



Dawson District Renewable Resources Council

Minutes - Regular Public Meeting

April 11th, 2023

Signatures:

Mark Wierda
George McLeod

Present

Mark Wierda
Ian Fraser
Duncan Smith
Dan Reynolds
Kyler Mather

Absent

George McLeod

Regrets

Robert Farr

Guests: Mike Sutor, Russ Giesbrecht

Recorder: Nick Wozniewski

1. Agenda

1.1 Review and Adopt

Resolution 2023-04-11-01

Be it resolved that the agenda for the April 11th, 2023, Public DDRRC meeting be approved.

Approved by consensus.

2. Minutes

2.1 Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes for March 29th, 2023.

Not enough Councillors present to approve minutes.

2.2 Review Action Items. Done.

3. Housekeeping

3.1 Portfolios / Upcoming Meetings

3.1.1 RRC AGW – Whitehorse April 14th - 16th, 2023. The Council reviewed the successes / challenges document Nick prepared. The Council approved it and decided Duncan will present the document at the AGW.

3.1.2 DRPC Commission Meeting #20 April 28th – Dawson (9AM-3PM). Dan should be attending and will be able to brief Council.

3.1.3 Resource Roads Regulation – Comment Deadline. May 8th, 2023.

4. Updates

4.1 **ECCC Wolverine Management Plan Consultations. Update from Nick attending the April 3rd session.** Nick provided an update on what was discussed / covered during the consultation. Nick explained this was the first engagement focusing mainly on identifying threats to Wolverine populations across Canada. The main threats identified were habitat loss, low reproduction rates and increasing harvesting pressures. Many of the attendants were from NWT, the contentious issue of non-resident Wolverine harvest (big game regulated) was discussed at length because many thought it's a huge issue impacting wolverine populations (especially in NWT). Dan said in Yukon the YOA has looked into this and in Yukon it was determined non-resident Wolverine harvest is very low. Dan also mentioned in the Yukon we have taken a proactive conservation approach by shortening the wolverine trapping season. Dan asked Mike if he or someone from Yukon government could provide population data so we could reference relevant data at the next session.

Action Item: Follow up with Mike Suitar or Paul Boyce about getting Wolverine population data.

4.2 **Biologist Update (by Mike Suitar).** Mike started with providing a FMCH hunt update. 23 Yukon harvests were recorded, much lower than he expected. The indigenous subsistence harvest he estimates to be equal or greater (by a few). The Nelchina were fully mixed in with the FMCH so it is likely that many that were harvested were from the Nelchina herd. Mike had some bad news to report about the recent FMCH aerial photo survey, the herd appears to be down to 38,000, down from 84,000 at its peak in 2017. Mike explained young survival rates are continuing to be the most concerning data trend he is observing. Dan asked if the US will now be regulating harvest / bag limit numbers more aggressively, Mike said last year they started conserving harvest numbers and expects more will be done for the 2023/24 harvest season. Kyler asked what Alaska is doing for predator management, Mike explained in recent years they were more active (before the pandemic), which is unfortunate because now is when predator management efforts should be ramping up. Mike is hopeful, with three very difficult winters for the FMCH possibly due to the La Nina cycle, it's probable next winter will be easier for the herd and hopefully we'll see the population start recovering. Mike went onto explaining this summer they will be conducting a fixed-wing survey of the Hart River herd to determine how many of the collared cows have had a calf. Yukon government has never done a survey like this for any of the mountain caribou herds so this data will be very helpful. He expects 3 to 4 flights over a 10-year period at the end of May. Mike finished his update by summarizing Yukon's efforts related to the Coffee Creek Project. Section 1.10 identified a cumulative effects study and designated Yukon Government responsible. Identifying disturbance thresholds for caribou and moose is a main focus of the study requiring much of his attention, including a requirement to consult with affected First Nations (they have assembled working groups and the initiative is well underway).

5. Old Business.

5.1 **Initiation of Consultation on the Forest Resources Act. Review Letter.** The Council reviewed the letter and said Nick can finalize / submit. Nick had a quick question about the requirement for security being waived for First Nation trappers. The Council asked that Nick include a request to define "traditional pursuits" to assist with interpretation (currently not defined in the Act - Definitions).

5.2 **Initiation of Consultation on the Resource Roads Regulations.** Tabled due to time, Mark asked the Council to review the discussion document and be ready to discuss this regulation more thoroughly during our next meeting.

5.3 **Survey Submission - Evaluation of the Wildlife Key Area (WKA) Inventory.** Nick explained he submitted the survey but many of the questions were not applicable given we do not use the inventory. Mike explained YG is in the process of improve the KWA inventory to ensure information is accurate and timestamped to

better assist users (some data in the system is old / antiquated). Data that is uploaded needs to be generalized and not threaten species by geolocation a species. Mike explained the WKA inventory is used mostly by governments, project proponents and consultants, it can be useful for proponents especially when developing wildlife management plans.

6. New Business.

6.1 **Trapping / Fur Show Film – 1st take viewing.** The Council enjoyed the video and asked Nick to send it to the AGW organizers to show participants. The Council asked Nick to follow up on permissions and make sure TH, RSS and YG are OK with us posting the video on social media.

Action Item: Send AGW organizers trapping video.

6.2 **Bison Management Plan – YFWMB Draft.** Tabled due to time.

Next Meeting: April 26th, 2023.

Action Items

i.	Nick	Follow up with Mike Sutor or Paul Boyce about getting Wolverine population data.	Done.
ii.	Nick	Send AGW organizers the DDRRC trapping video.	Done.
iii.	Nick	Get final approval / permissions from TH, YG and RSS to post trapping video on social media platforms.	Outstanding. Awaiting response from YG and TH / RSS.
iv.	Nick	Request special meetings with YFWMB to discuss Ungulate Working Group.	Done, awaiting response.
v.	Nick	Invite Sidney Schafrik to an upcoming meeting to discuss the Brewery Creek Mine Project.	Ongoing.
vi.	Nick	Standing Items: a. Find youth member to attend regular meetings. b. Nick to stay in contact with Michelle Thompson (YG Control Order Veterinarian) and to watch for any new reports on the control order being published by YG. c. Nick to keep in touch with Jim Welsh about providing more hunter training workshops here in Dawson in 2023. d. Nick to inquire about how VGFN or the North Yukon RRC provided a space and equipment for sausage making in Old Crow. e. For the RSS trapping week – tan furs	a. Ongoing. b. Ongoing. c. Done. d. Ongoing. Awaiting Response. e. Nick will bring furs to the YTA to send to the tannery in May.

Meeting Adjourned: 08:00 p.m.



Dawson District Renewable Resources Council

Minutes - Regular Public Meeting

April 26th, 2023

Signatures:

Mark Wierda
Ian Fraser

Present	Absent	Regrets
Mark Wierda		
Ian Fraser		
Dan Reynolds Kyler Mather Robert Farr	George McLeod	Duncan Smith

Guests: Sidney Schafrik (TH)

Recorder: Nick Wozniewski

1. Agenda

1.1 Review and Adopt

Resolution 2023-04-26-01

Be it resolved that the agenda for the April 26th, 2023, Public DDRRC meeting be approved.

Approved by consensus.

2. Minutes

2.1 Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes for March 29th, 2023.

Resolution 2023-04-26-02

Be it resolved that the minutes for the March 29th and April 11th, 2023, Public DDRRC meetings be approved.

Approved by consensus.

2.2 Review Action Items: Done.

3. Housekeeping

3.1 Portfolios / Upcoming Meetings

3.1.1 DRPC Commission Meeting #20 April 28th – Dawson (9AM-3PM). Dan will be attending and will be able to brief Council. Nick mentioned that Tim Sellars reached out offering to meet with the Council the day before (April 27th). The Council are OK with Dan keeping them updated for now.

3.1.2 Resource Roads Regulation – Comment Deadline. May 8th, 2023.

3.2.3 ECCC Management Plan for Wolverine in Canada. Engagement session #2 (same sessions held again in the Fall). Kyler to attend, Nick to register Kyler and send him zoom meeting details.

4. Updates

4.1 **RRC AGW De-brief.** The meeting was well attended but felt more like a meet and greet after the pandemic hiatus. No resolutions were passed, many in attendance would like to go back to the resolution review process included in previous AGW's. A primary focus of the AGW was on climate change. The ungulate working group discussion was significant, we should expect more from the YFWMB in coming months about this project. Capacity / filling vacant Council positions was a common challenge expressed by other RRC's. Some of the RRC's are doing very interesting things related to issues specific to their areas / Traditional Territory (i.e. cleanup and outhouse construction along the Yukon River, angling information pamphlets, salt licks for sheep to reduce sheep-vehicle collisions, etc.). The trapping video was well received.

5. Old Business.

5.1 **Initiation of Consultation on the Resource Roads Regulations.** Nick to draft a letter detailing the multi-user issue, engagement with trappers / trapline concession holder access and capacity to enforce the new regulations within the Dawson area.

Action Item: Draft Resource Roads Letter and circulate via email for approval.

5.2 **Aishihik Bison Management Plan.** Dan expressed it was still difficult to determine population, the mark-resight method of conducting the population survey requires an additional application to verify if the population models are correct. Dan pointed out a picture of 9 paintball impacts for one bison taken during the survey (possibly excessive and could be unnecessarily stressing the animals). Dan noted that the heard has potentially increased 47% in the last 6 years, so this appears to be the fastest growing harvestable wild animal in the Yukon. Dan still has questions regarding what will happen if this increase compounds over the next few years, the population could get out of control, what is the impact of this on other harvestable species / habitat? Regarding if the population is controlled excessively or something drastically reduces its population (i.e., disease), this could indirectly impact moose or caribou populations in our area (increased hunting pressure). The Council will keep an eye on this, for now no comment will be provided.

6. New Business.

6.1 **Mining Discussion with Sidney Schafrik (TH) @ 6PM.** The Council appreciated Sidney attending and hope to see him at our meetings more often. Some of the topics discussed were TH's current work ensuring Yukon complies with the Section 1.10 requirements related to the Coffee Creek project. TH has flagged an issue regarding jurisdiction, they feel they should be able to be engaged as a stakeholder for any project where the FMCH migrate within a project area outside of the THTT. Sidney was interested to know what we would like to see detailed in wildlife management plans, suggesting a separate meeting to discuss this topic could be useful for both TH and the DDRRC. Sidney said if the DDRRC feel they are lacking capacity to respond to a complex development project, he can offer some suggestions and work closely with Nick to assist with comment submissions. Dan expressed that RRC's can have a significant impact, especially by working together with other stakeholders like TH and collectively with other RRC's. The DDRRC Local Knowledge Survey was discussed briefly, and the issue we have observed not being able to use TH / subsistence harvest numbers to inform local wildlife management. The discussion ended with a focus on the immense untouched mining potential in the area and the possibility for the area to be very important globally for rare earth minerals, not to mention the potential for 70 million ounces of gold still potentially viable to be extracted.

Next Meeting: May 17th, 2023. Dinner with Mitch.

Action Items

i.	Nick	Register Kyler for the May 26 th Management Plan for Wolverine in Canada, Engagement Session #2.	Done.
ii.	Nick	Draft Resource Roads Letter and circulate via email for approval.	Done.
iii.	Nick	Request special meetings with YFWMB to discuss Ungulate Working Group.	Done, awaiting response.
iv.	Nick	<p>Standing Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Find youth member to attend regular meetings.b. Nick to stay in contact with Michelle Thompson (YG Control Order Veterinarian) and to watch for any new reports on the control order being published by YG.c. Nick to keep in touch with Jim Welsh about providing more hunter training workshops here in Dawson in 2023.d. Nick to inquire about how VGFN or the North Yukon RRC provided a space and equipment for sausage making in Old Crow.e. Get final approval / permissions from TH, YG and RSS to post trapping video on social media platforms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Ongoing.b. Ongoing.c. Done.d. Ongoing. Awaiting Response.e. Ongoing.

Meeting Adjourned: 08:30 p.m.



Dawson District Renewable Resources Council

Minutes - Regular Public Meeting

August 24th, 2023

Signatures:

Mark Wierda
Ian Fraser
Duncan Smith

Present	Absent	Regrets
Mark Wierda		
Ian Fraser		
Duncan Smith		
		Dan Reynolds
	Robert Farr	
Kyler Mather		
	George McLeod	

Guests: YG Forestry Staff – Robert Legare, Bradley Lovell, Kate McDonald. Paul Boyce and Sebastian Jones. For the Outfitter discussion, Luke and Heather Duelling.

Recorder: Nick Wozniewski

1. Agenda

1.1 Review and Adopt

Resolution 2023-04-26-01

Be it resolved that the agenda for the April 26th, 2023, Public DDRRC meeting be approved.

Approved by consensus.

2. Minutes

2.1 Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes for March 29th, 2023.

Not enough members present to approve.

Action Item: Include March 29, 2023, minutes for approval at next meeting.

2.2 Review Action Items. Done.

3. Housekeeping

3.1 Portfolios / Upcoming Meetings

3.1.1 3.2.1 YG Audit Deadline – Sept 30th, 2023. Council said they will review and approve the audit over emails to meet the YG deadline.

4. Updates

4.1 **Chinook Salmon Restoration Project.** Nick provided an update on how the project went, who was involved and the activities that took place. In general, the project was very successful despite the low numbers of salmon fry captured and restored. Unfortunately, with nonexistent salmon fry in the main

Germaine Creek channel, the community dinner / information session was cancelled. Because of the low number of salmon fry everywhere, the youth assisted more with setting traps for inventory analysis of salmon fry in the main Klondike River channel, instead of capturing fry in isolated pools. All that participated were shocked that no salmon were captured in the inventory traps. Also interesting was the large number of burbot caught this year in both the isolated pools and inventory traps. Nick explained that given the very low return of spawning Chinook this year, next summer he recommended we plan to spend more time on the water in canoes to keep the youth engaged, possibly doing an over night trip to 40 Mile or something even more ambitious like a multi day trip down the Yukon or Stewart. The youth enjoyed the standard first aid course and were interested in getting their wilderness first aid certification. Sebastian said he is hoping to be less busy next year so could likely assist with Wilderness First Aid instruction.

Action Item: Share project data with Yukon Salmon Sub Committee.

5. Old Business.

5.1 None.

6. New Business.

6.1 YG Forestry Discussion

6.1.1 - Introduce Brad Lovell acting forester FMB

6.1.2 - Discuss PUFW area at Minnie Bell and other areas. Rob Legare discussed initiatives to ready these areas for public and commercial use and requested the DDRRC's assistance communicating with the public on road and harvest area openings and best practices, especially in sensitive moose habitat (encouraging timber harvesters to refrain from hunting). Nick will be awaiting contact from Brad Lovell to coordinate a Facebook ad campaign.

6.1.3 - Upcoming YESAB projects regarding artic inland. Rob let the DDRRC know that Artic Inland is looking to move its operations to the Gravel Lake area so a YESAB application is in the works, and we should see it advertised soon.

6.2 YFWMB - Outfitter Quota Guidelines Letter. The Council went over the letter and discussed with Sebastian the YFWMB's intent and next steps. So far, the YFWMB have not received a response back from YG. Sebastian explained the Outfitters Association was not entirely in support of the letter, suggesting it may be because a new guidelines are likely to result in a more restrictive process than the current (interim) one being used.

6.3. Teslin RRC - Animal Protection and Control Act Regulations Engagement

Action Item: Draft letter for approval supporting Teslin RRC and detailing expectations regarding the Movi Control Order.

Next Meeting:

Action Items

i.	Nick	Include March 29, 2023, minutes for approval at next meeting.	Done.
ii.	Nick	Share project data with Yukon Salmon Sub Committee.	

iii.	Nick	Write draft letter for approval supporting Teslin RRC's letter and detailing expectations regarding the Movi Control Order.	Done, awaiting response.
iv.	Nick	<p>Standing Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Find youth member to attend regular meetings. b. Nick to stay in contact with Michelle Thompson (YG Control Order Veterinarian) and to watch for any new reports on the control order being published by YG. c. Nick to keep in touch with Jim Welsh about providing more hunter training workshops here in Dawson. d. Nick to inquire about how VGFN or the North Yukon RRC provided a space and equipment for sausage making in Old Crow. e. Get final approval / permissions from TH, YG and RSS to post trapping video on social media platforms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ongoing. b. Ongoing. c. Ongoing. d. Ongoing. Awaiting Response. e. Ongoing.

Meeting Adjourned: 08:30 p.m.



Dawson District Renewable Resources Council

Minutes - Regular Public Meeting

October 11th, 2023

Signatures:

Mark Wierda
Jeff R

Present	Absent	Regrets
Mark Wierda		
Ian Fraser		
Duncan Smith		
George McLeod		Dan Reynolds
Kyler Mather		

Guests: Sebastian Jones, Heather Duelling.

Recorder: Nick Wozniewski

1. Agenda

1.1 Review and Adopt

Resolution 2023-10-11-01

Be it resolved that the agenda for the October 11th, 2023, Public DDRRC meeting be approved.

Approved by consensus.

2. Minutes

2.1 Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes for April 26th, and August 24th, 2023.

Resolution 2023-10-11-02

Be it resolved that the minutes for the August 24th, 2023, Public DDRRC meeting be approved. Mark requested the spelling for Arctic Inland be corrected before printing for signatures.

Approved by consensus.

Not enough members present to approve April 26th minutes.

Action Item: Include April 26th, 2023, minutes for approval at next meeting.

2.2 Review Action Items. Done. The Council discussed the Youth Member position (which remains vacant) and asked Nick to follow up with Ashley Bower-Bramadat.

3. Housekeeping

3.1 Portfolios / Upcoming Meetings

3.1.1 RRC Charis Meeting in Whitehorse – October 18th. Mark and Nick to attend.

- 3.1.2 **Upcoming Federal Wolverine Workshop – October 23rd or 30th.** Ian and Duncan are both interested in attending. Ian requested to attend here in the DDRRC office.
- 3.1.3 **TH Field Dressing Workshop for Land Guardians – October 23rd.** Unfortunately, no Councillors can assist.
- 3.1.4 **Sausage Making Workshop – Nov 25th/26th.** Nick has confirmed with Kevin Bowers these dates and has started to arrange for the booking of a workshop space. The Council requested that Nick book an additional 2 days to test run the DDRRC offering a space and our equipment for community use.

4. Updates

- 4.1 **Engagement with YG re Animal Protection and Control Act Chinook Salmon Restoration Project.** The Council reviewed the email response from YG and have no follow-up requests regarding the information provided.
- 4.2 **All Party Response Letter re: UFAIP/FAIP Boards and Committees.** Nick explained he was disappointed in the letter, especially given the amount of input provided by many of the UFAIP/FAIP boards and committees. It appears from the response that none of the requested changes to the Funding Agreement or Funding Relationship will be considered. Nick hopes that this topic will be discussed at the Chairs meeting next week, if it is not, he will request it be discussed during the ED meeting.
- 4.3 **Yukon Outfitter Quota Guidelines - Premier Ranj Pillai recommendation for YFWMB to lead review.** Sebastain explained that the YFWMB has not decided if they will take on this initiative. The YFWMB will discuss this during their meeting next week to formulate a response back to the Premier. Sebastian said the YFWMB (in the letter) expressed interest in co-leading this process with YG, not taking the lead as suggested in the letter from the Premier. The Council will keep monitoring this issue.

5. Old Business.

- 5.1 **YG Forestry Personal Use Firewood Areas – DDRRC Promotion and Advertising of Public Information.** Nick explained he has not received any emails from YG Forestry regarding information we could post on social media to keep the community informed about Dawson area personal firewood harvest areas. We are still very much willing to get the word out as we have heard quite a few complaints about the lack of public information available. The Council asked Nick to follow-up. Before posting anything publicly we should first receive complete information from YG, with supporting documents like maps, web links, etc. The Council do not want to develop the messaging, but we can assist getting the information out there once received.

Action Item: Follow-up with YG regarding keeping the community informed about Dawson area personal firewood harvest areas.

6. New Business.

- 6.1 **Meeting Request from New Senior Planner - Dawson Regional Planning Commission.** The Council agreed to schedule a meeting with the new planner. Nick to follow-up.

Next Meeting:

Action Items

i.	Nick	Include April 26 th , 2023, minutes for approval at next meeting.	Done.
ii.	Nick	Share project data with Yukon Salmon Sub Committee.	Done.
iii.	Nick	Follow-up with YG regarding keeping the community informed about Dawson area personal firewood harvest areas	Done. Awaiting Response.

iv.	Nick	<p>Standing Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Find youth member to attend regular meetings. b. Nick to stay in contact with Michelle Thompson (YG Control Order Veterinarian) and to watch for any new reports on the control order being published by YG. c. Nick to keep in touch with Jim Welsh about providing more hunter training workshops here in Dawson. d. Get final approval / permissions from TH, YG and RSS to post trapping video on social media platforms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Sent email to Ashley re youth member on October 22nd. b. Ongoing. c. Ongoing. d. Ongoing.

Meeting Adjourned: 08:30 p.m.



Dawson District Renewable Resources Council

Minutes - Regular Public Meeting

October 25th, 2023

Signatures:

Mark Wierda
Ian Fraser
Duncan Smith

Present	Absent	Regrets
Mark Wierda		
Ian Fraser		
Duncan Smith		

Dan Reynolds

George McLeod

Kyler Mather

Guests: Luke Duelling, Kirsten Reid, Paul Boyce.

Recorder: Nick Wozniewski

1. Agenda

1.1 Review and Adopt

Resolution 2023-10-25-01

Be it resolved that the agenda for the October 25th, 2023, Public DDRRC meeting be approved.

Approved by consensus.

2. Minutes

2.1 Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes for April 26th, and August 24th, 2023.

Resolution 2023-10-25-02

Be it resolved that the minutes for the October 11th, 2023, Public DDRRC meeting be approved.

Approved by consensus.

Not enough members present to approve April 26th minutes.

Action Item: Email Council April 26th minutes to approve electronically.

2.2 Review Action Items. Done.

3. Housekeeping

3.1 Portfolios / Upcoming Meetings

3.1.1 Upcoming Federal Wolverine Workshop – October 30th @ 9AM. Ian and Duncan are both interested in attending. Ian requested to attend here in the DDRRC office.

3.1.2 Sausage Making Workshop – Nov 25th/26th @ Minto Concession.

3.1.3 Community Sausage Equipment Rental Days – Nov 27th/28th @ Minto Concession Kitchen. The Council decided it will provide use of our equipment at no cost. Nick will work on a document to be signed by participants addressing liability and rules / expectations.

Action Item: Draft sausage equipment liability and rules / expectations document (for participant signing) for Community Sausage Equipment Rental Days.

3.1.4 Trapping Course / Gerry Couture Award. Kyler asked if we know of anybody we could nominate for the award, the Council didn't have a name to put forward but will keep this award in mind and if anybody has a suggestion, they can bring the name forward for consideration. Kyler also asked if we should advertise info about the trapping course, the Council agreed we should first ask Ryan Sealy how enrolment is going and if he needs any assistance spreading the word.

Action Item: Contact Ryan Sealy about enrolment of the trapping course here in Dawson in early November.

4. Updates

4.1 RRC Chairs Meeting in Whitehorse – October 18th. Nick provided a summary of the key discussion items, he began with the individual RRC updates, noting the following topics of interest:

- Kluane RRC are switching to a 2-year interval for their local knowledge survey,
- Pelly / Selkirk RRC expressed concern about an increase in human-bear conflicts this fall most likely due to the lack of salmon returning to spawn,
- Mayo RRC noted a dramatic decrease in observable non-local moose hunters in and around the community likely due to the threshold hunt,
- Teslin RRC is working on an interesting forest fire mitigation project that will see fire resistant species of flora planted in and around the community, Teslin RRC also expressed an interest in revisiting the issue of bear predation of caribou and moose, suggesting it may be beneficial to request YG to accommodate a permitting process to bait bear to increase successful bear harvest,
- CTFN are working on identifying key habitat areas in the assumption that land use planning may take years or even decades to begin, they are mainly concerned about recreational use in key habitat areas, CTFN also shared the success of their trapping incentive programming (wolf trapping and youth mentorship). Luke Deuling from Blackstone Outfitters expressed he could contribute to a wolf trapping incentive program if developed here in the THTT.

The issue of updating the Outfitter Quota Guidelines was a primary focus of discussion during the Chair's meeting, at the time of the meeting the YFWMB had still not decided on how it will respond to Minister Pillai's letter re their request to co-lead developing new guidelines. A contractor (Ron Sumanik) has been retained by YG to assess 5 issues related to the current guidelines, Ron introduced himself and outlined the 5 issues:

1. Quotas and how they are determined
2. Meat distribution
3. Resident and FN hunters experiencing issues accessing remote areas that outfitters operate in
4. Harvest allowance
5. The issue of outfitters employing primarily non-resident guides.

With limited time at the end of the day, the RRC quickly heard from the YFWMB on a system they are developing to track Wildlife Regulation changes (including requests not enacted). The system will work and look much like YESAB's. The YFWMB was disappointed in the all-party response regarding recent UFAIP/FAIP Board/Committee submissions, they plan to respond to the letter and possibly seek to get endorsement of their response from all the RRC's.

Action Item: Follow-up with Carcross RRC to get details on wolf trapping incentive program.

5. Old Business.

5.1 YG Forestry Personal Use Firewood Areas – DDRRC Promotion and Advertising of Public Information. Nick explained he received an email on October 24th from YG Forestry in response to his action item (Follow-up with YG regarding keeping the community informed about Dawson area personal firewood harvest areas). The Council asked that it be included in the next meeting package.

6. New Business.

6.1 Meeting with Kirsten Reid New Senior Planner - Dawson Regional Planning Commission. The Council met with Kirsten, mostly for introductions. Kirsten explained the parties are still developing their responses to the draft plan and have asked to allow them until the end of March 2024 to submit. Kirsten is encouraged the parties appear to be consulting each other at this time, and the commission is still planning on remaining intact in anticipation that they will be needed once the party responses have been submitted. The Council asked if it was possible for Kirsten to share the key topics / possible issues the parties are discussing, she said she can share this info and will follow-up when she returns to Whitehorse.

6.2 Goldfields Moose Survey – Review Expert Opinion Maps. Paul discussed the maps provided and asked if any Council members feel they could fill it out indicating Low, Medium, and High moose population areas. The Council said they are only aware of high population areas in and around main access routes within the map provided, noting that the area around Wounded Moose Creek should be a focus given the recent increase of development in the area. Ian asked what length of time a forest burn is beneficial to moose populations, Paul said around 15 years, but the burns are intermittent and widespread, so it is difficult to study this accurately within the Goldfields area.

Next Meeting: Thursday November 9th

Action Items

i.	Nick	Email Council April 26th minutes to approve electronically.	Done.
ii.	Nick	Draft sausage equipment liability and rules / expectations document (for participant signing) for Community Sausage Equipment Rental Days.	
iii.	Nick	Contact Ryan Sealy about enrolment of the trapping course here in Dawson in early November.	Done.
iv.	Nick	Follow-up with Carcross RRC to get details on wolf trapping incentive program.	Done.
v.	Nick	Standing Items: a. Find youth member to attend regular meetings. b. Nick to stay in contact with Michelle Thompson (YG Control Order Veterinarian) and to watch for any new reports on the control order being published by YG.	a. Ongoing. b. Ongoing.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none">c. Nick to keep in touch with Jim Welsh about providing more hunter training workshops here in Dawson.d. Get final approval / permissions from TH, YG and RSS to post trapping video on social media platforms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">c. Ongoing.d. Ongoing.
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Meeting Adjourned: 08:30 p.m.



Dawson District Renewable Resources Council

Minutes - Regular Public Meeting

November 9th, 2023

Signatures:

Mark Wierda
Hal R

Present	Absent	Regrets
Mark Wierda		
Ian Fraser		
Duncan Smith		
Dan Reynolds		
George McLeod		
Kyler Mather		
Alyssa Bower-Peterson		

Guests: Sebastian Jones, Mike Sutor, Ashley Bower-Bramadat, Shawn Hughes.

Recorder: Nick Wozniewski

1. Agenda

1.1 Review and Adopt

Resolution 2023-11-09-01

Be it resolved that the agenda for the November 9th, 2023, Public DDRRC meeting be approved.

Approved by consensus.

1.2 Welcome new Youth Councillor Alyssa Bower-Peterson.

2. Minutes

2.1 Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes for April 26th, and August 24th, 2023.

Resolution 2023-11-09-02

Be it resolved that the minutes for the October 25th, 2023, Public DDRRC meeting be approved.

Approved by consensus.

2.2 Review Action Items. Nick still working on the liability disclaimer documents for the Sausage Making Equipment Rental Days. Kyler assisted with the trapping course, it was full and well received. Nick will remove the standing item related to the vacant youth councillor position.

3. Housekeeping

3.1 Portfolios / Upcoming Meetings

3.1.1 Sausage Making Workshop – Nov 25th/26th @ Minto Concession. Nick will advertise on Thursday, November 16th, the workshop should fill up quite fast. Instructor Kevin Bowers will get in touch with Dan, he'll pick up the quarters on his way into town on Friday November 24th.

- 3.1.2 Community Sausage Equipment Rental Days – Nov 27th/28th @ Minto Concession Kitchen.**
Nick explained he has the kitchen booked for the entire day and will drop in at the beginning and end of the 5-hour timeslots scheduled.
- 3.1.3 Placeholder for Public Fortymile Caribou Meeting – DZCC – Tuesday February 6th.** Mike explained that the harvest management plan requires the parties to organize a couple public meetings every year. Mike was wondering if the DRRRC is interested in co-hosting the event, the plan is to show a video at the DZCC theatre and then share information, best practices, etc. Kyler mentioned that sex identification should be prioritized given he heard many hunters found it a challenge. Dan mentioned it would be a good idea to go over the different processes for obtaining tags for the winter vs. the summer harvest seasons, it's easy to misinterpret and make a mistake.

4. Updates

- 4.1 Federal Wolverine Workshop – October 30th.** Ian Fraser provided an update; a digital summary report will be sent to all participants to confirm the discussion was recorded accurately. Nick will forward the draft report to Ian for review once received. Dan asked Mike if there was any population data available for wolverine in the THTT, Dan has seen that some kind of trail camera study is happening close to his property and was wondering what the purpose of the study was. Mike explained YG does not have an accurate population estimate and the trail cameras Dan has seen are monitoring wolverine but are not determining population, the focus of the research (by a PhD student) is to measure disturbance. The wolverine disturbance project has just started and has been extended for another year, Mike explained Paul Boyce has been more involved. The Council asked Nick to invite Paul Boyce to attend the next meeting to discuss wolverine populations and the wolverine disturbance research project. Ashley mentioned she has been in touch with the TH F&W department to coordinate the sharing of information between researchers and RSS students, she is working to coordinate learning opportunities and hopeful students can shadow researchers in the field to gain experience. Dan said getting a Bear DNA project update should be added to the next agenda as well.

Action Item: Nick to invite Paul Boyce to attend the next meeting to discuss wolverine populations and the wolverine disturbance research project.

Action Item: Nick to invite Jodie Pongracz and Paul Boyce to attend the next meeting to provide an update on the Bear DNA project.

5. Old Business.

- 5.1 YG Forestry Personal Use Firewood Areas – DRRRC Promotion and Advertising of Public Information.** Nick explained a new Forester has been hired (Daniel Potvin) and has expressed interest in attending a meeting to introduce himself and discuss this agenda item. The Council tabled discussion of this topic and asked Nick to invite Daniel Potvin to the next meeting.

Action Item: Nick to invite new local YG forester Daniel Potvin to the next meeting.

- 5.2 Wolf Trapping Incentive Program.** Nick was able to get in touch with the Carcross/Tagish RRC to inquire about their wolf trapping incentive program. The CTRRC match the Yukon Outfitters Association amount for each wolf pelt confirmed by harvest record. They only communicate this to registered trappers within their TT via letter, so only trappers operating on a trapping concession are eligible for this incentive program. The CTRRC also administer a general financial assistance incentive program for trappers, they determine the budget for this program at the end of the fiscal year. Last fiscal year they provided \$200 to each trapper that applied and \$500 for each trapper that demonstrated they were mentoring a youth. The Council requested this item be discussed in-camera to determine if feasible to administer something similar here.

The Council would need to see harvest data to determine feasibility, Shawn Hughes explained it would be a good idea to investigate if the YOA's incentive program has directly increased wolf harvest numbers since it was implemented. Sebastian let the Council know that the YFWMB / Enhancement Trust are looking to support local efforts to manage ungulate populations through projects like local wolf incentive programs. Dan has experienced issues harvesting wolves due to the early season closure, they are not in his trapping concession area until after the season is closed. The Council had previously looked into requesting a regulation change to extend the season, but efforts slowed / stopped pre-Covid so the Council asked that we revisit this initiative. Mike explained a main issue when looking into this regulation change was the potential for by-catch, Dan explained if a reg change was considered it should only allow wolves to be shot, not trapped, to avoid by-catch. The Council requested to discuss the wolf harvest season extension regulation change in-camera.

Action Item: Nick to request from Paul Boyce wolf harvest information and any information related to a DDRRC led wolf season extension regulation change request.

6. New Business.

6.1 **Fortymile Caribou Herd update from YG Biologist Mike Sujor.** Mike provided an update on overall herd health. The current population prediction is approximately 38,000, it has dropped a far bit. The harvest last year range wide was about 3.2% with some cow harvest occurring. Mike said pregnancies are very low and calf health is also of concern (probably due to recent harsh winters). Optimistically, Mike explained recent observations of calves have shown an increase in weight which might indicate herd population could be on an upward trajectory. Some research has been done to determine diet trends, confirming lichen to be a main contributor to their overall diet, with shrub consumption increasing which is a concern given it is low in nutrients. Moving on to a summary of the Nelchina herd, Mike explained the population has dropped catastrophically from 45,000 down to 8,000. Dan asked Mike if he expects a recovery program for the Nelchina from the US, Mike says he does and it's likely to include harvest restrictions and predator control. Mike explained that if in the Yukon the Nelchina is observed and a potential for harvest exists they will introduce harvest restrictions (currently not an issue because the Nelchina harvest has been and is expected to continue being very low in the Yukon). Kyler asked if any herd management initiatives by the US are planned for the Fortymile, Mike said he does not know and has a hard time predicting what they will do with regards to herd management. He also thinks wolf control may not be the solution to caribou management, given the list of other predators that target caribou is long and the environmental / climate impact is likely the leading contributor to population decline. Dan asked if Mike had any data or research that confirms this for our review, Mike said he could get us this information. Sebastian asked where the caribou are currently, Mike explained the Fortymile herd is split in two, one half is in the white mountains the other along the top of the world highway.

Action Item: Nick to request from Mike information / data related to wolf control impacts on caribou population management.

6.2 **RSS Trapping Program - Planning Discussion.** A meeting between TH and Nick occurred on November 8th to determine program dates and plan. February 12-16 has been confirmed and the Hall has been booked. Supplies for the workshops was discussed to ensure we have enough for the skinning workshops (skinning boards, scalpels, etc.). Nick said we are still waiting for the furs we sent to the tannery, when they arrive, we can coordinate crafting workshops with the new TH/RSS CELC (Chelsea Charlie). Ashley would like to develop a curriculum for the high school grades (as an extension to the current curriculum for grades K-7) and develop an official curriculum for the First Trapper program, she is looking into making this happen ASAP. Ashley also inquired about posting the RSS trapping video for us using the TH website, she still hasn't heard back from the TH Communications dept. Nick said he will start working on the EOI letter to trappers for marten / squirrels, he will mail the letter out before the next meeting

pending some finalization of discussion regarding incentive programs in-camera and once he knows the enrollment number for the grade 7 class.

Action Item: Mail letter to trappers re EOI for RSS Trapping Program – Marten / Squirrel.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, November 22nd

Action Items

i.	Nick	Draft sausage equipment liability and rules / expectations document (for participant signing) for Community Sausage Equipment Rental Days.	Done
ii.	Nick	Invite Paul Boyce to attend the next meeting to discuss wolverine populations and the wolverine disturbance research project.	Done
iii.	Nick	Invite Jodie and Paul Boyce to attend the next meeting to provide an update on the Bear DNA project.	Done. They requested we meet in the new year; they will have better data to present.
iv.	Nick	Invite new local YG forester Daniel Potvin to the next meeting.	Done.
v.	Nick	Request from Paul Boyce wolf harvest information and any information related to a DDRRC led wolf season extension regulation change request.	Done.
vi.	Nick	Request from Mike information / data related to wolf control impacts on caribou population management.	Done.
vii.	Nick	Mail letter to trappers re EOI for RSS Trapping Program requesting Marten / Squirrel.	Done.
viii.	Nick	Standing Items: a. Nick to stay in contact with Michelle Thompson (YG Control Order Veterinarian) and to watch for any new reports on the control order being published by YG. b. Nick to keep in touch with Jim Welsh about providing more hunter training workshops here in Dawson. c. Get final approval / permissions from TH, YG and RSS to post trapping video on social media platforms.	a. Ongoing. b. Ongoing. c. Ongoing.

Meeting Adjourned: 08:30 p.m.

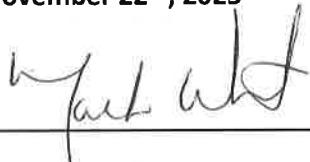
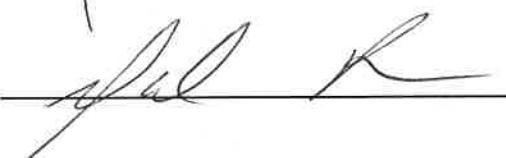


Dawson District Renewable Resources Council

Minutes - Regular Public Meeting

November 22nd, 2023

Signatures:

Present

Absent

Regrets

Mark Wierda

Ian Fraser
Duncan Smith
Dan Reynolds
George McLeod
Kyler Mather

Alyssa Bower-Peterson

Guests: Shawn Hughes, Darcy McDiarmid, Heather and Luke Dueling from Blackstone Outfitters.

Recorder: Nick Wozniewski

1. Agenda

1.1 Review and Adopt

Resolution 2023-11-22-01

Be it resolved that the agenda for the November 22nd, 2023, Public DDRRC meeting be approved.

Approved by consensus.

2. Minutes

2.1 Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes for April 26th, and August 24th, 2023.

Resolution 2023-11-22-02

Be it resolved that the minutes for the November 9th, 2023, Public DDRRC meeting be approved.

Approved by consensus.

2.2 Review Action Items. Done.

3. Housekeeping

3.1 Portfolios / Upcoming Meetings

3.1.1 **Sausage Making Workshop – Nov 25th/26th @ Minto Concession.** Nick updated the Council on registration, it filled up quickly, within 5 hours. Dan said he will be on route to Whitehorse so will have the quarters thawing in his hanger for Kevin to pick up on the way into town.

3.1.2 **Community Sausage Equipment Rental Days – Nov 27th/28th @ Minto Concession Kitchen.** To-date no one has expressed interest in this program. Dan stated he is concerned about liability given the real risk of injury when using commercial grade equipment, especially if community

members have no experience using an electric meat grinder. The rest of the Council agreed that replicating a program that works in Old Crow might not be the best idea here in Dawson City. If we are to do this in the future (if there is interest), participants would need to be vetted and our liability forms and procedures assessed carefully before offering this service. It was decided that for this year we will cancel the program.

- 3.1.3 **Placeholder for Public Fortymile Caribou Meeting – DZCC – Tuesday February 6th.** Item added just as a reminder.
- 3.1.4 **RSS Trapping Week – February 12th-16th, 2024.** Nick updated the Council on the initiative to post the RSS Trapping Program video on the TH YouTube site. TH has agreed to post our video close to the date in which the program starts in February. Nick explained he was also approached by the CBC asking if we were interested in publishing a story about the program, the Council agreed this was a good idea. Nick will work with TH and the Council to coordinate interviews with the CBC in January.

4. Updates

- 4.1 **Local Wolverine and Bear DNA Research, DDRRC request for updates from YG.** The wolverine researcher (Zach) can attend a meeting in December. Jodie Pongracz will have more complete Bear DNA research data to share in January so asked to schedule her for an update in the new year.
- 4.2 **Moose-vehicle collisions – motion sensing highway lighting pilot project.** Shawn explained that his colleague from Highways and Public Works let him know the section of road between the airport and Bear Creek has been added to a shortlist of locations slated for pilot projects hopefully in 2024. It is likely that electric signage fitted with AI enhanced motion sensing cameras will be installed. The Council asked how many moose-vehicle collisions this year have occurred, Shawn said two so far, both fatal for the moose, one in May by the dump road and one in February out in Henderson. The good news is none so far in the regular spot just north of the Hunker intersection along the Fishersville S-curve, but there have been some near misses. Mining activity near the problem location may be displacing the moose. The Council asked Shawn to provide Nick with stats for local moose-collisions dating back to 2020 so he can update our PSA and advertise on Facebook. They also asked Shawn to follow-up with Pete Nagano to see if the talking signs can be installed again near the airport and the Fishersville S-curve. The Council asked Nick to follow-up with Cud to see if he could update the PSA.

Action Item: Shawn to provide stats for local moose-vehicle collisions dating back to 2020 and follow-up with Pete Nagano to ask if the talking signs can be installed again near the airport and the Fishersville S-curve.

Action Item: Nick to update and advertise the moose-vehicle collision PSA.

5. Old Business.

- 5.1 **YG Forestry Personal Use Firewood Areas – DDRRC Promotion and Advertising of Public Information.** The new Forester (Daniel Potvin) was unable to attend, item tabled for next meeting.

Action Item: Nick to invite new local YG forester Daniel Potvin to the next meeting.
- 5.2 **Wolf Trapping Incentive Program.** The Council is still contemplating if this program is feasible and will assist in ungulate management with minimal negative impacts. Shawn shared some interesting data related to the YOA wolf pelt handling incentive program. Shawn said this rough data is not completely accurate but worth hearing. The program started in 2002, between 1987 and 2002, 1033 wolves were harvested (yearly

average of 74). Between 2002 and 2022, 2893 wolves were harvested (yearly average of 145). It appears that since the program started a significant increase in wolf harvest has occurred, but it's difficult to determine given all the other potential factors contributing to harvest numbers (i.e., problem wolves killed by CO's, an increase of trapping licenses, market prices, etc.). The Council asked Nick to follow up with the YOA to see if they have created any reports that detail program effectiveness, and if they would be willing to share this information with us.

Action Item: Nick to request from the YOA any reports that detail wolf pelt handling program effectiveness.

6. New Business.

6.1 2023 Fall Local Hunting Activity Discussion with CO Shawn Hughes. Looking back at local Dawson moose harvest data starting in 2017, assessing only licensed kill reports (not including subsistence harvest), it appears harvest numbers have been on a consistent downward trajectory. In 2017 – 85 moose, 2018 – 80 moose, 2019/20 – missing data at the moment, 2021 – 76 moose, 2022 – 65 moose, 2023 – 54 moose. The problem is hunting pressure is not measured apart from observational assessments. Shawn said its interesting to note hunting success has slowly shifted from the lower Stewart River to south of White River in the Coffee Creek area. The Ladue River saw a lot more hunters this year, but the hunting was not very successful there this year. The Council are eager to find out what the current aerial moose survey in the Goldfields will reveal. Dan said in the Klondike Valley he has noticed a severe decline from the numbers observed 20 years ago, but he has seen an increase of moose in the hinterland / back country. Dan said it's possible increased hunting and access is displacing the moose, forcing them to avoid areas accessible by boat, road, and off-road vehicles. Heather Dueling asked if the Yukon Government is looking into predator control and habitat enhancement, given moose populations in the Yukon are on the decline, Shawn said the biologists are better to answer her question but confirmed these tools have been considered. Dan explained little has been done, in the past Yukon Government considered control burns for habitat enhancement but nothing ever came to fruition, but in recent years everyone around the table seems to be looking at these management tools more seriously.

Shawn wanted to also let the Council know that the Hart River harvest numbers were lower this year. Kyler wondered if it was because of some confusion related to the new ORV regulations. Dan would be interested to see the exact local and non-local harvest numbers, Shawn said he could provide this data and its worth noting / interesting that backpacker hunter numbers have increased.

Action Item: Provide Council with local and non-local Hart River Caribou 2023 harvest numbers.

Shawn also wanted to let the Council know the new CO (Andrew) has accepted a 3-year term contract, another CO is expected to start soon (he's from the Ross River area). And YG is currently looking at filling a North Slope CO position, reporting to Shawn.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, December 13th

Action Items

i.	Nick	Invite new local YG forester Daniel Potvin to a DDRRC meeting.	Ongoing.
ii.	Nick	Request from the YOA any reports that detail wolf pelt handling program effectiveness.	Done.
iii.	Nick	Request from Paul Boyce wolf harvest information and any information related to a DDRRC led wolf trapping incentive program and season extension regulation change request.	Partially complete, Shawn provided Yukon wide wolf harvest data. Still need local

			harvest data (Paul Boyce to provide this info).
iv.	Mike	Provide information / data related to wolf control impacts on caribou population management.	Ongoing.
v.	Shawn	Shawn to provide stats for local moose-vehicle collisions dating back to 2020 and follow-up with Pete Nagano to ask if the talking signs can be installed again near the airport and the Fishersville S-curve.	Moose-collision data received. Nick asked Pete informally, Pete said the signs are unavailable (in use at other locations)
vi.	Nick	Nick to update and advertise the moose-vehicle collision PSA.	Done.
vii.	Mike or Shawn	Provide Council with local and non-local Hart River Caribou 2023 harvest numbers.	Info requested.
viii.	Nick	<p>Standing Items:</p> <p>a. Nick to stay in contact with Michelle Thompson (YG Control Order Veterinarian) and to watch for any new reports on the Movi control order being published by YG.</p> <p>b. Nick to keep in touch with Jim Welsh about providing more hunter training workshops here in Dawson.</p>	<p>a. Ongoing.</p> <p>b. Ongoing.</p>

Meeting Adjourned: 08:30 p.m.



Dawson District Renewable Resources Council

Minutes - Regular Public Meeting

December 13th, 2023

Signatures:

Mark Wierda
John R

Present

Absent

Regrets

Ali Anderson
Alyssa Bower-Peterson
Darren Bullen
Ian Fraser
Kyler Mather
George McLeod
Dan Reynolds
Duncan Smith
Mark Wierda

Guests: Karlie Knight (TH), Paul Boyce (YG), Heather and Luke Dueling from Blackstone Outfitters.

Recorder: Nick Wozniewski

1. Agenda

1.1 Review and Adopt

Resolution 2023-12-13-01

Be it resolved that the agenda for the December 13th, 2023, Public DDRRC meeting be approved.

Approved by consensus.

1.2 Welcome new DDRRC members Ali Anderson and Darren Bullen. Dan welcomed the new members and noted that officially we still need to receive a notification from YG finalizing the appointment by means of an order-in-council. Dan explained that Ali and Darren are welcome to attend meetings and contribute to the discussion but technically are not able to vote on a resolution if a vote is required.

2. Minutes

2.1 Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes for November 22nd, 2023.

Resolution 2023-12-13-02

Be it resolved that the minutes for the November 22nd, 2023, Public DDRRC meeting be approved.

Approved by consensus.

2.2 Review Action Items. Nick explained the action items still outstanding are related to long term discussions the Council is having regarding the wolf trapping incentive program and a related regulation change consideration currently being discussed in-camera. Luke let the Council know that the YOA wolf incentive program has been increased from \$100 to \$200 per pelt this season and they have not had a

chance to gather data / information related to historic wolf harvest data as it relates to incentives they have administered.

Action Item: Nick to advertise on Facebook that the YOA wolf incentive program is being administered this season with an increase from \$100 to \$200 per pelt.

3. Housekeeping

3.1 Portfolios / Upcoming Meetings

3.1.1 **Placeholder for Public Fortymile Caribou Meeting – DZCC – Tuesday February 6th.** Karlie explained that in January the Implementation Committee (YG, TH) will reach out and discuss the agenda and how the DDRRC can assist. Some caribou have crossed the Yukon River and have been observed close to town (one sighting in Bear Creek). With the lack of an ice road this year harvest numbers are expected to be low, however the intention of the public meeting is to inform the public on the health of the herd and share the most up to date information available.

3.1.2 **RSS Trapping Week – February 12th-16th, 2024.** Shawn Hughes reached out letting us know he will be in Inuvik attending the Porcupine Management Board's annual meeting and will sadly miss most of the week. Last year we had plenty of help so it is expected Shawn's absence will not be an issue. Dan and Kyler are available and can commit to the in-school sessions, we will still need to rely on help from YG and TH and again from Mary-Piere Bruneau for the skinning demonstrations. We will continue to discuss logistics in the leadup to February 12th-16th.

4. Updates

4.1 **November 2023 Sausage Making Workshop.** Nick provided a quick update, explaining it was another successful workshop with 14 participants attending of the 15 capacity we have at the Minto Concession. Torri (former CO here in the Dawson area) travelled with Kevin and helped a lot, which was really appreciated. Kevin and Torri had an idea worth considering by the Council, in September when the Outfitters are in a better position to donate meat, the DDRRC could make a space available for user groups in town to help process the meat and make sausages that can then be donated to them. User groups could be the Men's and Women's shelter, Elders, etc. Ian thought it's a good idea, but it needs to be coordinated carefully with the user groups to ensure they have the storage capacity (freezer space) and can assist. Logistically a lot of things need to happen so this project would need to be discussed more and a project description should be drafted so we can make sure this initiative is manageable. Nick explained we would need to purchase more equipment and possibly pay honorariums to make this happen, which might require us to request external funding from the YFWMB Enhancement Trust. Luke said he would happily assist and is available to talk more about logistics when the DDRRC is ready. Dan has two quarters ready for another March sausage making workshop.

Action Item: Draft project description of initiative to facilitate Outfitter meat donations in the community by means of renting a space, using our sausage equipment, and providing honorariums for a project lead individual. This initiative would take place in September and user groups being considered are the Men's and Women's Shelter and Elders.

4.2 **2023 Goldfields Moose Survey Update from YG Biologist Paul Boyce.** Paul provided a map of the sample areas and the raw numbers of moose counted in the 2023 and 2015 surveys. Paul also provided historical harvest data for the Goldfields moose harvest management area; he noted an absence of 2023 data due to a YG database issue currently requiring some troubleshooting. Paul said overall the survey was completed successfully and it appears that the moose population in the Goldfields have not changed significantly from the population observed in 2015. Harvest numbers in the Goldfields area have

decreased in recent years. Dan noted that density in specific areas is not represented in the data provided, so we are not seeing if moose counted in 2023 were observed in different areas compared to 2015. Paul said a more detailed analysis of the data will be completed sometime in 2024 and this information should be available for the Council to review. Paul explained that what can be deduced from this raw data is it appears harvest numbers are not impacting the moose population in the Goldfields area. Ian argued that harvest numbers could be decreasing due to the ratio of mature bulls having decreased, so this and other factors may be contributing to low harvest numbers. Ian said we need to be looking at this data to get a better understanding of what is happening. Dan discussed the issue remains that non-licensed harvest and hunting effort data is not being used by YG to determine harvest sustainability. Paul explained that in the past a doubling of the licensed harvest was used to represent non-licensed harvest, but recently YG has moved away from this approach given it is not precise. Karlie explained TH does not use the same moose management areas to record TH / non-licensed harvest, so it's difficult to compare and contribute to YG's data and analysis, but recently they have had good success getting information from TH Citizen's due to the prizes they are offering. Paul said YG is looking into a system in which they could better record hunter effort. Darren said more data on non-local harvest needs to be looked at alongside local and Indigenous harvest numbers, Darren suggested harvest by TH Citizens is affected by the number of non-local harvest and non-local hunting effort occurring. Darren also asked why moose population was surveyed in recently burned areas, Paul explained the survey model is tested in real-time and survey blocks adjusted to ensure moose are being counted where they are being observed. The older method used randomly selected areas and did not adapt in real-time, so a better and more accurate representation of the population was counted this year. **Comment from recorder: Was the survey methodology changed in 2023? If yes, what are the implications?**

4.3 **RSS Trapping Program - EOI for Marten and Squirrel.** Nick let the Council know we are very close to reaching our marten requirement of 15, when we do it will be advertised on Facebook that we have reached our quota. Only one squirrel has been submitted to the CO's office, we might need to rely again on Ryan Sealy for squirrels.

5. Old Business.

5.1 **YG Forestry Personal Use Firewood Areas – DDRRC Promotion and Advertising of Public Information.** The new Forester (Daniel Potvin) was again unable to attend, Nick suggested it appears Daniel is not keen on attending a meeting, so we need to move this agenda item along somehow. Darren said not having a local forester is an issue, Daniel is Whitehorse based. Nick explained as a harvester it would be beneficial to have a local forum like a Facebook page in which people can post information and discuss personal fuelwood harvest (i.e., abundance, access issues, updates on new areas being developed by YG, commercial areas open to personal harvesters, etc.).

Action Item: Nick to write an email to Daniel Potvin letting him know we are considering starting a local wood harvesting Facebook page and ask him if YG can regularly contribute to information being posted to keep the page relevant and accurate.

5.2 **Wolf Trapping Incentive Program.** The Council is still contemplating if this program is feasible and will assist in ungulate management with minimal negative impacts. Paul provided local wolf harvest data in relation to the years in which incentive programs were administered by the YOA and the Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust. The data shows an increase of wolves harvested in years in which both incentive programs were offered to trappers, less wolves were harvested in years in which only one incentive program was administered. In general, an upward trend of local wolf harvest has occurred since the incentive programs have been implemented. Duncan explained he is seeking scientific based reassurance that an incentive program or season extension will have a positive impact on ungulate populations. Paul said it is very difficult to determine the overall impact of a local wolf harvesting incentive program on the

local ungulate population. Paul explained that intense / high effort predator control has been successful in areas as a short-term solution, but the longer-term and less intense predator management we are considering and the YOA / YFWET has been administering has not been studied closely. Paul said he could try to collect and analyse this data, but expectations should be tempered given the challenges that exist in determining the exact impact the incentive program we are considering will have. Dan explained the concept of holistic management and that it relies on the basic understanding that humans have a direct impact on the ungulate population when we hunt and harvest them, and predator population management (among other management tools) must be used to manage ungulate populations if we are to harvest ungulates sustainably. Ian said we still would benefit from hearing from Mike Sutor about wolf population management efforts in Alaska. Karlie seconded Paul's comment about the challenges that exist in determining the overall impact a wolf trapping incentive program would have on the local ungulate population given the many other factors that could contribute to ungulate population decline (i.e. climate change). Ian explained we are fortunate to live in the Dawson area where we still have healthy ungulate populations, but we need to be ready to implement ungulate population management tools given things could change drastically like they have in other areas of the Yukon. Kyler explained that historically, Indigenous people did control wolf populations by culling wolf pups in their dens, they understood that predator management was an effective tool that could be used to improve local harvest. Ian asked how many wolves were observed during the survey, Paul said a pack of 6 and 2 lone wolves were observed. In the last survey (Lower Stewart River) two packs of about 12 were observed. Darren asked Paul if YG has analyzed historical predator population control data in the areas where harvest restrictions were put in place, perhaps some conclusive data can be shared that can contribute to our analysis here in the Dawson area, Paul said that could be useful. Dan said in BC / Northwest US and in Alaska they are seeing a drastic sheep population decline and are actively using tools to manage the population, Yukon is likely to see the same population decline, he is seeing it already in his former Guiding Concession area. Dan thanked all for the discussion but in the interest of time we needed to move on, this topic will remain on the agenda for further discussion.

6. New Business.

6.1 **TH First Trapper Camp – Request for Instructors.** Nick explained he let TH (Sharon Vittrekwa) know when our RSS trapping program is to avoid a conflict. The Council would need more information to better assist TH and provide names, like dates, location, time commitment, honorarium offered, etc. They also said it will be difficult for any of the Council to assist the week prior or following the RSS Trapping Week from Feb 12-16.

Action Item: Nick to write an email to TH (Sharon Vittrekwa) requesting more information about the TH First Trapper Camp. Darren and Ali will also find out more information to bring back to the Council for discussion.

6.2 **Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement Workshop in Whitehorse on January 30/31.** Paul did not have any information to provide, he was unaware of the initiative. Karlie had some information to share about the initiative, 21 million Federal dollars has been secured the Yukon Government to work together to create the bi-lateral Canada Yukon Nature Agreement. This initiative is expected to take 3 years to complete, and a new YG department has been created to deliver the project. Karlie argued that it is not reasonable for only YG to receive an excessive amount of funding when First Nations are already struggling in capacity to deal with existing issues. The agreement will require extensive consultation with FN's, and this will require significant FN resources to accomplish. Another issue is FN's were not consulted before this initiative was approved and moved forward by the Yukon and Canadian Governments. The workshop is intended to allow for stakeholders to provide input and discuss how to proceed.

Action Item: Register Mark Wierda to attend the Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement Workshop in Whitehorse on January 30/31

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 10th, 2024

Action Items

i.	Nick	Advertise on Facebook that the YOA wolf incentive program is being administered this season with an increase from \$100 to \$200 per pelt.	Done.
ii.	Nick	Write an email to Daniel Potvin letting him know we are considering starting a local wood harvesting Facebook page and ask him if YG can regularly contribute to information being posted to keep the page relevant and accurate.	Done.
iii.	Nick	Write an email to TH (Sharon Vittrekwa) requesting more information about the TH First Trapper Camp. Darren and Ali will also find out more information to bring back to the Council for discussion.	Done.
iv.	Nick	Register Mark Wierda to attend the Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement Workshop in Whitehorse on January 30/31	Done.
v.	Mike or Shawn	Provide Council with local and non-local Hart River Caribou 2023 harvest numbers.	Info requested.
vi.	Mike	Provide information / data related to wolf control impacts on caribou population management.	Info requested.
vii.	Nick	Standing Items: <ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Nick to stay in contact with Michelle Thompson (YG Control Order Veterinarian) and to watch for any new reports on the Movi control order being published by YG.b. Nick to keep in touch with Jim Welsh about providing more hunter training workshops here in Dawson.c. Draft project description of initiative to facilitate Outfitter meat donations in the community during the month of September.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">a. Ongoing.b. Ongoing.c. Ongoing

Meeting Adjourned: 08:30 p.m.



Dawson District Renewable Resources Council

Minutes - Regular Public Meeting

January 10th, 2024

Signatures:




Present

Ali Anderson
Alyssa Bower-Peterson
Darren Bullen

Absent

Kyler Mather
George McLeod
Dan Reynolds
Duncan Smith
Mark Wierda

Regrets

Ian Fraser

Guests: Karlie Knight (TH), Sebastain Jones, Jodie Pongracz, Shawn Hughes (YG), Andrew Dignan (YG)

Recorder: Nick Wozniewski

1. Agenda

1.1 Review and Adopt

Resolution 2024-01-10-01

Be it resolved that the agenda for the January 10th, 2024, Public DDRRC meeting be approved.

Approved by consensus.

2. Minutes

2.1 Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes for December 13th, 2023.

Resolution 2024-01-10-02

Be it resolved that the minutes for the December 13th, 2023, Public DDRRC meeting be approved.

Approved by consensus.

2.2 Review Action Items. Done.

3. Housekeeping

3.1 Portfolios / Upcoming Meetings

3.1.1 Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement Workshop in Whitehorse – January 30/31. Mark still attending but has not received a registration follow-up email from YG.

Action Item: Send follow-up email to YG re Canada-Yukon Agreement Workshop.

- 3.1.2 **Placeholder for Public Fortymile Caribou Meeting – DZCC – Tuesday February 6th.** Karlie explained the meeting is now going to inform the public on all local herds, not just the FMCH. The Denoja Zho (Cultural Center) will not be used due to IT issues. Mike and Karlie are still working on tightening up the agenda and will be in touch soon about next steps and the location TBD.
- 3.1.3 **YG Wildlife Health Unit Community Engagement – February 12th- 6-8PM – Location TBD.** Nick explained he got information about the session second hand from Paul Boyce, so he has reached out to YG to request more information and will keep the Council updated.
- 3.1.4 **RSS Trapping Week – February 12th-16th, 2024.** Still going ahead as planned, Nick will make this more of a priority at an upcoming meeting.

Action Item: Invite Ashely Bower-Bramadat and team to an upcoming meeting to prepare for the RSS Trapping Week.

4. Updates

- 4.1 **YG Bear DNA Research Project update from Jodie Pongracz.** Jodi started the presentation with a summary of historical scientific data used to inform grizzly bear management (i.e. to be used for establishing outfitter quotas). Yukon grizzly bear population studies used are a North Slope study in 2006/7, a Southern Lakes study in 2012/13, a Beavercreek Watershed study in 2020, and the Klondike Plateau and Ogilvie Mountains study that recently took place in 2022/23 (both to be discussed at the meeting this evening). Jody started with a summary of the 2023 Klondike Plateau study. Over 1000 hair samples collected were sent to the lab for analysis. Not every sample collected was sent to the lab due to cost (over \$50 for lab analysis per sample). Of the samples analyzed, 175 individual black bears and 27 grizzly bears were detected. Jodi wanted to stress at this time the data should not be used to inform a population estimation. And this data should also not be considered baseline especially for consideration of development assessment, the data is more of a current population snapshot. Interestingly, grizzly bear ranges are larger than the ranges of black bears, and densities generally do not overlap (grizzly and black bears are segregated). Jodi was surprised to see a significant lack of samples collected in the Casino and Coffee areas, indicating development has already displaced bear population in those areas. Next steps are to determine if they need to send more samples to the lab for analysis. Once all the data has been assembled, a statistical analysis of the data will take place using the DNA genetic data alongside the motion capture camera images, this analysis will be used to inform a more accurate population estimate. Dan asked when the survey took place, Jodie explained samples were collected from mid-June to mid-August, in line with the recommendation to do this type of work. Once the berries ripen, bears are less interested in the DNA capture stations. Moving along to the 2023 Ogilvie Mountain study, Jody explained they experienced some sample collection setbacks due to local wildfire activity; one interval was very long which may impact the success of DNA lab sample analysis. In partnership with TH and outfitters, they did conduct some opportunistic collection of samples next to cabins and along travel corridors close to the Dempster Highway using barbed wire wrapped around a tree as opposed to the tri-pod setup. Jodi still needs to determine how many samples they will send to the lab for analysis before they can determine a population estimate, but based on camera images alone most bears in the study area are grizzly bears and it appears to be very healthily populated compared to the Klondike Plateau. The tripods and cameras are still in the field due to not having access to a large enough helicopter at the last session in the Fall. Sebastian asked how a study like this would measure or mitigate the effect of helicopter activity on bears and other wildlife. Jodi explained if bears were observed in close proximity to the sample site, they did not land, but in order to get this piece of information, sound detection technology would need to be used. Jody said the use of helicopters undoubtedly disturb wildlife, but measuring the disturbance and potential negative effects is difficult, though very important.

4.2 **DDRRC Local Personal Fuelwood Facebook Community Page / Introduction from new local YG Forester Daniel Potvin.** Dan Potvin did not attend; Nick is still working on the Facebook Page and will update the Council on progress at the next meeting.

4.3 **RSS Trapping Program - EOI for Marten and Squirrel.** Nick let the Council know the marten quota of 15 has been reached and advertised on Facebook. Only one squirrel has been submitted to the CO's office, we might need to rely again on Ryan Sealy for squirrels.

Action Item: Contact Ryan Sealy re squirrels for RSS Trapping Program.

5. Old Business.

5.1 **Goldfields Moose Survey De-brief.** Shawn brought some additional data for the Council to review, specifically historical moose harvest to 2023 for the Dawson Goldfields and Dawson West MMU's as well as the Hart River Caribou historical licensed harvest to 2023. Dan said we should revisit this topic when the final analysis of the Goldfields aerial moose survey is available.

5.2 **Wolf Trapping Incentive Program.** The Council is still contemplating if this program is feasible and will assist in ungulate management with minimal negative impacts. Shawn shared some information that Paul Boyce prepared for the meeting. Paul recommended THTT wolf population numbers should be assessed if considering an incentive program, he is evaluating how this can be accomplished in the near-term but for now no such data exists. Based on information collected during the 1990's aerial wolf cull that took place in the Finlayson Caribou herd area, at minimum, 30% of the local wolf population needed to be culled annually for a sustained wolf population impact. A sustained cull of 60-85% of the wolf population was needed to effect ungulate populations. During the cull, YG removed 80-83% of the wolves in the area for five years, within 5 years after which the cull ended, the population rebounded back to pre predator management population levels. Shawn said there are many good reasons to provide a local wolf trapping incentive program, but for only the reason of ungulate management a low effort incentive program would not likely create a measurable impact on the ungulate population. This topic will remain on the agenda for further discussion. We are still awaiting some wolf population management info / data from Alaska to better inform our decision.

6. New Business.

6.1 **Invitation to consult on the Draft Dawson City Community Wildfire Protection Plan.** Impact to traplines would be a main concern, but ideally treatment of forested areas would create more opportunities to harvest wood for personal use and keep the community safe.

Action Item: Council to review the Draft Dawson City Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the next meeting.

6.2 **Info from YTA re US listing of Wolverine as a threatened species / YG Wolverine Carcass Program.** Information provided just FYI. Trappers or others that wish to export a wolverine pelt, skull, or other to the USA (including Alaska) originating from the Yukon will need to have their paperwork in order or risk losing their wolverine to US customs (a Scientific Authority for CITES - Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species).

Action Item: Post YG Wolverine Carcass Program information on Facebook.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, January 24th, 2024

Action Items

i.	Nick	Send follow-up email to YG re Canada-Yukon Agreement Workshop.	Done.
ii.	Nick	Invite Ashely Bower-Bramadat and team to an upcoming meeting to prepare for the RSS Trapping Week.	
iii.	Nick	Contact Ryan Sealy re squirrels for RSS Trapping Program.	Done.
iv.	Council	Council to review the Draft Dawson City Community Wildfire Protection Plan for the next meeting.	
v.	Nick	Create Local Personal Fuelwood Facebook Community Page	Done.
vi.	Mike	Provide info on past success or failure of wolf population management efforts in Alaska.	Ongoing.
vii.	Nick	Post YG Wolverine Carcass Program information on Facebook.	Done.
viii.	Nick	<p>Standing Items:</p> <p>a. Nick to stay in contact with Michelle Thompson (YG Control Order Veterinarian) and to watch for any new reports on the Movi control order being published by YG.</p> <p>b. Nick to keep in touch with Jim Welsh about providing more hunter training workshops here in Dawson.</p> <p>c. Draft project description of initiative to facilitate Outfitter meat donations in the community during the month of September.</p>	<p>a. Ongoing.</p> <p>b. Ongoing.</p> <p>c. Ongoing.</p>

Meeting Adjourned: 08:30 p.m.

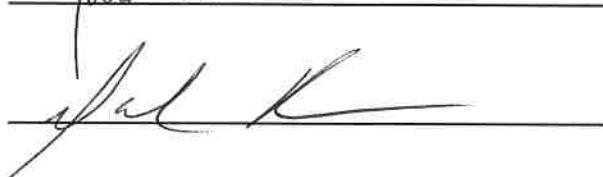


Dawson District Renewable Resources Council

Minutes - Regular Public Meeting

January 24th, 2024

Signatures:

Present

Kyler Mather
Darren Bullen
Dan Reynolds
Duncan Smith
Mark Wierda
Ian Fraser

Absent

Regrets

Ali Anderson
George McLeod
Alyssa Bower-Peterson

Guests: Christine Clarke (YukonU), Alice McCully (TH), Zachary Fogel (UofA) and Thomas Yung (YG).

Recorder: Nick Wozniewski

1. Agenda

1.1 Review and Adopt

Resolution 2024-01-24-01

Be it resolved that the agenda for the January 24th, 2024, Public DDRRC meeting be approved.

Approved by consensus.

2. Minutes

2.1 Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes for January 10th, 2023.

Resolution 2024-01-24-02

Be it resolved that the minutes for the January 10th, 2023, Public DDRRC meeting be approved.

Approved by consensus.

2.2 Review Action Items. Done.

3. Housekeeping

3.1 Portfolios / Upcoming Meetings

3.1.1 Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement Workshop in Whitehorse – January 30/31. Mark will attend.

3.1.2 Placeholder for Public Caribou Meeting – DZCC – Tuesday February 6th. Still awaiting draft agenda and location decision from Karlie Knight and Mike Sutor. Duncan and Ian said they could both attend on behalf of the DDRRC.

3.1.3 RSS Trapping Week – February 12th-16th, 2024. Still going ahead as planned, Nick will invite Ashely Bower-Bramadat and team to next meeting. Nick is concerned about not having enough scalpels and asked Council if they have any to spare just in case.

Action Item: Invite Ashely Bower-Bramadat and team to February 7th meeting to prepare for the RSS Trapping Week.

- 3.1.4 **Sausage Making Workshop – March 8th / 9th 2024 – Minto Concession.** Nick explained we will only be providing an optional butchering session on the Friday evening and doing a longer one day workshop on the Saturday the 9th.
- 3.1.5 **YG Wildlife Health Unit Community Engagement – Postponed to May.** Nick to keep the Council informed.

4. Updates

- 4.1 **Draft Dawson City Community Wildfire Protection Plan.** Nick explained that Wildland Fire is still deciding on a day for a community engagement session and will schedule a meeting with us once the date has been finalized. Duncan and Mark said they see no issues with it, Mark mentioned there might be a conflict with a trap line and our community radius traplines.
- 4.2 **DDRRC Local Personal Fuelwood Facebook Community Page / Introduction from new local YG Forester Daniel Potvin.** Dan Potvin did not attend; Nick has given up trying to coordinate an introduction. The Facebook page is live, Nick will post harvest maps and add a bit more information to the page before inviting others to join. Ian said he visited the YG Forestry Office to ask questions, he found out the road up from Flat Creek to the Minnie Bell harvest area is not maintained, and possibly already not a worthwhile place to get easily accessible (roadside) fuelwood anymore.

Action Item: Download Personal Fuelwood Harvest Maps and post to the Facebook Page.

5. Old Business.

- 5.1 **DDRRC Wolf Trapping Incentive Program.** The Council decided to shift away from focusing on wolves and instead cast a wider net to incentivize trapping in general. A local low effort wolf trapping incentive program is likely not able to produce a measurable effect on local ungulate populations, so therefore the optics of administering the program for ungulate population management is unjustifiable (scientifically). If we were to administer a trapping incentive program it would still likely focus on predator control, just not have it be its sole purpose. Ian asked that we keep a file with all the info and data we have collected in case we might consider a shift towards a focus solely on predator control for the purposes of ungulate population management. Nick to investigate providing a wolf snaring / trapping workshop in anticipation of the roll out of a trapping incentive program, to determine feasibility and costs. A trapping incentive program might require submitting proposals for additional funding, possibly tapping into the YFWET Fund.

Action Item: Investigate providing a local wolf snaring / trapping workshop.

- 5.2 **YFWMB Ungulate Working Group Wolf Trapping Incentive Program.** Info about media campaign and next steps for the working group reviewed.

6. New Business.

- 6.1 **YG Wolverine Research Project Presentation @ 7:15PM with Alice McCully (TH) Zachary Fogel (UofA) and Thomas Yung (YG).** Thomas started the presentation with an explanation of how the funding for the project was sourced through the Priority Places Initiative. The South Beringia is one of the 11 priority places identified across Canada, a priority place is an area of high biodiversity value that is seen as a distinct place with a common ecological theme by the people who live and work there. Wolverine were selected as a species of interest because it is a species at risk, a valued furbearer, high biocultural

importance and known sensitivity to humans. The study used camera and sound recording equipment to gather data on wolverine density in relation to disturbance to inform environmental assessment, establishing disturbance thresholds, etc. Many different animals were captured by the cameras which will provide valuable data for other species not a focus of the research. Alice explained the partnership developed by all involved and how it aligns with TH's Ecological and Land Use Monitoring Plan, which requires projects to foster collaboration through shared decision-making, shared knowledge, and shared resources. Zach explained the research. The study area was very large, 25,000 square kilometers. The focus of the study is to quantify disturbance and count animals and later assess both sets of data to identify relationships. They deployed 115 sites from Feb–Mar 2023, 23 sites June 2023 (Fortymile). They checked sites from Oct–Nov 2023 and are currently processing data. Next steps are 3-5 years of field work (1 year completed) and are considering in the future to rescope the focus to a monitoring program, that could be carried out long-term. Dan applauded them of choosing a non-invasive research method.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 7th, 2024

Action Items

i.	Nick	Invite Ashely Bower-Bramadat and team to February 7 th meeting to prepare for the RSS Trapping Week.	Done.
ii.	Nick	Download Personal Fuelwood Harvest Maps and post to the Facebook Page.	
iii.	Nick	Investigate providing a local wolf snaring / trapping workshop.	Done.
iv.	Council	Council to review the Draft Dawson City Community Wildfire Protection Plan.	
v.	Nick	<p>Standing Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Nick to stay in contact with Michelle Thompson (YG Control Order Veterinarian) and to watch for any new reports on the Movi control order being published by YG. b. Nick to keep in touch with Jim Welsh about providing more hunter training workshops here in Dawson. c. Draft project description of initiative to facilitate Outfitter meat donations in the community during the month of September. 	<p>a. Ongoing.</p> <p>b. Ongoing.</p> <p>c. Ongoing.</p>

Meeting Adjourned: 08:30 p.m.

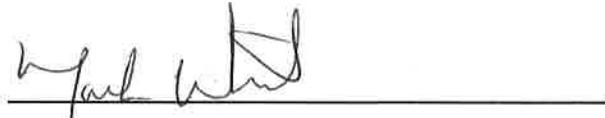
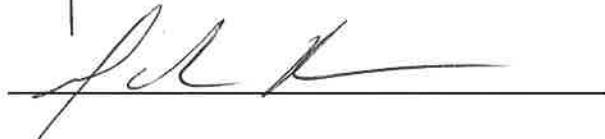


Dawson District Renewable Resources Council

Minutes - Regular Public Meeting

February 7th, 2024

Signatures:

Present	Absent	Regrets
Ali Anderson		
Kyler Mather		
Darren Bullen	George McLeod	Alyssa Bower-Peterson
Dan Reynolds		
Duncan Smith		
Mark Wierda		
Ian Fraser		

Guests: Mike Sutor, Alastair Findlay-Brook, Russ Giesbrecht

Recorder: Nick Wozniewski

1. Agenda

1.1 Review and Adopt

Resolution 2024-02-07-01

Be it resolved that the agenda for the February 7th, 2024, Public DDRRC meeting be approved.

Approved by consensus.

2. Minutes

2.1 Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes for January 24th, 2024.

Resolution 2024-02-07-02

Be it resolved that the minutes for the January 24th, 2024, Public DDRRC meeting be approved.

Approved by consensus.

2.2 Review Action Items. Done. Nick let everyone know that the personal fuelwood area maps are too numerous to print and attach to a Facebook post, instead he provided the link and directed people where to go to view and download the maps.

3. Housekeeping

3.1 Portfolios / Upcoming Meetings

3.1.1 RSS Trapping Week – February 12th-16th. Discussed in Old Business.

3.1.2 Sausage Making Workshop – March 8th/9th 2024 – Minto Concession. All still going ahead as planned. Nick and Kevin can take this on without any assistance from the Council.

- 3.1.3 YG Wildlife Health Unit Community Engagement – Postponed to May 2024 – Location TBD.** Still no word from YG about a date or location.
- 3.1.4 RRC AGW in Carcross – June 6th/7th.** Dates were set but very little details about an agenda or accommodations are known. Most Council was interested in attending, Nick will keep everyone updated once more information is available.

4. Updates

- 4.1 Canada-Yukon Nature Agreement Workshop in Whitehorse – January 30th/31st - De-brief with Mark Wierda.** Mark provided a summary of the two-day workshop. 21% is already protected, the initiative is looking to have 25% protected by 2025 and 30% by 2030. Of note was an issue brought forward by KDFN and TH that FN's were not consulted before the roll-out of this Yukon / Canada initiative. A separate department has been setup and an entirely separate financial agreement regime established to administer funding to FN's. There is concern from potential recipients that it is a difficult process to navigate, and no clear contacts have been provided to assist with the application process. Another main concern is the length of time and effort that will be required to process the vast amount data collected, most were not convinced the organizers had a good plan for managing this data and making good use of it. There were some great videos shown and Mark encouraged the Council to look at them (We Are Game Guardians and How We Walk with the Land and Water – KDFN/TKC/CTFN). Quite a few different pots of funding, many hundreds of millions offered across Canada. Mark said it would be a good idea for the Council to discuss TH's perspective (with Karlie Knight) about the workshop and next steps. Mark explained that if the draft DRLUP is approved the 30% target would almost be realized. Dan said protected areas in the DRLUP might not be "protected" as defined in this agreement, and we need to careful not to put areas within a box like a Banff or Jasper, that mould does not fit here in the Yukon with the Self-Governing Agreements and trapping / outfitting concession overlap.
- 4.2 Public Caribou Meeting – February 6th, 2024 – De-brief.** Nick and Duncan attended. Duncan summarized the agenda and what was presented. Two separate presentations were provided about post-secondary research currently taking place in the THT that focus on caribou. A master's student is working on mapping linear disturbance in the Clear Creek Caribou herd range, a PhD student is working with TH to map important climate refugia areas for caribou and salmon. Mike Sutor provided herd status reports for all herds in the traditional territory, in addition to presenting some very interesting information about research he is working on relating to caribou herd genetics (for all Canadian herds) and herd impacts to vegetation and range diet for the Fortymile caribou herd. Of note was the observation of a dramatic dwarf birch increase in the most important regions for the herd, which is of particulate concern because dwarf birch is not a good source of food for the herd. Mike said they did not have time to focus on hunter education, and looking at the audience they weren't sure how useful it would be for most that attended.

Action Item: Nick to send the Council Mike Sutor's herd status update presentation and a link to his North Slope caribou presentation at the Beringia Center.

5. Old Business.

- 5.1 RSS Trapping Week Schedule Planning with Alastair Findlay-Brook (TH).** The schedule was reviewed and commitment from Councillors finalized. Nick will provide a email summary and additional details for everyone, including when animals should be thawed and what equipment to either purchase or bring (scalpels, gloves, etc.).

Action Item: Nick to send final RSS trapping week schedule and additional notes to all instructors.

6. New Business.

- 6.1 24th Biennial Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council (NWSGC) Symposium in Anchorage, Alaska - April 30 to May 2, 2024.** It was decided that providing funding support for this initiative was outside our

mandate. Dan will follow-up and keep us updated on any decisions or important information resulting from the symposium.

6.2 Local Guide School discussion with Tombstone Outfitters. Russ let the Council know he is looking to train a half dozen youth, hopefully with the goal of hiring one or two local youth as a guide at his outfitting concession. Russ won't be ready this year but in 2025 he is hoping to have a group of youth out there with him working with horses. Darren said he should reach out to RSS, they are working on outdoor learning programs that would align nicely with this initiative. Ian recommended that Russ work with other outfitters in the area, pool resources. Russ will keep us updated when he has more time to develop a curriculum and is ready to start an application process.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 21st, 2024

Action Items

i.	Nick	Nick to send final RSS trapping week schedule and additional notes to all instructors.	Done.
ii.	Nick	Nick to send the Council Mike Suitor's herd status update presentation and a link to his North Slope caribou presentation at the Beringia Center.	Done.
iii.	Nick	Standing Items: a. Nick to stay in contact with Michelle Thompson (YG Control Order Veterinarian) and to watch for any new reports on the Movi control order being published by YG. b. Nick to keep in touch with Jim Welsh about providing more hunter training workshops here in Dawson.	a. Ongoing. b. Ongoing.

Meeting Adjourned: 08:30 p.m.



Dawson District Renewable Resources Council

Minutes - Regular Public Meeting

February 21st, 2024

Signatures:




Present	Absent	Regrets
Alyssa Bower-Peterson		Ali Anderson
Kyler Mather		
Darren Bullen	George McLeod	
Dan Reynolds		
Duncan Smith		
Mark Wierda		
Ian Fraser		

Guests: Spencer Wallace, Chris Clarke, Russ Giesbrecht

Recorder: Nick Wozniewski

1. Agenda

1.1 Review and Adopt

Resolution 2024-02-21-01

Be it resolved that the agenda for the February 21st, 2024, Public DDRRC meeting be approved.

Approved by consensus.

2. Minutes

2.1 Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes for February 21st, 2024.

Resolution 2024-02-21-02

Be it resolved that the minutes for the February 7th, 2024, Public DDRRC meeting be approved.

Approved by consensus.

2.2 Review Action Items.

3. Housekeeping

3.1 Portfolios / Upcoming Meetings

3.1.1 **Sausage Making Workshop – March 8th/9th 2024 – Minto Concession.** All still going ahead as planned. Nick and Kevin can take this on without any assistance from the Council.

3.1.2 **YG Wildlife Health Unit Community Engagement – Postponed to May 2024 – Location TBD.** Still no word from YG about a date or location. Dan asked Nick to remove this item from the agenda moving forward, until we hear from YG if it is still going ahead.

- 3.1.3 **24th Biennial Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council (NWSGC) Symposium in Anchorage, Alaska - April 30 to May 2, 2024.** Discussed in Old Business.
- 3.1.4 **Northern Mountain Caribou Summit, Dease Lake – May 22-24, 2024.** Nick to leave on future agendas and closer to the summit date Council will decide if we will send someone to represent the DRRRC.
- 3.1.5 **RRC AGW in Carcross – June 6th/7th.** Dates were set but very little details about an agenda or accommodations are known. Most Council was interested in attending, Nick will keep everyone updated when more information is available.

4. Updates

- 4.1 **2024 RSS Trapping Week (de-brief).** Kyler provided a summary, overall, it was very well received and organized this year. Things to work on for next year:

- No field trip to the RSS school line, Kyler suggested we consider allocating the school line to a trapper with the stipulation that they need to assist at minimum with one school trip to the line during Trapping Week and if possible, weekly trips by students to the line in February. Expectations need to be set early in the trapping year to avoid any misunderstandings and to ensure the line is available for us and RSS/TH when needed.
- Establish a step-by-step process for kids to touch and feel furs instead of passing them around. Perhaps take each fur out, explain the animal, then have the kids line up and have kids touch and feel each fur one at a time.
- Need to look at tracks, replace what is missing, maybe get all new tracks of better quality.
- Review the schedule and bring in more of the curriculum, determine if the subject matter is appropriate for the grade (avoid complex concepts like trapping concessions, training / certification, regulations, etc. for the younger grades).
- Need to determine what will be done with the furs after they are tanned. Shawn Hughes suggested the Old Crow marten hat, it requires 3 marten, we could get funding to bring someone down from Old Crow to teach a handful of RSS / TH staff so they could add making the hats as a crafting learning module.

Supplies needed:

- Squirrel snare wire for councillors
- Scalpels, size 22
- First aid kit
- Better tracks for curriculum box
- Extra billing boards for squirrel and marten (made at the RSS shop)
- A couple boxes of Small and Extra Small gloves
- Clorox disposable wipes and a bottle of bleach disinfectant spray (for cleaning tables)
- Pins (real kind trappers use)
- Pet brushes

Action Item: Add review of February 21st minutes and snaring squirrels to Standing Action Items

5. Old Business.

- 5.1 **24th Biennial Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council (NWSGC) Symposium in Anchorage, Alaska - April 30 to May 2, 2024.** Dan had been approached to attend the symposium as a panel member. Dan told Council it would be more cost effective and work better for his schedule if he did not attend and we instead requested the minutes.

Action Item: Nick to request minutes for the 24th Biennial Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council (NWSGC) Symposium in Anchorage, Alaska - April 30 to May 2, 2024.

5.2 **Dawson draft Community Wildfire Protection Plan – Community Engagement planned for Thursday March 7th.** Ian will attend and represent the DDRRC, Nick to send Ian info when available.

6. **New Business.**

6.1 **YESAB Project 2024-0024 – Benson Creek.** This project is still in the adequacy review stage, Council asked Nick to reach out to YESAB and let them know we are interested in providing a comment and would like to receive updates. Russ expressed concern about the project, explaining access goes through incredibly wet country (wetlands) and the disruption it would have on wildlife and his operations would be significant. Russ explained he has talked to the person that prepared the submission for the client in Mexico, the proponent appears to be well funded / supported.

Action Item: Contact YESAB and ask to be notified of any developments on YESAB Project 2024-0024 – Benson Creek.

6.2 **YFWMB – Concerns about consultation re YG Mineral Development Strategy.** Nick explained that the YFWMB had contacted all RRC's prior to this letter being sent to YG, to ask if we provided comments, none had (including the YFWMB) which resulted in the letter being sent. The Council asked Nick to inquire about the date of the letter, it appears to be a typo. The Council would like to provide a letter in support of the YFWMB's letter, they asked Nick to do some research and send any relevant documents to the Council for review before a letter is drafted and sent in support.

Action Item: Research any relevant documents related to the YG Mineral Development Strategy, forward to the Council for review before a letter is drafted and sent in support of the YFWMB.

6.3 **YFWMB – UFA Implementation Review - Request for funding increase.** Nick explained the letter's main intent is to again bring attention to the UFA's lack of accommodation to UFA Board and Council responses received during the recent UFA Implementation Review in addition to the request of additional funding. Dan suggested we are not in dire need of a funding increase. Nick explained it would be beneficial to at minimum have a flexible multi year agreement, so funding surplus could be carried over and allocated towards a bigger project like the Fur Show. At this time the Council decided no follow-up is needed.

6.4 **YFWMB – Regulation Change Process – Update Next Meeting: Wednesday, February 21st, 2024.** Dan summarized the letter; this information was provided more FYI for Councillors.

6.5 **Fortymile Hunt Poster.** Nick provided a draft version of the poster; the Council approved the poster and asked Nick to post it on our Facebook page and the Crier Buyer. The Council suggested adding our logo.

Action Item: Post Fortymile Hunt Poster to Facebook Page and the Crier Buyer.

6.6 **YESAB Project 2024-0020 - Dempster Sewage Lagoon - Water License.** The Council are concerned about this project and potential impacts to groundwater and the Klondike River. Nick to request an extension and find out if we can invite someone to our next meeting that could provide more technical information about the project.

Action Item: Ask YESAB for a comment extension and investigate who could attend our next meeting to provide more detailed info in preparation for a comment submission.

Action Items

i.	Nick	Contact YESAB and ask to be notified of any developments on YESAB Project 2024-0024 – Benson Creek.	Done.
ii.	Nick	Research any relevant documents related to the YG Mineral Development Strategy, forward to the Council for review	Done.

		before a letter is drafted and sent in support of the YFWMB. Ask the YFWMB if the date is a typo.	
iii.	Nick	Post Fortymile Hunt Poster to Facebook Page and the Crier Buyer.	Done.
iv.	Nick	Ask YESAB for a comment extension and investigate who could attend our next meeting to provide more detailed info in preparation for a comment submission.	Done.
v.	Nick	<p>Standing Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Nick to stay in contact with Michelle Thompson (YG Control Order Veterinarian) and to watch for any new reports on the Movi control order being published by YG. b. Nick to keep in touch with Jim Welsh about providing more hunter training workshops here in Dawson. c. Nick to request minutes for the 24th Biennial Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council (NWSGC) Symposium in Anchorage, Alaska - April 30 to May 2, 2024. d. In the Fall of 2024, encourage councillors to snare squirrels for the 2025 RSS Trapping Week. Review Feb 21, 2024 Meeting notes in preparation of Trapping Week in 2025. 	<p>a. Ongoing.</p> <p>b. Ongoing.</p> <p>c. Ongoing.</p> <p>d. Ongoing.</p>

Meeting Adjourned: 08:30 p.m.



Dawson District Renewable Resources Council

Minutes - Regular Public Meeting

March 4th, 2024

Signatures:

Mark Wierda
Jeff

Present	Absent	Regrets
Ali Anderson	Alyssa Bower-Peterson	
Kyler Mather		Darren Bullen
	George McLeod	
Dan Reynolds		
Duncan Smith		
Mark Wierda		
Ian Fraser		

Guests: Sebastian Jones

Recorder: Nick Wozniewski

1. Agenda

1.1 Review and Adopt

Resolution 2024-03-04-01

Be it resolved that the agenda for the March 4th, 2024, Public DDRRC meeting be approved.

Approved by consensus.

2. Minutes

2.1 Review and Approve Previous Meeting Minutes for February 21st, 2024.

Resolution 2024-02-21-02

Be it resolved that the minutes for the February 21st, 2024, Public DDRRC meeting be approved.

Approved by consensus.

2.2 Review Action Items. Done.

3. Housekeeping

3.1 Portfolios / Upcoming Meetings

3.1.1 Dawson's Wildfire Resiliency Plan – Open House - Älät Nëhëjël (TH Hall) March 7 from 5:30p.m - 7:30 p.m. Ian to attend and report back to Council.

3.1.2 Sausage Making Workshop – March 8/9 2024 – Minto Concession. Dan to remove quarters after the meeting and will drop them off at the Minto Concession on Friday.

3.1.3 Northern Mountain Caribou Summit, Dease Lake – May 22-24 2024. This item to remain on the agenda moving forward, Nick to keep an eye out for more information (i.e. an agenda).

3.1.4 RRC AGW in Carcross – June 6/7. Anticipating a good turn out of RRC members, possibly Mark, Dan, Duncan, Kyler, Ali and Darren.

4. Updates

4.1 YFWMB - Concerns about consultation re YG Mineral Development Strategy Legislation. Sebastain was in attendance to help Council resolve a misunderstanding that occurred during the last meeting. In the YFWMB email to YG re YG's new Mineral Legislation consultation, a 2020 letter was included, that letter was the YFWMB's response to the Mineral Development Strategy consultation that occurred in 2020 and is not a response to the recent Mineral Legislation that occurred in 2023. Sebastain is currently in the process of drafting a revised YFWMB submission / comment to YG re the new Mineral Legislation, with hopes that other RRC's will be able to support it or use it to formulate their own response. Nick will include review of the anticipated letter to a future meeting agenda. Council asked Nick to resend the consolidated discussion paper document for the 2023 YG Mineral Legislation Consultation.

Action Item: Resend the consolidated discussion paper document for the 2023 YG Mineral Legislation Consultation.

5. Old Business.

5.1 YESAB Project 2024-0024 – Benson Creek. Nick explained that YESAB anticipates the adequacy stage of the project assessment to be completed on March 8th and soon after the project will enter the Seeking Views stage if YESAB deem the project is ready. Nick will include review of the project to a future meeting agenda if the project proceeds to the next stage of assessment.

5.2 YESAB Project 2024-0020 - Dempster Sewage Lagoon - Water License. Nick confirmed a comment extension for this project has been submitted. Council asked Nick to draft a letter to YESAB that will focus on a request to reduce the length of water license duration from 10 years to 5 years, express the Council's concern for YG's reactive approach (monitoring wells only installed in 2020), concerns over risk to salmon spawning and rearing habitat given exceedances in nitrates found in monitoring wells, and an overall concern given a single cell system like this has been operational for this long for the surrounding population and assumed industrial use.

Action Item: Draft letter to YESAB re Project 2024-0020 - Dempster Sewage Lagoon - Water License.

6. New Business.

6.1 New YG Funding Agreement / Membership Administrator – Amy Jacobsen. Nick let Council know they finally staffed this position; Amy is replacing the vacancy left by Kelly Gruber in the fall of 2023.

6.2 YESAB Panel Review Process Education Initiative. The Council reviewed the letter and asked Nick to call YESAB and discuss when and where a presentation could be scheduled, if the presentation requires more than an hour, a special meeting will be required.

Action Item: Respond to YESAB re Panel Review Process Education Initiative and request a presentation date and time.

Action Items

i.	Nick	Resend the consolidated discussion paper document for the 2023 YG Mineral Legislation Consultation.	Done.
ii.	Nick	Draft letter to YESAB re Project 2024-0020 - Dempster Sewage Lagoon - Water License.	
iii.	Nick	Respond to YESAB re Panel Review Process Education Initiative and request a presentation date and time.	Done.

iv.	Nick	<p>Standing Items:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Nick to stay in contact with Michelle Thompson (YG Control Order Veterinarian) and to watch for any new reports on the Movi control order being published by YG. b. Nick to keep in touch with Jim Welsh about providing more hunter training workshops here in Dawson. c. Nick to request minutes for the 24th Biennial Northern Wild Sheep and Goat Council (NWSGC) Symposium in Anchorage, Alaska - April 30 to May 2, 2024. d. In the Fall of 2024, encourage councillors to snare squirrels for the 2025 RSS Trapping Week. Review Feb 21, 2024 Meeting notes in preparation of Trapping Week in 2025. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. Ongoing. b. Ongoing. c. Ongoing. d. Ongoing.
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Meeting Adjourned: 08:30 p.m.

		submitting and reach out to YESAB regarding lease issues.	
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Meeting Adjourned: 9.10 p.m.