



## YISC Meeting Minutes January 11, 2010

Environment Yukon Main Boardroom # 10 Burns Road

**Attendees:** Andrea Altherr coordinator, Toos Omtzigt EDI, Lloyd Freese PC, Heather Clarke ENV, Matt Ball EMR, Jim Dillabough, Agriculture Association, Georg Privett EMR, Bruce Bennett ENV, Randy Lamb ENV, Randy Lewis, Arctic Alpine Seeds, Debbie van deWetering EC, Kirstie Simpson CanNor

**Regrets:** Chris Toleman HPW, Denis, Ken Jeffrey HPW, Sonja Leverkus FOR EX.

**Chair:** Bruce Bennett

**Minutes:** Andrea Altherr

### 1. Round of introductions

Everybody introduced themselves. Georg Privett was attending his first YISC meeting.

### 2. Review of minutes and action items November meeting

Action item: The retyping of the Reclamation and Revegetation Guidelines is moving on. A working group is to set up (Randy Lamb). MPERG funding deadline is in March.

Heather Clark offered to be contact for invasive animals. (Nathan Millar ENV is coordinating aquatics)

Why should I care brochure: The files are at Queen's Printers for the layout.

### 3 Update on the society (Toos)

We are now a registered non-profit organization. Corporate Access Number 10823

Discussion about membership: Distinguish between membership and member on a mailing list (associate members would not have voting power). Fee to charge could be discussed at AGM.

The board of directors should be elected at the AGM.

Matt Ball, Kirstie Simpson and Toos Omtzigt are first directors.

Date for the AGM: Bring in a speaker which could attract more people. We could hold our AGM during the Environment Forum on April 17, contact Tim Sellars who is organizing the event. First directors are organizing the event.

Handbook for directors is developed by Toos.

Strategic planning: Initial effort is done with the document YISC goals and objective. The next stage is to focus what we will pursue in 2010 and the future. This should be presented at the AGM. The Sub-Committees should be reviewed. Lloyd, Bruce, Matt, Kirstie, and Randy Lewis are interested in participating to draft the text.

### 4 Update coordinator:

**a) Why should I care:** Rosamund was surprised that she was not acknowledged in the brochure *Why should I care*. Rosamund understands that when someone is hired on contract to do the work they should be acknowledged. She was asking if there is a protocol to follow. So far a paragraph on page 24 states:

*Acknowledgements: Special thanks go to the members of the Yukon Invasive Species Council for their contributions.* No names are mentioned. Decision: We wait with a decision until the layout is done.

**b) Dog sledding:** We missed to include the dog sledding (issue: Invasive plants can be brought to the back country with the used straw.) We should add one line about recommendations for weed free or locally grown straw to use on back country trips ( page 10). Certified weed free straw or locally grown would be the preference. WTAY and Parks Canada could be partners to talk to as well.

Randy Lewes informed that mining and industrial engineering are using straw as well (e.g. to control erosion). Usually cheapest straw is purchased. Place to raise awareness about the quality of straw can be in BMP and the Reclamation and Revegetation Guidelines.

**c) Best Management Practices**

We had our first meeting. George Privett (EMR) is the project leader, Andrea Altherr is contracted to write the draft. In the working group are mainly representatives from the government, most are YISC members. Please have a look at the existing oil and gas BMP.

[http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca/oilandgas/best\\_management\\_practices.html](http://www.emr.gov.yk.ca/oilandgas/best_management_practices.html)

It was mentioned that the Yukon Chamber of Mines and Yukon Forestry Branch are working on Best Management Practices as well.

YESSA could use BMP as a reference document. BMP are intending to advice. BMP will provide links to the other guidelines.

**d) The website** is up now ([www.yukoninvasives.com](http://www.yukoninvasives.com)), please submit any comments. The funding money through City of Whitehorse will be spent by end of January and the final report submitted. An extension can be done at a later stage.

**e) Article for the Yukon Agricultural Association.** Andrea submitted an article to the association for their newsletter. Matt and Bruce edited. Material from *Why Should I Care* brochure was used and three species of concern were highlighted. Next group to target with education could be horticulture/nurseries. Information could include better choices especially for perennials and shrubs. We don't have a nursery group in town.

**f) Wildlife preserve:** Chris was approaching YISC for a talk about invasive plants at the preserve. Bruce is in contact.

**g) How do we cover the operational cost** for the rest of 2010? Please submit any suggestions about core funding. Andrea has explored local funding sources (such as Community Development Fund, Environment Awareness Fund). The bare minimum to run a coordinator position is roughly 20 hours a month (estimate Andrea).

## 5. Round table

Randy Lamb informed about the progress on the update of the reclamation and revegetation guidelines. The working group will be primarily environment based.

Randy Lewis: Forestry is putting a forestry specific revegetation and reseeding guideline together. Their main focus is access roads. Bruce is requesting an internal governmental meeting to cover this topic. Find out overlap and making sure the different BMP are interlinked. Randy Lamb is in the lead. Georg is to contact Tim Sellars.

Bruce: **Zebra mussel** issue. A few years ago, three boats were brought on trailers from eastern Canada to be sold in Alaska. They were turned back at the Alaska-Canada border when zebra mussels (an invasive species plaguing the Great Lakes and prohibited from importation by federal law) were found on them. The boats were taken to Whitehorse and cleaned, but, when they returned to the border, zebra mussels were still found in the boats' cavities. They were turned away once and for all. Where are the boats now? Where have they been cleaned? Al Von Finster (DFO) and Nathan Millar are looking into the issue. EDRR work concerning aquatic invasives is underway between Al, Dawn Green (Parks), and Nathan.

Bruce: **Common mallow** (*Malva neglecta*) found in Jim Dillabough backyard is identified. This species is not reported in Alaska yet, might as well grow but could have been overlooked.

Next meeting: Monday, February 15, 2010, 1:30pm at Environment Yukon Main Boardroom # 10 Burns Road

We closed the meeting at 15:05