the water quality objectives that are part of the regime, the water quality has to be maintained, it is also identified in the scoring and range of development of watersheds.
- Are the new Yukon Placer Regime guidelines accessible to the RRC's for their use? The guidelines documents and a CD have also been distributed to RRC offices.
- Carl requested clarification on degree of development categories ie. 0.5 overall watercourse length and development get the score of one. - The mining inspectors were asked to mapped out all the areas in the watershed that have been developed, a development score is assigned to the amount of development that is happening in the watershed, the more the degree of development in the watershed the higher the score and the more susceptible the watershed is.
- Concerns raised with mines using underground stream water, and that no legislation is in place to monitor the effects. A- Miners require a permit when using underground water.
- The new regime process has been developed for input from the public, if there are creeks or areas that have not been identified on the present maps or if there is updated information, the secretariat encourage the public to identify these areas in writing where the information needs to be updated so area classification can be updated.
- Some aspects of presentation were difficult to understand by non technical individual.
 - Suggestion that when regime presentation are used within communities use local water bodies for examples simplify terms such as basin in layman terms, less than and greater than signs in written in English form not in scientific terms.
- The suitability of water area as fish habitat is how habitat is being assessed, it no is not determined by whether there were fish within the watershed at time of assessment. - Concern raised by YSC members on timing of assessment, dependent on time of assessment habitat may not appear suitable when other times are more than suitable. A: - Conditions are assessed during the time that Placer mining may occur (early June – late September).
- Areas are scored based on distance from fish habitat, the closer they are to fish habitat the higher the score.
- Gerry requested confirmation that during monitoring the reference sites are checked during consistent times each year, checks are done for bugs as well as fish. If the site is out of reference condition, then it is retested the following year then it can be determined why it is out, if it is due to placer mining then the regime needs to be changed to bring it back in line.
- Q: Economic Health clarification – economic conditions of the mine, looks like the protocol is looking for stability in the industry, but one does not get the feeling that the volatility of the industry can be viable when prices are right and costs are down but at other times it is not worth doing. How can the stability of the industry be foreseen, there needs to be built into the protocol something that recognizes the volatility of the industry. A – the individual operators may need a break if standards are too high to get back in, but this would not be done not at the expense or detriment to aquatic health.
- All monitoring has to be done, to ensure that the water quality objective is a good proxy to aquatic health and that aquatic health can being maintained.
- Suggested that a tracking device be incorporated in to the new process. Applying the new regime is suppose to correct the legacy of the past, should we not measure to see if it actually happens? The modelling has mapped prior disturbances, when DFO approves restoration it is anticipated that the maps will be adjusted and net gain will be tracked.

- Except in exceptional circumstances for things that were not foreseen, no recommendations for changes to the authorizations will be made until at least three years of monitoring have occurred.
- Consultations would end 2007.
- It is anticipated that the new rules will come into effect 2008.

Meeting Adjourned at 5:00pm

Wednesday February 21st, 2007 – 9:00 a.m.
Location: Large Board Room, 419 Range Road, Whitehorse, YT

4. Youth Contest Judging

- Written summary provided by coordinator - Michelle Murphy
 - 72 entries were received
 - over 100 children participated
 - very similar to last years' results
 - there was more community participation:
 - Ross River School in Ross River
 - Robert Service School in Dawson
 - Eliza Van Bibber in Pelly Crossing
 - Kluane Lake School in Destruction Bay
- Questions:
 - 1) Who is willing to provide the interview?
 - Depending on the winning entries someone will be responsible for delivering the prizes (I'm hoping if it is in a community a YSC member will be able to do this, otherwise if they are in Whitehorse maybe someone could assist me in delivering t-shirts/prizes, etc.) I believe by having a YSC member identified and visible in the community is good publicity.
 - Whitehorse - Lorelei
 - Pelly – Dan McDiarmid,
 - Dawson – Ed
 - Kluane Lake School – Joe

5. Catch Card Update – Steve Smith

- Steve Smith provided a background on the development of the catch card
 - The YSC held a number of consultations in the development of a management to for recreational fisheries. Prior to 1999.
 - A report in the form of a recommendation was submitted to the RDG by the YSC to establish a conservation catch card.
 - During consultation process with public, it was express that any revenue in excess of the program cost would go towards enhancement and research programs not currently done by DFO.
 - As of 2005 the total cost of the program was \$290K to operate, revenue generated is approx \$90K minus vendor commissions.
 - Revenue collected from the catch card was been deposited into a bank account until clear direction is received on who the revenue belongs to.

- During an audit that took place in 2005, the Catch Card program funds and administration was reviewed. The revenue funds were identified as an issue that needed to be clarified by DFO. DFO was to assess if the funds being held by the YSC should remain with the YSC or should they be returned to Government.
- DFO has reviewed existing legislation and authorities and no authorities existed or was obtained for the YSC to retain or hold revenue received from the catch card, DFO's position is that any revenue that has been received needs to be returned to the Government of Canada.
- Committee member : that money was suppose to go into running the catch card system, DFO has paid for the system to run, if there was money was left over then it would go towards other programs, since there was no surplus then the money received should go to DFO.
- Committee member: concerned that revenue Canada or the Government of Canada will come back to the committee members and take them to court to say that the money was obtained illegally.
- **Committee would like to receive a letter absolving committee of any wrong doings identifying that there was no the intent to hold the money it was originally held for operation of system. No intent to defraud. Note in letter to acknowledge that no wrong doing has occurred with revenue and personal gain.**
- Once the YSC receives the letter requesting funds, then the committee as a whole authorizes that transfer of funds to the Receiver General.
- Q- Is DFO getting value for the money, in running the catch card? The YSC would like to be updated on changes in the running of the catch card?
- Committee acknowledge that the information or data that is received from the card is valid in negotiations with the US.
- Steve acknowledged on behalf of DFO that any changes to the catch card would be brought to the committees' attention.

6. Correspondence – Carl Sidney

Carl brought to the committees attend his concerns regarding correspondence in relation to money's requested for representative on the Yukon Panel. He express his feelings that they (DFO) never ever help us out on in support of the Yukon River salmon agreement. His feeling is that there is only 80K put towards it and that they may loose the salmon in the end because of the low Canada representation.

7. Review 2006/2007 Budget – Louise Naylor

- Annual Budget and Forecasts for 2006-2007
 - * Surplus of funds forecasted and identified during last meeting, a surplus of funds is still anticipated based on anticipated expenditures. Over 30K is anticipated
 - * A second claim has been submitted requesting payment of CA funds; funds were not yet received prior to meeting. It is recommended that cheques issued for this meeting be held until payment is received, enough funds are available to cover travel expenses. Deficit on funds was due to 13K of expenditures happened over a period of 3 weeks which was not anticipated prior to my being aware on holidays.
 - * Formatting change requested by committee, delayed until FY 2007/2008
- Inventory
 - * A summary of inventory items was provide to committee members, including T-shirts, mugs, pens, hoodies, jackets etc.
 - * Additional inventory items are on ordered in T-shirts (\$2K) and hoodies (\$2K)
- Deductions on Honorariums

- * Revenue Canada acknowledges that the honoraria received by the committee and the current duties, falls in line with salaries and have requested that for 2007 onwards that CPP be deducted from the honorarium portion of committee earnings. What this means is that CPP will be deducted from your cheques and the YSC funding will also be paying a percentage of the CPP as would a normal business would do when processing employee payroll where required.
- * Income tax can be deducted from cheques if the members request it.
- Discussions on possible additional forecasted items.
 - * Anticipated travel to end of March discussed
 - * Suggested donation of 5K to preparation of salmon forum with YFGA
 - * 8-10K contract to review and Technical analysis Best practices Placer – Gerry to confirm and get back to committee
 - * Carl to contact Kelly to meet with DOE to get info on Carmacks Copper
 - * Determine if members of working group are available to revise meeting to a date prior to end of March.

8. Faro Mine 3D Models (Roger and Bill – Faro Closure Office)

- Two scale models of the sites have been developed; the one model of the Faro site was brought for the committee's review.
- 4.M tons of waist rock that still needs to be dealt with the Faro and Van Gorda site combined.
- Interim receiver was appointed by courts in 1998, temporary owner ship until received and he continues to manage site until he hands over responsibility of site.
- 2002 it was decided that this site would not be opened
- Developing a closure plan to best address issues over the long term. Objectives have been determined and they are now waiting on a peer reviewed report
- Next is to go out to the communities to get feed back planned to start in April.
- 2010 is the anticipated date when a closure plan will be finalized.
- Q - What type of outstanding issues are still outstanding? This site has been identified as a liability of the Federal Government the actual costs needs to be identified with details to the Government for approval to continue, at Treasury Board level.
- Issues specific to site are contamination of water, contact with humans and animals over the long term, floods and earthquakes in tailing area, and dust.
- Items to be resolved over long term: Divert creek, collect ground water & treat ground water
- Two possible proposals were presented to the committee
- It is anticipated that approval from WaterBoard and YESAA will take approx. 2 years.
- The YSC requested a site visit; earliest time for a tour would be some time in June. Selkirk RRC also requested participation in site tour when it is scheduled. Suggested Dawson RRC and Pelly RRC are invited at the same time.
- Roger to notify closure office of YSC interest to tour site in June.

Meeting Adjourned for Lunch 11:50

Meeting brought to Order – 1:15

9. Habitat Update – Kelly Hayes

Kelly provided an update to the YSC on sYukon Energy 20-year plan, Carmacks-Stewart/Minto Spur Transmission Line, Carmacks Copper Project, Land Use Planning, and Yukon Queen II.

- Yukon Energy 20-Year Plan

- The YUB recommended going ahead with three projects in the short-term: The Carmacks-Stewart transmission line, a third turbo for Aishihik, and the life extension for Yukon Energy's Mirrlees diesel generators.
- The Board has recommended that new resources be added to the Whitehorse-Aishihik-Faro transmission system as soon as possible to address the need for winter capacity.
- Carmacks-Stewart/Minto Spur Transmission Line
 - Work on line could begin as early as the summer of 2007
 - The transmission line will connect the Whitehorse-Aishihik-Faro to the Mayo-Dawson electricity grids with the purpose of encouraging economic development in the area and enhancing the overall system reliability.
 - The Minto spur line will provide power to the new copper-gold mine under development west of the Yukon River at Minto.
 - The route of the proposed project crosses or potentially effects several known fish-bearing watercourses, including: Yukon River, Tachun Creek, McGregor Creek, McCabe Creek, Von Wilczek Creek, Pelly River, Willow Creek, Crook Creek, Stewart River, Big Creek and Minto Creek. These streams are known spawning and rearing areas for Chinook salmon, chum salmon, arctic grayling and whitefish.
 - Construction of the line is planned to conform with DFO's "Overhead Line Construction Operation Statement, Version 2, 2006." This requires that the overhead lines do not require the construction or placement of any temporary or permanent structures below the high water mark. In addition there will be no clearing of riparian vegetation within a minimum of 15m from the top of bank or high water mark of any watercourse. DFO's "Measures to Protect Fish and Fish Habitat" will be incorporated when constructing overhead lines. As a result of these efforts no DFO permit is required for this project.
- Carmacks Copper Project - Williams Creek (Tributary of Yukon River)
 - Western Copper Corporation has submitted a project proposal for its Carmacks Copper Project to YESAB. The project requires both a Quartz Mining Production Licence and a Water Use Licence, both of which need a complete environmental assessment under YESAA. Work on this project could begin as early as summer of 2007 with full operation by 2009.
 - As part of the project proposal, the company has conducted fisheries studies on the two main creeks that could be impacted by this development. They found juvenile Chinook salmon in the lower section of Williams Creek up to the confluence of Nancy Lee Creek. No other fish were found above the confluence. Research and community knowledge did not indicate any spawning occurs in Williams Creek or in the Yukon River near the Williams Creek confluence.
 - The company has consulted with the LSCFN and SFN as well as conducting community consultations since the early 1990s. Its proposals cover issues raised by the community through these consultations. The proposal also includes a detailed risk management plan and a reclamation plan for the mine. The deadline for comments to YESAB is March 19, 2007.
 - Concerns – The company although has consulted with FN's, there is no guarantee that the FN's are satisfied with consultation process. There are questions with the Water management plan, heap leach monitoring; storage on waste rock on unstable ground; quality of liner is in question YTG approved lining is not the one used in plan, how is the security being assessed is the foreseen environmental deficit being applied.

ACTION ITEM Mtg#59-6: Carmacks Copper Project - Kelly to draft letter to YESAA outlining general concerns of the committee with proximity to juvenile salmon in Williams Creek and proximity

to Yukon River, reference the Yukon River International agreement. Cc: Little Salmon Carmacks FN, LSC RRC.

- **Land Use Planning**
 - **North Yukon Land Use Plan** – The North Yukon Planning Commission has postponed the release of their Draft Plan until April 2007.
 - Main components of plan has been submitted to YTG for a preliminary review.
 - Plan will be based on a “thresholds” framework that looks at the maximum amount of human activity that can occur before having a negative impact on the landscape

 - **Peel Watershed Planning Commission** – The Peel Watershed Planning Commission is beginning their substantive work related to the development of their plan.
 - Developing a framework to assess areas of high conservation value within the planning area.
 - Fish and fish habitat values will be reflected in this framework.

 - **Dawson Planning Commission** - The Land Use Planning Council anticipate that a planning commission for the Dawson region will be established by the fall of 2007.

- **Yukon Queen II**
 - The Final fish study report from EDI examining the effects of the Yukon Queen II on fish and fish habitat is expected to be released in the near future. This report includes the findings of research conducted during the summer of 2006. It is anticipated that the report will include a mitigative plan based on research findings.
 - Frank Quinn had a draft form of report at the YR Panel, committee requested whether a draft was available for the committee to review. Steve acknowledged that as the Executive secretary he has asked the Panel for a copy and was advised that the report will be released soon and distributed to stakeholders.
 - Carl suggested that a letter be sent prior to release of report; the committee has been waiting for a report after report. Would like to write a letter on what they feel right now.
 - Steve clarified that the report is the property of the Panel not DFO.
 - Carl – “My concern is still the same they are breaking the law, Trondek wrote a letter to DFO 2 years ago, the YSC wrote to DFO a letter 2 years ago we both told them to get off your butts and get to work and start enacting your law the fisheries act, if anyone else was breaking the law we would be in jail, they seem to get away with it, I don’t care about any report that’s in draft form its too bad if they don’t give it to us that is my feeling”.
 - Suggest letter be sent has all information, do not write letter that is not accurate. Kelly to write letter to strengthen previous letter sent, committee to review draft.
 - Comment made on a local level, if the boat is killing ten fish or hundred fish it is still killing fish. When development of a subdivision was taking place in Dawson and the Cat knocked over a poplar tree into the high water mark of the river, the next day DFO officers were enforcing the act, but the locals do not see anything happening to the boat company they appear to do what ever they want.

ACTION ITEM Mtg#59-7: Yukon Queen II – OLD action item clarification – Kelly to review previous letter from YSC to Minister from previous recommendation, draft letter to strengthen previous recommendation. Letter to be circulated to YSC members for review and approval prior to final draft.

ACTION ITEM Mtg#59-8: Northern Cross – Kelly to look into further information on Northern Cross Plan - Process for developing areas of interest for April meeting.

- Kelly brought to the committee's attention a workshop on Environmental Process for Modernization Plan (EPMP) in BC, March 12-14, 2007. For discussion on if the committee wanted to send someone.

10. Deleterious Substances – Environment Canada (Eric Sauprovich)

- Environment Canada is made up of three main units: pollution prevention, environment contaminants, enforcement, and a smaller unit emergencies.
- Pollution prevention: Upstream issues such as reviewing projects and provide environmental assessment advice on licences. Determine what mitigation within project plans is required to prevent pollution from occurring on land that effect water.
- Environment Contaminants: Deals with what happens when discharge happens from projects, and impacts on the fish bearing waters.
- Enforcement: When thing go wrong and there is a risk to fish, then directs and enforcement actions occur as needed
- Emergencies: Looks at projects and requirement for provisional emergencies, how they would respond how they are prepare incase of a discharge occurs in their sites.
- Dept of Environment is deemed to look into chemical aspects of or deleterious substances leaching into water.
- Most responses are initiated by members of the public that bring the concerns to EC attention to look at. As EC does not have the capacity to continually patrol and monitor looking for issues of concern.
- EC responsibility is to ensure that projects requesting licences and that components of the licence are in the licence so that they do not contaminate water sources.
- The Pollution prevention and contaminate prevention units work to prevent and make sure that components of licences are in place within the projects to prevent pollution from happening.
- YTG issue the water licence, EC responds if the spills impact fish bearing waters, if it happens on land then the Yukon Government is responsible. YTG environment deal with the land issues.
- Environment Canada's mandate is strictly to deal with impacting on fish bearing waters.

11. Yukon Fish and Game Association – Collaboration Discussion (Stewart)

- The Chair of the YSC, Executive Director and members of the Yukon Fish and Game Association met and discussed what the YSC were involved with and what the YFGA did.
- It appeared the both were trying to get more into the public eye
- One common area of discussion and concern was around Tatchun Creek
- A public forum together around rotary peace park demonstrating fishing techniques, cycles of salmon around the time that the salmon are running, and other educational activities, around the area below the bridge, this possibility was suggested by the YFGA.
- Earlier on in the negotiations with the Yukon River negotiations there was a strong presence in the negotiations. Gerry suggested that the YFGA take part in the Panel meetings to educate yukoners on the international process and to provide support for the Canadian delegation.
- Yukon River Working group meetings and Alsek drainage working group, requested the fish and game association participation.
- Ed spoke of the historical interest of the Fish and Game association in earlier interventions etc. with the Fish and Wildlife management meetings.
- YFGA – publish within the Outdoor Edge magazine twice a month, March 9 next deadline, need to get rest of deadline dates for inserting info or updates into magazine.

- YFGA hold public meetings, suggested that if the YSC would like to make a presentation during meeting then this may be possible.

ACTION ITEM#59-9: YFGA – Yukon Salmon Committee to discuss possibility of co-managing the Rotary Peace Park salmon fishing technique and cycle of salmon event, committee to discuss during May meeting possibility and availability for involvement, YFGA will most likely go ahead with event.

12. Review Calendar

- YRDFA (Pilot Station) – Feb 26-Mar 1, 2007 (Carl Sidney)
- Environmental Process and Modernization Workshop - March 12-14, 2007 (Kelly?, Carl, Chuck, Vicky) confirm #'s who can attend.

ACTION ITEM#59-10 – Contact Kelly to see if she can attend EPMP workshop with Carl, Chuck to attend if Kelly can not attend.

- State of the Wildlife conference – March 21-23, 2007 (put on by YTG, Wildlife not related to Salmon)
- Yukon River Panel (Anchorage) – April 3-6, 2007 (Joe-drive, Ed – Fly, Craig – drive, Dan-drive, Chuck-drive and Esau-fly)

13. Other Business

- Yukon River Panel Nominations
 - Vicky Josie's and Gerry Couture's names to stand as panel members nominees. Ed Kormendy, Chuck Hume and Esau Schafer names to be put forward as additional alternates.

ACTION ITEM#59-11: Yukon River Panel Members – Draft letter to Minister indicating that the Vicky Josie and Gerry Couture members' names stand as Panel member; other members interested in being alternates are Ed Kormendy, Chuck Hume and Esau Schafer but not full members.

Meeting Adjourned 4:40

Thursday February 22nd, 2007 – 9:00 a.m.

Location: Large Board Room, 419 Range Road, Whitehorse

14. Yukon Geomorphology Society - Regarding River Restoration (Isaac Anderton)

- The Geomorphology society is a new registered non-profit society, the first undertaking is to organize a River Restoration Symposium tentatively scheduled for late fall or early winter of 2007
- One day symposium, based on the format and philosophy of the River Restoration Northwest symposium that is held annually in Washington State.
- Symposium will promote responsible practices in river restoration projects, enhanced design etc..
- 6 presentation from local and outside people involved in stream restoration projects
- Planned discussion to occur on lessons learn
- Participation will be sought from FN's, government and other relevant organization (ie. Individual involved in Regulator process)
- Funding being sought from different organizations
- Geomorphology society ask are asking for a letter of support from the YSC
- Joe suggested that the use of the name "Geomorphology" is confusing and not understood by a large number of FN's and members from communities.
- Need to explain how the name applies to rivers and streams and show how it applies to communities and the Yukon as a whole.
- YSC suggested that the society contact the YRITWC for support.

ACTION ITEM#59-12: – Yukon Geomorphology Society – YSC to provide a letter of support to society.

15. Correspondence – Nominations/Panel Funding

- Discussion took place on Government understanding, self government agreements on the process.
- Gerry talked of a previous visit to Ottawa, ie. Regulation branch, where discussions occurred on the Umbrella Final Agreement (UFA), most government individuals in Ottawa had no idea what the UFA was. Need to question is it really a good use of the committees time to send members to Ottawa.
- Gerry suggested that we work first with local staff and start the work here first, have the staff relations workshop with DFO staff.
- Ottawa is at a different level and when compared to the level of impact that the YSC has need to question whether it is worth the effort.
- Committee asked if DFO is available to hold the YSC and Staff Relations workshop prior to end of March. Steve advised that it is unlikely that all Chiefs would be available prior to the end of March. Concerns raised by committee that the Area Manager is not available.

ACTION ITEM#59-13: – Nominations/Panel funding – Draft letter in response to Ministers response to letter, correct misinformation and nominate Vicky and Gerry.

Break for coffee – 10:00am

Absent: Carl (Family Emergency)

16. Review Calendar (cont.)

- Alsek Working group – March 26, 2007 tentative
- JTC meeting March 27-29 (two day meeting (Whitehorse) – Gerry, Vicky, Lorelei, Carl, Joe
- Yukon River Working group – March 29 tentative
- Porcupine working group YSC Old Crow – Apr 16th trv – Apr 17 meeting – Apr 18 trv
- Learn from Cooperative Management (KNPMB(email invite) – Haines Junction) – April 24-26, 2007 – (Members of the committee will be in attendance as other interested parties)
- Dawson Meeting – May 1-3, 2007 (travel Apr 30, May 4)
- Dawson public meeting – May 2, 2007 @6:00pm
- May Gathering – first or second week of May (Dorothy B. to find out if there is space available)
- Haines Junction Public Meeting – June 6, 2007
- YSC and Staff Relations – late May or Early June
- Faro mine tour – June 9 preferred or June 8, 2007 (Tour intended for YSC members only, plus invite RRC's)
- Minto Tour – (check with YFWMB on dates and indicate that a member of the YSC is interested in attending)
- Fish and Wildlife management meeting on the land (check on dates of next Whitehorse meeting)

Discussion occurred on YSC meetings on the land versus meeting in the communities, some members thought that meetings should be in another community, others thought that cross cultural experience was important for committee members. Next meeting place to be considered was Ross River.

ACTION ITEM#59-14: – Fish and Game Assoc. – request dates of their public meetings.

ACTION ITEM#59-15: – Haines Jct. Public Meeting - letter to Alsek RRC advising of the June 6 intended date; see if they want to present items at end of meeting.

17. Review Action Items

(Completed action items are listed below – Outstanding items are listed in a summary of action items)

ACTION ITEM #52-7: A YSC member to provide an update on aquaculture consultations to the Fish Wildlife Management Board at their October meeting. See 52-3. #52-3: Secretariat to draft a letter to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board indicating that the YSC will not be able to provide an update on the aquaculture consultations at their June meeting, but will be reviewing the consultations during their June meeting and will brief the Board as soon as possible.
Letter sent May 27, 2005.

Mtg. #53: YSC member will provide briefing to the Board, following their review of this issue.

Mtg. #55: Exec Sec to contact ~~Christine~~ Graham and see if they want a briefing.

Mtg#57, Sept06: YSC Member on the board to determine if the Board would still like a briefing on the Aquaculture, if the Board is still interested then a presentation would be developed. Issue of communication between boards came up during discussion.

Mtg#58, Nov06: Joe said it was discussed but, the issue of communications was brought up, and building a better working relationship. Joe to make sure that the committee get on the agenda for December meeting for Carl and/or Craig discuss with the board.

Jan 07: Chair and Ex Sec presented update to FWMB on highlighted YSC activities, including Aquaculture.

DONE

ACTION ITEM #56-3: Yukon Fish and Game Association – Suggestion that the YSC coordinate a presentation to the YF&GA on the management plans process and update during one of the YF&GA meetings, possibly make the presentation open to the public. Carl to coordinate with Director. Carl and Lorelei to present to YF&GA.

Mtg#57 – Sept 06: Worthwhile to still try and get the Yukon Fish and Game association involved in the YSC process. Carl to contact.

Feb 07: Once YFGA had there AGM we were able to set up a meeting. This meeting occurred Feb 12. YFGA members to attend YSC Meeting Feb 21.

Done

ACTION ITEM#57-6: Faro Meeting: Look into a organizing a YSC meeting on the land in Faro during the spring (prior to fishing season) and tour the mine site.

Will action in time for spring

Feb 07: providing presentation for Feb 21 YSC meeting. Will discuss a possible tour then and dates. Only tour to be arranged, due to timing of tour.

Done

ACTION ITEM#57-7: Yukon Energy Plan – Kelly to gather further information, once information on water levels etc is gathered, have input into the plan.

Presentation made during YSC November 2006 meeting.

YE since cancel plan to raise Water Levels due to concerns of March Lake residents. - Done

ACTION ITEM#58-1: Water Quality – Write letter to FN's expressing the importance of Water quality with the emphasis of importance to salmon, include the clause under the UFA to ensure that they are aware of the clause under the UFA.

Jan 07: Letter sent.- Done

ACTION ITEM #58-5: Strategic Plan – Executive secretary to Update Appendix 2 (membership list).

Done

ACTION ITEM #58 – 6: Develop letter to Environment Canada, regarding deleterious substances entering the water course, YSC is concerns with vehicle disposal sites in the Yukon. cc DFO, all RRCs, KDFN, YCS, YRITWC.

Jan 07: Letter Sent – on agenda for Feb 07 YSC meeting - Done.

ACTION ITEM #58-7: Peel River Watershed Commission - task Kelly to have a look and see if there is anything that leaps out at her with regards to salmon or habitat.

Done

ACTION ITEM #58-9: Yukon Energy 20 Year Plan – Kelly to draft a letter to Yukon Energy, ask that the committee be part of their consultation and asking that salmon populations and their habitats be considered in any future electrical transmission developments.

Letter sent

ACTION ITEM #58-10: Land Use Planning (Peel Watershed Commission) - Kelly to draft letter to Peel Watershed Commission identifying the instances of salmon in the area and expressing interest in workshops and willingness to work together.

Letter sent

ACTION ITEM #58-11a: AAROM – Steve Smith to provide a copy of the AAROM Goals and objectives to the YSC.

Feb 07: Included in YSC meeting packages. - Done

ACTION ITEM #58-12: Webpage – Craig to coordinate webpage update with input from members; webpage requires more current pictures and pictures of various fisheries.

Update to be provided during Feb 2007 meeting. - Done

ACTION ITEM #58-13: YRDFA Membership - Look into cost and ability of group/individual membership of YRDFA.

Feb 07: Membership application and fee submitted. - Done

ACTION ITEM #58-14: YRP Reception - Carl to discuss with Della the shared of hosting of the reception for YRP, to open the reception to the public more.

Dec 07: YSC hosted reception. - Done

ACTION ITEM #58-15: Yukon River Panel (April 3-6, 2007) - Need to work on setting up a charter & cost share with DFO also look into van rental option for other YSC member to Fairbanks.

Unable to coordinate together - Done

18. Review Minutes from Meeting #58 (November 2006)

- Ed Kormendy moved to accept minutes Chuck Hume seconded. Minutes accepted by consensus as written.

19. Fisheries Act – G. Couture

- A summary of MP Briefing Documents on the Canadian ENGO Position on Bill-C45: A proposal to amend Canada's Fisheries Act, was provided to the YSC.
- Gerry asked that the Environmental non government organizations objections be brought to the Committee's attention.
- Gerry Couture has heard a number of heavy objections to what is included in the Act. Comments like the ENGO interpretation of the new act is not for the 21st Century. It is being said that the Act is weaker than the existing Act.
- Major objections are to the presentation of what was in the proposed act, questions raised on whether FN's were consulted.
- YSC Comments on the earlier presentation were that it was brief and fast with little input, legal language was not available until the Act was tabled in the house.
- NGO's are requesting that the Minister withdraw the document.
- Committee needs to determine if they want to continue to support the Bill or whether they want to withdraw their support. There are good things in the Act and there are other things that are not so good.

ACTION ITEM#59-16: - Fisheries Act – Gerry and Carl to draft letter, withdrawing the committees support of the Act as it is currently written. Cc: FWMB, RRC and FN's

20. Synopsis and Management Plan – L. Smith

Database:

Lorelei has been developing working usable Access database, to date she has been compiling the information and inputting. Final product would allow you to enter the information in a form that has prompts for more complete information. Ie. What is the source? Tradition Knowledge, local or scientific?

Pre made queries etc. would be part of database.

Some of the data compiled to date is salmon info from Salmon Meeting; Habitat info from Al von Finster on potential in watershed and existing impact.

- Lorelei asked the committee to purchase the software program “Access” – Purchased approve by committee.
- Try and have the history part written to present
- A section that is completed annually for the annual plan for the current year
- What the escapement, run predictions and preseason forecast and management plan
- Once the database is up and running, it can be given to RRC’s and FN’s to update for their watersheds.
- Once completed meet with FN and RRC and incorporate their Fishery Management plans.

Committee recommended that 5K be put aside for K. Hayes to work on the Habitat portion of database. 3K for L. Smith’s involvement in database.

Lorelei presented the current layout of database and requested input from members

21. Website Review – C. McKinnon

- Craig has reviewed the YSC website conclusion is it needs more work
- More pictures from YSC members are needed, current picture are old.
- General layout works with link
- Suggested that the front homepage is too wordy, need to make more simpler with the information on the front page being put in a different link
- Need to reword some of the information
- Move some of the links etc. budget to other locations
- Increase the size of text
- A lot of the information is old, need to update with new info
- Stressed that pictures of the committee need to be used
- Habitat issue: make it general, what role the committee plays, if issues are listed then need them to be updated frequently
- Make the pages simple, use basic info with links to more detailed info.
- Does the committee still want the catch card section on the website?
- Youth contest – suggested pictures of artwork
- Need to determine what info needs to stay and what needs to be removed
- Update links
- Attach picture to each member
- Suggested that Craig work through the language and dress-up the info

Committee approved 2K to be put aside for website update.

22. Other Business

- April Public Meeting Agenda Items
 - Committee members to email with suggestions for agenda.
- April Agenda Items
 - Rotary Park – salmon session in July
 - Contribution Agreement
 - Strategic Plan
 - Kelly presentation – (Carl to notify her)

Meeting Adjourned