

Carcross Tagish Renewable Resources Council
Annual Report
April 1, 2016 to March 31, 2017

Mandate

The CTRRC, established under the Carcross Tagish First Nation Final Agreement, is the local advisory body for fish, wildlife, forestry and land use in the Carcross Tagish First Nation Settlement area.

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

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

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

The CTRRC is comprised of eight council members including two alternate members, each nominated by First Nation and YTG.

Membership

Randy Taylor

Don Toews

Albert James

Patrick James

Adam Winter – Alternate

Jacques Jobin – Alternate

Highlights

The CTRRC engaged in several large projects during the 2016-2017 period.

The Tagish Cisco Project. This study of the status of cisco populations in the Tagish and Nares Rivers was initiated to address long standing concerns of CTFN elders that cisco populations had declined significantly over the past 50 years or so and were continuing to decline. Field surveys and sampling was conducted throughout the summer months during May-Sept..

Youth Muskrat Camp. This project was in partnership with CTFN, put on for the youth in the CTFN TT and was held at little Atlin Lake, This was a three day camp for the youth to learn muskrat trapping, beaver trapping, skinning of animals, ice fishing, talks from Conservation Officers, Biologist, First Nation elder, and RCMP. This was a very successful camp and all participants expressed interest in attending again.

Meat Donation Project. The Council processed and packaged a moose donated by outfitter Mac Watson and distributed the meat to contacts in the communities of Carcross, Tagish, Mt Lorne and Marsh Lake.

Telegraph Wire Recovery Project. CTRRC and CTFN successfully submitted a proposal to the YFWET fund. Although, this was a joint submission with CTFN with CTFN taking the lead and CTRRC providing in-kind funding and project assistance. This was the second year of this project with the intent of recovering wire and drafting a 5 year work plan.

Challenges

- The biggest challenge for the CTRRC was the council had the two co-chairs terms expire in October and November and were not reappointed until after March 31, 2017.
- CTRRC has had some challenges scheduling meetings with some Council members who are working during the week and out of town and evening or weekend meetings are being considered to make them more inclusive of all members but this represents difficulties for other members.
- There are four very distinct communities within the CTFN Traditional Territory. It is an on-going challenge to have a presence within all the communities. CTRRC did successfully have public meetings in these communities, but there continues to be logistical challenges that Council address.

Office Administration

- M. McKay and Associates was again appointed as the auditors for the company.
- The CTRRC advertised for an Executive Secretariat but did not have the position filled at March 31, 2017. The bookkeeper temporarily took on the secretarial work.
- Council continued to maintain an office in the centrally located Tagish Community Center.
- Council feels they followed their workplan and accomplished what they set out to do.

Council Administration

- Council had eleven regular meetings and four special meetings
- Council members attended the AGW.
- Various council members attended the Climate Change workshop, the fishing & hunting stewardship, HPA and S.L Forestry Planning meetings

- Council made two submissions on YESAB projects in the CTFN TT
- Council submitted documents on the Yukon Forest Resources Regulation proposed amendments
- CTRRC continued to provide input on issues relating to land and water use proposals.
- Council held two meetings at Mt Lorne that were well attended by the public in interested parties from the area.
- Council continued to participate in meetings and contributed to the S.L. Forestry Management planning process.

Projects

- Council put on a youth trapping workshop for youth in the CTFN TT in partnership with CTFN, this was a very successful project. Council had not budgeted for this project but as the fiscal year played out it became evident there was going to be a budget surplus and Council decided to proceed in late winter.
- Council started the Tagish cisco project, this involved four field trips and collection of samples and data on the abundance, distribution and population structure of cisco in Tagish and Nares Rivers areas. CTFN staff and students were involved in field studies helping with netting and biological sampling of cisco.
- Council hosted a facilitated “On the Land Gathering” at Skookies Camp in Carcross in June to initiate the S.L. Caribou planning process. The gathering was attended by Yukon, B.C., and federal (Parks Canada) governments as well as effected First Nation governments and RRC’s. A report on the Gathering was produced and distributed to all participants.
- Council worked jointly with CTFN on the second year of the wire recovery project with CTFN taking the lead on field activities funded by the YFWET. A significant amount of wire was once again recovered and discussion evolved regarding a five year workplan for the recovery and cleanup of abandoned telephone and telegraph wire in the Southern Lakes region.

Special Projects (Other Funding, Accumulated Surplus Funding)

- CTRRC was awarded funding by the YFWET for the Tagish Cisco project.
- Yukon Energy donated funding for the Tagish Cisco project.
- Council met with CTFN staff, elders and staff for a full day meeting at Mt Lorne to discuss fish, wildlife and forestry resource issues; workplans and projects

Variance

- The financial statements showed at the end of the fiscal year Council stayed within their budget.

- Council had not originally budgeted for the Youth Muskrat project, monitoring the fiscal year showed that we would have unspent funds and decided to proceed with this project in March in the current fiscal year to take advantage of some budget surplus.

Summary

The Council continued to build relationships with local area planning organizations and stakeholders to support the advancement of common areas of concern; make informed and responsible recommendations to governments and management agencies regarding fish, wildlife habitat and forestry management and engage the communities in renewable resources management.

The Council has completed all projects in their work plan within the allocated budget.