



## **YISC Meeting Minutes November 23, 2009**

Environment Yukon Main Boardroom # 10 Burns Road

**Attendees:** Andrea Altherr coordinator, Toos Omtzigt EDI, Lloyd Freese PC, Nathan Millar ENV, Heather Clarke ENV, Matt Ball EMR, Jim Dillabough, Agriculture Association, Chris Wilkinson Yukon Wildlife Preserve.

By phone:

Sonja Leverkus, Fort Nelson, FOR:EX.

**Regrets:** Kirstie Simpson CanNor, Bruce Bennett ENV, Lyle Dinn, forestry, Chris Toleman HPW, Bob Drinkwater FOR:EX, Denis Lacroix EC, Clara Sharp, Al vonFinster DFO, Cory Chouinard EMR, Clint Sawicki Northern Research Institute.

**Chair:** Matt Ball

**Minutes:** Andrea Altherr

**Agenda:** Changes to the agenda - Nathan Millar will provide update on aquatic species.

### **1. Round of introductions**

Everybody introduced themselves. Chris Wilkinson and Heather Clarke are attending their first YISC meeting.

### **2. Review of minutes October meeting**

Gail Wallin suggested removing the wording **this clause is unalterable:** (In part 4 and 6 of the constitution.)

Review of the action item: Why should I care brochure: Matt confirmed that Agriculture will cover the layout costs which are estimated at approximately \$1000.

The coverage of the printing cost is still open. IASPP fund might have some resources to cover it.

Matt and Randy will draft a proposal to request MPERG funding for the reveg and recl. guidelines.

Matt informed about two funding programs: Growing forward (for site specific projects) and CAAP for more research oriented projects.

Everybody agreed with the minutes and action items

### **3. Bylaws and the requirements for establishing a society**

We looked at the document provided by Toos. We had a discussion around membership.

We want to keep the membership open to all interested individuals.

We leave the membership fee open for now, although the membership fee would serve as a tool to keep the membership current. Some invasive plant councils in BC practice sign up via email to keep their membership current.

Quorum: We are questioning, if it is realistic to have a quorum of 20 %. This would be 12 members at the present membership.

**Change** Part 4, 15, 1 (3): A quorum is: The majority of the directors

Board of directors: Number of directors at least 6.

Any general meeting will be a directors meeting: We decided: The board of directors is voting on business and members attending the meeting have voting power as well.

**Change** Part 4, 21.1 to: Any member in good standing present at a meeting of members or directors is entitled to vote.

**Change** part 3: notice to members. Change the time line to reasonable.  
12.1 change to reasonable.

Part 14

For now Andrea is keeping records. Records such as minutes can be kept on the website.

Every body agrees on the bylaw and the three changes

**Action item:** Comments to Toos or Andrea by December 14, 2009

**Founding members:**

Toos Omtzigt  
Nathan Millar  
Matt Ball  
Lloyd Freese  
Andrea Altherr

The fiscal year will be in accordance with the government's year.

**4. Update on Aquatic Species - Nathan Millar**

Nathan hands out a document he has prepared for the meeting.

Update on rainbow trout: The rainbow trout in the Yukon River might compete with Chinook, further studies are needed. Rainbow trout are native elsewhere in the Yukon.

Nathan mentioned that he sits on the National Aquatic Invasive Species Committee where a good information exchange happens.

DFO is starting a national database, which will become a useful tool.

In the lack of legislation, guidelines provided by national framework are important tools.

Work to do: A strategy for invasive species in Yukon needs to be established. E.g. educational material is needed.

Toos: Future IASP proposal submitted by Nathan can be supported by the council.

To strengthen our efforts, we should intense our focus towards aquatic invasives and wildlife. For the wildlife we would need a committed member on our team. **Action item:** Look for an ENV representative.

**5. Short Update on**

Andrea:

a) Why should I care brochure, work is going well, thanks for all the input.

We have to decide on:

- Species names, Canadian style vs. capitalizing of common names. By show of hands we decided to follow the Canadian style.

- In the Yukon versus in Yukon. By show of hands we decided to use in the Yukon.

b) Project Website

Proposal for a City of Whitehorse Environmental Grant was submitted on November 16. Andrea asks the membership for input in layout questions, help with research and site content. Please respond by email!

c) New members: We welcome:

Chris Wilkinson, Wildlife Preserve (replacing Clare Daitch)

Clint Sawicki, Northern Research Institute

Heather Clarke, ENV

Lyle Dinn, EMR Forestry branch

Bonnie Million National Park Service  
Member list (59 members!), **Action item:** Please review the list

#### **6. Round table**

Lloyd: We should make us known to YESSA.

YISC has a mailing address:  
Yukon Invasive Species Council  
PO Box 30111  
Whitehorse, YT Y1A 5M2

Matt informed about the invasive terrestrial earthworm. We don't see a progressive movement in the Yukon. They might be introduced locally but not spreading out very far.  
YISC got started by plants but we should keep the rest in mind!

Toos outlines next steps (**Action item**):

Establishing a manual for proceedings with the board.

Establishing a strategic plan for the council to set priorities about where we want to go, what side projects we want to pursue, and what funds to apply for.

Everybody likes the idea of these steps.

The manual and strategic plan should be ready for the AGM in approx.6 month. A draft might be done by the end of January.

Jim: What about insurance for directors? We have to think about personal liability. At the moment risks for YISC directors are not that high. But this is a thing to look into. (**Action item**).

Next meeting: January, Monday 18, 2010 **has changed to Monday, January 11 at the main board room Burns Road #10.**

We closed the meeting at 15:10

Update Yukon/National Aquatic Invasive Species Issues  
Yukon Invasive Species Committee  
November 2009  
Nathan Millar, Yukon Environment

## 1. State of AIS in Yukon

Currently in a state of low impact; only a matter of time before we have problems.

- Goldfish outbreak in the hotsprings
- Rainbow trout have been introduced into an open system but I wouldn't classify them as invasive
- Threespine stickleback have been introduced into lakes

No monitoring programs, no science, no strategy.

But elsewhere....

## 2. National initiatives

### National Aquatic Invasive Species Committee

Reps from all jurisdictions; part of Canadian Council of Fisheries and Aquaculture Ministers process. Yukon participates.

### DFO's Centre of Expertise for Aquatic Risk Assessment (CEARA)


Does risk assessments

Provides science support

### DFO National Database on Aquatic Invasive Species



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Canadian Aquatic Invasive Species	
<b>Search Database</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Search AIS datasets<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>◦ <a href="#">Search Field Data</a></li><li>◦ <a href="#">Search Experimental Data</a></li></ul></li><li>• <a href="#">Search AIS documents</a></li></ul>	
<b>DFO GeoBrowser</b>	
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### A Canadian Action Plan to Address the Threat of Aquatic Invasive Species (2004) (CCFAM report)

Threat, consequences, challenges, key pathways of introduction,

Implementation

- legislation, regulation, compliance
- risk management (risk assessment, early detection and rapid response)
- engaging Canadians (stewardship, education, awareness)
- science (monitoring, research, risk analysis)

### **National Framework for Aquatic Invasive Species Rapid Response**

CCFAM Canadian Action Plan to Address the Threat of Aquatic Invasive Species was developed in 2004. One recommendation to come out of this was a Rapid Response program. The National Aquatic Invasive Species Committee also asked for this. DFO prepared the framework with input from provincial and territorial partners. Main components are:

#### *Discovery*

- Detection – need to system in place to get info to right person. Co-ordinate with relevant parties.
- ID species and confirm location → i.e., is this an issue

#### *Containment*

- physical possibility, socio-economic consideration. Decision made by management. Communicate, consult, implement, document.

#### *Risk Assessment*

- Watch list, trigger list, regulatory list
- Does risk assessment exist? NO → RAP (Rapid Risk Assessment Process); response back (2 days). OR → Screening level risk assessment (one week)
- Is this a functionality provided by DFO?

#### *Management Options*

- Eradication is first choice. Develop management response based on scientific feasibility and social and economic feasibility. Decision, communicate, document.
- Monitor outcome
- Debrief and evaluate.

## **3. Regulatory work**

### **Aquatic Invasive Species – Regulatory Issues**

DFO Regulatory and Legislative Affairs is heading up a review of regulatory gaps for dealing with AIS. Series of recommendations: regulatory and non-regulatory.

Regulatory issues:

- definition of AIS
- listing
- prohibitions and permitting
- inspection
- provisions to emergency action
- destruction (link to NAAHP)

**Provincial / territorial legislation & regulation will be required to address issue.** AIS is a complex issue and there is no clear federal lead: CFIA and DFO both involved. Within DFO: AMD (pathogens), Habitat (destruction), Legislative affairs (Policy).

Example issue: Dealing with AIS. When an AIS invasion occurs again in Yukon, we are limited in our ability to use fish toxicants to deal with this problem. The Fish Toxicant Regulations under the Fisheries Act set out who may authorize the legal application of

fish toxicants (as defined in the Pest Control Products Act) and in what waters they may be applied. Currently, Yukon waters are not listed in the Regulations and so use of toxicants would be an infraction of section 36 (deleterious substances) of the Fisheries Act.

The example was given of a small mouth bass invasion in Miramachi Lake, NB for which DFO has not authorized the use of rotenone.

## 4. Work to do

Aquatic Invasive Species strategy

- Education / Materials
- Work on pathways of introduction
- Monitoring
- Regulations

