

Teleconference Notes

November 20, 2015, 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM

Notes by Joe Hanlon

Participants

Sahtú ERM Forum Members

Ed Reeves, Walter Bayha, James Caesar, Laurel McDonald, Bruce Hanna, Jenica von Kuster, Andrea Hansen, Heather Sayine-Crawford

Invited Guests

Susan Kutz and Anja Carlsson, University of Calgary

Linna O'Hara, Environmental Health, Population Health Division, NWT Health and Social Services

Jonathon Michel, Aurora Research Institute

Secretariat

Joe Hanlon and Deborah Simmons, ʔehdzo Got'Inę Gotsé Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board – SRRB)

Christine Wenman, PlanIT North

Agenda

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Update on Research Activities
 - a. Moose and Caribou Health monitoring (Susan Kutz, University of Calgary)
 - b. Re/mediating Indigenous Environmental Justice: Resource Extraction, Divergent Risk Perception, and Economic Equality in the North (Alana Fletcher, Queen's University)
3. Community Visits
 - a. Vet tour
 - b. Contaminants mapping update – visit to Deline (Christine)
 - c. Community Mapping Initiative (Heidi Brown)
 - d. Human Contaminants Biomonitoring (Mylène Ratelle and/or Brian Laird)
 - e. Harvest Study completion (Deb)
4. Research Proposal Update
 - a. CIMP Research Letters of Intent submitted and proposals to be developed (Deb)
 - b. Sahtú ERM Forum proposal submitted (Christine)
5. Research licenses approved and applications in the works (Joe Hanlon)
6. Key agenda item: Research license referral process briefing note (Christine)
7. Key agenda item: Case studies for regional research strategies (Christine)
8. Update on January 26-28 meeting – decision re Colville Lake vs Yellowknife
9. December teleconference date/time?
10. Community Forum members internal discussion
 - a. Update on ʔehdzo Got'Inę formalized appointments

1. Welcome and Introductions

2. Update on Research Activities

Moose and Caribou Health monitoring

Susan Kutz and Anja Carlsson, University of Calgary

- See slideshow for details.
- James – Requests report on mountain woodland caribou. Anja – Can send that specific information. Susan – Full report will be going out to all the ʔehdzo Got’ıne soon, feel free to contact us if you have any questions.
- Deb and Susan agreed to partner in developing a webpage for the moose and caribou health monitoring project, including links to reports, the video, and the anatomy atlas, as well as biographies and photos of project team members – so that people will have easy access to project materials.
- Heather – Regarding Délıne caribou harvest this year, have developed a smaller kit, goal is at least 100 samples this year.
- Deb – Overview of meetings in Inuvik this week between SRRB, GRRB, and WMAC. Looking for ways to support community involvement in caribou conservation.

Re/mediating Indigenous Environmental Justice: Resource Extraction, Divergent Risk Perception, and Economic Equality in the North

Alana Fletcher, Queen’s University

Alana sent an email with her regrets that she is unable to join the meeting, along with the following introduction to her research:

- I am an adjunct professor of English at Queen's University in Kingston, Ontario, where I completed my PhD in August 2015. My research expertise is in contemporary Canadian and Indigenous literatures, environmentalism, and adaptation theory.
- For my dissertation, I examined how adaptations of Deline community oral histories (into films, essays, plays, etc) strengthened the claims people were making about uranium contamination. I found out about the history of Port Radium from a film, in fact -- Peter Blow's Village of Widows. I visited Deline in summer 2014 to speak to people about whether they were familiar with the works I was studying and what they thought of them, and to see what progress had been made on the 2005 Canada-Délıne Uranium Table (CDUT) recommendations.
- At the end of this trip, I became interested in the collection of materials held at the Délıne First Nation -- materials relating not only to the CDUT process but to land claims, traditional languages, and other topics. When I went back to visit Deline in summer 2015 I spent some time cataloging the materials there and trying to discover what work had been done with them so far. In terms of Deline projects, it is this attempt to complete a usable community archive that could be part of the DKC that I am most interested in now. I am hoping that I might be able to return to Deline to work on this on a contract basis with some support from the SRRB's Sahtu Library Project.
- Both times I visited Deline I stayed with Bernice and Morris Neyelle, with whom I became pretty close. Another project I am working on concerning Deline is Morris's book of his father's life and stories. I am editing the book and making applications for grants to support our work on it. One

thing I will need help with on this project is the orthography and English translation of some Slavey words, especially those relating to places, rivers, and land formations.

- I think that's about all for now. I would be very happy to be contacted by anyone who has input on either of these ongoing projects or anyone who sees fruitful collaboration between my work and their own.

3. Community Visits

Vet tour

Susan Kutz

- February 8-19 (approximately); will try to attend the Tsá Túé Research and Monitoring Coordination Workshop in mid-February.

Contaminants mapping update – visit to Deline

Christine Wenman

- Visited Déljñę Nov 2-6 and was able to interview about 10 people.
- Planning visit to Fort Good Hope and Colville Lake the week of Dec 7-11.
- Planning visit to Tulít'a and Norman Wells in 2016.

Community Mapping Initiative

Heidi Brown

- Visited Déljñę on Nov 11-15.
- Visited Tulít'a on Nov 16-17.
- Met with ʔehdzo Got'jñę, elders, and community researchers to discuss repatriation of Dene Nation Mapping Project and development of mapping projects – Sahtú Renewable Resources Board is providing funding and technical expertise.
- Visited Norman Wells on Nov 18 and met with Ruby McDonald.
- Visit to Fort Good Hope was scheduled but then cancelled by the Fort Good Hope ʔehdzo Got'jñę.
- Visit to Colville Lake has not yet been scheduled.
- Déljñę, Tulít'a and Norman Wells all wanted more in-depth workshops in the new year to scope out the projects.

Human Contaminants Biomonitoring

Mylène Ratelle

- Visiting Déljñę on Dec 1-2.
- Visiting Tulít'a on Dec 3-4.
- Would like to coordinate with other communities for meetings in the new year.
- Will be available to meet with leaders.

Harvest Study completion

Deborah Simmons on behalf of Janet Winbourne

- Visiting Déljñę on Dec 2-4.
- Visit to Fort Good Hope was scheduled but then cancelled by the Fort Good Hope ʔehdzo Got'jñę. The Fort Good Hope ʔehdzo Got'jñę then sent a letter to the SRRB declining to participate in this project; there appears to be a misunderstanding that this is a new harvest study rather than a review of the land claim mandated harvest study that has already occurred (from 1998-2004).
- Will be available to visit the other communities in 2016.

4. Research Proposal Update

CIMP Research Letters of Intent submitted and proposals to be developed

Deborah Simmons

- Suggests development of proposals beginning immediately.
- Suggests ʔehdzo Got'jñę deciding as early as possible who to include as partners on proposals.

Sahtú ERM Forum proposal submitted

Christine Wenman

- No funding left in the Sahtú Region pot for Aboriginal Capacity (NWT Industry, Tourism and Investment). Christine and Deb

5. Research licenses approved and applications in the works

Joe Hanlon

- No update; SRRB is still developing a system to track these internally and to provide updates to ʔehdzo Got'jñę, Sahtú ERM Forum, and other parties.

6. Key agenda item: Research license referral process briefing note

Christine Wenman

- Review of briefing note.
- James – Some licenses are for multiple years, others for short term, and some topics get studied more than others.
- James – How effective are the studies? Joe – Any examples to clarify this? James – Fort Good Hope has put a lot of effort into the Ramparts Protected Area Strategy, and now some guy got a license to study how effective the strategy is. Why fund somebody like this, trying to undermine the community work? (Note: Joe believes that this is the study in question: <http://data.nwtresearch.com/Scientific/15559>)
- James – Do students doing their thesis need a license? Joe – Yes, they need a license.
- Walter comments on this process from the Déljñę perspective. Walter (with Ed's help) plays a role in screening research license applications for community leadership organisations.

- Discussion of possibilities for customizing process for Sahtú region. The structure of the land claim gave rise to the current referral system.
- Deb suggests having a person from each community (eg. the Sahtú ERM Forum representatives) in charge of reviewing licenses, rather than every organization receiving a request. Goal is to get written consensus from all organizations on current referral list.
- Laurel – Suggests including SYN representative in license review.
- Jonathon confirmed that it is possible to establish a new referral process for the Sahtú. For example, a revision to the Terms of Reference for the Forum giving community representatives a higher level of responsibility in the licensing process could work, if approved by Sahtú leadership organisations.

7. Key agenda item: Case studies for regional research strategies

Christine Wenman

- Delayed until next meeting.

8. Update on January 26-28 meeting – decision re Colville Lake vs Yellowknife

Deborah Simmons

- Delayed until next meeting.

9. December teleconference date/time?

Deborah Simmons

- Friday, December 11 from 1 PM – 4 PM

10. Community Forum members internal discussion

Update on ?ehdzo Got'ine formalized appointments

- Delayed until next meeting.

Meeting adjourns at 4:05 PM