



YISC Meeting Minutes February 15, 2010

Environment Yukon Main Boardroom # 10 Burns Road

Attendees: Chris Wilkinson Yukon Wildlife Preserve, Lloyd Freese PC, Bruce Bennett ENV, Debbie van deWetering EC, Pam Makarewich, Andrea Altherr coordinator

Regrets: Toos Omtzigt EDI, Ashley St. Germaine Gov NT, Georg Privett EMR, Heather Clarke ENV, Matt Ball EMR, Cory Chouinard, Jennifer Staniforth ENV, Chris Toleman HPW, Randy Lewis, Lyle Dinn Forestry branch.

Chair: Lloyd Freese

Minutes: Andrea Altherr

1. Round of introductions

Everybody introduced themselves.

2. Additions to the agenda:

Lloyd suggested adding a discussion about terminology to be used by YISC to the agenda. The group decided to discuss the issue at the next meeting. Andrea sends out the existing document *YISC Terminology* which was established in 2007. Bruce and Lloyd were involved in the writing of the terminology and remembered to come to a conclusion about the definitions but recalled discussions on the ranking. For comparison here is the link to the Canadian Alien Species Strategy <http://www.inspection.gc.ca/english/plaveg/invenv/strat/strate.shtml>

Action item: All to review the terminology, discussion to follow at next meeting.

3. Review of minutes and action items January meeting

Action item: When do we have the AGM? Andrea will contact Toos.

Regarding dog mushing and regulations concerning the introduction of invasive plants into the backcountry: The dog mushers in Yukon are not an organized group. Contact persons would be Rolf Schmitt or Rod Taylor. Main concern for the Yukon Quest is foxtail barley in the straw. The Quest is purchasing locally grown straw if possible (pers. comment Wendy Morrison). See as well information provided by Laurie Thorpe and Paul Krabacher at the end of the minutes.

Lloyd reminds us to think about parasites, or diseases that can be associated with the dogs.

While we don't have regulations or recommendations we can try to assist people to make the right decision.

4. Update on the society

The first meeting to develop a strategic plan for prioritizing YISC activities was held on February 12th. The next meeting will be on February 25th. Once a draft is completed it will be circulated for review and comment by members. Contact info@yukoninvasives.com if you would like to be involved in the development of the strategic plan.

5. National IAS Forum March 25-26 Ottawa:

Bruce gave a review of the last meeting of the National IAS forum on June 2009 and the IASPP work in general. Bruce is a member of a conference call with Daryl Seip (EC) every Friday that is planning the March 25-26 meeting in Ottawa that will focus on the Governance structure, particularly the participation of provinces, territories and councils on IS management in Canada. Yukon Invasive Species Council can send a representative to the meeting in Ottawa. Invitations

have been made, however it is not clear at this time if a representative of the Yukon Government will be attending as well.

6. Coordinators update:

Report on Forum Unique Habitats, Unique Challenges in Vancouver. Andrea will forward the link to all the power point presentations when they are posted.

Operational costs for 2010: Andrea had looked into various local funding sources. Funds such as the Community Development Fund are supporting projects but not contributions to cover operational costs.

Action item: Everybody thinks about ways to access core funding. It is estimated that 30K is required annually.

Participation in Environment Forum April 17th.

Bruce is already involved through Wildlife viewing. Andrea will talk to Bruce about how to present YISC. We will need the support of other council members which can help with the set up of the booth/table and will be present at the event.

Action item: Mark April 17th in your calendar

Participation in event with Friends of McIntyre Creek June 10-13

YISC can initiate a weed-pull along the highway, the creek or pump house pond. Andrea will work with Dorothy of Friends of McIntyre Creek and Bruce on the details. Bruce is having a plant walk through Wildlife Viewing during the event.

7. Round table

Chris Wilkinson: The Wildlife Preserve is interested in partnering with YISC in public awareness campaigns. Any events have to be tailored to the general public. In the past The Wildlife Preserve had a strong focus on animals and is working on developing the plant side of the preserve.

Lloyd: Suggested to review the YISC terminology document and to post it on the website.

Bruce: Alaska invasive plant database agreed to include the Yukon records. Link to the Alaska Exotic Plants Information Clearinghouse: <http://akweeds.uaa.alaska.edu/#SUBMIT> Bruce will enter the Yukon data into the mapping database. So far he has approximately 800 records. Bruce is looking for data sets or collections that are mentioning introduced plants.

Action item: Please submit to Bruce any records you are aware off.

Zebra Mussels: Nathan pursues the issue. The incident can serve to raise awareness for the public.

Pam: Has nothing to report.

Lloyd: The Management plan for Kluane National Park and Reserve will include the ban of felt sole waders.

We closed the meeting at 15:00

Next meeting: Monday, March 29, 2010, 1:30pm-3:00 at Environment Yukon Main Boardroom # 10 Burns Road

Update on emails with Alaska regarding invasive plants and dog mushing in the backcountry

Hi Andrea,

Yes, the Iditarod has and is being well-versed in invasive plants - specifically as they have been introduced by the straw used for dog bedding all along the trail (and river corridors) and checkpoints. It is a permit condition that they use certified weed free straw. The past 2 years there has been no weed free straw available in Alaska, and it looks like there will be none again this year. So Iditarod imports it from Washington State and their certified criteria is different from Alaskas.... and you see where this is heading. eh? We're struggling.

We did an invasive plant inventory and assessment on the BLM managed sections of the Iditarod this summer via the University Alaska Natural Heritage Program, and I am waiting for the final report. I do know that there were many bad invasives found and the source is likely from the straw. Narrowleaf Hawksbeard and Hempnettle are two of the significant bad boys that I recall finding on my participation of the Iditarod survey.

I believe the Yukon Quest is required to use certified weed free straw, but that permit is issued out of the Fairbanks BLM office - I'm not sure who the permit administrator is, but Paul Krabacher, our BLM State weed lead, can get you the information you need. Paul has been cc'd on this email and can be reached at 907-271-3266.

Good luck and may the forces provide us with some true certified weed free straw - because we love dog mushing! Do you have a good source that is appropriate for our weed free northern climes? If so, let me know so I can pass that info along to the Iditarod folks! We are looking hard to find the good stuff.

Thanks Andrea!

Laurie Thorpe, Natural Resource Specialist BLM, Anchorage Field Office
4700 BLM Road Anchorage, Alaska 99507-2591
(907) 267-1208
(907) 267-1267 fax

From: Paul_Krabacher@blm.gov
Sent: Wednesday, December 02, 2009 3:20 PM
To: Andrea Altherr; Laurie_Thorpe@blm.gov
Cc: Bonnie_Million@nps.gov; Tricia_Wurtz%FSNOTES@blm.gov
Subject: Re: YISC _ Iditarod and invasive species

Hi Andrea,

As mentioned on the earlier BNI phone call, the soon to be implemented policy for BLM will be 1) certified Alaska weed free straw, 2) Alaska grown and 3) certified weed free

from out of State. As also mentioned, "certified" is really "noxious certified" which means that what may NOT be noxious for Washington State may be highly undesirable for Alaska. The Yukon Quest also could not find enough certified weed free so are going with Alaska grown. The contact for this in Fairbanks is Ruth Gronquist (907-474-2377)

I haven't heard the latest from the Iditarod - I know their committee chair was fairly aggressive in pursuing local grown via another CNIPM committee member, Phil Kaspari. As also mentioned on the call, we also have been looking into oat straw for, it being an annual, is relatively easy to control for foxtail barley and other species. This is an issue on the forefront now in AK and is going to be actively pursued via Alaska certification and ultimately market driven. The CNIPM forage subcommittee will be meeting next month. We're all staying tuned!

Paul Krabacher
Vegetation and AML Program Lead
USDOI Bureau of Land Management
Alaska State Office, Division of Resources
222 West 7th Avenue, #13
Anchorage, Alaska 99513
907-271-3266 Office