

SUMMARY MEETING NOTES

Tagish River Habitat Protection Area
Steering Committee Meeting
Tagish Community Centre
January 10th, 2017

Attendees |

Steering Committee Members:

Georgianna Low CTFN · **Frank James** CTFN · **Margaret Campbell** CWS · **Nathalie Lowry** CWS ·
Matt Clarke ENV · **Todd Powell** ENV

TLAP Steering Committee Members:

Patrick James CTFN

Other Staff |

Neil McGrath ENV · **Tomoko Hagio** EMR

Observers |

Randy Taylor CTRRC · **Paul Dabbs** TAC

Guests |

Dennis Zimmermann

Regrets |

Mark Wedge CTFN · **Albert James** CTFN · **Matt Clarke** ENV

Welcome

- **Opening Prayer**
- **Agenda**
 - Addition of local issues – dog mushing and speed limit to updates section
 - Risk matrix and timeline considerations tabled for future meeting
- **Updates**
 - Update from Environment Yukon
 - Yukon government (YG) Steering Committee members discussed the designation status with ENV Policy director. Heard again that the designation does not mean much without the accompanying management plan. Designation involves a cabinet submission and needs to be addressed by the new Minister. The interest from senior management is generally to submit the designation and management plan at the same time.
 - Feeling is that the Steering Committee would like to explore the possibility of having the designation happen before the management plan as there could be risk in not having area designated if planned is stalled for any reason.

- The Carcross/Tagish Renewable Resources Council (CTRRC) was told by YESAB that the designation does make a difference to the YESAB process and land use applications.
- The administrative reserve is supposed to cover these considerations in the place of designation until the management plan is complete.

Further Updates

- There was previous mention of contacting other agencies in regards to seeking input for the HPA process. Wondering if the opportunity for other agencies to provide input comes at the draft management plan review stage.
- The YG approval process involves an interdepartmental review. Knowing that we could potentially have issues with getting certain recommendations approved brings an opportunity to provide the YG planning committee with these potential recommendations before plan drafting to run the possibility by them early. This is also an opportunity for other governments to do the same. The YG approval process involves a submission to cabinet.
- Environment Canada (EC) does a local consultation with other Federal departments. Figuring out the approval process now with the new Northern Region reorganisation, EC will be looking at clearing this up.

Other comments

- Dog mushing is becoming a big problem in regards to disturbing caribou. People are not seeing caribou tracks where they used to, where there is a presence of dogs now. Indication that dog teams disturb wildlife even more than off-road vehicles.
- Need a way to regulate dog team use.
- Have been looking into a recreational area for dog mushing use as they do use the lakes frequently.
- It is best to encourage dog mushers to move to areas with less disturbance potential.
- No current knowledge of dog mushers using the river or river banks, but all it takes is one person to buy a waterfront property and start an operation within the river area.
- Thought to include this in the plan as there is the potential of increased disturbance.
- Even just living along the river with dogs can greatly affect habitat.
- To bring caribou considerations back to the Tagish River HPA it could be more oriented towards giving caribou access to the river or shoreline as a corridor – if

the plan mentions the important habitats of caribou, it will support the Tagish Local Area Planning Process also.

- Access to traditional food sources is an important consideration. Salmon is another big issue related to this.

- **Discussion on the community engagement event.**

- The Steering committee continued discussions on the community engagement event. Updates are that an email was sent out to the list of Tagish residents that includes a link to the discussion papers. There was discussion around the importance of including a Heritage lens to the discussion at the meeting and additional pieces that can be added. For example, using a seasonal lens (as they relate to wildlife, habitat) and a First Nation lens (historical use, context, etc). So rather than a separate discussion paper, looking to each issue through both lenses. The importance of a First Nations lens was discussed and that it takes into account tangible and intangible things – ceremonies, dances, names. The medicine wheel is to be included and traditional maps. Even if this discussion may take more time than allotted, we need to show importance and respect within this lens.
- Going to go ahead with finalizing the 3 discussion papers – put up on website with a direct link so that they can send out a 2nd email.
- Wait until after the meeting to draft so comments from the meeting can be included.
- Look into a newspaper ad – Yukon News, Whitehorse Star.
- The TLAP will be at the meeting to answer any LAP specific questions.
- Discussion on the boundary of each plan – HPA goes up to the ordinary high water mark, the LAP comes down to the ordinary high water mark.
- Questions may land in either of the processes.
- Acknowledge that all comments are important and will be considered, but that they may be reflected in the other plan.
- There was a detailed discussion on the meeting schedule and layout, going through every detail, including items needed, and who would lead/present on what.

- **Next Steps**

- Have the update/progress letter draft ready to be discussed at next meeting.
- Timeline issues to be moved to next meeting.

- February 14th scheduled for next meeting.

- **Closing Thoughts**