

SUMMARY MEETING NOTES

Tagish River Habitat Protection Area
Steering Committee Meeting
Tagish Community Centre
April 11th, 2017

Attendees|

Steering Committee Members:

Mark Wedge CTFN · Albert James CTFN · Georgianna Low CTFN · Frank James CTFN · Margaret Campbell CWS · Matt Clarke ENV · Todd Powell ENV

Observers|

Randy Taylor CTRRC · Paul Dabbs TAC

Other Staff|

Neil McGrath ENV · Tess McLeod ENV · Tomoko Hagio EMR

Regrets|

Nathalie Lowry CWS

Welcome

Opening Prayer

Agenda

Updates

Carcross/Tagish Renewable Resources Council (CTRRC)

- Another year of funding was granted for the cisco project. It will most likely involve population studies, DNA studies, and traditional/local knowledge studies.
- Looking to either revise the existing commercial cisco license or suspend it until further study.

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS)

- The letter from CWS to Taku River Tlingit First Nation (TRTFN) regarding consultation on the planning process has been re-drafted and will going back for re-signing.

Yukon government (YG)

- There is some follow up information regarding discussion at the March meeting on the disturbance of human development along the shoreline. The current percentage disturbance was calculated at approximately 15.2%. This will need further discussion.

Tagish Local Area Planning (TLAP)

- A draft of the TLAP has been completed and is being reviewed internally by YG. This draft will then be provided to the TLAP committee, then for public review. Not sure yet

on the timing of these steps. Section relevant to the Tagish River HPA planning process have been left for coordination between the two planning committees.

- The Yukon government Land Management Branch –EMR has a summer project to count docks in the southern lakes area. What will become of this is unclear. Follow up is required.

Carcross/Tagish First Nation (CTFN)

- CTFN is currently working on transboundary issues for their government. Alternatives to land use planning are being looked at.

Other Comments

- There are problems already happening this season, regarding waterfowl disturbance, with the two people who paddled kayaks into the Swan Haven area. Something to be aware of. There are also already people starting to park at the Tagish Day Use Area boat launch.

Management Plan Discussion

Planning Process

- We are now at a stage in planning where there has been a lot of information gathered and it is time to put these ideas and concepts into a draft plan.
- There is still a need to further understand the policy (legislative and regulative) changes that might be required to move forward on plan implementation.
- We are clear on the need to have a plan that describes the area well and then leads to recommendations coming out of that description for each agency to implement.
- We also all agree that we should be approaching all aspects of the plan through education first and enforcement last.
- One solution would be a Conservation Officer Services education event every spring. A campaign that educates people before they get to the water.
- A recommendation about not disturbing swans can have multiple pieces. There can be the educational item, enforcement, etc.
- Another solution could be to have a local team that can educate people on the law/regulations.
- There was discussion about joint legislation processes during the Kusawa Park management planning. There may be other places we can look for examples and ideas such as Nunavut or NWT.

- There is a need to check back with the community about these concepts. We are close to this stage but we really need to nail down the recommendations and see where information gaps are.
- Other examples of HPAs have included recommendations to create legislation.

Plan Implementation

- To ensure the recommendations are implemented they should be descriptive in the implementation section so that it's very clear where the work needs to be done and where it lies in regards to priorities.
- These sections should be descriptive enough to help partners pick up pieces easily.
- There are many pieces to consider: the TLAP fitting in, regulations/legislation, the dock discussion, etc.

Recommendation planning session

The Steering Committee worked through recommendation details on river access and docks, this information will be included in a table to be filled in and discussed at the next meeting. Further discussion regarding docks and solutions to these issues is required. These issues need to be addressed, and will play a role in the success of the Steering Committee's abilities to move forward with the planning process. There is a need to flesh out the details of the recommendations regarding docks to the satisfaction of each party.

Next Steps

- Next meeting scheduled for May 16th.