



YISC Meeting Minutes September 26, 2011

Environment Yukon, main board room, # 10 Burns Road

Attendees:

Board members: Bruce Bennett ENV, Lloyd Freese KNPR, Jim Dillabough YAA.

Randy Lamb ENV, Saleem Dar EC (until 4pm), Andrea Altherr coordinator.

Regrets: Toos Omtzigt YCE, Millar Nathan ENV, Chris Toleman HPW, Lyle Dinn EMR, Debbie Van de Wetering EC, Denis Lacroix EC, Jeanne Burke

Chair: Bruce Bennett

Minutes: Andrea Altherr

1. Round of introductions

Everybody introduced themselves.

2. Changes to the agenda

The agenda was approved.

3. Approval of the minutes (June and August meeting)

The attendees approved the minutes.

4. Election of a president

The vacancy will be filled in order to be in good standing under the Societies Act.

5. What is happening with the formation of an Advisory Committee?

Randy Lamb is working on identifying interdepartmental roles and responsibilities in invasive species management. This work includes establishing an inter-departmental working group and a proposed inter-agency Advisory Committee which will be an intergovernmental body. Roles and responsibilities will have to be clarified as well as participating agencies, partners and stakeholders. In the process we will learn how YISC fits in. Ideal would be if both organizations could complement each other. The Advisory Committee will provide recommendations to senior management on how the government should tackle any problems regarding invasive species. The proposed Advisory Committee is expected to be formed by March 31.

The attendees pointed out that the council provides a network and membership for a broad range of stakeholders and membership is not restricted to representatives from government. Open membership is important to the structure of YISC.

Randy asked about the current funding sources for the council: Presently core funding for YISC is not provided by Yukon Government. The only funds available through YG are strictly project oriented.

6. Results from the IASPP work plan meeting

The Invasive Alien Species Partnership Program (IASPP) approved our proposal.

Besides carrying on the core functions of the council the main tasks identified for the next month are: Update the member list, sort into categories and identify gaps; organize a workshop to spark interest, promote participation, provide a network and gain new partners.

The workshop has to be relevant; otherwise it does not make sense and wouldn't bring us forward. We have to think about a lead up to the invitation to the workshop. The approach taken will be different for each organization but crucial for success.

Format of the workshop: One day, it should be based on speakers with Yukon experiences. We can also invite a small selection of experts from across Canada or Alaska. Local studies could create interest. The afternoon could be dedicated to: "How can we shape the future of the council and the invasive species work in the Yukon?". This would be guided by a facilitator.

We can only apply for additional funding if we are in good standing.

To get an instant feel for what our membership is looking for, Andrea will prepare a Survey Monkey.

Action: organize the workshop. Lead: Andrea with the board members

Action: Survey Monkey. Lead: Andrea

7. Alaska Invasive Species Conference in Anchorage (October 19-21)

Bruce does not think anyone from the YG is going.

Bruce is going to Yellowknife on October 26 and 27 to have a presentation on: Monitoring invasive species and rare plants in the north as part of the Integrated Vegetation Monitoring Workshop.

8. Review of weed pull activities

Andrea was asking the attendees to update the weed pull table.

The idea of giving an incentive for communal organized weed pulls came up. A program similar to litter clean up could be worked out together with the Advisory Committee. This could provide the participating group (ex. a Community Association) with an opportunity to pull together and raise money for their BBQ. Roadsides weed pulls along highways make only sense if the infestation is manageable (ex. North Klondike highway, North of Bear Creek summit). We have to make sure YISC has liability coverage and a waiver to eliminate financial responsibilities in case of an accident.

9. Update on outreach activities

Media: 4 display ads have been running through the summer.

A press release on the federal funding could be issued to the newspapers and CBC.

Action: Andrea to approach the board members about this.

Geo science forum: Nov 19 -23. The Forum is completely sold out of trade show booths and the space allotted for non-profit organizations. Two areas YISC could be engaging are: Delegate bags and program ads or an insert. Information will be available online soon.

Action: Andrea to look into possibilities and to inform the board.

10. Round table

Randy: The Revegetation guidelines update will be done by March 31st.

Bruce: Trish Wurtz (Alaska) is seeking written support for a project to develop a sterile variety of May tree. Bruce has forwarded the request to various government members. Bruce is writing one on behalf of the council.

Action: Bruce to write the letter.

Bruce presented the Poster on Salt Cress by the McMaster University.

Jim: Is still hoping HPW is doing more roadside clearing.

Lloyd: Nothing to add.

Randy: Nothing further to add.

Bruce: Dames' rocket *Hesperis matronalis*, a biennial or short-lived perennial in the mustard family, has been found in a Whitehorse garden. Dames' Rocket is a noxious weed in Alberta. It is not clear how it came in the garden of the newly built house. One possibly is through wild flower mixes. More information on the plant by the Alberta Invasive Plant Council:

<http://www.invasiveplants.ab.ca/Downloads/FS-DamesRocket.pdf>

11. Next meeting

October 17, 2011. Location and time TBA

Meeting adjourned: 5pm