



## YISC Meeting Minutes April 27, 2011

Environment Yukon, Fish and Wildlife Boardroom, # 10 Burns Road

Attendees: Board members: Toos Omtzigt YCE, Bruce Bennett ENV, Nathan Millar ENV, Lloyd Freese KNPR.

Andrea Altherr coordinator, Todd Powell ENV, Jim Dillabough YAA

**Regrets:** Kirstie Simpson EMR, Bob Drinkwater DES, Chris Toleman HPW, Cain Vangel YAA, Boyd Piper YG.

Chair: Toos Omtzigt

Minutes: Andrea Altherr

### 1. Round of introductions

Everybody introduced themselves.

### 2. Approval of agenda:

The agenda was approved.

### 3. Approval of the meeting minutes March 29, 2011

The minutes were approved.

### 4. Preparations for the AGM

Announcement went out to the membership and was placed in the coming events in both local papers. Matt has to prepare the financial statement. Toos is approaching potential new board members. We are looking for new board members as well as a new president.

**Action:** Matt to prepare the financial statement

**Action:** Toos to contact potential new board members

**Action:** Andrea to place ad again. Send out a reminder one week before AGM.

### 5. Board of directors' update:

- Funding: Toos submitted a proposal to EAF.
- Core funding request: EMR is taking the lead on it. We are expecting to be contacted next week.
- Whitehorse Climate Change Adaptation project:

Bruce is monitoring the progress of the project.

Diane Simpson is documenting the various projects. Bruce was interviewed for the YISC project. He pointed out that no results are available until the project is completed but expected results are a gap analysis and evaluation of possible pathways.

- Future of the position of a coordinator: Andrea brought up that the position has been drifting from a paid position to a mainly voluntary position because of the lack of funding. In the discussion about expectations the board may have, the attendees agreed that a maintained website and the continuity of an active email address are in the foreground. Andrea is willing to put some volunteer time in to the council for the time being. The board can take over some of the administrative work such as writing minutes.

Bruce suggested that funding for the coordinator is the priority key to having a functioning council.

## 6. Coordinator's update

- The council was approach by Carl Johansen District Recreation Officer for Cassiar with concerns raised by the Carcross First Nation regarding boat washing in Tutshi Lake. Carl's suggestion was to contact the harbor in Skagway and put up a sign at Tutshi Lake to raise awareness. Nathan mentioned that survival of introduced species from saltwater into freshwater is possible but not likely.

**Action:** Nathan to follow up with Carl Johansen.

Jim mentioned airplane as a vector should be addressed too. Bruce said that *Potamogeton natans* a floating pondweed of freshwater lakes, most likely could be transported on floats of floatplanes. *Potamogeton natans* is native to Alaska but not recorded from the Yukon and may be one of several possible aquatic plants that could be spread by float planes.

- National press release. The National Working Group wrote a press release regarding aquatic invasives in garden ponds and the threat of spreading out. Andrea was asking how the press release should be used in the Yukon.

**Action:** Board to read the press release and to advise.

- Yukon Environmental Network: YISC has signed up for a one year membership (\$20). Benefits of the membership are: Sharing information among ENGOS through discussion documents and the electronic bulletin and YTEN website as well as establishing links between Yukon ENGOS and others working on environmental issues within the Territory. YTEN is the regional representative of the Canadian Environmental Network (CEN). YTEN is administering a fund to support ENGOS in the Yukon and provided funding money to YISC in the first quarter of 2011.
- Yukon Environment Fair: Who is helping? To keep things simple we will use what we have from last year. It was suggested Nathan may have additional material for display. Felt soled waders could be targeted. Maria Leung can be approached if she has any material on aquatics to display. Lloyd and Andrea are taking the lead in organizing the event. The board and the membership will be invited to man the booth. Thursday the booth has to be set up. A couple of brochures should be made for display. Bruce is in lead.

**Action:** Lloyd and Andrea to organize the event.

**Action:** Bruce to provide herbarium sheet. Get copies of the Why should I care brochure done.

**Action:** Board and members to participate in the event.

**Action:** Nathan to provide material on aquatics if possible.

- AGM of the Yukon Agricultural Association: Rick Tone approached the council if anybody would like to give a presentation on YISC. No board member is able to attend as most are away during the AGM. Bruce is open to have a presentation at a later date.

## **7. Review of action items**

A few milestones in the development of the council are completed. We still need to discuss actions. Andrea had no response from the membership on the strategic plan.

We discussed ways to get more members involved. It is in the nature of our monthly meetings that they are more geared towards board businesses and may not be attractive for members to attend. We should look into events that are more geared towards the members. One idea came up to invite Maria Leung to the AGM to present her aquatic invasives presentation. Bruce mentioned the workshop held in 2007 was a great success and that we should look into organizing a similar event. Bruce offered to be on the organization committee and look at options for funding.

**Action:** Andrea to contact Maria.

**Action:** Bruce to look into funding possibilities for another Invasive Species Workshop.

## **8. Round table:**

Jim Dillabough brought the issue of sow-thistle growing along the highway and spreading into farm fields up. Bruce suggested thinking about a pilot project with herbicide applications. Matt should be involved.

Bruce mentioned that he had heard from Marc Schuffert regarding the seeding of Highway 37. BC is not planning on seeding.

Bruce is reviewing an Arctic Biodiversity Association paper on invasive species in the arctic.

Lloyd wrote an article on invasive species for the Haines Junction newspaper.

Meeting adjourned: 5:00pm

## **9. Next meeting**

AGM: May 25 at 12:15pm at the library