

CARCROSS TAGISH RENEWABLE RESOURCE COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES

Date: September 12, 2022

Time: 10:00am

Location: Tagish Community Centre

In Attendance

Members: Don Toews, John Smarch, Tyler Obediah, Cory Atlin, Bryce Bekar, Edna Helm, Zena McLean

Guests: Lars Jessup, Cameron Sinclair, Jaylene Goorts

Don Toews was Chair, John Smarch was Vice Chair

Andrew Serack was recording secretary

1. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was presented to Council for approval. Don added a discussion about moose meat donation to new business.

Bryce motioned to approve the agenda as amended and John seconded the motion.

2. Approval of Minutes

The minutes from the meeting dated August 1, 2022 was presented to council for acceptance. Tyler motioned to approve the minutes as presented and Bryce seconded the motion.

3. Financial Report

The financial report dated July, 2022 was presented to council for acceptance. John motioned to approve and Cory seconded the motion.

4. Hunter Workshop

Council discussed the concept of a butchering clinic in Carcross or Tagish. The logistics of planning a clinic may be difficult in terms of finding an instructor, a moose, and advertising lining up, but Council Members will start asking around. Bryce knows of a potential instructor.

5. Little Atlin Pike Study

Don introduced the concept of the Little Atlin Pike Study after discussion with Ben Schonewille. Ben has proposed to apply to the enhancement trust to partially fund a study. Teslin Tlingit was willing to lend nets from their recent study for Little Atlin. Council Members agreed to ask Ben to the next regular meeting to present a proposal and discussion.

6. Regulation Change Cycle

Council Members agreed to work towards proposals for the regulation change cycle at the end of this fiscal year. After discussion, it was agreed the best approach was to write individual proposal for each of the following topics:

1. Single barbless hooks for all fishing at Tarfu, Snafu, and Little Atlin Lake
2. Catch limit including fish that are caught and released reduced at Lubbock, Tarfu, Snafu, and Little Atlin Lake
3. Size limit for lake trout at Little Atlin Lake

7. Chair

Don's term as Chair is ending October 13, 2022. Don's appointment ends March 8, 2024. Don would like to find another Chair to take over sooner than later as he will not be renewing his appointment in March, 2024. Council will have a discussion and election at the next Council meeting.

8. Appointment Process Letter

Don and Andrew provided an update to Council on the drafted letter and meeting with Kelly Gruber of YG. C/TRRC drafted the letter after hearing similar concerns from other RRC's at the YFWMB Chair's meeting. Council's feel that the appointment process is far too slow and are concerned that the names of applicants are not shared during the application process removing the RRC's ability to provide feedback for the Minister's decision. In the future, C/TRRC will advertise for new applicants and suggest that they contact the RRC directly during the application process so that the RRC can write a letter of recommendation to the Minister.

9. New Business

- a. Outfitter moose meat donation – Council Members discussed the distribution process. The Elders were very happy with the donation last year. Edna has a list of Elders for distribution. Bryce was willing to pick up the moose from the butcher in Whitehorse.
- b. Tyler provided some updates from CTFN: CTFN is planning a harvest survey and may ask for assistance in preparing the survey. The Skookum Mine contaminated area was found to have wildlife drinking from the pond. CTFN Monitors will be working at the Carcross Transfer Station to ensure the electric fence is operational.

c. Don engaged Council in a preliminary discussion on HPA's before the afternoon content.

10. Habitat Protection Areas

Council and guests discussed special protection for sensitive areas. The highest priority areas in discussion are wetlands, caribou winter range, and sheep lambing areas. The biggest concern by public consultation is human recreational impacts on sensitive areas.

Jaylene and Lars provided some feedback on the HPA process which is long and interest is currently tied up in the Tagish River and Lewes Marsh HPA's. Other mechanisms may be available to protect these sensitive areas in the short term.

C/TRRC can have an immediate impact by designing and delivering educational material to support sensitive areas.

Council Members and guests agreed to support a workshop in late Fall to discuss HPA's and other habitat protection mechanisms for critical areas in the Southern Lakes.

Council discussed catch limits and excessive catch and release. Council discussed how new regulations, while not easily enforceable, are one of the best educational tools. 90% or more of anglers are likely to follow regulations. Cameron will have some data available to discuss in November, and Lars will have results by October or November from the summer angler surveys. The results from all surveys and studies will help support the proposed regulation changes for the 4 major Southern Lakes fisheries.

DRAFT