

**CARCROSS/TAGISH
RENEWABLE RESOURCES COUNCIL**

ANNUAL REPORT

2021-2022



INTRODUCTION

The Carcross Tagish Renewable Resources Council was established in February 2010. The fiscal year 2021-2022 was the tenth year of operation for the Council.

Our area of responsibility encompasses a wide region commonly referred to as the Southern Lakes. Four very distinct communities lie within the boundaries of the Carcross Tagish First Nation Traditional Territory: Carcross, Tagish, Marsh Lake and Mount Lorne. The C/TRRC meetings are open to the public and we invite everyone who is interested to attend the meetings, which are normally held on the first Monday of every month.

MANDATE

The C/TRRC, established as the primary instrument for local renewable resource management under the Carcross Tagish First Nation Final Agreement, is the local advisory body for fish, wildlife, forestry and habitat related land use in the Carcross Tagish First Nation Settlement area.

The Council strives to be the voice of the Community in managing local renewable resources.

The Council provides strong input into planning and regulation processes by raising public awareness of specific issues and by providing local and traditional information.

The Council also plays an important advisory role to territorial, federal and First Nations governments and the Yukon Fish & Wildlife Management Board.

The C/TRRC is comprised of 8 council members including 2 alternate members, each appointed by First Nation and YTG.



MEMBERSHIP

Council Members:

Don Toews, Chair, YG (elected September 13, 2021)

Seki Giardino, Vice Chair, CTFN (elected September 13, 2021, resigned April 6, 2022)

Edna Helm, Member, CTFN (Vice Chair until June 1, 2021, Acting Chair until September 13, 2021)

Tyler Obediah, Member, YG (appointed August 19, 2021)

John Smarch, Member, YG (appointed July 22, 2021)

Jacques Jobin, Alternate Member, YG

Zena McLean, Alternate Member, CTFN

Employees:

Andrew Serack, Executive Director (hired April 19, 2021)

PROJECTS & ACHIEVEMENTS

C/TRRC continued to support the Caribou in the Schools education program financially and by attending draft reviews. The program should be implemented in the schools in 2022.

C/TRRC supported trappers by providing incentives for well managed fur harvest.

C/TRRC financially supported Yukon Government for moose population aerial surveys. C/TRRC contracted Two Crow Consulting to conduct local knowledge surveys related to moose in the Southern Lakes as part of a larger moose population survey project.



C/TRRC contracted Lars Jessup and Matt Larsen to conduct a Local Knowledge Survey. 16 long-time local residents were interviewed and the data was formalized into a report. The Local Knowledge Survey is the first of a recurring survey designed to give a year-over-year analysis of the landscape from the perspective of its local inhabitants.

C/TRRC butchered, packaged, and delivered moose meat donated by Northcurl Outfitters to C/TFN Elders.

C/TRRC supported Yukon Government collaring projects of sheep, caribou, and wolf.

C/TRRC designed and conducted a public survey on Special Habitat Protection Areas which received 102 locals input. The survey is published on the C/TRRC website.

C/TRRC hosted an Elders Gathering for C/TFN Elders to discuss and provide feedback on the implementation of the 2020-2025 Fish and Wildlife Work Plan.

C/TRRC supported caribou collision awareness radio and Facebook ads along with Yukon Government.

C/TRRC hired a graphic designer to develop a series of caribou collision awareness advertisements.

C/TRRC was highly active on social media and in engaging with the public on what matters most regarding fish, wildlife, and wildlife habitat related issues.

C/TRRC supported the design and installation of sheep lambing signs at popular hiking areas.

C/TRRC support the Yukon Invasive Species Council with an in-kind donation of technical advice for sweetclover and other invasive species.



MEETINGS & EVENTS

Council was represented and had input at various meetings, events, and workshops:

Yukon Salmon sub-committee meetings
YFWMB meetings
Stewardship of Yukon Wetlands Policy
Yukon Plastics Gathering
Meeting with Roads Ecologist Tony Clevenger
Indigenous Knowledge Grizzly Bear Workshop
Caribou in the Schools

RECOMMENDATION LETTERS

Council drafted letters of intervention and ministerial recommendations on the following resource issues and YESAB Land use applications:

RE: Project 2022-0062 -Erosion Barrier - Lot 144 Tagish River Road
RE: YESAB 2021-0182 Squanga Lake Access Road and Boat Launch
RE: hiking signage Needle Mtn. Mt Lorne LAC
RE: Surplus Funds
Project Support: Addressing the threat of invasive species in Carcross

CHALLENGES

The vastness of the region, four distinct communities, and wide-ranging priorities for the residents of each community continue to present a variety of logistical and program challenges for the Council. It is challenging to hold meetings regularly in all the communities to engage the public.

Due to close proximity to the Yukon's major population center the city of Whitehorse, the Southern Lakes region is under constant pressure from a variety of uses and interests wanting to recreate, use, occupy and develop land and natural resources in the area. This continuing pressure is impacting fish



and wildlife populations and habitats and utilization of habitat and jeopardized the sustainability of traditional lifestyles and activities.

The appointment process for new members and renewals is too slow. C/TRRC was left with at least two vacancies for the entire the fiscal year.

The Covid-19 Pandemic caused some problems with hosting and attending meetings, as facilities were closed and gatherings had to be less than 10 persons. Council adapted by altering projects to achieve success in a very different world. Council was allowed to carry-over unspent funding due to pandemic related restrictions to the following fiscal year.

OFFICE ADMINISTRATION

The office is centrally located in the Tagish Community Center, is open to the public by appointment and through phone and email contact.

The Executive Director undertakes all facets of the day-to-day operation.

C/TRRC hired a bookkeeper in April 2021 to manage the accounting.

Submitted Funding Agreement deliverables to YG on time.

C/TRRC advertises meetings on its website, through email, and posters in the communities.

A new Executive Director, Andrew Serack, was hired effective April 19, 2021.

COUNCIL ADMINISTRATION

Council held 18 meetings, a combination of in person meetings and zoom meetings.



FINANCIAL REPORTING

Council engaged the professional services of M McKay and Associates, Certified General Accountants, of Whitehorse, Yukon, to do the audit. The council, in fulfilling its responsibilities, has developed and maintained a system of internal accounting controls designed to provide reasonable assurance that assets are safeguarded from loss or unauthorized use, and the records are reliable for preparing the financial statements.

Council is provided with a monthly financial report produced by the Executive Director.

EDUCATION & TRAINING

C/TRRC council will participate in various local events (open houses, public meetings, workshops etc. hosted by other organizations, or in partnership with C/TRRC) to further awareness of the C/TRRC current projects.

C/TRRC members and staff participate in training opportunities as time and funds allow throughout the year but mainly by ensuring that all Council members are provided opportunities to participate in and represent the Council at special meetings processes.

C/TRRC paid for a bookkeeping course for Executive Director, Andrew Serack.

SUMMARY

Council continued to build relationships with local area planning organizations and stakeholders to support the advancement of common area of concern; make informed and responsible recommendations to governments and management agencies regarding fish, wildlife and their habitat; and engage the communities to participate renewable resources management. Council was particularly active and engaged with the public over the fiscal year, particularly on social media and via online surveys. Despite the numerous restrictions laid out by the pandemic, C/TRRC had a successful year delivering meaningful projects in the Southern Lakes region, and set itself up for future years success.

