

SERM Teleconference 13 January 2017

Notes of meeting

1. Introductions (2:00 PM)
 - a. List of people in attendance
 - Leon Andrews, Sahtú ERM Forum Chair
 - Joe Hanlon, SRRB
 - Maura Meng, SRRB
 - Deb Simmons, SRRB
 - Jordan Lennie, SRRB
 - Tee Lim, Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society
 - Christine Wenman, PlanIt North
 - Jonathan Feldgajer, Advisor to Innu Nation
 - Jennie Vandermeer, ENR
 - Patricia Manuel, Fort Good Hope ʔehdzo Got'ıne
 - Josh Baricello, Ross River Dena Council
 - Andrew Applejohn, ENR
 - Thom Stubbs, ALCES
 - Roger Odgaard, Norman Wells
 - Jessica Dunkin, Northwest Territories Recreation and Parks Association
 - Jenica vonKuster, Husky Energy
 - Alana Fletcher, Environment Canada
 - Chelsea Martin, University of Alberta
 - Mylene Ratelle, University of Waterloo
 - b. Review of Agenda
2. Presentations and Updates
 - a. Jonathan Feldgajer, Advisor to Innu Nation - Innu Nation Guardian Program (2:10 PM)
 - i. Provides background on Innu Nation Guardian Program
 - ii. Started with part time opportunities to monitor fishing, has expanded with additional project sites (hydro, forestry, etc).
 - iii. People employed by Innu Nation in partnership with resource development and wildlife and environmental management projects on Innu territory. 9 full-time guardians at the moment. Work ranges from environmental monitoring to technical field work, but also provides a conduit for community-based decision making.
 - iv. Not just technicians, also deeply rooted in Innu cultural practices: will hold consultations in the community, work directly with elders / advisory committees. Guardians play a dialogue role when external folks come to the Innu Nation about projects.
 - v. Been in operation for about 20 years, very successful. Some funding from Innu Nation but also in IBAs and co-management agreements, funding

- has always been directed to Innu employment as a precondition so Innu always have a direct hand in overseeing projects.
- vi. Monitors don't report to mining or hydro or forest company, they report directly to the Innu Nation government. They have support staff from the Innu environment office.
 - vii. Question from Patricia Manuel - Will you be at Tulit'a meeting? Jonathan - Yes.
 - viii. Question from Jennie Vandermeer - How many staff do you have right now? Jonathan - 9 full-time (4 are fish and wildlife, focus on fish in summer and caribou in winter, plus other research. 1 forestry guardian. 4 project/site monitors, 2 on nickel mine and 2 on hydro site, and they alternate in 2 week on 2 week of rotation shifts). Plans for an additional heritage guardian.
 - ix. Question from Jennie Vandermeer - How does the funding work? Is it one pot? In GNWT, typically get funding for specific projects so it is not enough to keep people employed full-time. So how have you managed to get around that? Jonathan - Innu Nation has put a lot of value on this program to allow them to remain full-time. Each role is funded differently. Forestry through co-management agreement with provincial government, with annual funding for salaries, participation in planning, on-the-ground engagement, etc. Supplement with project funding when possible (research, etc). Site monitors are funded through IBAs that were negotiated directly with industry.
 - x. Comment from Josh Baricello - Ross River also working to develop a guardian program, working with Tulit'a, in the mountain area. Looking forward to talk about this at the meeting in Tulit'a next month.
 - xi. Question from Tee Lim - Any ideas about how NGOs can offer support to these programs? Jonathan - yes, there is a role. Training and capacity development is the critically important piece there. NGOs can provide unique abilities to deliver that at or below cost (to help with limited funding).
 - xii. Comment from Jennie Vandermeer - There were concerns from Tulit'a, Norman Wells, and Ross River about mile 222 area. ENR paid for monitors from TRRC and NWRRC to go out with our officers, for a few weeks at a time, to do their own type of monitoring. ENR is hopefully continuing that type of work.
- b. Andrew Applejohn, Mountain Network Centre of Excellence Proposal and presentation of background about the ESRF (2:45 PM)
- i. Christine Wenman - Brief intro for Andrew and two proposal topics
 - ii. Andrew gives overview of ESRF (Environmental Studies Research Fund) - research is funded by industry as part of their permit/licence.
 - iii. Latest ESRF funding meeting focused on caribou, should be a funding announcement soon and some Sahtú research should have been funded.

- iv. Couple publications out of ESRF-funded research, can distribute to forum members.
 - v. Two ESRF priorities at the moment - (1) water and groundwater mapping, (2) caribou and caribou habitat.
 - vi. Question from Jennie Vandermeer - How is this different or related to CIMP funding? Andrew - it is not related. CIMP funding comes from Canada and is a product of the MVRMA; ESRF is money that comes from industry, different act, different department (ITI). Similar needs for information across the two programs, though.
 - vii. Question from Leon Andrew - (about source of funding). Andrew - All from energy industry.
 - viii. Andrew gives overview of Canadian Mountain Network, in partnership with University of Alberta.
- c. Samuel Hache - Winter Road Landbird Monitoring Program (3:05 PM)
- i. Plan to deploy 150 units along winter road from Wrigley through the Sahtú (all five communities), along the winter roads.
 - ii. In the process of getting in contact with community organizations in order to get the wildlife research permit.
 - iii. Plan for three field crews to go along the road by truck, set up monitoring units a couple meters off the road.
 - iv. Been working with ENR to plan the project.
 - v. Deploy units this winter, retrieve units next winter, and then deploy in a different region. Would return to the Sahtú every 3 years.
 - vi. Could potentially look at additional species including amphibians and bats.
 - vii. Michelle Knapps attended the Cross Cultural Research Camp in Délı̄ne and will likely be involved in the fieldwork this winter.
 - viii. Question about meetings during fieldwork. Samuel - Very limited plans for stopping - 10 minutes of installation per unit, no plan for long stops.
 - ix. Question about staff. Samuel - Environment Canada staff. Will talk to communities about monitors. There are logistic and cost challenges to using monitors but they are open to discussing it and they really want some participants of some sort.
 - x. Comment from Jennie Vandermeer - Stresses importance of including community members and telling them what work was done / what info was found.
 - xi. Question from Jordan Lennie - Confirmation about type of work being done (units being installed)? Samuel - Explains songbird monitoring units and type of data that is gained from them and how they use it in the lab.
- d. Other presentations TBD
- i. (none on this call)
3. In person meeting of the Forum - February 7,8,9 2017 (10th is a caucus of Tulı́t'a leadership and SRRB) - presentation by Christine Wenman (3:25 PM)
- a. revisit history and goals of Forum

- b. review of revised agenda
 - i. See recent email from Christine for most recent draft agenda
 - ii. Day 1 - Thom Stubbs is leading the discussion and talking about ALCES computer modelling tool
 - 1. Mapping changes in landscape over time
 - 2. Interested in talking about how people would like to use this tool; this is a 3 year CIMP project and Thom wants direction from community participants on how to use the tool over the next two years.
 - 3. Christine - Mountain caribou will be another theme of the meeting and can be part of the discussion of ALCES as well.
 - iii. Day 2 - Mountain Network Centre of Excellence proposal, David Hicks, developing letter of intent for very large research program involving NWT, Yukon, BC, and Alberta. He will be looking for feedback from community members on letter of intent and how research can meet community priorities.
 - iv. Also day 2: Some other agenda items / themes for small group discussions during the meeting:
 - 1. Grayling research (fish, mountains)
 - 2. Water/ice/permafrost research
 - 3. Language/culture research
 - v. Day 3 - Discussions about Guardian program
 - vi. Day 3 evening - closing dinner with invitations to community at large
 - vii. Day 4 - community caucus with leadership in Tulít'a, to discuss monitoring and what direction the community would like to see it go in
 - viii. Day 4 - discussion of research licencing, experiences with the current system and any changes people would like to see. For example, proposal in FGH for the RRC's role to be strengthened. Want to have similar discussions in Tulít'a about this to see what the leadership organizations think.
 - ix. Question from Patricia - James Caesar is on the forum itself, but can the RRC send people? Christine - invitation has been sent, there is funding for each RRC to send someone to the meeting, ideally the regular representative for the forum but we are open to discussing additional or different people. Just depends on the budget but please talk to us about it. Also can send delegates by truck on the winter road to make it more affordable.
 - x. Roger asks if Thom / ALCES will include mountain caribou data. Thom / Deb - yes.
 - xi. Comments from Josh Baricello - Ross River excited to participate. (additional discussion about opportunities for collaboration).
- c. review of logistics

4. February youth on the land Dene T's|lį course (Deb) (4:00 PM)

- a. Deocha, Bennet Field, Feb 17-March 6 or so

- b. Having risk management planning workshop next week with camp leadership/coordination team (Deb, Maura, Benny, Tisha, Walter, Michael, Jordan, Joe). Also have Jessica Dunkin - Recreation and Parks Association - as facilitator.
 - i. Risk management training - formalize the practices we already do to keep safe, so we can be safe when we do things on the land.
 - ii. Christine is sending the agenda to the forum by email
 - c. Key objectives for camp
 - i. To support development of youth as leaders through their experiences on the land and through discussions of land claim agreement and how it is possible to be involved in governance in the region and environmental stewardship and that sort of thing.
 - ii. Youth also wanted to gain basic on-the-land skills, elders will be there to help with that.
 - iii. Gun safety training from Pat Bobinski
 - iv. Cold water safety from Joe (course in YK this fall)
 - v. Risk management planning
 - d. Comment from Jennie Vandermeer - NWLC inviting 5 youth from each community for workshop in Norman Wells Feb 14-16.
 - e. Other planning updates
5. Other initiatives and topics
- a. Polar Knowledge Canada application
 - i. Call for letter of intent, due in 10 days, SRRB team working on it and will ask for feedback when draft is finished. General idea is to support Sahtú ERM activities.
 - b. cross cultural camp planning
 - i. goal to have location and date confirmed as early as possible
 - ii. Deb - Could combine with Dechenla planning? Use as a main theme of the camp?
 - iii. Discussion of scheduling around Dechenla/Guardian programming (mid July / August).
 - c. other items TBD