



## **YISC Meeting Minutes September 29, 2009**

Environment Yukon Main Boardroom # 10 Burns Road

Attendees: Devon Yacura, Lloyd Freese PC, Debbie Van de Wetering EC, Bruce Bennett ENV, Andrea Altherr coordinator, Toos Omtzigt EDI, Nathan Millar ENV, Kirstie Simpson CanNor ;

On telephone conference: Sonja Leverkus (Fort Nelson), Laurie Thorpe (Bureau of Land Management, Anchorage Alaska)

Regrets: Al Von Finster, Clare Daitch, Clara Sharp, Jim Boyde, Pam Makarewich, Gilles Lapres, Wendy Nixon, Chris Toleman

Chair: Lloyd Freese

Minutes: Andrea Altherr

Agenda:

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

Everybody introduced themselves. Devon attended for the first time a YISC meeting and offered to volunteer. He has worked on invasive species in BC.

For the first time we had a telephone conference set up.

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

Bruce: The EDRR highway survey report is out. No response so far.

<http://environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca/wildlifebiodiversity/invasivepublications.php>

### **Reclamation and Revegetation Guidelines**

Need to be an action item. Keep in touch with Randy Lamb, Bob Holmes and Matt Ball.

The minutes were approved by everybody

The August meeting was not well attended, no minutes were taken. Bruce gave a summary of the meeting:

There is an Oxeye Daisy infestation in 2 gravel pits near Rancheria. Kim McNally (K.A.M. Ventures) was spraying on the BC portion of the Alaska Highway. She worked with Chris and the areas in the gravel pits got sprayed as well. They used a long lasting pesticide; the outcome has to be monitored. New infestations got treated by Y2C2 crew (pulled of blooming plants).

### **3. Introduction to our new coordinator Andrea Altherr**

### **4. Discuss IASPP funding, next steps**

Toos explained how the contract is split up between Andrea and Toos.

First tasks for the coordinator to tackle: Provide support to the subcommittees to reactivate them. Finish "Why should I care" brochure. Explore funding resources. IASPP funding program is limited. The National Invasive Species Working Group has submitted a letter to the Minister of Environment to get the funding again. Debbie Van de Wetering mentioned the possibility of funding through a Grants and Contribution agreement with EC-CWS if the current funding source dries up.

Lloyd Freeze sees an own homepage as a source for resources essential. It could have different levels, one would be accessible by members, and a second would be for the public. Andrea looks into getting funding to set up a homepage. It would be nice to have a GIS type of application. A map with dots which shows spread of a species. Maybe we can bridge with others? Data sets about location of invasive species are stored at the government, Bruce is keeping the database. The road side survey is online.

Toos is working on setting up the framework for a non-profit organization.

## **5. Update on summer projects**

Bruce: Bob Drinkwater found Spotted Knapweed at a gravel pit in BC south of Carcross. Bob treated this patch. A species of Hawkweed (*Hieracium glomeratum* aka *H.caespitosum*) new to Yukon was discovered along the Alaska Highway. Bruce is waiting for an update on the spraying effort.

Oxeye daisy was successfully pulled in the southeast (Y2C2 crew, Bruce Bennett and Emily Snow. A new spreadsheet was created for the locations and the treatments).

Several new populations were found including a large site near Johnson's Crossing. Many of the previously reported and hand-pulled sites remain oxeye daisy free. So it appears that if pulled when the populations are small, they can be eradicated.

Valleyview is infested with Oxeye daisy. (Debbie)

Sonja Leverkus gave an update: Has an update on Kim's work, she will contact Bruce. Sonja mentioned to encourage people to look for alternatives to oxeye daisies, such as Cosmos. Weed bylaw will be forwarded by Sonja.

Laurie Thorpe gave an update about the work in Alaska. Next summer (2010) planned training of youth and teachers for rural communities funded by President Obama's Economic Stimulus Package. A Weed inventory for the Iditarod National Historic Trail was accomplished on BLM lands, as well as weed pulls and education efforts in Anchorage. Purple Loosestrife at the Alaska state fair got some publicity. We are invited to the Ketchikan conference. But our efforts are more focused towards BC right now.

Bruce gave an update on new invasive plants which could be a threat to Alaska too. A large population of Goat's-beard (*Tragopogon dubius*) was found on the outskirts of Watson Lake and also Umbellate Hawkweed (*Hieracium umbellatum*) a native, is spreading along the Alaska Highway. There is the possibility that this is a European variety or may be responding to wetter summers and warmer winters.

Lloyd reported about weed pulls around Haines Junction including sweetclover at the Dezadeash boat launch, removal of creeping thistle near Kathleen Lake and alfalfa pulled from other areas in the park.

## **6. Other**

Roadside survey on line: Check out the Environment Yukon homepage [http://environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca/wildlifebiodiversity/documents/InvasivePlantsRoadsideInventory\\_nov14\\_2.pdf](http://environmentyukon.gov.yk.ca/wildlifebiodiversity/documents/InvasivePlantsRoadsideInventory_nov14_2.pdf)

Lloyd suggested that this data base could be used on our homepage to keep track of a spread. Bruce mention the suspected year cycle of sweetclover could reveal new locations that were overlooked in the first survey. Since sweetclover spread is still a main priority, we need the Department of Highways involved. So far mowing is practiced, but it might not be the right way to control sweetclover. Documentations show, that maintained roads with wide lines aside are infested. This is contrary to the Canol Road where no infestations have been observed so far.

Fall meeting in Fort Nelson

Sonja offered to have a conference call set up for Friday October 2<sup>nd</sup>. An afternoon call for coordinating partnerships with Alaska, YT and NWT. Sonja is exploring how to connect the BC data base with YT. A treatment report (highways spraying) will be submitted to us.

## **7. Subcommittees update**

It looks like the EDRR subcommittee was the only active one. Andrea will assist subcommittees in their effort to meet. Devon has free time to help with tasks. Kirstie Simpson mentioned that the Best Practices would be a project he could be involved in.

Debbie might have money for printing brochure (Why should I care). We will ask for a quote at Queens's printer.

## **8. Round table**

Debbie mentioned the trade show in May would be a place to raise awareness.

Next meeting

Monday October 26<sup>th</sup> 2009, 1:30-3:00 Environment Yukon Main Boardroom # 10 Burns Road