



YISC Meeting Minutes August 22, 2011
Environment Yukon, main board room, # 10 Burns Road

Attendees: Board members: Toos Omtzigt YCE, Kirstie Simpson EMR, Bruce Bennett ENV, Lloyd Freese KNPR.

Andrea Altherr coordinator, Pam Makarewich, Debbie Van de Wetering EC, Matt Ball EMR, Chris Toleman HPW

Regrets: Jim Dillabough YAA, Miranda Adam Little Lady Landscape design and drafting, Randy Lamb ENV, Lyle Dinn EMR

Minutes: Andrea Altherr

The meeting turned out to address a lot of different issues and was held in a “round table” fashion.

1. Where is the council heading too?

Kirstie brought up that the council is lacking a president and therefore is not in good standing under the Societies Act. With our present funders this is not an issue but in the long run we might run into problems. It looks like the membership is not very active and some of the board members do not have the desired time to carry the council on. It is obvious that we need new members who are willing to carry on. Andrea mentioned that in August Murray Lundberg, Jeanne Burke and Tracy Allard signed up as new YISC members. This might be a trend towards a bigger public involvement which will broaden our membership and hopefully new members will get involved in YISC tasks. How to activate the membership will be a focus for the near future. Membership needs have to be surveyed and addressed as well.

2. Where is the YG standing with the advisory committee?

Matt confirmed that the lead will be with the Agriculture Branch. Nothing has resulted yet.

3. Update on invasives in the city:

Bruce and Andrea received several emails in which citizens expressed their concern about invasive species growing in the city. Of special concern is a gravel pit in Takhini North which is infested by sweetclover. Bruce mentioned the example of this gravel pit is a classic example of invasion over time and will be a good one for monitoring purposes. The gravel pit has been out of commission for a while.

Bruce: Hieracium umbellatum (narrowleaf hawkweed) is spreading along the highway and is out competing sweetclover in some places (example McRae). Even though narrowleaf hawkweed is native, it never has spread that widely. It is not clear if this hawkweed is native or brought in. It could be an example of a native gone wild as a response to climate change or it might be a species that came from Europe.

Perennial sow-thistle is growing just along the edges of the highways and does not spread into the ditches yet. Sow-thistle cannot be controlled by mowing, it needs chemical treatment.

Pam: Pam is frustrated by the lack of control effort by the city. In Pam's neighbourhood sweetclover is abundant but since it is growing on private property, Pam cannot pull it. Toos mentioned a bylaw that is requesting weed control similar to the clearing of walkways in front of private owned properties.

Bruce: This year's sweetclover growth shows a different pattern most likely caused by the favourable growing conditions. He has observed that small plants which would make next year's mature plants already started to bloom.

Bruce started the inmates of the correctional centre on a weed pull project to target invasives in Mary Lake and McIntyre Creek/Yukon College. Unfortunately meeting and pulls were cancelled suddenly. We hope to reschedule next year.

4. Publication:

The Canadian Invasive Species Framework was released in August. Debbie will bring this up at the local Environment Canada office.

5. IASPP fund:

The Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program (a federal program) is supporting YISC in this fiscal year. A special meeting is needed to draft an action plan. Andrea will set up a meeting and will provide the necessary documentation.

6. **The meeting on July 13** was attended by 3 members, no notes were kept.

Meeting adjourned: 5:05pm

7. Next meeting

September 26, 2011 at 3:30pm