

Teleconference Notes

Thursday, June 4, 2015, 9 am-noon

Notes by Joe Hanlon

Participants

Present: Deb Simmons, Joe Hanlon, Trudy Kochon, Richard Odgaard, Bradley Menacho, Leon Andrew, Ed Reeves, Felix Karkagie, Michael Neyelle, Krista Chin, Bruce Hanna

Absent: James Caesar, Gilbert Turo, Fred Andrew, Jimmy Dillon, Cindy Gilday

Invited guests: Janet Winbourne, Christine Wenman, Shauna Morgan, Shelagh Montgomery, Brian Laird

Opening prayer and introductions

Deb Simmons, Leon Andrew

Community/regional caribou planning: Barren-ground caribou research and monitoring options

Presentation by Janet Winbourne

Deb – introduction about meeting in Colville Lake, upcoming ENR photo survey, SRRB support of ERM as model for regional caribou planning

Michael – Comments about forming working group for caribou mgmt

Janet – Talking about ACCWM and role in promoting fairness and uniting differences between regions. People from different mgmt. boards sitting at the table and trying to work things out between the regions. Have to be consistent between regions, can't have one set of rules and then across the border have a different set of rules, system would break down quickly.

Deb – Do people on the call like the idea of following the forum model?

Roger – I'm good with it, I'll back up Déljñę and CL

Trudy – Community is strong when they talk about caribou, it is a sensitive topic for them, we'll have to go with what they say, I support the community's wishes.

Michael – In Déljñę, how we handled it, DRRC/DLC/Chief got together and represented Déljñę on the caribou issue and produced a document saying what the position was

Deb – We'll continue talking about it and see what people want; separate process for BNW and BNE or one process for both. All of this is in progress, if forum members want to say anything we'd love to hear from you.

Leon – Maybe the community should come up with some solutions and then send that to the SRRB as a starting point? It is true what Janet is saying, the different regions could fall apart really fast if they are not on the same page. The migration route too is something they should document real good, it gives them comfort in CL or Déljñę.

Deb – Harvest study, 1998-2005, never got finished, so we got funding from fed'l gov't to finish and work with communities on reviewing the results and see how accurate they are, and of course caribou is going to be a big one. Come fall if we don't have a solution about caribou mgmt. then gov't will panic and force something down our throat. Draft report – what should we do with it?

Janet – Not sure what the best thing to do is. Report is really technical. I wasn't part of doing the study, but had access to all documents, and drafted report with documents from old harvest study files. It's a really technical report about how the study was done, and how you take the numbers and crunch them to come out with numbers that should be fairly accurate for the community as a whole. Hoping Janet Bayha or Jody Snortland could look at it and make sure I got the details right. Also, the rest of the report is 200 pages of tables with really good detail, but I have no idea how accurate the numbers are, and the person who did stats can't know either, so we want to go back to the communities. Maybe it is better that I go sit down with one person, or a small group, to look at those tables and hear that those numbers look right (or not). Numbers can be used to determine the Minimum Needs Level.

Deb – And this is in the land claim, about protecting people's harvesting rights.

Janet – As the communications about caribou mgmt. and allocation take place, good to have that info in your pocket. Because there will be allocation conversations about BNE very soon and then new conversations about allocations for the other herd. This is one piece of info that helps people decide about those allocations. So it is important to know that the study got those numbers right.

Deb / Trudy / Janet / Michael – conversation about harvest study, working group, and use of harvest study data

Deb – SRRB approved funding for Sahtú Atlas / Heidi Brown, so communities can have access to their map data in easy to use format that is password protected.

Leon – agrees

Michael – has to leave the call.

Waste Site Management

Presentation by Cindy Gilday and Christine Wenman

Christine – From talking to Cindy, she’s thinking very broadly. I was looking at specifically municipal landfill sites, problem is some of the waste is hazardous, legacy waste that has accumulated, not all residential waste, govts trying to figure out how they are going to share costs to deal with that, as communities don’t have resources to do it.

Deb – a lot of this will be prep for next shale oil boom, is my understanding. We’ll have Cindy go over this next time she’s on the phone.

Brief overviews of draft reports

Mercury Synthesis, Monitoring Framework, Research Results Workshop

Deb – introduces topic, links to human biomonitoring work, asks Christine to go first (skipping below), then talks about Sahtú ERM funding and reporting and proposal for next year.

Sahtú ERM Forum

Presentation by Christine Wenman

Christine – Put together prelim draft of funding proposal, goes through draft document that was emailed to forum. Asks about timeline for this.

Roger – sounds good, forward copy and I will bring to RRC.

Christine – Should I talk about themes/directions, or wait for feedback?

Deb – Might be useful for Christine to flag some key themes.

Roger – Agrees with importance of social aspect

Christine – Communication and challenges to communication with broader audiences, and also education and training and importance of on the land work and work with elders (referring to document).

Deb – Minister of ITI tabled document about hydraulic fracturing on June 2, on page 13 mentions the Sahtú ERM Forum, “this forum is established as a 3-way info exchange between industry, communities, and gov’t...(she reads from the document)”.

Shauna – to put in perspective, the point of the document was to say that govt has done everything it needs to do to prep for hydraulic fracturing, and those studies/forum were listed to say that this means that the govt did things to make hydraulic fracturing safe.

Deb – good point, need to have in our report that a lot more work needs to be done, right?

Shauna – right.

Christine – extremely important to keep supporting the forum.

1028 Trudy left call.

Summer research/monitoring updates

Human biomonitoring

Presentation by Shelagh Montgomery and Brian Laird

Shelagh – Overview of work so far, importance of training / long term monitoring / gaps in knowledge.

Brian – Overview of mercury / mercury risks / gaps in science – overall exposure and risk. One need identified in Deh Cho was to do a study where we measure levels of contaminants in people to see if they've been exposed to levels that could have implications for or negative impacts on their health.

Deb – Asks what biomonitoring is.

Brian – Biomonitoring is the measurement of contaminants in people. Ex mercury in hair, or lead in blood. But regardless of type of sample, it provides us with a snapshot of levels of exposure that people have had to these types of contaminants, and we can use that to determine the level of risk among a community.

Deb – is that clear, everybody?

Deb / Brian – stress importance of consultation process, ask for opinions about how to do it well.

Leon – Want to say that it is important that we understand the contaminants, what it is, for example mercury, its been talked about for the last couple of years or more, but what does it really, where does it really come from. I'd like to understand that. There's a way to get that information, I'd love to hear it. If you go through the camp or whatnot, I'm for it.

Cross-Cultural Research Camp

Presentation by Shauna Morgan

Shauna – It seems that the best week for people in ENR is July 4-11.

Deb – And we really want strong turnout from the forum and envt'l monitoring trainees.

Deb / others – Discussion about availability for camp (Charmaine / Brian not available the above week or have kids and can't attend),

Deb / Shauna / Laurel – Discussion about camp location and low water levels and logistics / travel

Shauna / Laurel - conversation about funding sources

Krista – overview of her research

Deb / Shauna / Laurel – discussion of camp locations and advantages of cabins and getting permission from people who have nearby cabins.

Deb – Anyone other than Laurel volunteering to work with Shauna?

Roger – I want to make sure we have someone from FGH.

Krista – main thing I need is accessible creeks

Shauna – and some amenities, like a freezer for some of the samples

(more discussion about general camp stuff)

Water Health Monitoring

Presentation by Krista Chin

Krista – talks about her research plans for the summer, 2 people in the lab and 3 (?) people for the field

Krista – talks about hiring process / requirements

Community Water Monitoring

Presentation by Laurel McDonald

Laurel – new water monitoring officer, Stephanie Hughes

Deb – How's she approaching the work?

Laurel – not up to her, up to water resources in YK, they try to hire a community member to assist in learning the process.

Laurel – Hiring process is through local RRCs.

Bat Monitoring

Presentation by Deborah Simmons

Deb – Overview of work in NW so far. Draft assessment of bats in NWT under review; draft federal recovery plan too.

Research license applications

Presentation by Deborah Simmons

Laurel – Imperial Oil Resources Type A water license.

Deb – Focused on research license applications / wildlife applications.

Laurel – This is a special effects study for the aquatic monitoring.

Deb – Timeline?

Laurel – Have to provide comments by June 16.

Deb – will check in with Catarina about that.

NOTE – Joe will check with Catarina about Imperial Oil process.

Déjñę Water Conference

Ed – Talks about Déjñę water stuff, introduces Felix

Felix Karkagie, assistant coordinator for water conference, July 28-30, goal to discuss GBL watershed, keynote speaker David Suzuki, working on the rest of the details.

Proposals for future research and monitoring

Deb – should we delay this for later?

Bruce Hanna – the one to flag is, still trying to work with geoscience office to address seep concerns that roger brought forward.

Deb – feasible to put in letter of intent for followup work on caribou work (Jean’s) to CIMP?

Deb – Also thinking about possible funding links to GBL watershed conference

Deb – asked me to get down whatever she talked about here, but I didn’t catch it

Deb – Goes over the Mapping proposal that the Board approved yesterday

Roger – closing comments? Referring to ITI Minister email that Deb sent out. Agrees.

Next meeting

Deb – next meeting? Skip July, see if people can make August? Mornings are good.

Deb – will aim for 9-12 on Aug 27. Will hopefully have done caribou planning work and will talk about it. And results of summer work. Any other agenda items?

Meeting adjourned at approximately noon.