

Dec 6, 2013

Sahtu Environmental Monitoring and Research Working Group

Notes by Julian Kanigan

Participants

Patricia

Todd Paget

Deb Simmons

Julian Kanigan

Trevor Taylor

Sandra Marken

Roger Odgaard

Valerie

Lisa McDonald

Jimmy Dillon

- Recapped Workshop objectives and results, two follow up meeting so far
- Support group formed to assist the Working Group
- Meeting with GNWT senior managers this week
 - They agreed that this initiative should be funded and that the group needs to meet face to face in the near future
 - Nicole McCutchen: wants the working group to help her understand the regional priorities for wildlife monitoring. But needs these priorities by end of January. We may need to meet in January
- SRRB met this week and were supportive. Agreed that staff can spend their time on this initiative
- Roger: Will amalgamation to a Superboard affect this WG?
 - SRRB: There will be a big gap in community engagement with the departure of the SLWB. Perhaps this Working Group can help with that
- Todd: Regardless of who is regulating, the WG objectives are the same
- Julian: Implementation of Superboard not until 2015
- Deb: recapped research and monitoring workshop objectives. Aimed for 2 RRC and 1 youth member from each community.
 - Roger: Interested in what Cindy Gilday had to say. Comments directed to Sahtu people – why are you so interested in fracking? Need to identify gaps and then fill them.
 - Valerie: Gave more information on research. Put things together.
 - Julian: youth component and long term researchers
 - Deb: scoping research needs. There is a workshop report coming. SRRB putting together a proposal for rolling up Hg in the Sahtu results (long term loche monitoring project, and could take samples from other fish studies). NCP focuses on long range contaminants only.
 - Roger: interested in toxicity sampling in water. **Deb: We need to follow up with Water Strategy ENR as they have new results. This will be a future WG discussion.** Todd: Note the

differences between different water sampling programs. Toxicity is a different idea that looks at how much of a contaminant is going to cause an effect. Roger: I want to look at POPs flowing out of the tundra and when they will be flushed out. Deb: NCP won't fund POPs work in our region because there has already been work done to show that it is not a significant source compared to atmospheric deposition. **Todd: Why don't we track this issue for our priority monitoring list? We need to look at the history of this kind of work in the region.** Lisa: Aurora Research Institute, SLWB, SRRB, CIMP have databases. There are multiple ongoing water sampling programs in the region. RRCs – Note that when we sign off on scientific permit, you could add a comment that the researcher has to get information back to you. Deb: Absolutely, this group should be working towards having a hand in proposal development rather than responding to proposals.

- Terms of Reference
 - Deb developed using the notes from our workshop and CIMP ToR
 - Would like to discuss some of the ideas in the ToR at this meeting
 - Todd: outlines basics of a generic ToR
 - Julian: CIMP terms of reference are simple. The membership of the working group is similar to this WG
 - Patricia: Doesn't want to be making decisions. Wants to take information back to RRCs
 - Deb: Definitely. These ToRs need to be agreed to by the RRCs
 - Sandra: Everyone is a representative. This will also need to be agreed to by industry
 - Todd: The ToR will help those that seek to fund the WG figure out what we are doing, and if they will fund us
 - Sandra: Will relay her comments by email

- Should we have a representative of SSI on the WG? Eg. Cindy Gilday? There would be a requirement for funding
 - Michael: What about adding co-management agencies?
 - Deb: We agreed that there would be one rep for co-management so that the group is balanced.
 - Roger: What about youth from each community?
 - Deb: There was only 1 youth member, Bradley Menacho
 - Sandra: Supports having SSI as a rep. We should also think about another industry rep, such as Husky. Jenica is interested. This may be useful for funding.
 - Deb: There will be a bit of fluidity in membership. We may invite others as the group agrees to.

- Dates for next face-to-face meeting: January 21-22?
 - The deadline is January 31st for research and monitoring priorities to ENR Wildlife
 - Sandra: Will be in the communities week of January 6

- Julian: When does the winter road open? Could drive?
 - Roger: Should be open by Jan. 1?
- Todd: It is critical that we get our ToR finalized before we meet face-to-face so that we can get funding.
 - Deb: It would be great to have the ToR agreed to before face-to-face meeting, but not necessary. We are not applying for proposals, we will be giving a list of research and monitoring priorities.
- Concerns of ToR
 - Roger: Are we going to have industry reps? **Need to add Sandra!** Should we have 1 or 2 industry reps? Skeptical of industry's role on the WG given past experience.
 - Lisa: A lot of land use permits require industry to do things. Industry has to follow the rules of the ToR.
 - Trevor: RRC manager should be part of the WG because they will be doing the paperwork when the funding comes to their region
 - Lisa: Good point, but I think staff can be on the WG, doesn't have to be the manager, can be delegated.
 - Trevor: The managers could get together to make a game plan to help this WG out.
 - Valerie: will not speak as she is here on behalf of Frederick
- Julian: Is this environmental and social science research?
 - Michael: Yes, such as traditional economy.
 - Roger: the human aspect should be looked at
 - Michael: Development in the Sahtu. No opportunities for promotion or development of local people.
 - Lisa: That should be in access and benefit agreements.
 - Todd: Socioeconomic agreements for mining.
 - Todd: Social/economic issues – if we open up the scope too much, it will be too hard to manage.
- **Valerie: Notify the RRC who is on the WG?**
 - **Roger: List of govt reps and who they represent too**
 - **Valerie: Suggest an alternate youth for Bradley Menacho**
 - Todd: Note that nothing is set in stone in terms of membership
- Valerie
 - Roles and responsibilities as an RRC member are the same as WG member.
- Michael: Name for the group. SRRB mandate is take care of the wildlife and their habitat. Our WG work is to assist research and monitoring proposals and advise them. Need to come up with a Dene

name. Research roughly translates to collecting stories. This WG would be collecting info about animals. Keepers of the research stories. Michael sent his proposal for a name to all the Sahtu folks on the WG. Michael wants to talk to other folks. **Will talk about in January in-person.**

- Todd: Slavey words for air, land, water, and animals?
 - Roger: Sahtu ERM group is fine for now. People know what it means.
- Jimmy: Our role as ERM WG. We don't want to see any harm coming to the animals. The animals have their own laws, can go anywhere they want. The companies that are in the regions should respect the animals. As a WG we should be the ones that respect the laws of the animals.
 - Michael: Something like this could be in the ToR. Thanks Jim.
- Tentative dates: January 21/22 for a face to face. Try for Fort Good Hope.
 - Jan 9 for a teleconference 1 p.m.
 - There is a SRRB meeting in Deline on week of Feb 10. Some of the WG could report to the SRRB and RRCs at that time.
- Leon Andrew is going to the Environmental Monitoring Results Workshop in Yellowknife next week. **In future we should ask him to report back to the WG.**