



YISC Meeting Minutes June 15, 2011

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

Attendees: Board members: Toos Omtzigt YCE, Bruce Bennett ENV, Jim Dillabough YAA. Andrea Altherr coordinator, Pam Makarewich, Miranda Adam Little Lady Landscape design and drafting

Regrets: Lloyd Freese KNPR, Kirstie Simpson EMR, Matt Ball EMR

Chair: Toos Omtzigt

Minutes: Andrea Altherr

1. Round of introductions

Everybody introduced themselves.

Miranda Adam recently became a member of YISC.

2. Approval of agenda:

The agenda was approved.

3. Approval of the meeting minutes April 27, 2011

The minutes were approved.

4. Board of directors' update:

- Changes on the board of directors: At the AGM on May 25, 2011 we elected the board of directors: Bruce Bennett (vice president), Lloyd Freese (treasurer/secretary), Toos Omtzigt (director), Nathan Millar (director) Kirstie Simpson (director), and Jim Dillabough (director). Presently the council has no president.
- Funding update: Environment Awareness Fund (EAF) is contributing \$3300 to our projects. The contribution agreement was signed on June 15. The project includes: Maintaining a current website, placement of four display ads, participate in events such as the Environment Fair and the GeoScience forum and working towards a pilot project "weed week". Main focus during "weed week" is public awareness and engagement of the public in weed pulls. The list of possible partners in the "weed week" includes last year's partners, the community associations in general and the Correctional Centre.

Timing for the "weed week": Generally speaking best time to pull invasive plants is when the flowers start to grow. Therefore the week from July 18- to July 24 looks like a good fit.

Action: Andrea to get the project started.

- Whitehorse Climate Change Adaptation project: Bruce provided more comments but is still waiting for the final draft. Kirstie had offered to look at the final draft as well.

Action: Bruce to talk to Ryan Hennessey about an extension of the deadline for the project.

5. Coordinator's update

- Report on National Working Group Conference call: All the councils and the National working Group itself are waiting to hear back from the federal Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program. The process was delayed because of the elections, but the responsible minister has not changed and therefore smooth proceedings are expected soon. Money should be flowing by middle of July.

With the funding money through IASPP, the federal government is recognizing the importance of councils which can act outside of government. A council, as a non-government organization, is open to everyone and not necessarily to appointed representatives.

The National Working Group is working on governance structure for the group, a coordinated spotters network and a coordinated approach to horticulture issues.

- Review of Yukon Environment Fair: The Fair was attended by more than 1300 visitors.

7. Review of action items

- Advisory committee: We have not heard anything since the letter dated April 28. Toos is still the YISC contact person with the Yukon government.
- Kirstie (by email) updated on the update of the reclamation and revegetation guidelines: Three contractors have been working on different parts: A technical review of the current guide, the update of the text of volume 1 and seed collection guidelines. Randy Lamb has changed his job and does not know if he is still able to act as a leader in the project.
- Nathan Millar (by email on June 16)

BC will be installing a new sign at the Tutshi Lake boat ramp to ask boaters not to wash their boats in Tutshi Lake (returning from Skagway)

The AIS Threats to Yukon report is out. The document is not for broad circulation at this point. A public version will be available later in the fiscal year.

There has been a case of a boat being turned back at the Haines border crossing coming from Haines Junction because of suspected zebra mussels. Nathan will provide more details as he gets them.

8. Round table:

- Spotted knapweed population in BC near Yukon border. Bruce mentioned we could help to contain the spotted knapweed side on a volunteer base. The coordinates for the site are: 59.97919 - 134.67047
It is 2.42 km south of the Yukon/BC border on the South Klondike Highway on the east side (Tagish Lake side) of the road, just beyond the end of Tagish Lake.

Best way of disposal: Before the plants are flowering: Pull and leave on the ground. If flowering: Bag plants and dispose in landfill.
- Bruce reported on a recent trip to look for invasives in the backcountry: At the Pelly Farm (on the Pelly River) *Crepis tectorum* narrowleaved hawksbeard arrived 10 years ago. It is now spreading all the way along the road. Bruce looked for invasives from Minto to Dawson along the Yukon

River. He didn't find any sweetclover along the river, which is most likely due to high water during the time the seedling would get established on the gravel bars. The only introduced plants seen were at Kirkman Creek (*Bromus inermis*, *Taraxacum officinalis*, *Thlaspi arvense*) but don't appear to be spreading.

- Andrea had a phone call from a concerned gardener informing that Canadian Tire was selling Scotch broom. Bruce mentioned the Latin name should be checked: Scotch broom *Cytisus scoparius* versus Spanish broom *Spartium junceum* which is not invasive. It is questionable if scotch broom will grow in the Yukon.
- Andrea attended the AGM of the Yukon Agricultural Association in April and gave a short presentation on YISC. The AGM was attended by approx. 40 people.
- Jim had researchers from the University of Alberta looking at Saltwater Cress (*Thellungiella salsuginea*) on his property.
- Pam will be continuing the sweetclover control in Porter Creek.

Meeting adjourned: 4:50pm

9. Next meeting

July 13, 2011 at 3:30pm