

# Notes of the meeting

## Sahtú Environmental Research and Monitoring Forum

### Teleconference 14 December, 2016

#### Agenda

1. Introductions
  - Review of Agenda
2. Presentations by Dave Rudolph, University of Waterloo
  - Proposed groundwater monitoring study
3. Sahtú Environmental Research and Monitoring Strategy development (Christine)
  - Key topic for discussion -  
Community based monitoring & Sahtú Guardian Program
  - Training - what would a longer-term, robust training program look like?
  - Policies and procedures. Example: liabilities, emergencies, authorities, reporting, other?
4. February youth on the land camp (Deb)
  - planning updates
  - letters of support needed for next year's funding
5. In person meeting of the Forum - February 7,8,9, 2016
  - moving location to Tulít'a
  - discussion of draft agenda
  - involving youth
  - logistics
6. Other initiatives and topics
  - Update from those who attended GNWT's Climate Change Strategy sessions in Norman Wells.
  - new Forum Chair (Roger stepping down) a lot of people on call were at that meeting.
  - Name and logo discussion
  - Fort Good Hope follow-up - response from Erin Kelly re: study;
  - Fort Good Hope meeting follow-up - next steps for NCP proposal -
  - other items TBD

## **Present**

Thom Stubbs, ALCES project, Calgary

Ceilidh Stubbs, SRRB

David Rudolph, University of Waterloo

John Lennie, Inuvik Manager of Oil and Gas Management

Kirsty Gurney, Environment Canada, Saskatoon,

Mary-Anne Neal, Independent Consultant, Victoria

Jennie Vandermeer, ENR – Norman Wells

Ed Reeves, Délı̄nę RRC

Jimmy Dillon, Délı̄nę RRC

Stephanie Behrens, ENR- Norman Wells

Deb Simmons, SRRB

Leon Andrew, SRRB

Mylène Ratelle, University of Waterloo

Heather Sayine-Crawford, ENR - Norman Wells

Jenica von Kuster, Husky Energy

Alana Fletcher, Environment Canada

Michael Neyelle, SRRB

James Caesar, Fort Good Hope RRC

Jennie Vandermeer, ENR – Norman Wells

Christine Wenman, Sahtú ERM Forum technical / administrative support

## **Notes from meeting**

Note: Actions items **highlighted**

### **Changes to Agenda**

Some additions were made. Mylène Ratelle, Kirsty Gurney, and Mary-Anne Neal were all on the line to give updates of their projects. In addition, some opportunities related to on-the-land youth initiatives were added to the agenda: including (a) a workshop for reporting outcomes of on-the-land initiatives to be held in February hosted by NWT Recreation and Parks and (b) SRRBs upcoming risk management workshop with support from NWT Recreation and Parks.

### **Presentation by Dave Rudolph, University of Waterloo Proposed groundwater monitoring study**

Christine introduced David:

David Rudolph is a professor and researcher at the University Waterloo in Waterloo Ontario. David specializes in groundwater studies or hydrogeology and groundwater management. If you'll recall from updates that Bruce Hanna has frequently given – there has been work done to try to compile information, data and knowledge that emerged when Husky and Conoco Philips were drilling their

exploration wells. After that, Golder, which is a consulting firm here in Yellowknife and throughout Canada, did work to compile that data and see if it could tell any kind of regional story. After Golder's work, Bruce mentioned that the ESRF had a team out of University of Waterloo analyzing the available information to identify gaps and start to think about a path forward to understand what groundwater looks like in the region and create a baseline in case development happens in the future. David was part of that team.

He's now proposed a project to ESRF that would build on that work and that would start to create that regional monitoring program so he's joining us today to tell us about his thoughts so far though this is very much a project in development. In fact, it's still at the proposal stage – funding isn't secured – so it's really great to have him joining us so early on in the work so that this group can work to inform the direction of the project if it does go ahead.

David: Thanks for the info. As Christine mentioned, this project builds on the surface and groundwater compilation Golder put together earlier for the Canol Shale Oil area. We analyzed the available information and identified some potential gaps after that. This project is the next step in the process moving forward.

I am the Chair of Earth and Environmental Sciences at University of Waterloo. – a Geological Engineer with work focused on groundwater management – quantity and quality point. Rural, agriculture impacts. Changes in near surface as groundwater moves through seasonal cycles.

Bruce and Andrew Applejohn contacted the University, and me to look at work that had been done over the last 3 or 4 years in the area near Tulit'a nad Norman Wells where several oil and gas companies had been doing some exploration work wrt to Canol shale play.

We were primarily look for gaps – if we were to have a reasonable baseline monitoring program to understand conditions as they exist today and track any changes as they occur, surface and groundwater, but also with an eye towards the ecology – folks you will know including Jenn Baltzer at WLU, which is just up the street from us – so it is becoming a joint project.

Early last year – highlighted some areas that if we really wanted to understand how water is moving through terrain, we need to do more work in mapping overburden, glacial sediments on rock, groundwater flows – how they change through years, characteristics of groundwater –surface water interaction. A lot of it is controlled by dynamic permafrost, which is changing over time. Complex – manageable problem but takes some thinking.

Quality of groundwater and surface water is a high priority and not really all that well understood. Digging through it we realized the challenges of doing this kind of monitoring. Access is very difficult. Typically there would be domestic water wells,

roads to access terrains. So, it is a challenging place to work. ENR and ESRF Board through Bruce and others asked us to put together a proposal in a 5-year window how we might develop a consistent and complete baseline monitoring program in advance of any shale oil and gas in the area. As a result of economics there is a gap. They may come back, though we don't know the details of that. In the interim, it makes a lot of sense for us to be collecting baseline information prior to any further development out there.

So our task is to put together a team to do that over 5-years – longer window than many projects typically.

The Board met this morning and we got the green light this morning to go ahead with work plan in year one.

The number one item in that work plan is to take the plan to a group like this and other end users in the area. To help develop how we would do this and develop methodologies and how to get the data in the field. What we want to achieve and how we might do it in the first year.

The Board has given us the green light to do that during the first year in advance of any fieldwork.

We hope the work will create a useful baseline not only for resource development but other changes that might be going on in the area.

Jennie Vandermeer – please clarify who Board is?

David Rudolph - This is the Environmental Studies Research Fund – ESRF. They are primarily supported by industry. The oil companies with membership by the Northwest Territories Government (the folks I was mentioning Bruce Hannah, Andrew Applejohn and others). From what I understand the federal government used to add funding (matching) to industry contributions and now it's primarily GNWT. So that Board has a fund for research and as things are quiet, research is moving forward.

Johnnie Lennie – add – it is a levy that is charged to the companies that hold licenses in the NWT and it is charged by acreage of their licenses and is paid annually. Specifically for research studies related to the industry.

James Caesar – your research seems to be what we are all looking for and that is to find out what is happening with respect to groundwater. And find out what happens to it with shale oil development or what might have happened a few years ago. In FGH we get our water from Mackenzie River and we are always trying to look at the quality of water.

I'd like to know if you can find out what is coming out of the ground and what might be making its way to Mackenzie River. Because if things are making its way – in terms of contaminants – we need to know.

Dave Rudolph- we will look at areas that we think are most sensitive to receiving groundwater. Sometimes these are as simple as groundwater seeps. So when I met Leon in Yellowknife he was able to tell me about seep locations that he could easily take us to. Looking at icing gives us an indication of where groundwater comes to surface. Streams that flow year round mean they are getting slightly warmer groundwater so that's another hint.

Looking at streams that ultimately flow into the Mackenzie would be a core part of this work.

About this area, we already know that there are natural hydrocarbons in the ground and in some cases they may be naturally seeping into the Mackenzie and others, just as this happens in the Athabasca and this always has. What we are really worried about is to know if this changes as a result of developing that resource. So if we have a really good knowledge of what is happening, then we can detect a change and detect it early.

James – there was research going on with permafrost that is happening along the rivers here and the dissolved solids in the river systems. We are quite interested in the aspect of research. People are really interested in mercury and we are told it comes from natural sources that are coming out now because of climate changes so we are really interested in that too.

Dave – WLU has really focused on that where melting is occurring in peat bogs and the natural warming of that terrain is releasing things that we may not have seen in the past. So we will try to understand those changes in detail, particularly things like mercury that can be seen through the food chain.

Christine – will connect David and James so that they can discuss in more detail.

David – as our first year has been approved we will be sending Christine and Deb and others information on our plans.

Jennie Vandermeer – I understand you have been working with Bruce, Andrew out of ENR. Any direct conversations with water resources out of ENR because also work and may have some suggestions and information in terms of study design.

Dave – attended workshop before geoscience so started to meet people and Bruce and Andrew are starting to bring people together. Any suggestions you might have can pass on through Christine so any individuals.

Christine – Krista Chin wrote me a note before the meeting that she would like to connect with you. She is with ENR's Cumulative Impact Monitoring Program and has been doing some work on groundwater in the Sahtú with a partnership through the University of Ottawa. **I will put you in touch.**

Michael Neyelle – I am the Chair for SRRB . I've been asking for this since the beginning of the shale oil play. We could never get it. Finally! That is a big break there that finally the government is planning to do this kind of work. This is long overdue and very important. I agree with Jennie that there is other water monitoring that has been done. A lot of monitoring. Any kind of data that they collect. What kind of fish, animals, water studies,. We need to have access to those kinds of study. From industry also?

Dave – I sure hope so. Up until now we have had quite good support both from Husky and Conoco – what we asked they provided the information that was available. In a meeting with them recently, certainly Husky, I met with recently, they are interested in being involved in this and with their lease as being a pilot for the study methodologies. So their involvement will help expedite your desire to see the information.

Jennie – as part of their water license they need to post that information to the Land and Water Board websites.

Jenica Vonkuster, Huskey –Yes, we are totally committed to sharing our water data and we always have been right from the start. We are just in the process of going through laboratory and analytical data and processing it into something readable and format it in to the report. We also make access to all of the raw data and the report itself and this is posted with the Sahtú Land and Water Board. As with previous requests form researchers in the past and GNWT, we have shared that raw data as well from the field.

Mike – that is really good to know. David, I also want to mention to you that one of the things that the communities want to do is to have their own community based monitoring program. Do you see that in the future?

David – at this stage, it is really hard to know how this is going to work. In other places where we've investigated potential impact of shale oil and gas development there is a big infrastructure and lots of people around so it can be accessed and monitored. This area is completely the opposite of that. So for it to be a sustainable monitoring program, it only makes sense that we have people in the vicinity that are trained in the program. So it will be a core part of our program going forward. There is a need for people to be there on the land. We think we will be working on the west side of the Mackenzie, sort of the corridor between Tulit'a and Norman Wells. So are there specific communities that would be interested?

Mike - GNWT Education, Culture and Employment and Sahtú ERM Forum have supported people from the region in getting their certification as environmental monitors. If there is anything going on, then people can be hired and can get credit as environmental monitors.

David – we were chatting a bit about that. There are certain courses people can take and then the experiences are gained as they work on projects.

Debbie – speak to discussions that we have been having. Training that you are referring to is under BEAHR. Also related to occupational standards NWT of environmental monitors. The challenge that we have been facing is getting these trainees to then get hours towards certification. So this has been an on-going work in process.

James – opportunity for some of our monitors to get involved in your studies?

David – monitoring personnel do you mean? – Where are they located.

Jimmy – in FGH we have at least three that are going to be certified.

David- that’s ideal and will be part of our long-term plan.

Debbie – would be worth coordinating on the names of people with training in different communities. In FGH – 3 people and in NW – 2 people identified as close to certification.

Leon – question of location.

David – from scope of research project that they have been interested, particularly the ESRF Board – they wanted to focus the work in the area where the leases are. We are currently working with the University of Saskatchewan and WLU to develop a broader investigation into changes in the landscape. From areas north of Norman Wells to much further south. Thanks for bringing it up Leon.

Relatively large long-term project that we are hoping will be funded through Canada First Research Fund – called Global Water Futures. If you simply google global water futures – still in its early stages and funded through the federal government, GNWT and other partners. So I think there is going to be opportunity to leverage the project I mentioned today which is relatively modest – but that in that period over five years, we bring it into a much bigger scale. So working with you and others about where to monitor as we move ahead will be important.

Leon – site specific concerns so that will be good.

Debbie – will be worth you knowing the role that Leon has played because has been very very involved in representing the Sahtú Secretariat on water issues. He is on a could of governance bodies related to water.

Leon – on behalf of SSI and SSI Board, they have me on the Aboriginal Steering Committee. We deal with GNWT in relation to the provinces and the watershed. We negotiate with the provinces and have an agreement in place with Alberta – whatever water flows our way they will let us know in advance if there are projects that might affect us.

Deb – clarification – that is the Mackenzie River Basin Board and the Aboriginal Steering Committee related to the NWT Water Strategy.

Johnnie Lennie – I will just mention that one of the Board organizers for ESRF who funds the study. I will mention to them that you want to expand up stream and down stream of the study area to have more studies going on .

Leon – thanks Johnnie –I understand that the area of interest is a bit larger than what we are talking about right now so thank you.

Christine – next steps?

David – circling back to Bruce and Andrew who are helping me to get this started. Plan to get this work plan out / circulate / so everyone is aware. First year is mostly consultation. Workshop will be hosted (first) at university – quite technical – about 10 researchers and collaborators – best way forward technically. Outline of what we think we might like to achieve. Then lean on Forum to help coordinate the meeting – may be more than one to go over the plan in some detail with folks. Visit to area is hoped, hire students, bring students to do research with us. So over the next six months is really the ramp up time for us – get out to the field.

Mike – I heard from you that access is a challenge. Land Corporations have land – so that shouldn't be a hard time getting access.

David – that is what we are hoping to be able to investigate. Husky – there are some roadways that are still maintained that can get us into the heart of where the leases and drillpads were. Getting in to the wild areas – that is where we are going to need some guides, help and advice in terms of how to access the land. Really valuable to know that

Jenica – Husky – any maps that we can provide to you? Project specific maps? Off-roading areas...

David – we probably don't have everything we could have. We didn't need details of access at the time of proposal. But now that we are getting a bit more detailed into where we would like to go, that is where we are going to have to lean on you for additional help. We need higher resolution maps than what we have now.

Jenica – **happy to offer any help wrt detailed maps**. Located in Calgary.

## **Kirsty Gurney – Environment Canada – Project proposal update**

Looking for feedback that was put forward by Jimmy Caesar and myself to CIMP. Found out about two weeks ago that we have been asked to submit a full proposal. Some things to work out – in process of developing proposal. One thing is making sure that there is full community support behind it. Drinking Water is not something that I am knowledgeable about or able to comment on but I am interested in whole ecological aspects of surface water and specifically wetlands. My background is ecosystem health and I am interested in how climate change might effect interaction with surface water. Ecological focus is something that I really want to emphasize. Exciting direction. Biological pyramid – physical environment, biological in middle and humans. And fitting in with human environment.

We also are now going to have the support of an analytical lab – this lab in Ottawa agreed that this is something that they want to support.

James and I talked a bit about the climate stuff. One of the things that was put forward in letter form CIMP is that we focus on where this project will go in the long term. Have some ideas but I'd like to hear other people's ideas about how this can be responsive to community needs. How can we move this forward into a longer-term program?

Christine – could you please explain what you mean when you say ecological monitoring in terms of what that means in the methods you are using?

Kirsty– whole ecosystem so physical aspects of the ecosystem – surface water, water chemistry. For example, one of the things that we did with wetland work in Alaska is we looked at how types of sediments had a strong influence about whether the contaminants became available to the biota in the wetland. So not looking at the biology or the physical landscape in isolation but more of a focus in terms of how they interact.

Mike – we did a similar study in Great Bear Lake area on Lac St. Therese. There is a river called Johnny Hoe and we were worried about the mercury because of the things that you are talking about. And they did find traces of mercury. So I think that is exactly what you are talking about. Right?

Deb – one of the things that is currently underway and I hope will be done finally in the new year is a synthesis of mercury work that has been done in the Sahtú. So all of that information has been gathered by Dr. Shelagh Montgomery. **I or Christine can provide contact information.**

It is really interesting to have someone like you on the same call with someone like Mylène who is working on the health implications. And then there are people like Gary Stern that looks at mercury in loche in and around Fort Good Hope.

Kirsty – yes, we hope to fully address concerns.

James – yes, I’ve been really focused on trying to find digital information and accumulate as much information as I can. One of our long-term objectives is to find partners for community research. So if this project branches out – David –and it can be used to get additional research and monitoring done especially environmental changes that may impact wildlife health. It is important for our committee to understand that the wildlife that we depend on or food – birds, ducks, larger wildlife, fish. We may have to make changes to our food supply if these changes effect them. So these are important questions for us. We don’t really have a clear handle on the changes that are taking place on settlement land due to things that we don’t control. We don’t control the things that end up on our land or the broader environment.

As far as water, we believe that water is essential to all things living so that will be one of our main foci. We also want to be aware of changes in terms of development. One thing we know for sure is that Imperial Oil is going to dismantle the Norman Wells facility in the next few years so what is going to happen with the well heads and how is that going to influence the water quality as they are doing that sort of work?

Kirsty – looking forward to discussing these things more from you in the future. One of the comments on the original letter is to know that there is support from regulators – land and water boards – that information is of interest to them and they can use it. So I will be speaking to them as well.

Technical support – lab in Ottawa and we may expand our lab here in Saskatoon.

In LOI – talked about wildlife and how changes in wetlands might influence distribution of things like migratory birds. We were asked to remove that from proposal because it is not a focus of CIMP but EC has secured funds for wildlife monitoring component (out of Yellowknife) so we are keen to do that together. And we may have access to things like helicopters and tie that in. Planning on doing surveys this year.

Jennie Vandermeer – I noticed looking that proposal deadline is January 13<sup>th</sup>. So you can send your draft proposal around for comments. I’d be happy to look over the proposal.

Kirsty – JK also had suggestions for specific people to speak to so I’ve been focusing on them. We won’t know about CIMP’s funding until April so can’t do any significant field planning in advance. **Will send draft for Christine to circulate early in the new year.**

**Mylène Ratelle project update – human biomonitoring**

We were in the Dehcho in November and will be in Dehcho and Sahtú January and February – I contacted Délı̨ne to know if they were interested that we do the sampling there. I think we will go we are just waiting for some feedback – there have been changes in governance and leadership in Délı̨ne in the last year. I was there for the cross-cultural research camp. We were there in December 2015. Leadership changed since last year. Main contacts, Ed, Michael are still there but I realized that I needed to contact new administrative people and managers. There is a delay but I think we will be able to go into Délı̨ne in February.

Would like to consult Fort Good Hope and Colville Lake if there are delegates from community on the line – have received or will receive phone call and emails from me about in-person meeting in February. Hopefully we can connect before Christmas to decide when we can meet in February.

Debbie – Renewable Resources council should be main contact in Délı̨ne? Michael can you speak to this? There is a new Délı̨ne government however the ʔehdzo Got'ı̨ne has its own mandate and it is a research mandate so I was surprised after all of the approvals that were already taking place that this was referred to someone who had no background whatsoever on what is being done.

Michael – I can hear you Deb. We seem to have that kind of situation when you deal with different governments. So what happened is Délı̨ne became a government and so Land Corporation and First Nation disappeared. They don't have those titles anymore – everyone is under the Délı̨ne Government except the ʔehdzo Got'ı̨ne still has a mandate as under the land claim. So I think that the protocol has changed. That is what I believe Deb. I think it is normal to let them know that this has been on-going and that this is what needed to be done.

Ed – The reason for that is that I involved the DGG – Phoebe – because we are involving community members in a community bio-monitoring project. It only makes sense to have them well informed before Mylène shows up and also, the project is offering a community coordinator position so they needed a heads up about what is going to transpire. And I also gave Mylène Phoebe's contact information so that she could find a time to tell Délı̨ne govt.

Deb – I'm just hoping that the ʔehdzo Got'ı̨ne will play a strong role in bridging so it doesn't discount all of the work that has already taken place. It is hard for Mylène to call someone out of the blue.

Mylène – I e-mailed Phoebe and left her a voice mail a few days ago. I will try to call her back but up to now I haven't received feedback. So if you can at least let her know about the project and the fact that I'm trying to reach her. I would like to set plans with her before we confirm everything else.

Ed – Phoebe was off for 1.5 weeks but back yesterday so I think we can move forward on this soon.

Mylène – timeline is important – I hope to touch base before Christmas so that I can secure my travel plans.

Mike - I think it is approved it's just a transition challenge. I don't foresee a problem.

Deb – community direction – terminology work. Very very careful terminology work is needed. This came up again in FGH meeting in October / early November. So we are pretty excited about this possible terminology work and hope it will be possible to do a similar one with other communities.

### **Mary-Anne McNeal Project updates**

– Book – Dene Heroes has been published and will be available to the communities. Not a for-sale book. Written by Sahtú youth about the community and for the community. Filed and catalogued with the archives and Canada and may go to some of the libraries but it won't go to bookstores. We are running 500 so there will be some copies floating around.

Friday January 13<sup>th</sup> 3-5pm – celebration in FGH – young people who contributed by stories, drawings and photographs will be recognized honoured and celebrated. Will receive two copies of the book – one to keep and one to share with someone they admire. So a great opportunity to celebrate the good things that are happening in the Sahtú. Our young people are learning and growing and being really strong contributors to the community.

Alana Fletcher – Is it possible to get a copy? I was really interested. I think it might be a useful reference for the story collection that I am editing with Morris in Délı̨ne. Mary-Anne – We are asking people to pay \$20 and shipping. **So you can send me an e-mail with that.**

Mary-Anne – I asked about creating an e-book and people find it really personal so the idea wasn't well-received. On-line maybe next year – it's meant to be a legacy project – hopefully a volume made every year. But right now people don't want it on-line. Hope is it will be produced every year so people are recognized and celebrated every year.

Jennie –who are you with?

Mary-Anne –I'm an independent educational consultant – teach with Camosun College and Royal Roads University. But right now I'm just reporting on behalf of the band leaders. I was brought in to build leadership capacity and improve learning outcomes for young people.

Imperial Oil funding – developing four day leadership camps for FGH and Colville Lake – will head up to the Sahtú in January and so will work with them on developing a culturally appropriate camp. Believe in experiential learning

(underpinned Dene Heroes) so hopefully also leadership camp where all of the participants will contribute to a community leadership project. The young people will dream it up and work together to create something that they can be proud of in their community.

Deb – just to say that that is really exciting that you are supporting on the land leadership work so look forward to learning from your experiences to inform some of the other Sahtú on-the-land initiatives.

Mary-Anne Neal – I teach leadership in number of capacities so I see that people learn by doing. So people in camp will be busy.

### **Audrey Giles update (given by Christine)**

I unfortunately can't attend today's meeting, but I have the following to pass along:

The SRRB's application (which I helped with) for the GNWT's Healthy Choices Fund (we asked for boating safety equipment) was unsuccessful.

The application that we put in for funding the Search and Rescue's New Initiative Fund (boating and on-the-land safety) has made it through the initial round of screening (Department of Transportation) and will go through the final round in January (the nation-wide competition).

### **Sahtú youth network – February course - Deb Simmons**

This course is somewhat modeled by request of youth to bring together on the land skills and learn about leadership and governance in the Sahtú region. We will bring youth together at Bennett Field – February 17<sup>th</sup> to March 5<sup>th</sup>. We will be issuing invitations to some of the communities shortly. Joe Hanlon who has been taking a lead is now a Dad as folks know but we have hired someone to cover the ground for him while he is gone. He is going to be gone a little longer than initially expected so we will be welcoming the new person on a short-term contract – Moira- has done a lot of work in the Tlicho region as well.

### **Risk management workshop – Deb Simmons**

Jessica Dunkin is the lead for Risk management planning for the On The Land Collaborative program and works with NWT Recreation and Parks so she will be helping us with this risk management workshop that is going to take place in Tulít'a. She has been great to work with because she doesn't want a colonial approach but wants to draw upon the knowledge of the people who know the land and have depended on the land for generations while still recognizing that the organizations putting these things on have insurance companies to answer to so planning for safety and risk is a cross-cultural scenario. People are familiar in Tulít'a, Fort Good

Hope and elsewhere with the Ranger Program, which I think must also have a risk management framework that they use. So we may build from what they have as we have a short lead time for this camp. We want to have this workshop with the people who are leading the camp, hosting the camp and the elders who will help lead the camp in Tulít'a in February. NWT Parks and Rec is donating their staff person for it. So we don't specifically have funding but we would welcome anyone who wants to participate if they can make their way to Tulít'a.

Jennie- could talk to Northern Youth.

Deb - I agree. It's really going to be important to put down on paper how we looked at other plans and frameworks so it is clear that what we are doing is well grounded but specific to our needs and context where necessary.

Jennie - I will connect you to Northern Youth by e-mail.

Michael - Communities will always donate their own money to send youth. Do we need to contact communities to send people?

Deb - risk management meeting focus will be a technical section with those leading the camp (including the elders). Will limit #s at Bennett Field base on our capacity to support the number of people in a good way. So yes, we will need to look at that balance - funding that we have for the camp itself. Jessica Duncan said two main steps - 1. Work ahead of time and 2. The culture of risk management that happens out in the camp at all.

Please keep in mind who you want to put forward to participate in the camp itself. We want the people who go to the camp to be there and to be motivated so there will be a short application process - not too onerous.

Jimmy Dillon will be there as part of the teaching team. Leon will be in Thailand, unfortunately.

Jimmy - Don't forget that it was the young people's idea to do that workshop.

Deb - yes, good point. The basis of this planning was from youth at the cross-cultural research camp and so we are building on their work.

Jimmy - I talked to a young person in Tulít'a and because of the young people I am willing to go. Funding issues?

Deb - clarification - no Tulít'a meeting is a planning meeting. Coordinators and leaders. We have funding for youth to be at camp so don't worry about that.

Christine – we are likely to be contacting different RRCs and other organizations with requests for letters of support for next year’s camp so expect to hear from us or Jennie and Heather who have kindly agreed to help round up support letters.

### **Jennie – On –the-land reporting workshop**

NWT Recreation and Parks is hosting a workshop on February 7 and 8 to talk about how people can coordinate these kinds of workshops on the land. Deb touched on a good point where not only do we need to touch on safety and cultural aspects but also reporting to funders. So this workshop is especially catered to reporting. It is going to be delivered by staff from HSS and a senior planning and performance analyst based out of EcoPlan International. Recommend that people apply – deadline is January 10<sup>th</sup>. Will be right before the youth camp at Bennett Field. **Christine will circulate.** Jennie attended last year and was interesting. I can assist with this sort of thing but don’t work specifically in it so it would be good to have people who are working on these initiatives attend.

I also want to throw out to Deb for February’s youth camp I can help on behalf on ENR. Others may be able to help as well but flip us an email and we might be able to get some people.

Michael – Mahsi – (in Dene language). Then Translated: I’d like to say thank you to Jennie for participating. We didn’t know there were so many programs for youth available.

### **February in-person meeting of the Forum - Christine**

– in-person meeting will be in Tulít’a instead of FGH because FGH has a lot going on there right now between the work being done laying the fibre optic line and other things. We look forward to having a meeting there hopefully next year.

Vet tour – Jennie, may not be conflict

Christine – There is a conflict that we just found out about. The regulatory Boards are hosting an educational workshop that week in Norman Wells. We are still really hopeful that many of you will prioritize the Forum meetings – we will make significant progress on the research strategy.

Deb Simmons – Opportunities with the new location.

Mountain Network – so we can reframe some of the discussions – 7 – 9 February in Tulít’a. Really great opportunity to spend some quality time talking about research in the mountain area – bringing FGH in to that discussion as well because of their strong interest in mountains as well - where they historically traveled. So we try to make difficult situations into something positive.

Christine presented the agenda outline to date. The Sahtú ERM Forum supported the proposal to CIMP last year that is now being led by Thom Stubbs to work with available information to map out possible scenarios of change in the landscape. The project always depended on using a day of the Sahtú ERM Forum to talk with

Renewable Resources Council members and other Forum Members about what kind of questions they are interested in asking through the project and how they would like to see traditional knowledge incorporated. Therefore, the first day of the agenda has allotted most time to this research team to talk about the project and to get some feedback on the project. At the end of the day we hope to hear from Allice Legat and others who have been working with her in the Sahtú to develop a regional traditional knowledge protocol. I will have to check in with her about how much time she would like to have and whether a couple of hours at the end of the day will be enough.

The second and third days are dedicated to work shopping the Research Strategy. One thing that we have really realized is that two parallel conversations are happening in the Sahtú that should probably be bridged. A lot of people are talking about developing Guardian programs either locally or regionally in the Sahtú. As we have been talking about what people want to see in the research and monitoring strategy, Renewable Resources Council Members have been talking a lot about community-based monitoring. But not just about a monitoring program as it might be envisioned in a simple technical or scientific sense but a monitoring program that is really tied in to stewardship and management decision-making, leadership development and all of those components. Also a lot of discussion then has elaborated about how to provide rigorous and on going training and support for Renewable Resources Councils' monitors to do these things. I was at a meeting in the Dehcho last week in which Dehcho community representatives were planning for their Dehcho K'ehodi Program which is a guardian-like program and all of these themes are the same ones being discussed under the banner of Guardian programs. I think it's probably a good idea for us to start framing some of our conversation within the plan as a Guardian program so that we don't start duplicating discussions but supporting the goals that communities have for these programs.

There were also some presentations at last week's meetings from people in Labrador and BC about some of their Guardian program initiatives. It seems to me that each program is very unique depending on a local community's goals and opportunities but with some common themes and values that tie it together. So for instance, there are examples here in NWT like the Nihatni Dene in Lutselk'e and they first started to build on monitoring fisheries because of a fishing camp so it was a community concern and the program has built from there. There was also an example from Parks in NWT that was tied to monitoring within a Parks framework. In Labrador there was a mining project and a hydro project so the basis of their program was tied to monitoring for impacts related to these and the funding model was developed from Impact Benefit Agreements. I do find these examples interesting to hear about because it helps people envision and talk about concrete examples. So I'm thinking it would be useful to invite a couple of speakers – maybe one or two from elsewhere and one or two from NWT – to share their experiences.

Jennie – Agree that this is really important to not duplicate.

-Others also supported this approach.

Christine: the afternoon of the agenda on the second day then provides an opportunity to talk about what part of the examples are relevant to the Sahtú and to workshop the relevant sections of the draft Strategy to see if it is on the right track or if the wording needs to change.

On the third day we will still be talking about the research and monitoring strategy but we'll shift to more of a regional scope. So if communities are building these monitoring and research programs at a community level, how do we look at regional trends, how does local information get tied together, how does it inform decision making and what are the important questions. I still need to flesh out the agenda for the day but those will be the themes.

We also realized, as Deb mentioned earlier, that having the meeting in Tulít'a is an opportunity to focus on mountain research given the work of the Mountain Research Network so on Friday we'll have a chance to focus on specific research and monitoring projects and opportunities with a focus on Mountain research and we'll also have an opportunity to update the broader Tulít'a leadership on the research strategy – like we were able to do in Fort Good Hope when Deb and I were there before Christmas.

Comments – questions and concerns are more than welcome.

Mike – you know that Délı̨ne people historically have been traveling over the mountains too. There is a need to collect the TK.

Leon –In response to Michael's comment – outside of Tulít'a / FGH in the mountains, in my knowledge, the history is there for us to understand how we are connected.

### **Other items**

Michael - Climate change and energy – Wade Lennie and staff at Arctic Energy Alliance are coming to Sahtu communities to give out LEDs and you have to change with regular light bulbs – Feb dates Délı̨ne.

Alana – reminder to please send me materials for the Sahtú database. I am also looking for feedback about how people think they could use the database– I would also be interested to hear from people. How will schools use it for instance?

Deb – Alana was thinking of preparing some little short stories of some of the things that she finds that would be interesting for facebook posts. If you have something that you think would be good to add to our facebook posts, please send it to Alana.

Ceilidh – there was great participation from the Sahtú ERM Forum during the Sahtú climate change consultations that ENR hosted a couple of weeks ago. I sent out a summary of 4-5 priorities that were brought up – as key themes and highlights. **Christine can pass it around**. So can this can inform the work of the Forum in that sense. Michael was there for the second day so could add something.

Michael – people contributed. We had our own caucus – people who were speaking their language. And I was trying to make notes – people talked about river banks eroding, lots of things. Report to get together. Celilidh – I did take some of those notes. Some was in Slavey but some people were telling me what to write. It was a really good meeting.