

# YUKON SALMON COMMITTEE

## Meeting #51

April 5-7, 2005

Dawson City, Yukon

### MEETING DATES 2005-2006

#### Meetings to Date (2005)

Alsek River Working Group	January 28, 2005	Whitehorse
Porcupine River Working Group	February 17, 2005	Old Crow
YSC Meeting #50	February 22-24, 2005	Whitehorse
Yukon River Working Group	March 15, 2005	Whitehorse
YSC Aquaculture Workshop	March 16-17, 2005	Whitehorse
Old Crow Public Meeting	April 4, 2005	Old Crow
YSC Meeting #51	April 5-7, 2005	Dawson City

#### Upcoming Meeting Dates (tentative)

Dawson Public Meeting	April 6, 2005	Dawson City
YSC Meeting # 52	May 17-19, 2005	Whitehorse
Whitehorse Public Meeting	May 18, 2005	Whitehorse
YSC Meeting #53	June 13-16, 2005	Whitehorse
Meeting with Ross River Dena Council	July 21 (tentative)	Ross River

### MEETING SUMMARY

1. Announcements
2. Review Agenda
3. Review Action Items
4. Review Minutes from February 2005 Meeting (incomplete)
5. YSC Budget – Louise Naylor
  - Expenditures 2004-2005
  - Funding and Forecasts 2005-2006
6. Youth Contest Judging

**7. Habitat Update**

- Faro
- Minto Resources
- Brewery Creek
- Western Silver:
- BYG
- UKHM
- Reclamation Policy
- Changes to thresholds for Mining Land Use Regulations
- Placer Authorization
- Dawson sewage
- Job shadowing
- Coal bed methane
- Oil and Gas Symposium - Best Management Practices
- Northern Latitudes Mining Reclamation Workshop

**8. Review Public Meeting Agenda**

**9. Follow up from Salmon Aquaculture Workshop**

**10. Members' Updates:**

- Yukon River Working Group – Mar. 15 (Carl, Gerry, Lorelei, Steve)
- YRDFFA Annual meeting, Marshall (Lorelei, Chuck)
- DAP Socio-Economic Assessment Workshop Feb. 1-3 (Chuck, Lorelei)

- Dawson Public Meeting Minutes - (See Dawson Public Meeting Minutes)

**11. Members' Updates (cont'd):**

- Alsek RRC Public Meeting (Craig McKinnon)
- Porcupine River Working Group - Feb 17 (Chuck, Vicky, Stan)
- Old Crow Public Meeting - April 4 (Vicky, Stan, Carl)
- LSCFN Yukon River Focus Group (Craig McKinnon)

**12. Conservation and Protection Update – Steve Smith and Lorelei Smith**

- Making the Catch Card a Licence
- Salmon Synopsis

**13. New YSC members and Overlapping of Terms**

**14. Review Calendar**

**15. Other Business**

- State of the Salmon draft Poster – Lorelei
- Dawson Public Meeting
- Community Updates

## **SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS**

### **SUMMARY OF ACTION ITEMS – YSC MEETING #51**

**April 5-7, 2005, Dawson City YT**

**ACTION ITEM #46-22: BVD to draft a letter to the Commissioner for Sustainable Development about the system for water licensing in the Yukon, as we have noticed a pattern of water licenses expiring and operations continuing. Include a brief summary of examples.**

*The draft article will be completed before Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> and submitted for review and approval. Not received. **Bob***

**ACTION ITEM #46-23: BVD to draft an article for the newspapers explaining the problems with the current water licensing system in the Yukon.**

*The draft article will be completed before Nov. 22<sup>nd</sup> and submitted for review and approval. Not received. **Bob***

**ACTION ITEM #49-5: YSC Performance Questionnaire should be distributed and responses requested by June 15. Secretariat to perform analysis of results for presentation at meeting ‘on the land’. Everyone who completes the questionnaire to be entered into a draw for either a round trip to Vancouver (if possible through Air North flight credits) or \$500.**

*YSC Admin staff have the ability to book flights online with existing credits, bookings are only limited to seats available and the balance available on account. Suggestion that the committee make-up a certificate for the round trip flight to be used by a preset date.*

*Contacted “Consumer Affairs” regarding lotteries licences, if the person is required to pay to get entered into the draw then a lotteries license is required, in the case of a free draw then no license is required.*

*Performance Questionnaire has been distributed via letters to catch card holders and questionnaire has been posted on YSC website. Questionnaire was also e-mailed to the YSC’s distribution list.*

*Mtg. #50: Members of the YSC and immediate family members are excluded, and the option of \$500 is an alternate prize. One year’s deadline for travel. **Andrea***

**ACTION ITEM #49–13: Secretariat to obtain a copy of the resolution from the YRITWC re: coal bed methane. YSC will write a letter supporting this resolution, and forward to the YTG who has responsibility for Oil and Gas in the Yukon.**

*Faxed copy of the resolution was received from YRITWC November 25<sup>th</sup> and reviewed with YSC members at meeting #49. Letter must be drafted. **Andrea***

**ACTION ITEM #49-21: Lorelei Smith to develop a ‘straw dog’ of a Salmon Management Plan for communities, for presentation at February meeting.**

*Mtg. #50: Lorelei to present at June meeting. Noted on June agenda. **Lorelei***

**ACTION ITEM #49-23: Hugh MacAulay to provide follow-up to the YSC on the questions of BNA and commercial licensing on the Alsek system.**

*Secretariat e-mailed November 28<sup>th</sup> to confirm that he would provide follow up on the two outstanding questions, either by conference call or by written submission.*

*After further discussions with Hugh, it was decided that he would present his follow up at the May or June YSC meeting.*

*Mtg. #50: Hugh provided some comments on the possibility of issuing commercial licences on the Alsek River, but suggested further internal discussion prior to making an update. He will present his BNA comments at the June YSC meeting.*

**ACTION ITEM #49-27: BVD to write a letter to the Water Board indicating that the YSC is recommending that no new or amended water licence be issued to Minto Resources until a thorough evaluation is done of the site and outstanding issues regarding care, maintenance and clean up of the site are addressed.**

*Mtg. #50: nothing received to date. Bob*

**ACTION ITEM #49-28: BVD to follow up with DIAND Type II Mines Office about scheduling a meeting with DIAND and YSC re: Faro, to coincide with the February YSC meeting.**

*Mtg. #50: nothing received to date.*

*Mtg. # 51: Bob to try to coordinate something for May Meeting. Bob*

**ACTION ITEM #50-1: Secretariat to write a letter to the Minister, recommending to the minister that the commercial and domestic salmon fisheries be de-linked in regulations (Steve Smith to forward draft wording). Andrea**

**ACTION ITEM #50-4: Carl to contact Chief Morris to clarify the information that he was looking for regarding fish in the lakes. DFO may have the information that Chief Morris is looking for but need to clarify his concerns first. Follow-up letter to be sent to Chief Morris with some information. Carl**

**ACTION ITEM #50-5: Letter to leadership, advising that the YSC appreciated the time on the agenda and found the discussions to be very useful. Would like to be included on the agenda on a regular basis. Andrea**

**ACTION ITEM #50-6: Chair to meet with each Chief where there is very limited or no Harvest Data submission. Chair needs to express the importance of providing consistent and complete harvest data annually.**

*Secretariat to coordinate between Chair and DFO (MEJ) to arrange meetings. Carl*

**ACTION ITEM #50-7: Executive Secretary to draft letter, in cooperation with DFO, to FN's reminding them of the importance of submitting timely and complete in-season harvest data, and thanking them for their efforts in 2004. Letter to request that if First Nations anticipate problems with data collection and submissions, that they contact Mary Ellen Jarvis (DFO) for assistance.**

*Letter will be sent out in coordination with DFO AFS Coordinator, in late April or early May. **Andrea***

**ACTION ITEM #50-8: YSC requested that a response be written to the YF&WMB, advising that the Yukon Salmon committee is following the election guidelines of the UFA to the best of their ability. **Louise****

**ACTION ITEM #50-14: BVD to attend the Northern Latitudes Mining Reclamation Workshop May 24-26 in Dawson City, if available. Advise Carl.**

*BVD is not available to attend.*

*Mtg. #51: Gerry Couture to attend on behalf of the YSC, providing his term is renewed.*

**Gerry**

**ACTION ITEM #50-15: Letter to YESAA board addressing concerns from the Yukon Environmental & Socio-Economic Assessment Board meeting that Chuck Hume attended January 13<sup>th</sup> re: developing Designated Office assessment rules.**

**Andrea**

**ACTION ITEM #50-16: Secretariat to draft a letter to the Kluane Park Management Board advising that the issue of Kokanee salmon in Kathleen Lake was raised through the ARWG, and asking the Board to explore this issue as it is not within the jurisdiction of the YSC. c.c. ARRC, and ARWG. **Andrea****

**ACTION ITEM #50-17: Secretariat to provide pictures of Youth Contest winners for use in the Harvest Calendar. **Louise****

*Will be provided once winners are selected.*

**ACTION ITEM #50-19: Secretariat to try to arrange for Gord Zealand to attend April or May YSC meeting to provide briefing on outstanding issues, prior to his retirement.**

*Gord was unable to attend meeting in Dawson and is already committed to meetings for the Northern Fund in May. **Andrea***

**ACTION ITEM #51-1: Louise to make amendments to the Financial report, to reflect the Air North credits that the YSC brought into this fiscal year. **Louise****

**ACTION ITEM #51-2: Louise to include a balance from accounts when presenting financial information. **Louise****

**ACTION ITEM #51-3: Carl will not attend the State of the Salmon Conference. Arrangements cancelled.**

**ACTION ITEM #51-4: BVD to draft a letter to the Type II Mines office of DIAND, introducing the YSC, re-stating our concerns re: the length of time the reclamation plan for Faro is taking and stating that the YSC would like to see the best, long-term**

plan for the reclamation of the Faro mine site, rather than the cheapest. Cc to Ross River DC and SFN. **Bob**

**ACTION ITEM #51-5: BVD to draft a letter to the Water Board stating the YSC's concerns with the extension of the Minto Resources water licence c.c. to Selkirk FN. **Bob****

**ACTION ITEM #51-6: BVD to check into the water licence and the allowable discharge levels of selenium for the Brewery Creek property, as it is very near to spawning areas. Findings to be circulated to YSC. Include monitoring requirements for the water licence. **Bob****

**ACTION ITEM #51-7: BVD to contact the Yukon News to discuss the possibility of doing an article on YTG's mining reclamation process and water licencing. **Bob****

**ACTION ITEM #51-8: BVD to provide a briefing to Carl Sidney on the mining reclamation process and water licensing for the week of April 11<sup>th</sup>. **Bob****

**ACTION ITEM #51-9: Carl to approach the LSCFN (Sue Davis) and offer the assistance of Bob Van Dijken in reviewing Western Silver's project description and identifying a list of deficiencies. **Carl****

**ACTION ITEM #51-10: Secretariat to try to arrange a meeting with Christine Cleghorn, BVD and Carl Sidney on April 15<sup>th</sup>, if possible, to discuss concerns with the Mining Reclamation & Closure policy and a possible joint recommendation by the Board and YSC.**

*BVD, Carl and Andrea will meet with Board Chair and Executive Director April 15<sup>th</sup>.*

**ACTION ITEM #51-11: BVD and Carl Sidney to develop a draft recommendation regarding YTG's draft Mining Reclamation Policy, possibly in partnership with the YFWMB (see 51-10). **Bob****

**ACTION ITEM #51-12: Carl to contact the Chair of the Placer Committee to find out the status of the Placer Authorization and determine when the YSC will be briefed. **Carl****

**ACTION ITEM #51-13: BVD to review past environmental screenings for Dawson Sewage, to identify and summarize the impacts of the effluent on fish. Provide briefing to YSC at May meeting. **Bob****

**ACTION ITEM #51-14: BVD to work in cooperation with the Secretariat to compile a history of the YSC's involvement in the Dawson Sewage issue for presentation at the next YSC meeting. Invite a representative from YRITWC and YFWMB to the meeting and take steps to develop a strategy to address this issue. **Bob/ Andrea****

**ACTION ITEM #51-16: Secretariat to contact Christine Cleghorn to arrange a meeting to discuss a joint recommendation re: coal bed methane extraction. BVD, Carl and Andrea will meet with Board Chair and Executive Director April 15<sup>th</sup>.**

**ACTION ITEM #51-17: BVD and Carl Sidney (Stan Alternate) to attend Oil and Gas Symposium (April 25-27) on behalf of the Yukon Salmon Committee. Bob/Louise**

**ACTION ITEM #51-18: BVD to do a literature search of electro-magnetic force fields associated with culverts, and their potential impacts on the upstream migration of fish. Bob**

**ACTION ITEM #51-19: Secretariat to draft a letter to the Minister requesting that no aquaculture permits be issued in the Yukon until the YSC has completed their public consultations and drafted their policy regarding salmon aquaculture in the Yukon. Andrea**

**ACTION ITEM #51-20: May YSC meeting to be extended to three days (May 16-18).**

**ACTION ITEM #51-21: Secretariat to compile information package on aquaculture consultations. Included summary of all public comments received, University of Alberta Sea Lice Study on west coast of BC (see Gerry), minutes from Hatchery Committee, proceedings from aquaculture workshop etc. for May meeting. Andrea**

**ACTION ITEM #51-22: June YSC meeting to be extended to include June 13-16, with one day devoted to discussion of aquaculture and Yukon Wild Salmon Policy and watershed template.**

**ACTION ITEM #51-23: Secretariat to draft a letter to the community of Marshall and the Marshall School, thanking them for their hospitality in hosting the YR DFA Annual Meeting. Louise**

**ACTION ITEM #51-24: Steve Smith to draft a backgrounder on how to fix the Salmon Conservation Catch Card, laying out options and the benefits and impacts of each, for presentation at May meeting. Steve S.**

**ACTION ITEM #51-25: Lorelei Smith to draft a background document on the costs and benefits of developing a salmon synopsis. Lorelei**

**ACTION ITEM #51-26: Secretariat to draft letters of acknowledge for all letters received from Alaska re: aquaculture. Andrea**

## MEETING MINUTES

**Tuesday**

**April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2005 – 2:45 p.m.**

**Location:**

Dänojà Zho Cultural Center – Dawson City

**Present:**

Carl Sidney

Lorelei Smith

Craig McKinnon

Vicky Josie

Chuck Hume

Gerry Couture

Joe Johnson

Hardy Ruf

Steve Taylor

**DFO Staff:**

Louise Naylor

Andrea Wilson

**Meeting was called to order at 3:08pm**

**Opening Prayer was said by Gerry Couture**

**1. Announcements**

- No announcements.

**2. Review Agenda**

- Agenda was reviewed. Chuck noted that he would need to leave early on Thursday. Agenda was approved.

**3. Review Action Items**

- Action items were tabled until May 18-19 meeting.

**4. Review Minutes from February 2005 Meeting (incomplete)**

- Minutes were tabled until May 18-19 meeting.

**5. YSC Budget – Louise Naylor**

Expenditures 2004-2005

- Louise reviewed the expenditures from the past fiscal year
- Air North credits were discussed and how they should be accounted in the financial system.
- YSC expenditures in 2004-2005 are over the current funding showing a negative balance for March 31<sup>st</sup> year end. Air North expenditures have been charged against the Air North credits.
- Comment made that Government should not be putting any restrictions on the way the YSC spends its funding as long as they follow their mandate.
- The intent of Yukon claims, was that funding from Ottawa would flow directly to Boards and Committees, rather than through government agencies

- Is there any funding arrangement, which would allow for more flexibility?  
Yes – DIAND has introduced a new partnering agreement
- YSC has spent over ten years trying to get carry forward, and were under the explicit understanding that the option to carry forward would be available even if it couldn't be written into the agreement. The committee felt that they signed the Contribution Agreement under false pretences.

**ACTION ITEM #51-1: Louise to make amendments to the Financial summary report, to clearly identify the Air North credits that the YSC bring into each fiscal year.**

**ACTION ITEM #51-2: Louise to include a balance sheet of accounts when presenting financial information at committee meetings.**

Funding and Forecasts 2005-2006

- The April YSC meetings will cost approximately \$15k; members will only be paid travel expenses until we receive we receive funding.
- The State of the Salmon Conference will cost approximately \$20k with the current number of registrants.
- The YSC does not have enough money in the bank at present to cover all these costs.
- Possibility was for members to pay travel and accommodation costs for the State of the Salmon Conference out of pocket, to be reimbursed when funding is received
- Carl will not attend, Vicky will advise if she is still able to attend.
- Would there be a possibility of obtaining an advance of funding through the Fish and Wildlife Management Board?
- Estimate of funding for 2005-06 is \$202,100.
- All future Forecasts should identify credits with Air North and existing bank balance.
- Do the YSC want to change their signing authority? If so, should advise Louise prior to next meeting

**ACTION ITEM #51-3: Carl will not attend the State of the Salmon Conference.**

**Meeting was adjourned at 5:05 pm**

**6. Youth Contest Judging**

– YSC members voted on all Youth Contest entries. The final winners were as follows:

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6 and under age category:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Monika Johnson
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Marika Kitchen
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Chishana Michel

7-10 age category:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Simone Annette Kitchen
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Kelly Redies
- 3<sup>rd</sup>: Courtney Chapman

11-14 age category:

- 1<sup>st</sup>: Michael Blahitka
- 2<sup>nd</sup>: Alex Charlie

**Wednesday**                      **April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2005 – 9:00 a.m.**  
**Location:**                      Dänojà Zho Cultural Center – Dawson City

**Meeting was called to order at 9:00**  
**All members present with the exception of Steve Taylor.**

- A few outstanding action items were reviewed (see Summary of Action Items).

**7. Habitat Update**

**Faro:**

Work is continuing on the development of reclamation options for the Faro mine. The group developing these options had originally planned to have a workshop in March to discuss reclamation options; however this meeting has been delayed. A firm date for this workshop has not yet been finalized but it might be delayed until summer. Work being done by consultants is taking considerable longer than anticipated

- Planned March workshop has been delayed, likely until summer, and may be coordinated with annual tour (July)
- Price for moving tailings is going up and the cost of putting a cap on the tailings is going down, but need to look at the long-term sustainability of the site
- As soon as date is established it will be communicated to the YSC
- Q – is it worthwhile to send a letter indicating that the YSC would prefer to see effective, rather than cheap reclamation work; this would also be an opportunity to introduce the YSC to the new Type II Mines Coordinator.

**ACTION ITEM #51-4: BVD to draft a letter to the Type II Mines office of DIAND, introducing the YSC, re-stating our concerns re: the length of time the reclamation plan for Faro is taking and stating that the YSC would like to see the best, long-term plan for the reclamation of the Faro mine site, rather than the cheapest. Cc to Ross River Dena Council and Selkirk First Nations.**

**Minto Resources:**

The Minto Copper project received both a water licence and a production licence in the late 1990's. The project stalled when the company which owned the project was purchased by a larger company. Recently the owners of the property

sold it to a small junior mining company which has stated that it is interested in moving forward with the project. The Company has applied for an extension of its water licence and production licence.

- A company has made an offer on the site, with a view to putting the site into operation in the near future
- They are attempting to extend the water licence by ten years (2016)
- There is a class A water licence for the mine and a class B water licence for a road into the mine site
- Q – With the rise in the price of base metals, are there likely to be more areas in development? Is there any way to take a good reading of what is being staked for large properties? Staking itself doesn't indicate the resources to proceed, but BVD is aware of a number of projects that are poised to move forward.

**ACTION ITEM #51-5: BVD to draft a letter to the Water Board stating the YSC's concerns with the extension of the Minto Resources water licence c.c. to Selkirk FN.**

**Brewery Creek:**

The site is currently undergoing reclamation. The site was recently sold to Alexco Resource Corporation. The Yukon Government released a portion of the security attached to this site earlier. The remaining security amounted to five million dollars. When the sale was completed, 25 million dollars of this security was transferred to Alexco while the remaining 2.5 million dollars was returned to Viceroy Minerals Corporation.

The following information was by Quest Capital Corporation in announcing their 2004 financial results:

“Viceroy Minerals Corporation (“Viceroy”), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Quest, recently sold its 100% interest in the Brewery Creek property (“Property”) and the mining equipment located at the Property to Alexco Resource Corp., a private company (“Alexco”), in consideration for approximately 2.7 million common shares of Alexco issued at \$0.67 per share. Pursuant to the purchase agreement Alexco assumed all remaining obligations relating to the Property including reclamation and closure obligations. In consideration for the assumption of such obligations, Alexco received \$2.5 million of Viceroy's \$5 million security bond posted with the Yukon Territorial Government. The balance of the security bond was released to Viceroy at closing.”

Because Alexco is a private corporation, it is impossible to review its balance sheet. A water licence amendment, applied for last year, has been developed by the Water Board and forwarded to the Minister for approval. This amendment extends the term of the water licence and requires increased security.

- Q – What did they allow for selenium levels? This property is on the Klondike River, which is a valuable spawning area. BVD was not certain.

**ACTION ITEM #51-6: BVD to check into the water licence and the allowable discharge levels of selenium for the Brewery Creek property, as it is very near to spawning areas. Findings to be circulated to YSC. Include monitoring requirements for the water licence.**

- Was security increased for this property? Not certain. The government is giving security back whereas the Water Board is demanding additional security from companies
- Current bond is \$2.5 million (original bond was 9 million; 4 million returned and then another 2.5 million)
- The government can issue directions to the Water Board i.e. tell them that they cannot deal with security issues, which is a serious concern.

**ACTION ITEM #51-7: BVD to contact the Yukon News to discuss the possibility of doing an article on YTG's mining reclamation process and water licencing.**

**ACTION ITEM #51-8: BVD to provide a briefing to Carl Sidney on the mining reclamation process and water licensing for the week of April 11<sup>th</sup>.**

**Western Silver:**

The Western Copper project, located in the Carmacks/Pelly area has re-entered the environmental assessment system. This project was reviewed in the late 1990's and had raised concerns with its proposal for an acid heap leach. These concerns concentrated on the liner system for the heap leach pad. The Yukon Territorial Government has provided money for project pathfinder to help the company through the regulatory process.

**ACTION ITEM #51-9: Carl to approach the LSCFN (Sue Davis) and offer the assistance of Bob Van Dijken in reviewing Western Silver's project description and identifying a list of deficiencies.**

- YTG are paying to assist companies through the regulatory process with 'project pathfinder'.

**BYG**

This site is in care and maintenance status. Recently the Type II mines office has been in discussions with the Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation regarding the development of a reclamation plan for this site.

- BVD will continue to monitor this site

**UKHM**

The site has been put up for sale, with an information package being distributed to a number of parties. Bids are due by April 13th, the government will evaluate these bids partly on their willingness to help with environmental reclamation of the site. There has been a partial severing of the environmental liability for the site. A clean-up is finally occurring at the site with PCB's and process chemicals being removed and disposed of appropriately. There should be more information available about successful bids within the next month.

**Reclamation Policy:**

The Yukon government continues work on developing a mine reclamation policy. A second series of meetings on the topic have been scheduled with half day meetings occurring on March 30<sup>th</sup> and April 5<sup>th</sup>. I will be attending the April 5<sup>th</sup> meeting. Copies of 3 documents have been circulated.

Part 1 is the overall reclamation policy document (Yukon Mine Reclamation and Closure Policy). An initial document was circulated in October and comments were provided to this document. A revised copy of this document was recently circulated. There were very few changes made to the documents and concerns remain. One of the main concerns is the fact that this is a policy, not a regulatory requirement.

Part 2 is a document defining security policy. It suggests different levels of financial security. The type of security required would be determined by the level of risk of environmental damage or concern regarding human health. A draft of this document was provided in late November and a revised version of this document has not yet been provided.

Part 3 Is a risk determination framework (Failure modes and effects criticality analysis model for risk assessment (review basis for mine reclamation and closure plans). This document was prepared by Golder Associates in Calgary. An initial draft of this document was circulated on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

Part 4 Is a best practices document with guidelines for reclamation (Technical Guidelines, Guidelines and conditions for mine site reclamation and closure for new mines – Technical issues). An initial draft was provided in late November and a revised version was circulated on March 24<sup>th</sup>.

The Yukon policy is “intended to be consistent with the federal Mine Site Reclamation Policy for the Northwest Territories and Nunavut. A new review/critique of NWT policy has just been completed by Canadian Arctic Resources Committee (CARC), the Canadian Institute of Resources Law and Dave Chambers of the Center for Science in Public Participation. Mr Chambers worked for Tr’ondek Hwech’in on Brewery Creek water licence amendments). This document reviews the mine site reclamation standards in ten different states and provinces and contains recommendations for an ideal regime. The documents can be viewed at:

<http://www.carc.org/2005/mining49.NWTMiningReclam%20final%20-21Jan05.pdf>

- Possibility of doing a joint recommendation with the Fish and Wildlife Management Board, re: the mining reclamation policy

**ACTION ITEM #51-10: Secretariat to try to arrange a meeting with Christine Cleghorn, BVD and Carl Sidney on April 15<sup>th</sup>, if possible, to discuss concerns with the Mining Reclamation & Closure policy and a possible joint recommendation by the Board and YSC.**

**ACTION ITEM #51-11: BVD and Carl Sidney to develop a draft recommendation regarding YTG's draft Mining Reclamation Policy, possibly in partnership with the YFWMB (see Action Item#51-10).**

- UFA 16.7.17.12a indicates that the YSC can recommend to the Minister policies for the management of salmon or their habitat
- 16.7.20 indicates that the Minister has an obligation to provide information necessary for the YSC or Board to develop their recommendations.
- Also suggested that the YSC develop its own Salmon Policy, which addresses a wide range of issues
- Could also work on own version of a Yukon Wild Salmon Policy

**Meeting was adjourned at 10:15.**

**Meeting was re-convened at 10:30**

**Changes to thresholds for Mining Land Use Regulations:**

At the last meeting I referred to discussions regarding potential changes to the thresholds contained in the mining land use regulations. I am still awaiting word of progress of this issue. These changes could also be reflected in the thresholds for YESAA screenings.

**Placer Authorization:**

There was word that another workshop would take place in late December or early in the New Year, however this has not happened. I have had no word on where the process currently stands or when the next workshop/information session will occur.

- Some additional workshops took place, but were for private bodies.
- Included new effluent standards, which are not much changed from the original.
- This needs to be ready to go to the Minister by the end of May, but we still haven't seen anything concrete
- There is no indication of how the effluent standards are going to be applied
- Watershed assessment would take place
- Best practices will be developed, which are watershed-specific
- If the miner agrees to comply with these standards, he would be authorized to operate within the watershed
- Process to develop watershed assessments would be very costly and would take a great deal of time
- Rearing habitat is at risk more so than spawning habitat, which is protected
- Q – What are they calling 'fish presence'? Not certain.

**ACTION ITEM #51-12: Carl to contact the Chair of the Placer Committee to find out the status of the Placer Authorization and determine when the YSC will be briefed.**

**Dawson sewage**

There has been no progress on building a sewage treatment plant. Money has been identified in new territorial budget for further study but no money for construction. The budget speech stated:

“For Dawson City, our government is committed to investing \$1.5 million to leverage

matching funds from Canada through the Canadian Strategic Infrastructure Fund to address the long-standing issue of sewage treatment in Dawson City.

This year, aerated lagoons will be pilot tested and alternative treatment processes in Alaska, northern British Columbia and Alberta will be investigated to determine whether they would perform well in Dawson’s climate, provide an environmentally acceptable treatment process that is suitable to Dawson’s size and location, be cost-effective to construct, and affordable for Dawson residents to operate and maintain.”

- Fines levied on Dawson have been deferred a number of times
- Dawson has wasted a great deal of money that should have been used on the sewage treatment facility
- YTG is now funding a bridge, which is a less important project than the completion of the Dawson Sewage Treatment facility
- Need to review data regarding impacts of Dawson sewage on fish

**ACTION ITEM #51-13: BVD to review past environmental screenings for Dawson Sewage, to identify and summarize the impacts of the effluent on fish. Provide briefing to YSC at May meeting.**

- Possibly should also draft a backgrounder of the history of the YSC’s involvement in this issue to date

**ACTION ITEM #51-14: BVD to work in cooperation with the Secretariat to compile a history of the YSC’s involvement in the Dawson Sewage issue for presentation at the next YSC meeting. Invite a representative from YRITWC and YFWMB to the meeting and take steps to develop a strategy to address this issue.**

- YRITWC: Alaska Region Office 136 Dunkel Street #2 Fairbanks, AK 99701 907-451-2530. Fax 907-451-2534 [yritwc@alaskalife.net](mailto:yritwc@alaskalife.net) [www.yritwc.com](http://www.yritwc.com)  
Robert Rosenfeld, Alaska Region Director.
- YRITWC Yukon Director – Bonnie Harpe 867-393-2199, 633-4077

**ACTION ITEM #51-15: Secretariat to arrange a briefing from EC on the environmental impacts of the Dawson Sewage for June YSC meeting.**

**Job shadowing:**

Since January, I have been working with Matthew, the renewable resources student who has been participating in a job shadowing project. We have been working on Fridays with sessions lasting approximately 1.5 hours. Places visited include the Water Board, the Type II mines office, YTG environmental assessment branch, the YESAA Whitehorse district office, YTG water resources, DFO HEB and the YTG lands branch. Another session is scheduled for this Friday, further sessions will depend on exam schedules and Matthews job search.

**Coal bed methane:**

There has been increasing talk about undertaking coal bed methane extraction in the Yukon. It is not clear whether this work will be regulated under the coal regulation or the oil and gas regulations. The extraction of coal bed methane can result in the discharge of water contaminated by various elements that could have negative effects to fish and fish habitat.

Cash Resources may be interested in developing coal bed methane resources from its Division Mountain coal deposits in the Braeburn/Carmacks area. A recent radio report stated:

*"The company's acting chief executive, Dave Myers, says they could be drilling test wells for coal-bed methane north of Whitehorse as early as this summer."*

*"[We'd be] looking at the coal-bed methane potential both at Division Mountain and elsewhere," Myers says.*

*"It just involves doing some test wells, and also of course looking at the opportunity for power generation related to the Division Mountain project. We have no idea when we would be in operation on the coal deposits there although we would like to be in operation as quickly as possible."*

CPAWS recent provided workshops on coal-bed methane to some Yukon communities.

- Possibility of coordinating with the Fish and Wildlife Management Board on a recommendation regarding coal bed methane extraction.
- Could also partner with the YRITWC

**ACTION ITEM #51-16: Secretariat to contact Christine Cleghorn to arrange a meeting to discuss a joint recommendation re: coal bed methane extraction.**

**Oil and Gas Symposium - Best Management Practices**

April 25 - 27, 2005 ~ Whitehorse, Yukon

The Yukon government is hosting a symposium on Best Management Practices for the northern oil and gas industry. The intent of this symposium is to showcase new and innovative practices that may reduce the footprint of development on the northern landscape and help address environmental and social issues. Information to be shared includes research, stewardship initiatives and operating practices that

may contribute to understanding, preventing, reducing and mitigating the effects of oil and gas exploration and development.

<http://www.leafsolutions.ca/oilgas/index.htm>

**ACTION ITEM #51-17: BVD and Carl Sidney (Stan Alternate) to attend Oil and Gas Symposium (April 25-27) on behalf of the Yukon Salmon Committee.**

#### **Northern Latitudes Mining Reclamation Workshop**

Meeting the challenges of Northern climates

May 24-26, 2005 Dawson City, Yukon

The Northern Latitudes Mining Reclamation Workshop is a joint U.S. and Canada biennial workshop on mining, land and urban reclamation and restoration methods. The objective of the Workshop is to bring together governments, industry, consultants, Alaska Natives, Northern First Nations and Inuit groups who undertake reclamation/restoration projects or are involved in land management in the north or in comparable environments, to share information and experiences.

[http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca/mining/northern\\_latitudes/](http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca/mining/northern_latitudes/)

- See Action Item # 50-13.

**ACTION ITEM #51-18: BVD to do a literature search of electro-magnetic force fields associated with culverts, and their potential impacts on the upstream migration of fish.**

#### **8. Review Public Meeting Agenda**

Agenda was reviewed.

#### **9. Follow up from Salmon Aquaculture Workshop**

- Suggested that this issue be tabled until next meeting when we have additional time to discuss
- Need to also obtain the University of Alberta study on salmon net cage farming (see Gerry for details)

**ACTION ITEM #51-19: Secretariat to draft a letter to the Minister requesting that no aquaculture permits be issued in the Yukon until the YSC has completed their public consultations and drafted their policy regarding salmon aquaculture in the Yukon.**

- Possibility of extending either the May or June meeting to discuss the aquaculture policy
- In June Lorelei will also be presenting on the watersheds.

**ACTION ITEM #51-20: May YSC meeting to be extended to three days (May 16-18).**

**ACTION ITEM #51-21: Secretariat to compile information package on aquaculture consultations. Included summary of all public comments received, University of Alberta Sea Lice Study on west coast of BC (see Gerry), minutes from Hatchery Committee, proceedings from aquaculture workshop etc. for May meeting.**

**ACTION ITEM #51-22: June YSC meeting to be extended to include June 13-16, with one day devoted to discussion of aquaculture and Yukon Wild Salmon Policy and watershed template.**

**10. Members' Updates:**

Yukon River Working Group – Mar. 15 (Carl, Gerry, Lorelei, Steve)

- Reviewed management plan for 2005
- Steve Smith resolved outstanding issues re: Commercial Agent Authorization

YRDFFA Annual meeting in Marshall (Lorelei, Chuck)

- Lorelei made a presentation on the YSC and the Yukon River Panel
- Biggest issue raised was Dawson Sewage
- There were a few questions on the commercial fishery
- No questions on the aquaculture workshop
- It was a good meeting to attend from time to time, though not necessary to attend every year
- It is worthwhile to partner with YRDFFA on issues of mutual concern
- YRDFFA has a person who is hired to promote Yukon River salmon and work on marketing it as a product.

**ACTION ITEM #51-23: Secretariat to draft a letter to the community of Marshall and the Marshall School, thanking them for their hospitality in hosting the YRDFFA Annual Meeting.**

DAP Socio-Economic Assessment Workshop Feb. 1-3 (Chuck, Lorelei)

- Update is now available on the website.  
<http://www.gov.yk.ca/depts/eco/dap/seworkshop1.htm>

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**Meeting was adjourned at 12:05 for lunch.**

**Dawson Public Meeting afternoon 1:00pm-5:00pm (Dänojà Zho Cultural Center).**  
(See Dawson Public Meeting Minutes)

**Thursday April 7, 2005 – 8:30 a.m.**

**Location:**

**Meeting was called to order at 8:40am**

**All members present. Peggy Kormendy and Art Christianson attended as guests.**

**11. Members' Updates (cont'd):**

Alsek RRC Public Meeting (Craig McKinnon)

- Craig presented a poster and attended about 2 hours
- There was no presentation – Craig was just available to answer questions
- Most people who attended were forest management people and there was little interest in salmon.
- This was not the ideal venue to discuss salmon

- In Haines Junction, CAFN expresses the most interest in salmon issues; these are generally addressed through the Alsek Working Group, which keeps the lines of communication open.
- No additional Public Meetings planned through the RRC until next fall
- The idea of partnering with the RRC and presenting at their public meetings is good as there is generally little interest from the public in Haines Junction
- Also worthwhile to ensure that there is the opportunity to present, rather than just have a poster.

#### Porcupine River Working Group - Feb 17 (Chuck, Vicky, Stan)

- Substitution fishery will not take place this year, at the request of VGFN
- Discussed escapement and providing fish for elders
- Fishery will take place this year.

#### Old Crow Public Meeting - April 4 (Vicky, Stan, Carl)

- Turnout in Old Crow was very good (about 50 attendees)
- Micro-satellite imagery was discussed, and how it could help with management of the fishery.
- John Joe Kaye (elder) spoke about how much the salmon have declined and how we need to protect them.
- Discussed accessing R&E money to study fresh water fish, to take pressure off of wild salmon.
- Still concern about the fisher at Fort Yukon, who is reported to still be taking fish.
- Stan suggested that once 10k fish have reached the weir, there are 10k between Old Crow and the weir, this should be incorporated into the management plan.

#### **Get Sandy on May agenda to explain why he disagrees with Stan's proposal for management of the Porcupine fishery.**

- **Stan to provide Carl with a summary of his proposal**
- Theresa Frost asked about the possibility of the Yukon Panel members attending the June Porcupine Salmon gathering at Fort Yukon. Carl will pass on the information to Gord Zealand and Hugh Monaghan
- Strong opposition to transferring genetic materials out of the Yukon.

#### LSCFN Yukon River Focus Group (Craig McKinnon)

- Little Salmon Carmacks First Nation held a workshop to get information from their membership on fish and wildlife usage within specific drainages
- Used maps to show usage throughout their traditional territory
- this workshop was run by the First Nation
- LSCFN indicated that they were not going to go with what was contained within the Final Agreement, but rather would do things their own way
- There was interest from community members in having the YSC come to the community to talk to people and tell what the Committee is working on.
- Community members feel that the YSC has an obligation to communicate with the public on issues.

- Will be making further presentations at the May gathering in Pelly.
- Northern Tutchone Tribal Council is working cooperatively to try to make a plan for the whole area.
- Joe Johnson discussed with elders the possibility of attending the May gathering, to listen to what they are working on.
- An issue that came up was enforcement at Tatchun i.e. boundaries, zones, signage, protection of salmon habitat; would like to see a stronger enforcement presence.
- Steve Smith – Tatchun Creek is likely the most patrolled and enforced area in the Yukon. Steve is not convinced that there are regular infractions at Tatchun; there is the occasional incident, but it is not as often as perceived
- It was suggested that DFO C&P could provide a summary report of their activities at Tatchun i.e. how often officers were present, number of tickets etc
- This is an opportunity to work with LSCFN on this issue. They have identified a need and we can help them meet it.
- If LSCFN could provide someone to patrol the area, this would be valuable in ground-truthing the frequency of complaints and also identifying when infractions occur so that DFO can respond with enforcement.
- Joe Johnson does some monitoring work in Burwash – he does not have any enforcement capabilities, but is a presence during hunting season and makes a monthly report. This has been very effective and encourages people to comply with the rules.
- Also worth exploring the possibility of finally getting signage at the Tatchun campground, which explains the boundaries and also highlights the importance of the area for salmon.

## **12. Conservation and Protection Update – Steve Smith and Lorelei Smith**

### Making the Catch Card a Licence

- Options are could make the catch card free as no other fishery has to pay to record harvest data.
- A free catch card would still be enforceable.
- Vendors currently receive 10% commission from selling catch cards
- The catch card is currently in legal limbo and is not truly enforceable; no one has challenged it yet.
- If the YSC recommended that the fee be removed, it is uncertain how this would be received.
- Government policy is to recover costs and there are more initiatives to come
- Catch card could be included as a tear out of a Salmon Synopsis
- Would need to do an analysis of costs
- There is also the cost of the salmon synopsis, which is supposed to be self-funded through advertising sales
- Other option, as opposed to making it free, is to continue to charge for it and sell it as an individual licence.
- BC has similar issues; Recommendation from BC has been to make it a stand-alone licence.

- Salmon Conservation Catch Card is a valuable tool for salmon management
- Possibility of DFO taking the lead on this
- YSC initiated the Catch Card, but DFO currently pays for it.
- YSC has two options: make Catch Card free or make it a licence, which needs to be purchased
- If you make the Catch Card free, it sends a message that the resource is not valuable.
- If the Catch Card was made into a licence, it could address some of the fee issues i.e. for non-residents they currently have to buy an annual licence, even if they only fish for a few hours
- The YSC had agreed to this change some time ago, but no changes can be made to the Catch Card in its current form
- If the catch card was made into a licence, anglers would need to purchase a salmon licence, to fish for salmon.
- There will be a lot of work to make this type of change
- Consultations would need to be conducted with YTG, and the Yukon public
- YTG does not support this initiative, but it is still the responsibility of DFO and YSC to manage salmon
- YTG's concerns include the fact that presently, we would be taking away some of their authority
- Fishing synopsis generates revenue for YTG
- There are also concerns with enforcement i.e. what happens if someone is fishing for salmon and catch a grayling
- Consultation would need to address all of these issues
- YSC needs to decide which direction they would like to take on this issue
- DFO drafted a decision document on this issue over a year ago, but there has been no decision.
- Steve S. spoke with DOJ, DFO Fish Management, YTG
- The research and consultation that needs to be done on this issue is substantial
- Steve Smith indicated that he does not have the time and resources to take on this issue.
- Would it be feasible for YTG to issue a salmon licence? Those are details that would need to be worked out.
- Was suggested that a background document needs to be prepared, which lays out options, benefits and impacts of each.

**ACTION ITEM #51-24: Steve Smith to draft a backgrounder on how to fix the Salmon Conservation Catch Card, laying out options and the benefits and impacts of each, for presentation at June meeting.**

#### Salmon Synopsis

- Salmon Synopsis is a separate initiative from the Catch Card
- Would have all the information regarding Yukon's salmon fisheries
- The Salmon Synopsis would be a valuable tool to get information out to the public

- Could put information on salmon management, regulation changes, catch card etc.
- YSC needs to explore the costs associated with developing and distributing something like this
- Suggested that when an individual purchases a territorial licence they receive a synopsis, if an individual fishes for Salmon then they are required under the conditions of their territorial licence to fill out the harvest data in the back of the synopsis.

**ACTION ITEM #51-25: Lorelei Smith to draft a background document on the costs and benefits of developing a salmon synopsis.**

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**Meeting was adjourned at 10:35.**

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**Meeting was reconvened at 10:45**

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### **13. New YSC members and Overlapping of Terms**

- Need to ensure continuity when there is change over of members
- There will be staggering of terms with this round of appointments (three and five year terms)
- All nominations have been received in the Minister's office and we are just waiting for final appointments
- It was also suggested that old members have the option of attending one additional meeting to mentor new members
- Make it an option for old members to be invited as an advisor to attend a new YSC member's first YSC meeting.

### **14. Review Calendar**

- State of the Salmon Conference. April 17-21
- YSC meeting May 17-19 and Whitehorse Public Meeting (May 18)(Revised May 3 to May 17)
- May 24-26 Northern Latitudes Mining Reclamation Workshop (Gerry, Carl backup)
- YSC Meeting June 13-16 (Whitehorse)
- April 29 – Wild Salmon Policy workshop – Vancouver (Gerry, Carl)
- Meeting on the land – possibly in Ross River?
- Meeting with Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation – to be determined once YSC appointments are finalized

### **15. Other Business**

State of the Salmon draft Poster – Lorelei

- Poster was reviewed by all YSC members
- Lorelei to correct the number of YSC members (from 12 to 10)
- Committee approved poster with changes and authorized Lorelei to have it printed.

### Dawson Public Meeting

- It was suggested that future Public Meetings in Dawson start at 5:00pm and include a dinner, similar to how things are done at Old Crow.

### Community Updates

- Stan Njootli – suggested inviting the Chair of the YFWMB to attend a full day of YSC meetings to familiarize themselves with the YSC and build a working relationship.
- Joe Johnson – need to look into getting data on the Nislin and Klotassin Rivers (Kluane and White River FNs should apply to the R&E fund)
- Art Christianson expressed the importance of the YSC understanding the value that FN's place on salmon as part of their diets and health
- Hardy Ruf – should the YSC reply to ADF&G (letter May 18<sup>th</sup> from Mary Pete). Yes, YSC should acknowledge receipt of their letter

**ACTION ITEM #51-26: Secretariat to draft letters of acknowledge for all letters received from Alaska re: aquaculture.**

### Agenda for next YSC Meeting (May 17-19)

- Legal Update – Hugh MacAulay (June)
- Icy Waters (from Water Board hearing)
- Update from Job shadowing (Matthew McHugh)
- Impacts of road salt (Steve Gotch)
- Yukon Salmon Policy (June) - Lorelei
- Dawson Public Meeting 2006 – scheduling in evening?
- Scheduling of YSC meetings for 2005-06

**Meeting was adjourned at (12:30).**

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