

Master Minutes
Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council Summit
2005 Bi-Annual Summit / August 9-11, 2005
Moosehide Village, Dawson City, YT

August 9th

- I. Welcome Speeches and Introductions
- II. Reports

Yukon Region Director's Report

To: International Executive Committee and to the Full YRITWC Board

Date: August 01, 2005 **From:** Bonnie Harpe / Yukon Region Director

RE: The following report reflects the work of the YRITWC Staff for the-Yukon Region for the 2004-2005 year.

I would like to begin by thanking the Board of Directors for both the Yukon and Alaska regions for giving me the opportunity to work for such a great organization. In July of 2004 I was hired by the Yukon Region executive committee as the Acting Yukon Region Director. At that time the Yukon office did not have much of an operating budget. With a lot of help from the staff of the Alaska regional office I was able to secure \$117,000.00 of operating money through various grants.

In November of 2004 the executive committee for the Yukon Region met and hired me as the full-time Yukon Region Director. Although the past year has been a challenge, in that I have had to learn a lot and learn it quickly, it is a challenge that I have welcomed. I have to thank Mr. Rob Rosenfeld for his patience and guidance. He has shown me the ropes, so to speak. I have come to realize that our organization is very lucky to have him. He is very dedicated to our cause. I would also like to thank the staff of both offices for their patience, guidance and their hard work. Keep it up.

I would also like to thank everyone who worked so hard on organizing the 2005 Summit. We could not have done it without the hard work and dedication from the team of professionals whom I have come to admire. I would like to thank the Tr'ondek Hwech'in for agreeing to host an event of such magnitude. I am honored to be invited to your traditional territory. Thank-you for your hospitality and generosity.

Report on Funders and Projects
Completed Projects

1.) Shell Environment Fund: When I began my job as the Acting Yukon Region Director we had \$2500.00 that was being held by the above funder pending the final report. The work for the project had been completed along with the final report. All that was needed to complete the final report was the budget. With the assistance from Mr. Rosenfeld and the two ex-employees who worked on the project (I had contacted them through e-mails) I was able to complete the budget. The final report was mailed to the Shell Environment Fund. They accepted the final report and the final payment of \$2500.00 was sent to our office.

2.) Environment Canada-Federal Grant: In the year 2004 the past Yukon Region Director had applied for a grant through Environment Canada. The amount of the grant was \$10,000.00. Environment Canada had paid \$8,000.00 of the grant money once the project was approved and they held back \$2000.00 of the grant pending the final report. The work on the project had not been done. I immediately began working on the project.

The purpose of the project was to enable the staff of the YRITWC to conduct research and to prepare a report with recommendations regarding First Nation perspectives on appropriate activities and/or uses and the intensity of these activities and uses on the Yukon River. The project required me to travel to Carmacks, Yukon and to meet and document all aspects of the River Rangers Program. I was also required to conduct a survey with the First Nations on their perception of river management problems and needs and if whether or not they believed that there are resources available to them to address their needs.

The project was completed on time and the final report was sent to the Environment Canada for approval. They approved the final report and sent our office a check for the final amount.

3.) Environmental Capacity Initiative-Federal Grant: In November 2004 the Yukon office was awarded \$14,500.00 from the Environmental Capacity Development Initiative (ECDI) to conduct Coalbed Methane (CBM) information sessions in the First Nation communities. We formed a partnership with the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) whom we met with several times to develop a tour schedule. CPAWS hired Mr. Bruce Baizel a staff attorney with the Oil and Gas Accountability Project in Durango, Colorado and the YRITWC contracted with Mr. Albert Genier (A citizen of the Na Cho Nyak Dun First Nation). Together we have traveled to the communities of the Na Cho Nyak Dun FN, Little Salmon Carmacks FN, Tr'ondek Hwech'in, Vuntut Gwitchin FN and we have conducted information presentations in Whitehorse for the Ta'an Kwachan FN and the Kwanlin Dun FN.

The project ended on March 31, 2005. The final report was prepared and sent to the funder for approval. It was approved. The project was a success.

Active Grants

1.) Northern Ecosystems Initiative-Federal Grant: In November of 2004 we sent a proposal to the Northern Ecosystems Contaminants Table asking them to fund our request to conduct a project on Waste Management/ Contaminated Sites within the traditional territories of the Yukon First Nations. The project was approved and we received \$40,000.00 to conduct the project.

Our office contracted with Mr. Pat Tobler from Environmental Dynamics. Mr. Tobler's primary responsibility is to identify whether the sites identified by the citizens of the First Nations are in fact new sites. If they are indeed new sites they will be mapped and the maps will be sent to the First Nations, posted on the YRITWC's website and they will be sent to the funder in the final report. We managed to visit 11 of the 14 Yukon First Nations. We began the open houses by providing the participants with maps of sites that have been identified by the Federal and Territorial governments as being contaminated (including information on what the contamination is) and whether or not the site has been remediated. We asked the First Nations to identify any sites within their Traditional Territory that were either contaminated, an eye sore or just a concern for them. Many sites were identified as being contaminated. Mining sites seemed to be of the most concern as we were told that they appear abandoned yet there is a lot of debris lying around. Other concerns were agent orange, machinery left behind by the army during the building of the Alaska Highway, wire left on the ground which is hazardous to the animals and people and old army camp sites that were buried over. Most of the communities mentioned their concern about the amount of people in the communities who are either sick or dying of cancer. All of this information will be passed on to the funder in the final report.

All travel has been completed for the project and the final report with all of the findings will be sent to the funder by August 31, 2005. Since the beginning of the project two interim reports outlining the progress of the project have been completed and sent to the funder for approval. Both reports have been accepted.

2.) Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation: We applied for a grant for \$50,000.00 through the Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation in January 2005 to develop a Consultation Protocol for the consultation process between Yukon First Nations and the Alaskan Tribes to be put into place when there are activities which may have impacts outside of a particular Tribal Governments territory. Through the use of the consultation protocol, the capacity for the exchange of knowledge and joint decision-making would be greatly increased. The development of an International protocol will also be beneficial in that it will create a strong working relationship between Indigenous governments, it will create an open dialogue between all Tribal governments and it will guarantee that all parties involved are working together cooperatively to meet the following three organizational goals:

- The creation of sound communication pathways between Yukon First Nations/Tribes and creating opportunities to strategize solutions to possible environmental problems.
- To compile and share information and research.

- To develop Inter-Tribal agreements/treaties on how to protect the Yukon River Watershed.

The staff of the Indian Law Resource Center (ILRC) has graciously offered their services to assist us in the development of the protocol. Two of their staff members along with the staff of the YRITWC traveled to the community of Kotlik, Alaska this past winter. Together we met with the leaders from 26 indigenous governments. It was at this meeting that we introduced the idea of the protocol and we discussed the design of the protocol. The leaders expressed their desire to participate in the design process and they suggested that a working group be struck made up 4 representatives from the Yukon region and 4 representatives from the Alaska region. They are to meet on a regular basis, along with the staff of the YRITWC and the ILRC and they will be responsible for the overall design of the protocol. They will present their design to the leadership for approval. The leaders expressed the need to take time in the development process to ensure that all First Nations/Tribes have the opportunity to participate in the process.

The project is scheduled for completion by January 31, 2006. An interim report was sent to the foundation on June 30, 2005 which outlined the progress of the project to date. The foundation approved the interim report and the next installment of money \$20,000.00 was sent to our office. There is a final installment of \$5,000.00 that will be issued upon receipt of the final report.

3.) Indian Law Resource Center/Oak Foundation: The Indian Laws Resource Center had a surplus of money available (\$5,000.00) and offered to the YRITWC to help out with costs for projects. The money was donated to the Yukon Regional office to help out with costs associated with the community information sessions on Coalbed Methane. We are in the planning stages of hammering out a schedule on what communities we will be visiting next.

Anticipated Funding Sources:/Future Projects

1.) Community Development Fund: At the present time the Yukon office has a pending proposal into the Community Development Fund (CDF) in Whitehorse. Mr. Brian Hirsch and I have been working together on seeking funding sources and developing proposals to help out with the operational expenses for the Yukon Office. Thanks Brian for all of your help. The CDF proposal is asking them to fund our office in the amount of \$20,000.00 to complete the community information sessions on Coalbed Methane. We hope to hear back from them soon.

2.) Strategic Investments in Northern Economic Development (SINED) Program: At the present time we have spoken to the Strategic Northern Investments officer about this grant. She has sent us the Statement of Intent and we are in the process of completing it. The goal of the project is to create capacity for the First Nations by employing and training them to conduct water quality monitoring along the Yukon River within their Traditional Territory and building designated rest stops along the River. River traffic is increasing each year and some of the First Nations have raised concern about their fish nets being disturbed, their fish camps being destroyed and how unsafe the area is during hunting season.

The YRITWC director has explained the project to the Strategic Northern Investments Officer and she has asked us to complete the statement of intent. She has also suggested that we look for other funders who would also be interested in funding this project. Mr. Brian Hirsch and I have met with Mr. Dan Lindsay from Environment Canada and he has suggested that we submit a proposal into them in the amount of \$8,000.00-\$10,000.00. We will also speak to the McLean Foundation to see if this is a project that they would like to participate in. Environment Canada conducts training sessions on water quality monitoring and they have invited us to participate. We anticipate the entire project to be four years or more in length.

3.)Northern Ecosystems Initiative: (NEI): Mr. Hirsch and I are presently awaiting word from Mr. Pat Roach and Mr. Neil Burgess from the NEI contaminants table as to whether or not there is \$45,000.00 of funding dollars available to address climate effects on freshwater ecosystems in Canada's North. They should be getting back to us in the next couple of weeks.

Partnerships/Contractors:

-At the present time we have Mr. Pat Tobler on contract with our office. He is employed by Environmental Dynamics and he is completing the mapping of the contaminated sites/waste management sites for the Northern Ecosystems grant.

-We have Mr. Albert Genier who is on contract with our office until August 31, 2005 to conduct community information sessions on CBM

-We have formed a solid working relationship with the staff of CPAWS. They travel with our staff to conduct the information sessions on CBM and they provide facilitators.

-We have had numerous telephone conversations and meetings with Mr. Florian Lemphers. He is the Senior Cabinet Advisor for the First Nation Capacity Development branch of the Yukon Territorial Government. Has been very helpful in providing our office with a list of foundations and government sources of funding. Mr. Brian Hirsch and I have been reviewing the list, researching the criteria for the grants and deciding what types of projects would be suitable for the grants that we qualify for and are interested in applying for.

Financial/Funding:

The Yukon Region office operates on a fiscal year from October 1, 2004-September 30, 2005. We began this funding cycle with \$5,000.00 secured and have secured an additional \$117,000.00 since the Nenana meeting. New funding includes; Northern Ecosystems Initiative \$40,000.00, Walter & Duncan Gordon Foundation \$50,000.00, Shell Environment Fund \$2500.00, First Nations Annual Contributions \$3,000.00 Environment Canada \$2000.00, Oak Foundation \$5,000.00, Environmental Capacity Initiative, \$14,500.00

Held Markila has just completed out 2003 audit and they will begin work on the 2004 audit in August.

Projected Funding for the next funding cycle which is from October 1st, 2005-September 30th, 2006—

Our executive committee has been discussing the possibility of finding core funding for our office. This is in the preliminary stages and we will be exploring this option further. In the mean time Mr. Hirsch and I will be working on the above mentioned funding opportunities.

Staffing: At the present time we have one full-time staff member and two part-time staff. Bonnie Harpe is the full-time Yukon Region director. Ms. Irene Winzer (A member of the WhiteRiver FN) is our part-time bookkeeper. Ms. Cynthia James (A member of the Carcross/Tagish FN) was hired in June 2004 as the 2005 Summit Coordinator. They are wonderful and I have been lucky to have both of them. If we are successful in obtaining more grant money for the next fiscal year we are hoping to increase the staff size to help ease the workload.

Because we have increased the staff we are finding that our office space is getting to small. In September 2005 we will be moving offices. Our new office will be located in the same building that we presently occupy. We are just moving down the hall to office #5.

We will need more office equipment to help us in our day to day operations. We have only one computer that all three of us are accessing. We are going to be asking the Yukon First Nations if they would donate a computer to us as we do not have the money available to purchase one.

In June 2005, Mr. Harold Gatensby and I traveled to Fairbanks, Alaska for a staff retreat. The entire staff of the YRITWC met for two days and discussed a number of issues. We spent a lot of our time planning for the Summit meeting, to ensure that we had everything covered. We also spent a great deal of time discussing the day to day operations of all three offices and updated each on projects. On Saturday before Mr. Gatensby and I left to come home we attended a barbecue that was organized by the staff from the Fairbanks office. It was nice to get to know everyone and to put faces to names of staff members that we spend so much time talking to on the telephone. Thank-you Harold for being such a great traveling companion. I have learned a lot from you.

Alaska Region Director's Report

To: International Executive Committee and to the Full YRITWC Board

Date: August 01, 2005 **From:** Rob Rosenfeld, MA / Alaska Region Director

Current Projects: During the past year the YRITWC Alaska staff have been busy implementing several projects, which include:

- A) **Backhauling** approximately 1 million pounds of hazardous waste and recyclable materials from Alaska villages to Fairbanks, Nenana, and Anchorage. Additionally, we will potentially be sending used steel to Portland, Oregon.
- B) **Mapping** of Hazardous waste and solid waste sites in Alaska.
- C) **Environmental Education** in more than 8 villages,
- D) **Capacity building** trainings offered in Fairbanks, Huslia, Kotlik, Galena, Tanana, and Venetie, in the areas of Solid waste and hazardous waste management, GIS Mapping, energy education, grant writing and grant reporting.
- E) **Site Assessment and Remediation:** Work on the 40-mile river preparing to complete a site assessment and eventual remediation of an illegal dumpsite near Chicken. The dumpsite was left behind on the Steele Creek from past mining activities.
- F) **Success Stories:** A set of success stories will be presented at the Dawson Summit and then published in a book that will be distributed by YRITWC.
- G) **Domestic and Provincial Regulatory Laws:** At the request of the YRITWC the Indian Law Resource Center has produced the first draft of a set of Laws and Regulations that apply to the Yukon River Watershed to be made available at the Dawson Summit.

Partnerships: Partnerships include 3 barge companies, 8 airlines, 1 trucking company, 3 battery recycling companies, 2 steel recycling companies, and the railroad for the backhaul project. The backhaul partners donate backhaul services for free when returning from villages. Partners are acknowledged on a TV commercial aired on PBS, which is played daily.

For monitoring and training purposes partnerships have been established with United States Geological Survey and the River Network. Additionally a Best Practices Working Group of university professors and various agencies has been established to assess energy, sewage and solid waste system options. Additional partnerships include: Institute for Tribal Government, Indian Law Resource Center, Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments, Tanana Chiefs Conference, the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, the Institute for Tribal Government, and the U.S. EPA.

Financial / Funding: The AK Region office operates on a fiscal year from October 1st, 2004 – September 30th, 2005. We began this funding cycle with \$700,000 secured and have secured an additional \$106,000 since the Nenana meeting totaling \$806,000. New funding includes: Lannan Foundation = \$50,000, Alaska Conservation Foundation = \$26,500, Patagonia Foundation = \$7,000, Honor the Earth Fund / Tides = \$2,500, Alyeska = \$1,000, Ridolfi Engineering = \$3,000, Armington Foundation = \$10,000, and Fund for Indigenous Rights and the Environment = \$6,000.

Projected funding for the next funding cycle which is from October 1st, 2005 – September 30th, 2006 follows: The Alaska Office is anticipating a budget which will range from 1 million, three hundred thousand dollars - 1 million, five hundred thousand dollars. Principle funding is projected to include: EPA Indian General Assistance Program = \$110,000, EPA Unmet Needs / Backhaul Project = \$450,000, EPA Brownfield's Capacity Building Project = \$220,000, EPA Circuit Rider Project = \$150,000, Administration for Native Americans / Lower River Water Quality Monitoring = \$217,000, EPA Hazardous Waste project = \$63,000, Department of Agriculture = \$50,000, BLM 40-Mile Remediation = \$120,000, Lannan Foundation \$20,000, Alaska Conservation Foundation = \$12,000, Department of Agriculture = \$50,000 - \$100,000, Tribal Contributions = \$12,000, Corporate Donations = \$6,000, Fund for Indigenous Rights and the Environment = \$10,000, Armington Foundation = \$10,000, and Mead Foundation = \$10,000.

Projected funding for the year from October 1st, 2006 – September 30th, 2007 follows: The Alaska Office has a substantial amount of multi-year grants submitted and we anticipate award letters totaling between \$1,300,000 and \$1,500,000 by October. Multi-year projects include: EPA Indian General Assistance Program = \$110,000, EPA Unmet Needs / Backhaul Project = \$450,000, Administration for Native Americans / Lower River Water Quality Monitoring = \$206,000, Brownfield's Program = \$200,000, Circuit Rider Initiative = \$150,000, and other funds from other federal entities including the Bureau of Lands Management.

Projected funding for the year from October 1st, 2007 – September 30th, 2008 follows: The Alaska Office has a few multi-year grants submitted that would extend into this fiscal year. We anticipate awards letters totaling between \$800,000 to \$1,000,000 by March of 2006. Funding already secured includes Administration for Native Americans / Lower River Water Quality Monitoring = \$206,000 and the EPA Indian General Assistance Grant = \$110,000.

Staffing and Contracting: The Alaska Region Offices are operating with a staff of 6-fulltime individuals in Fairbanks and 2 fulltime and one summer staff in Anchorage. The current Fairbanks staff are: Lavern Huntington / Administration and Finance Director, Darcie Warden / Education and Communications Coordinator, La'ona DeWilde / Monitoring and Mapping Coordinator, Aurora Fernandez / Fundraising Intern. Joy Shockley and Danielle Brown-Farrell / Dynamic Backhaul Coordinators. Jon Waterhouse / Solid Waste and Backhaul Manager and Rob Rosenfeld / Alaska Region Director are based in Fairbanks with Rachel Peltola / Backhaul and Media Assistant (a youth from Scammon Bay) who has joined our Anchorage Office for the summer.

Ken Margolis / Advisor has worked with YRITWC on contract until mid-January and now is volunteering one-day per week. Brian Hirsch Ph.D is working as a contractor at about half time – he is primarily writing grants and assisting with Energy Education and Policy. Ridolfi Engineering was contracted to provide a training in Ft. Yukon. Albert Genier and Harold Gatensby received small contracts to provide trainings in Alaska.

The staff size will increase in October adding between 3-6 new staff members in addition to retaining current staff. We anticipate 5-8 staff in Fairbanks and 4-6 in Anchorage. The Anchorage Office has been re-established to service the lower river and coastal communities as there are 26 of the 76 tribes that rely on the river located in the Lower River and coastal communities.

Staff Benefits: Currently fulltime staff are offered \$200. per month towards health insurance, retirement plans or toward out of pocket medical expenses. During the next 2-4 months the AK Region will explore more improved health insurance plans for all full-time employees. Additionally, staff with young children are compensated for child-care when traveling with their children, for work purposes. Children are welcome at all YRITWC trainings and staff meetings.

Future Projects: The YRITWC has planned future projects to adhere to the organizational goals approved in Nenana during the summer of 2004. We have been assertively pursuing funds for Water Quality Monitoring, improving Sewage and Solid Waste Systems, Advocacy, Mapping, Remediation, Education and Capacity Building.

Honors: The YRITWC has been selected by the *Harvard University / Honoring Nations Award Program* as a finalist for exemplar work. A site visit occurred this summer and we were informed that the YRITWC would receive Honors or High Honors on November 1st in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Additionally, Clarence Alexander received the *Buffet Indigenous Leaders Award* within the Ecotrust "Salmon Nation" award program. Clarence has called for a treaty to be developed between the tribes residing on watersheds where salmon are present. Yukaana' Development Corporation which is owned by Loudon Tribal Council nominated the YRITWC for this prestigious award.

Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association: Clarence Alexander, Chief James Landlord, and Rob Rosenfeld went to Marshall to meet with the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association (YRDFA) full Board of Directors at their annual meeting. YRITWC asked YRDFA to consider ways to improve relations

and to more effectively work with tribes. At the meeting the YRDFA board passed two motions to change their bylaws to insert the word “tribe” where appropriate to demonstrate their commitment to include tribes among the entities that they work with and YRDFA agreed to establish employee guidelines and protocols for working effectively with tribes.

Nuclear Regulatory Commission: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is attending the summit in Moosehide, Yukon Territory to consider a draft set of consultation protocols upon the request of 1st Chief Peter M. Captain Sr. / AK Region Chairman.

United States Geological Survey (USGS): The USGS has been conducting water quality samples for 5 years on the Yukon River at 8 fixed sites and in more than 45 tributaries. The test results demonstrate a healthy ecosystem with minimal contaminants. They will be presenting their results at the Dawson Summit at Moosehide. The YRITWC will be assuming the responsibility for one of their fixed site sampling stations as of next summer in partnership with USGS.

Media Highlight: The YRITWC has worked with KSKA Channel 7 / PBS and Williams Communications to produce a 30 second commercial which spot lights the backhaul program and the many partners. The commercial is playing two times per day before or after the weather report.

Resolution Update: The YRITWC is currently circulating and working on 4 resolutions: The resolutions are on Coal Bed Methane, Sewage Discharge in Alaska, the building of a secondary-treatment facility in Dawson, and on the proposed Nuclear Reactor in Galena.

Coal Bed Methane (CBM). The YRITWC Yukon Office has submitted a separate report on their work on the CBM resolution. The AK Office has circulated the resolution to tribes and provided a training in Nenana, Kotlik and Fairbanks about the environmental concerns associated with Coal Bed Methane extraction. The Fairbanks training was co-facilitated with the Oil and Gas Accountability Project.

Sewage Discharge: Chief Peter M. Captain Sr. and Rob Rosenfeld met with Ernesta Ballard the former director of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) to discuss the discharge of primary treated sewage in Alaska. Ms. Ballard committed staff to meet with the YRITWC on a quarterly basis and to participate in the **Best Practices Working Group**. The ADEC has agreed to inform the YRITWC when a discharge permit is being issued on the Yukon River Watershed. The YRITWC staff will strive to work with communities to assist them in monitoring at the time of discharge.

More importantly the YRITWC is exploring alternative practices that may have less impact on the ecosystem. We have learned about a discharge system that utilizes wetlands although we will continue to learn about the pros and cons of this system and we will gather various other options to present to municipalities and tribes in the future. **The Best Practices Working Group** is focused on this effort.

Dawson Sewage Resolution: The City of Dawson was issued a 4-year extension to build the secondary treatment facility. The Yukon government must report to the Yukon Water Board every 6 months on progress while the YRITWC is being reported to every 3 months. The YRITWC recently received a proposed design for an “Aerated System.” The YRITWC Biologist and the **The Best Practices Working Group** will be reviewing the system and providing comments to the Yukon Government and the City of Dawson. Additionally, the YRITWC met with the International Joint Commission and the State Department to discuss the potential violation of the Boundary Water Treaty of 1909. Congressmen Young agreed to write a letter to the Secretary of State asking that the Canadian government allocate necessary funds for timely completion of the project.

Proposed Nuclear Reactor: The Anvik Tribe submitted a resolution to the YRITWC to circulate to tribes. To date 22 tribes that attended the Kotlik Leadership meeting in April voted by consensus to support the Anvik Resolution, which opposed the storage, transport and experimentation with radioactive substances on the Yukon River Watershed. Additionally, 3 First Nations in the Yukon Territory have signed the Anvik Resolution. Loudon Tribal Council was invited to the Kotlik Meeting.

The YRITWC staff developed a presentation, which was shown to the Loudon Tribal Council. The Loudon Tribal Council asked for some modifications of the presentation and then approved its circulation. The presentation has been updated for the Dawson Summit.

The Tanana Tribal Council and Huslia Tribal Council submitted a resolution to the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) also opposing the storage, transport and experimentation with radioactive substance on the Yukon River Watershed. The resolution was pulled for discussion. Delegates from 42 villages voted on the resolution. The resolution passed and was forwarded by the Tanana Tribal Council to the YRITWC for implementation.

Significant time is being allocated at the Dawson Summit to provide related presentations and to assure that the Loudon Tribal Council has the opportunity to consult with First Nations and Tribes on the Yukon River watershed. The consultation that will occur at the summit will be conducted to adhere to the Inter-tribal Accord. Leaders and elders will have the opportunity to talk with each other about concerns, while staff, advisors and visitors are only permitted to contribute if called upon by an elected leader or delegate.

The YRITWC visited the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in Washington D.C. to learn about the licensing process and how indigenous governments can receive information and put forth questions and concerns. Consequently, the NRC will attend the Dawson Summit to meet directly with the leadership.

While in D.C., the most alarming pieces of information was regarding the disposal of radioactive materials. We asked the NRC if they would license a reactor that doesn't have a disposal plan in place? We were told that the NRC is only concerned with the safety of the reactor during its operational lifetime and that it is not their job to require that a disposal plan is in place. We were told that they are prepared to issue a license if safety requirements are met and that there would be an ***assumption that disposal would be figured out during the 30 years of operation.*** To date there are dozens of communities around the United States that have been stuck with the radioactive waste given that the US government still does not have a disposal system in place for radioactive materials.

Co-management Resolution: (submitted by Council of Athabaskan Tribal Governments):

This resolution requires the YRITWC to work towards empowering tribes to be able to assume co-management authorities and responsibilities for natural resource and environmental management. The YRITWC has begun work in a few areas which will serve as small steps towards reaching this long term goal.

- Mapping: The YRITWC has established a comprehensive mapping data-base that has fields for traditional use sites as well as hazardous waste sites. A MOU is in place with Tanana Chiefs Conference to share mapping data. Mapping is essential for making key management decisions. Most importantly La'ona DeWilde has offered 3 mapping workshops training tribal members to collect their own data points for map making. One workshop was geared specifically for your youth.
- Ruby Co-management / Administration for Native Americans Grant: The YRITWC has agreed to work with the Ruby Tribe on a 3 year ANA Co-management initiative that will result in a comprehensive co-management plan, while establishing the skills and relationships necessary to prepare for co-management.
- Cooperative Agreement with the Bureau of Lands Management: The YRITWC has an existing Cooperative Agreement with BLM for an Assessment and Remediation project on the 40-Mile watershed. This is a 5-year initiative which will demonstrate the YRITWC's ability to complete a site-assessment and a remediation project. Relationships are being developed with BLM staff and skills of native employees at the YRITWC will be expanded during this project.
- United States Fish and Wildlife and FEMA / Washington D.C. meetings: In February of 2005 the YRITWC went to Washington D.C. While in D.C. we visited FEMA and the USFW. In both instances we learned about their approaches to working on a government to government basis with tribes and acquired their tribal policies. We have been able to make these policies available to tribes who have requested them.

- United States Geological Survey partnership: The YRITWC is beginning a 3-year partnership with USGS to conduct a water quality monitoring project funded by ANA. This project will have a tremendous training component that will train tribal members to conduct water quality monitoring, which will continue to increase the skills necessary for co-management in the future.

Co-management is an area that encompasses many skill sets. The skills needed are many. One of the skills required include working with the federal and state government in a cooperative manner. Additionally it is important to know existing management laws and regulations while also offering improved management approaches. Traditional knowledge is most important towards influencing management decisions. The above work of the YRITWC are only very small steps towards the long-term vision of co-management. The YRITWC staff would appreciate advice from the Board of Directors to direct our future efforts towards this vision.

C. Questions for Bonnie and Rob from leadership

1. Q: How many communities are involved in backhaul?
A: 25-35 communities already involved; more than 10 preparing.
2. Q: Are there plans for training and protection of workers for the backhaul of hazardous materials?
A: Jon is ensuring trainings in Hazmat for employees and people we work with
3. Q: Is US military providing funding for clean-up, and will any go to Canada?
A: There are 2400 sites contaminated in US; 600 are in AK. Funding is not adequate. Former Congresswoman Furse approaching senators to increase funding on military clean-up. Senator Lisa Murkowski was asked for assistance to have a senate hearing.
4. Q: Can you clarify the location of the watershed work?
A: We are working to include all the tributaries and communities who rely on the watershed for survival.
5. Q: Where does the watershed stand on port authority? Barges are disrupting salmon. A: We have to take sometime to learn about the possibilities.

I. Announcement of New Signators since the 2003 Summit. A complete list of signatories is attached.

A. Dawson Resolution on Secondary Treatment Facility

1. The City of Dawson was required by courts in 2000 to build secondary treatment facility.
2. Since the initial court hearing the City of Dawson have received extensions until 2008.
3. The Minister of Environment, Peter Jenkins, committed to building an “adequate treatment facility.
4. The Yukon Water Board granted another 4 year extension until 2008.
 - a. Dawson City is required to report to the Yukon Water Board every 6 months and show considerable progress
 - b. The Yukon Water Board reserves the right to revoke the extension if no progress is shown.
 - c. Reports will be given every 3 months to the YRITWC.
 - d. Best Practices Working Group formed by the YRITWC (engineers/professors) will help evaluate sewage and solid waste systems; will review and comment shortly.

III. Consultation Protocols – 8/10/05 - facilitated by Lucy Simpson Indian Law Resource Center –

A. The Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council is in need of 2 sets of consultation protocols: The YRITWC has already established a set of consultation protocols that describes how and when the YRITWC must consult with tribes and first nations. This set of consultation protocols was established by consensus at the Fourth Summit in Ft. Yukon in 2003 to assure that the YRITWC will not speak on behalf of indigenous government. Guidelines were also established that determined when the YRITWC has the direction from the signatory governments to assume an advocacy role.

At this time the International Executive Committee has requested that a new set of protocols be developed that describe how and when tribes and first nations should consult with each other.

Background

1. A discussion began regarding consultation protocols when coal bed methane possibilities arose within the watershed.
2. The question that came to the surface was focused on, “when, how, and with whom should tribes and first nations consult with when considering a project that may impact the Yukon River watershed
3. The commitment to consultation is in the Yukon River Intertribal Accord which has been signed by 62 indigenous governments. The accord indicates that indigenous governments are obligated by signing the accord to consult with one another on projects that may impact the watershed.
4. Most importantly it is clearly understood that the inherent authority of each indigenous government is fully recognized by signatory governments.

B. Working group

1. At the Kotlik leadership meeting there was a directive to develop a consultation working group in order to make a draft set of tribal protocols.
2. Because of the importance of consultation protocols, the process should repeat how the accord was developed through a working group.
3. A suggestion is to establish a working group is to be created here while in Moosehide, Yukon Territory, Canada.
4. There should be no more than 8 representatives (4 from AK, 4 from YT)

C. Discussion

1. Edna Hancock of Nenana spoke about how the local native corporation solicited the input of Minto when considering a natural gas project.
2. “Does leadership want a working group? Any other suggestions?” (Lucy S)
3. “Did the accord working group work well?” (Rob R.)
4. We always had a treaty among each other, and that’s always been respected. But when it’s not respected, a dispute happens. In order to bring back the respect, we started the accord. If we form a committee, it will work. That’s how the accord started. (Sarah James)
5. “A guiding principle is to be all inclusive. To those outside come in and join us. On the protocol: Each executive committee member has an assistant. I suggest that the alternates form the working group.” (Chief Peter Captain, Sr.)
6. “Is there any opposition to formation of working group?”
(No opposition) “We have consensus! [clap] Is there opposition to the size being 8 members?” (Rob R.)
Consensus reached again.
7. “What issues will the group be working on?” (Clarence Alexander)
8. The group will put together draft consultation protocols to bring before the International Executive Committee, to receive guidance, and rework it until a process for consultation is decided upon. The main questions seem to be, when /how/who should be consulted with”. (Rob R.)
9. This is different from consultation with YRITWC staff; this is *among* tribes and nations. When a community wants to engage in a development project that might affect others, there needs to be a process for cooperation and discussion with neighbors, while you maintain the right to proceed with development. (Lucy S.)
10. Example: A year and a half ago with the sewage treatment plant in Dawson, Chief Taylor engaged in a consultation process that the YRITWC organized in Fairbanks. Today we have a proposed nuclear on the table for discussion and consultation which has been organized by YRITWC. (Rob R.)
11. “Caribou recovery program example: someone shot 10-14 woodland caribou and now there are less caribou. There was a decision not to kill caribou to let them recover. A group decision, not a law, but we respectfully agreed without enforcement or consultation, but government might decide it’s okay to start hunting. We traditionally know this respect. I hope we don’t lose the power of respectful law when we create consultation protocols. I hope it’s like the caribou program. Territorial and federal government have the power – someone can stake a claim on our land. We have to consider government regulations and the many layers of government that are hard to navigate through. A guiding principle is to be respectful –

if we live by that we have a good start. Let's be realistic and not forget everything else. We must be aware of everything else that could interfere"(Harold Gatensby)

12. "We must be respectful. We don't want to get too detailed and specific; just a guiding principle on how to communicate when there are complex issues. It is important to give an opportunity to *all* communities to listen and comment, to ensure we have a good process to go by."(Lucy).

13. Overlap agreements: Elders want Yukon elders to speak about consultation overlaps created by federal government. Overlaps have potential to create conflict between groups.

14. A working group is recommended *because* this is a very complicated issue.

Suggestion that each group of leaders nominate members. Any other suggestions for selections? (

15. Another alternative is representatives of tribal council to form working group (Bonnie)

D. Results of Working Group Nominations

1. Alaska Region

a. *Lower River and Coastal Communities*

Nick Andrews Sr. (Marshall) – Delegate, Albert Simon (Hooper Bay) – Alternate

b. *Yukon Flats*

Chief Paul Nathaniel (Circle) – Delegate, Gary Weber – Alternate

c. *Middle Yukon and Koyukuk River*

Pat Sweetsir – Delegate, No Alternate

d. *Tanana River*

Philip Titus – Delegate .

e.. Make sure to inform tribal councils of delegations

2. Yukon Region

a. "We Would like 7 seats to ensure each community without a council is represented". (Bonnie).

b. Those representing councils will rotate

c. Will have two elders and two youth as advisors

d. No names have been chosen yet and alternates can also attend all meetings

8/11/05 -.New Resolutions, Directives, Consensus Decisions – facilitated by Rob Rosenfeld, AK Region Director

A. Introduction

1. This is an opportunity to put forward resolutions and issue directives

2. A resolution in progress must have more than half the accord signers to be considered an official directive (32 signers are currently required).

3. Resolutions may be considered at any time, and YRITWC will circulate new resolutions with an information packet.

B. Yukon Region Resolutions:

1. **A call for consensus vote for YRITWC to gain standing with Nuclear Regulatory Commission(NRC), if an application for a proposed reactor goes forward.** There will be a 30-day time frame to apply for standing and be an official part of the public process. The proposal was called for by Carl Sydney of the Teslin Tlingit First Nation.

a. We can make that a directive, rather than a resolution (Chief Peter M. Captain, Sr. of the Loudon Tribal Council, and AK Executive Committee Chairman).

b. Consultation with Chief Captain – Chief Captain approved with no opposition. YRITWC will obtain a lawyer and act at the direction of the leadership in order to provide an avenue for a tribal and first nation voice at NRC hearings if an application is submitted. Individual indigenous governments may also apply gain standing in the hearing process.

c. We need someone on top of the NRC's laws and regulations – I'd like to add that to the recommendation. (Dorothy Shockley)

d. Clarification: A consensus vote is shorter process. A resolution is a longer process and needs approval from a minimum of 32 tribes (Rob R.)

e. The delegation suggested a resolution (Carl Sydney)

- f. A resolution is needed for this, to make it stronger, because this is serious and frightening (Emma Shardy, elder from Teslin)
 - g. The Yukon Region Director and 1st Nations will begin drafting a resolution (Rob R.)
 - h. Since nothing is happening now, we should take the time and do this right (Carl S.)
 - i. This is important to ensure that Canadians have a voice (Bonnie Harpe)
2. **“The tourist boats** have been in the river for 20 years and fish problems have been observed for 20 years. Bird behavior is changing. We’re losing shoreline and losing fish. I want to make sure everyone is aware of this. We want support. “We wrote letter asking for the Division of Fisheries and Oceans to take action to stop the damage by slowing down the boats.” (Art Christianson, Yukon Fish & Wildlife, Tr’ondek Hwech’in).
- 2.
3. **Tourism and local monitoring**;; “The increase in tourism is impacting people. The first nations got funding for a crew to pick up garbage and hand out pamphlets to get people to respect the land. Funding for the program was inconsistent. We now know Yukon’s government is responsible for dealing with impacts of tourism. We worked with them on designated camping, recreational planning, and fees. We had funding for 1 year only (\$20,000) and are now developing the plan ourselves.” (Sue Davis, Little Salmon, Carmacks First Nation). Perhaps this could be combined with Art’s call for a resolution
4. Water is a federal responsibility in Canada, but first nations have been paying for years. The federal government has given some money, but not consistently. We want support of the YRITWC to show the federal government that the river is our top priority (Chief Edie Skookum).

Update on Coalbed Methane Resolution **Report by: Bonnie Harpe/Yukon Region Director**

At last years Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council meeting in Nenana, Alaska Mr. Albert Genier conducted a power point presentation on Coalbed Methane (CBM) development and extraction. At the conclusion of Mr. Genier’s presentation, a discussion ensued between the leaders. It was during this meeting that a resolution was passed by consensus calling for a moratorium on Coal Bed Methane development within the Yukon River Watershed to ensure Tribal and First Nation baseline assessments of all potentially affected waters within the Yukon River Watershed are completed. To my knowledge this has not been done to date. The resolution requires consultation with and between Tribes/First Nations that maybe impacted by CBM development.

The resolution was drafted and signed by many of the leaders present at the meeting. Those that did not sign were given the resolution to take home for review with their Tribal governments and the people in the community. Each First Nation/Tribe was sent a copy of the resolution along with a signing sheet and covering letter which explained the resolution process.

The YRITWC-Yukon Office applied for funding through the Environmental Capacity Development Initiative (ECDI) and we were awarded funds to travel to some of the Yukon First Nation communities to conduct community information sessions on the CBM process. We teamed up with the staff from the Canadian Parks and Wilderness Society (CPAWS) who in turn hired Mr. Bruce Baizel, a staff attorney from the Oil and Gas Accountability Project from Durango, Colorado. Together the four of us traveled to the communities of the; Little Salmon Carmacks FN, the Na Cho Nyak Dun FN, Vuntut Gwitchin, Tr’ondek Hwech’in, Ta’an Kwach’an and the Kwanlin Dun First Nation. The sessions were successful in that we discovered that a vast majority of the people in the communities were not aware that they have coalbeds with in their traditional territory. CBM is an unknown industry in the Yukon Territory. What we do know about it comes from experience in the Western United States.

At the present time we do not have anymore funds available to complete the community information sessions however; we do have a proposal into the Community Development Fund requesting \$20,000.00 in funding support in order for us to complete the project.

According to the YRITWC resolution process 32 signatures are required in order for the resolution to become legal. At the present time we have 29 signatories to the resolution. Once we achieve the acquired amount of signatures we will be seeking direction from the leaders on how best to implement the resolution.

C. Alaska Region Resolutions:

1. Status of the Anvik Resolution and Tanana Chiefs conference on Radioactive Materials

- a. The Anvik Resolution was circulated to 22 tribes at the Kotlik Leadership meeting in April and 3 first nations signed on. Twenty-five 25 councils officially supported this resolution. A similar resolution was submitted by the Tanana and Huslia tribes at the Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) annual convention in March asked for no storage of radioactive material in the watershed, no transport, and no experimentation with radioactive materials. TCC delegate voted in support of this resolution. More than 35-40 out of 42 interior Athabascan tribes voted in support of the resolution. (36/42 are within the Yukon Watershed) In addition, a total of 5 tribes and nations have supported the above resolution.
- b. This resolution is the official position of the *entire* TCC conference (Lucy Simpson / Indian Law Resource Center).
- c. "I'd like this body endorse these two resolutions." (Pat Sweetsir, of Ruby) then called for a consensus vote to have the YRITWC officially adopt the two above resolutions opposing the transport, storage and experimentation with radioactive materials in the Yukon River Watershed. (Consensus was reached).

The YRITWC's official position is the endorsement of these two resolutions.

2. Doyon Corporation Proposed Land Exchange: In the March annual meeting, 5 villages of the Yukon Flats opposed the Doyon Corporation and US Fish & Wildlife Proposed Land Exchange. The 5 villages reached consensus during a June meeting while 3 Yukon Flats villages that did not attend this meeting are for the land exchange. Doyon Ltd. wants to exchange land with Fish & Wildlife for oil/gas development. "Our subsistence area would be smaller. We want to sit at the table with Doyon. I suggest that we circulate more information...No official resolution at this time is being requested." (David James, Ft. Yukon).

3. Galena Proposed Nuclear Reactor Study / Staff support: "I'm not for or against it, but I advocate the *study* of the reactor and other energy alternatives. I ask for direct support of YRITWC staff to be there as white papers are developed." (No opposition / consensus was reached). (Chief Peter M. Captain, Sr.)

4. Elder Nomination: "Also, I'd like to elect Nick Andrews, Sr. as elder an advisor to the executive committee. Is there any opposition?" [No opposition] Consensus reached. (Peter Captain, Sr.)

5. Global Warming Directive – Funding dependant:

- a. A directive was issued to the staff to do more study on global warming (Chief Landlord, speaking for lower river and coastal communities)
- b. There is an Elders Council in Whitehorse that deals specifically with climate change. Funds are being secured for circumpolar travel. The aboriginal voice is desired at the table with the 175 nations within the United Nations.

6. Beaver Creek Watershed Assessment request – funding dependant.

- a. I suggest a directive to do a Beaver Creek Watershed Assessment. We never saw information about moose habitat in previous studies. We'd like to see that done, or help us to do this (David James / Ft. Yukon).

- 7. Billboards /**
- a. We requested billboards be made for boat landings to prevent dumping in river (directive from meeting in Whitehorse in May) (Karen Kriska, Koyukuk).
 - b. We've put in proposals and believe we'll get funding for that (Rob R.)
 - c. Why not make it a state law? (Dorothy Shockley)

- d. Could YRITWC propose we make this a state law? Any directive from board to see what exists or what could exist? (Rob)
- e. I propose a directive to look into existing laws and proposing new laws and get enforcement. (Karin Kriska)
- f. Suggest involving the youth. Directive to use posters from kids as billboards (Clarence Alexander)
- g. Must make sure the education gets out to the whole community, so adult population can benefit too (Dorothy S.)

D. Closing / Tribes and First Nations are invited to forward directives and resolutions to the YRITWC offices at any time.

Recognition: After the resolution portion of the meeting recognition was given to the founding steering committee members: Harold Gatensby, Chief Peter M. Captain Sr., Clarence Alexander, and Chief James Landlord.

Ending quote: “For all our lives we never had seen each other, we used to fight, now we fight together for clean water” (Clarence Alexander).

Coalbed Methane Presentation by Albert Genier of the Na-cho Nyak Dun First Nation:

- A. Why worry about coalbed methane (CBM)?
 - 1. There is pressure for its development in Peel watershed and Wind River
 - 2. There is lots of coalbed methane in Yukon Territory.
 - 3. CBM would provide few jobs for local people.
 - 4. It takes 300 wells per site, causing permanent damage
 - a. There would be impacts on hunting, fishing, and gathering
 - b. The causes would be road building and ecosystem fragmentation
 - 5. There are huge clean-up costing estimated at hundreds of thousands of dollars.
 - 6. Companies usually leave in 20 years without adequately cleaning up.
 - 7. Underground water sources are always depleted
 - 8. Excess water floods habitat
 - 9. Health effects of methane in atmosphere: cause asthma & pneumonia
- B. What people are doing?
 - 1. There is a moratorium on CBM production near Wasilla. British Colombia wants to bring about a moratorium as well.
 - 2. A moratorium in Yukon Territory is being called for.
- C. Question & Answer
 - 1. AK had a short-term moratorium
 - 2. No policy or regulations in the Yukon Territory as of now. It is important to make a place for First Nations voices at the decision making tables.
 - 3. There are no shallow gas regulations in the Yukon Territory.
 - 4. 2 companies have interest but the government has not said anything
- D. Moratorium specifics (resolution in packets)
 - 1. Circulated to all tribes and nations
 - 2. Need 32 signatures to be enacted; we have 29 signatures.
 - 3. Requesting CBM exploration not to occur until tribes and nations have done some water quality monitoring and developed a consultation process *before* anything happens, so we know what's there and to help make better decisions for negotiations with industry (Brian Hirsch)
 - 4. There are significant legal angles to look at since water cannot be changed, quantity or quality, upstream or adjacent to settlement lands (Susan Davis)
 - 5. Industry & government have powerful lawyers, so we need baseline data. The Yukon Territory is not for sale. Maybe they'd put money towards data collection.
 - 6. Companies self-regulate in US and always give their own baseline data.
 - 7. We must put an emphasis on a consultation *process with First Nations*.

8. Concern about animals and birds with CBM. Exploration camps are left behind and not cleaned up. Story about a diseased moose that was hunted and sent for analysis – We received no report. No matter where the CBM is, you have to check your animals and fish. (Jimmy John, Mayo)
9. Community elders are amazed by CBM risks and have invited the YRITWC back to communities to give presentation to the whole community. (Bonnie Harpe/ YRITWC)

I. Executive Committee and Full Board Descriptions and seats / August 11, 2005:

A.

1. **Full Board:** 1 representative from each indigenous government that signed the Yukon River Intertribal Accord makes up the full board of the YRITWC. Currently 62 chiefs or their appointed delegates make up the full board.. The Yukon River Intertribal Accord is the largest treaty in history between indigenous governments.
2. **The International Executive Committee** consists of 6 representatives from the Yukon Territory and 6 representatives from Alaska. These seats are selected at the biannual summits.
3. **Regional Executive Committees** (Alaska and Yukon Region Executive Committees): The Alaska Region Office and the Yukon Region Office are overseen by the 6 Executive Committee individuals in each respective region.
3. Executive Committee members do not speak for tribes or first nations, but instead they provide ongoing administrative oversight. The International Executive Committee meets twice a year, and the regional Executive Committees meet every two months.
4. Former committee members are encouraged to stay involved for continuity.

B. Proposal to Add New Seat

1. A formal proposal was put forth to add a seat for the coastal region of the lower Yukon River, because Chief James Landlord is currently representing 22 villages.
2. Consensus was reached to add a seat for coastal communities.

C. New Executive Committee Seat Selections include:

1. Alaska Region

- a. *Koyukuk River:* 2 year term - Will wait and let tribes vote in the fall.
Nominees – Karen Kriska and Harold David
- b. *Middle Yukon River:* 4 year term - Will wait until the fall to decide.
Nominees – Chief Peter Captain Sr. and Pat Sweetsir
- c. *Coastal Communities:* 2 year term - Will wait and select in the fall (update: On October 14th, 2005 a teleconference occurred to make selections. The Primary seat is Ted Hamilton (Emmonak) and the Alternate is Elmir Simon from Hooper Bay
- d. *Lower Yukon River:* 2 year term - Primary seat: Olga Changsak (Russian Mission)
Alternate: Chief James Landlord (Mt. Village / Asa'carsarmiut Tribe)
- e. *Innoko Confluence:* 4 year term - Will wait until village meeting in the fall.
- f. *Yukon Flats* : continuing 4 year term - Clarence Alexander remains as primary
James Nathaniel Sr. remains as alternate
- g. *Tanana River* : continuing 4 year term - Edna Hancock remains as primary
Chief Charlie Stevens remains as alternate -In the future tribal councils will select delegates

2. Yukon Region

- a. The Yukon has added a seat to the Executive Committee
- b. *Northern Tutchone:* 4 year term
Chief Darren Isaac will replace Chief Lucy McGinty
- c. *Kaska Tribal Council:* 4 year term -Will decide in the fall.
- d. *Kwanlin Dun:* 2 year term - Will decide in the fall
- e. The rest of the seats remain the same

Conclusion: The International Executive Committee has been expanded to 14 seats, the Yukon Region Executive Committee to 7 seats and the Alaska Region to 7 seats.

Natural Gas Development and Project in Nenana

A. Brian Hirsch comments: “Energy development is a political issue. The land claims act is a result of oil development. Native peoples are often pushed into settlements before being fully educated on all the related issues . We’re trying to change that through public education, to get ahead of the curve.”

B. Edna Hancock, Nenana:

1. There has been seismic testing in ’68 and ’82 in Nenana basin
2. We found 15 trillion cubic yards of natural gas.
3. We wanted to put in 2 wells this winter in 2006.
4. The subsurface of the lands are owned by the regional corporation, Doyon Corporation who will get royalties.
5. After exploration, long term leases must be negotiated with the village corporation
6. There will be an effort to protect the animals
7. LLC – Annex Resources (Texas) want to do the development

C. Janie, Doyon Rep.: The reason for doing this is that villages want a different energy source other than diesel

D. Lois Epstein, Cook Inlet Keepers: Natural Gas Development

1. Considerations

- a. Are renewable energy alternatives available?
- b. Can drillers help fund alternatives?
- c. Do tribes have enough info to make sound decisions?
- d. Drilling phases can last 50 years – You must be *sure* there is enough money to

restore land.

2. Onshore gas drilling impacts

- a. Routine small spills
- b. Discharge of wastes, water reinjection, oil contamination
- c. Air quality, and more
- d. Gas drilling often leads to oil; vice versa (ex. Cook Inlet, North Slope)
- e. Gas is better/cleaner than oil

3. Pipeline impacts

- a. Ecosystem damage
- b. Releases from corrosion, wear
- c. Lack of regulation
- d. Natural gas poses safety hazards

4. Driller siting considerations

- a. geology, access to markets, land ownerships
- b. NOT considered: culturally, biologically important sites, and more

5. Health impacts: increased diabetes, stress, and asthma

6. Will natural gas go to villages?

- a. Maybe
- b. Distribution system would cost approximately \$2-3 million: Who pays?

7. Question & Answer

- a. What do you do with excess water? There are no rules in AK, but deep injection is

preferred.

- b. Is liquefaction feasible in AK? Yes, also compressed natural gas.

c. Economics for natural gas in AK: Market is mainly for Fairbanks through pipeline, not as feasible for villages; it necessitates compressed gas. (Brian Hirsch)

- d. CNG is *potentially* feasible. It’s a better alternative than CBM. (Rob Rosenfeld)

I. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC)

A. Introduction by Rob Rosenfeld

1. City of Galena is considering applying for a nuclear reactor

2. YRITWC questioned how NRC adheres to presidential Executive Orders requiring federal entities to consult with tribal governments

3. NRC is an independent federal entity and is exempt; There is no policy in place for consultation currently.

4. YRITWC requested a tribal policy and/or set of consultation protocols; NRC is considering the request

B. NRC Information – Shawn Smith (Health Physicist, NRC)

1. NRC is the independent federal agency that licenses and regulates use of nuclear power plants
2. NRC does not advocate for nuclear power, but for safety/regulation
3. Five-member commission and staff
4. Committed to following principle of coordination and communication with tribal governments
5. STP- liaison and point of contact with tribal governments
6. Two public meetings held in February

C. NRC Process and Consultation (Chip, Attorney, Tribal Relations, NRC)

1. NRC recognizes importance of government-government relations
 - a. We will share information about our process for applications for licenses; early in the process and continuing
 - b. Decision-making: our evaluation of application is made clear so it is understood
 - c. We wish to listen to your concerns, knowledge, and wisdom and incorporate into our review process

2. Our process is not promotion of development but to ensure safety and environmental regulations, involving a serious, comprehensive review

3. NRC is independent not part of executive branch, but nominated by the president and approved by Senate. NRC is not obligated to follow executive orders 4. NRC has received no proposal from Galena at this point

D. Question & Answer from Leadership

Q: Do you have the opportunity to have tribal protocol? What other principles through executive orders do you follow? (Chief Darren Isaac)

A: After the request for Chief Peter Captain & Rob Rosenfeld, yes. First step is to determine path for protocol development (Shawn Smith)

We follow executive orders on consultation, collaboration, coordination, communication, info sharing with tribal governments. Legislation gives us authority with safety, security, ensuring funds are available for decommissioning, emergency planning, environmental impact statements (water, air, species), justice (Chip)

Q: Do you have any info on the potential effects of this reactor on salmon? (Chief Darren Isaac)

A: Darcie will give a presentation on this (Rob)

The licensing process will consider impacts that are transnational (Chip)

Q: The last license issued was in 1979, is that correct? (Rob)

A: Yes. The review process is extensive, similar to licensing process. License is for 40 years, renewals are for 20 more. We have 3 applications in for early site permits for new licenses. There is new interest in new reactors

Q: The EIS is limited in scope to only the operational phase and not through the storage afterwards, correct? (Rob)

A: We do consider storage in safety and environmental review. Under 'Waste Confidence Decision,' spent fuel and waste can be stored on site up to 30 years after license, and there will be a repository for ultimate disposal. The Yucca Mtn application keeps getting delayed. We will look at those issues, just a question of in which review (Chip)

NRC has rigorous oversight: resident inspectors at the site during lifetime of plant (Shawn)

Q: Are there any requests from leadership for NRC if the application goes through, regarding consultation (not just info-sharing)? (Rob)

Q: Do you regulate the military? (Harold Gatensby)

A: Certain aspects of nuclear material, but the layers of government get complicated (Chip)

Q: If missile interception occurs in US, where will it be intercepted? Where there is least collateral damage? Let's make sure that never happens (Harold)

A: In letter to Sen. Murkowski – military contaminants should be included in a hearing with Indian affairs (Rob)

Q: Are there other reactors in AK? (Chief Isaac)

A: This would be the first, and the first of its kind (Shaun)

The whole review would have to apply to this new design (Chip)

Q: There is one reactor at Ft. Greely military base on Tanana River, not licensed by NRC. It's inoperative. It did crack internally causing impacts – we have info and reports on that (Rob). Who licensed it?

A: Not sure, will find out (Chip)

It's almost been decommissioned. Licensed in the 60s, shut down in 70s. One other radioactive project on Burnt Mtn, 30 miles north of Ft. Yukon (Rob)

Comment: 30-35 years ago Air Force asked to travel through community with reactors. There's concern of leak, right into Sheenjek River. Went to legislators and tried to establish fossil fuel plant, but was nixed because of price. There was a forest fire there, which was a major concern. We lost all avenues to do away with it; we're stuck with it. (Clarence Alexander)

YRITWC went to DC, Army Corps of Engineers to get info on radioactive materials that is available to you. Are there any more questions? Should NRC *consult* with all 60 signatories or is there another process you'd like? (Rob)

Concern over government regulations. Federal and state government has power to take property – condemnation, for example. If this comes forward, we must make sure we have a process to deal with this. We have to clear ourselves of all avenues before we start (Chief Isaac Juneby, Eagle)

Q: When you issue a license, do you have a monitoring program to protect the public and environment? (Chief Juneaby)

A: Yes. We monitor effluence, and very low levels of radioactive release are allowed (Chip)

Q: What about the health of the workers?

A: Our regulations protect them. A Cancer Institute Study showed that worker health did not differ substantially from other populations (Chip)

We have monitoring systems in plant and up to 50 miles surrounding. We keep abreast of cancer studies (Shawn)

A consultation protocol working group has been established. I suggest we use these protocols to go through tribes and to governments (Edna Hancock).

Request for status reports. We're dependent on salmon. We want to know what salmon are ingesting, because we will be ingesting it also. What levels are allowed and how does it affect salmon and people? How much will it cost? Want info about catastrophes and maintenance. Request translators in each village. (Chief Edie Skookum from Little Salmon Carmack)

Edna's suggestion through consultation protocol working group implies a two-way communication (Rob)

It encourages *questions* and a consultation process. If you know nothing, you fear. We need to hear all aspects before making decisions. I support Edna's recommendation. We must be open and honest about this to gain more knowledge (Chief Peter Captain Sr.)

II. Presentations on Proposed Nuclear Reactor

A. Letter from Sidney Huntington

1. Energy from coal and wind are cost prohibitive
2. Energy costs are taking away from education
3. US government giving money to foreign countries but not here
4. Other countries nuclear use is up – see this as progress

B. Presentation by Marvin Yoder (Galena City Manager) and Russ Sweetsir (Mayor)

1. Galena received money from state for this project in August 2003 with Toshiba
2. Why did Toshiba pick Galena? Through a former environmental employee of city.

3. Reactor info:
 - a. 10 megawatt reactor
 - b. 60 feet below ground
 - c. Totally encased
 - d. 4S design – ('S' stands for 'safe', because it is buried below ground, as it gets hotter it shuts itself down, no additional cooling required, no emissions)
4. State did study on energy alternatives in 2001 (not including nuclear), and didn't see that any competed with diesel
5. Department of Energy put together team to study cost-effectiveness and impact of nuclear option and alternatives called "Galena Situational Analysis"
 - a. Nearby coal seam was considered; but would require lots of mining and emissions
 - b. Nuclear option seemed better
6. Where we are now
 - a. City obtained half a million dollars from state
 - b. Will do series of white papers by next year to address all questions. Drafts will be circulated to tribes and YRITWC.
 - c. Will hire firm to meet with NRC before application
 - d. Authorized to share information
 - e. Distributed and discussed questions and answers
- C. YRITWC Presentation by Darcie Warden
 1. Gave this presentation in Galena
 2. Here to ask questions and be informed
 3. Want to look at the *whole* cycle involved with this nuclear reactor
 4. "Free" reactor was offered to Galena because it's never been implemented or tested before – this is a pilot project. What are the hidden costs?
 5. Still have questions about environmental and human impacts
 6. Reactor has only been tested in theoretical models
 7. Small Innovative Reactor (SIR) pushes the limits on the materials used
 8. There's a place in NRC process where interested parties can be part of the process
 9. Concerns with experimental design
 - a. Limited resources for emergency response
 - b. Proprietary technology
 - c. Storage of radioactive waste containing sodium. Most problems occur in 1st year. Sodium explodes when it contacts water or oxygen. If it leaks in its case there will be contamination.
 - d. Operation and maintenance is 'not required.' If there is a problem, how can it be addressed?
 - e. Hidden costs
 - f. Siting problems – permafrost, fault line, flood plain
 - g. Long term waste storage – where will it go?
 10. Economic feasibility
 - a. Price of uranium in 2002 was \$10/lb; 2004, \$20/lb.
 - b. Current supply depleted in 50 years
 - c. Cost of response and remediation
 - d. We need long term viable solutions to energy problems – we could only afford this as a gift.
 11. Full cycle of reactor before and after operation
 - a. Uranium mining: impacts indigenous people over the world
 - b. Disposal: transport radioactive wastes by barge; Yucca Mountain not an option for sodium cooled waste; Japan was offered but hasn't confirmed
 - c. Potential impact requires multiple parties in resolving questions and participation in NRC hearing process
 12. Existing Resolutions: YRITWC standing resolution and TCC resolution. Moratorium on transport/storage of nuclear waste on Yukon
 13. YRITWC Full Board Organizational Goal, 2004
 - a. Obtain standing to become party in NRC hearing process

b. No application or permit until long term storage is resolved

D. Presentation on Uranium Mining in Navajo Country by Terri Lameman and Frederick Sherman

1. We have limited water supply, primarily ground water, and water is *conserved*
2. Mining began in 1930s and took off with World War II
3. Abandoned mines became illegal landfills that filled with water which animals drank and kids played in
4. Buying stations, processing centers in the 50s and 60s
5. Tailings are the byproduct leftover – the problem we're dealing with now. Tailings piles were left to blow in the wind, right next to rivers, highways, communities.
6. Many environmental & health impacts with contamination
7. We've translated new words into Navajo to educate elders on this
8. Traditional stories of yellow dusts tells us not to touch uranium
9. There's been an increase in incidences of cancer clusters among miners and descendants in all these areas
10. Uranium accumulates in kidneys and bone marrow causing cancer and lung problems
11. Mines are unsafely being used as corals, water sources, and materials for building hogans
12. This is the beginning of the fuel cycle that is related to the proposed nuclear reactor in Galena

E. Question & Answer, facilitated by Harold Gatensby

We are here to get better educated, not to make a decision. There is no enemy here. We should follow our guiding principles and be respectful and good listeners.

Q: Is there opportunity to participate in the pre-application process? (Albert Genier)

A: Not sure. We will collect input and info to share with NRC (Marvin Yoder)

It is an open process, open to the public to observe. There is a public meeting for the community, to hear concerns (Chip)

Q: How would nuclear power go to other villages? (Karen Huska?)

A: By running powerlines if cost-efficient (Russ)

Concern about toxins through air exposure. With oil development in Tanana three women miscarried from breathing this (Karen)

Q: We must make sure we're given appropriate time. How does NRC work with state regulations and laws? Are NRC regulations adequate?

A: I hope our regulations are adequate. We have a thorough procedure with legal and technical judges. As an independent agency, regulations have to be met. We work closely with state and federal government in EIS preparation. If state wants to be involved, they can. (Chip)

Q: How safe is this really? Why do we have to do this on the Yukon River? Why not do this somewhere already contaminated? That's our food. Are we going to be able to drink directly from the Yukon River in 50 years? (Carl Sidney.)

A: We're not going to do anything detrimental to our health (Russ Sweetsir)

Q: Are there any other regulatory processes other than NRC? How will Canadian public and 1st nations be a part of the process? Concerns about waste, security, decommissioning. How does radiation affect us and food sources? (Chief Juneaby)

A: There can be involvement with other governments. State is usually in charge of granting water quality permit; maybe with municipality. Possible transnational involvement with working group. EIS gets comments through public meeting and written comments, from first nations too. Can participate in hearing, but distance limits certainty (Chip)

Q: Is there anything in current legislation that gives us the ability to involve first nations? (Chief Isaac)

A: Yes (Chip)

Radiation is covered in EIS – water, salmon, and people. Regulations must be met before license is granted. STP established communications with state through state liaison. www.nrc.gov (Shaun)

If application went forward, there is a 30 day notice process. The working group would make sure everyone is informed. 30 days is all the time you have to gain standing. An option for first nations concerned about standing would be to use YRITWC. There are 2 levels of standing: intervenor status (can pick a contention); and interested governmental party (can comment on all submitted contentions). (Rob Rosenfeld).

Q: How do you know if someone exceeds radiation levels? What are the penalties? Who monitors this? (Chief Isaac)

A: NRC maintains oversight. Enforcement penalties depend on severity of finding (Shawn)
Q: How often and who does the monitoring? (Dorothy Shockley)

A: Resident inspectors, usually, but here maybe remote monitoring. We need more info. (Shawn)

Q: Do you have levels of radiation established? Do you stop operations when it exceeds levels? If severe, will it shut down? Who sets radiation levels? Is there a set rate? Is background radiation taken into account? (Chief Isaac Juneaby)

A: Background radiation is taken into account. We set our own regulations. (Shawn)

Q: The white papers are the only study being done now – how much consideration does the NRC give them? (Darcie Warden)

A: A report is required, it will be a foundation for planning and feasibility. Need a lot more info still for licensing (Chip)

White papers will give us answers to feasibility, if we're going to proceed (Marvin Yodew)

Local governments have to develop and implement emergency plan (Chip)

Q: Galena was a military base – this could pose a security issue.

A: Post 9/11, additional security measures must be met (Shawn)

Other plants have designed them so they would not attract terrorists – things won't blow up/be used as weapons (below ground, cement plug) (Marvin)

Comment: I'm concerned. The Bush administration is pushing this energy issue, pushing nuclear energy and oil. It's his agenda and it's affecting indigenous people all over the world. Many questions are unanswered. Tribal power is very good – we must keep our power. The Burnt Mountain issue is still there. There are EIS inconsistencies in The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. EIS changes depending on who you work for. The Mississippi River is very developed. When I see the Yukon River, there is no development. And you don't see that anywhere else in the world. I don't want that to change. I don't want to stop fishing and hunting and have to grow gardens and raise cows. (Sarah James)

Trust issues- The NRC allows in hearings the opportunity for an organization with intervenor status to hire people they trust to get it on record (Darcie)

I read an *Indian Country* article about energy companies. People don't have control, they just do it for jobs. I'm getting tired of big corporations coming in with energy. We become gullible. As time goes on, people learn the negative impacts. Let's stand up and say something about this. Toshiba says it will last 30 years without refueling Storage is still a question. In the lifetime of Sidney Huntington (90 years) there would be 3 changes in the reactor. I'm worried. I live downriver of Galena. Remember 3-mile island and Chernobyl. We shouldn't be so gullible and accept new technology for cheap electricity. (James Landlord)

Q: What kind of insurance do they have that an accident won't happen? I haven't seen machinery last that long. It goes against our mission. It's time to promote wind energy. (Martin, Pilot Station)

Was there any other source of energy considered?

A: The Situational Analysis looked at coal, not feasible. Waste heat is used now, and some is sold to military base 1.3 million gallons diesel/year. 700 people in Galena.

Alternative energy idea: use of dead trees from bug kills. Fuel reductions from fire hazards could be used to make pellets to burn. Could generate money, be cheap, and efficient (La'Ona)

Kotzebue is looking at wind. There are other options. Shipping costs are a big consideration. Solutions are site specific. (Marvin)

Q: Who owns the power? (Darren)

A: The city. Will have excess power. 60% sold to air force, 40% residential. Dependent on NRC process to see if this is feasible. (Marvin)

Q: Would military closure affect this idea? (Martin Kelly)

A: Two scenarios: 1) if it closes and school closes, we could not pursue this; 2) if it closes and school stays open we could continue (Marvin)

Q: Will more military be required? (Albert)

A: No (Marvin)

The Bush Caucus of the Rural Energy Action Council gives recommendations to deal with village energy crisis – including schools and clinics to be funded through PCE (power cost equalization – government pays for some energy costs). There will be an energy summit in Valdez. (Dorothy Shockley)

Q: Question about the white paper process. Who is contracted? Are there tribal advisory groups? (Kathleen Peters-Zuray, Tanana)

A: Law firm: Pillsbury Winthrop (?); and Engineering firm: Burns & Row (?). Requested use of UA experts and locals. Lowden tribe and YRITWC will be informed and invited to participate. (Marvin)

YRITWC offered to continue the educational exchange and bring discussions to city of Galena and Loudon tribe (Rob)

Additional money to be used on education and outreach can also be used to fund independent research (Marvin)

We're willing to hear *all* the advice we can get and we rely on the YRITWC to disseminate info. I want to encourage full study of this. (Peter)

Concern about impact on Yukon first nations. US government's construction of Alaska Highway and ANWR pipeline- they're killing the people by taking their lifestyles (Jessie Dawson).

This nuclear stuff is very scary. I would suggest to the leaders to take this back to your communities and get their input and go from there. This is very serious and dangerous (Jimmy Johnny, Mayo)

Money is leaving the community through energy costs. Must turn it around and put it back into village. Need to look at positive side too. Need balance. Everything needs to be on the table. (David James, Ft. Yukon)

It's encouraging that we get to ask these questions now, beforehand. The electricity bill goes up because people are *using* it more and wasting energy. I have a lot of work to do. We've got to change that mentality of the throw-away generation. A lot of this rests on our shoulders (Harold)

Doyon Land Transfer Discussion: – Norm Phillips, Doyon Corporation

A. Agreements is being proposed to exchange:

1. 400,000 acres additional land within the Yukon Flats Refuge

B. Details

1. Area to trade:

- a. 110,000 acres SW of Birch Creek Village
- b. 95,000 acres subsurface
- c. half- mile buffer along river
- d. a target for oil development in Exxon studies ('70s-'80s)

2. In exchange for 150,000 acres of Fish & Wildlife land

3. If oil is found, 1.5% will be paid to Fish & Wildlife

C. Process

1. People want more time to complete an EIS
2. Doyon Corporation convinced F&W to accomplish an. abbreviated Environmental Assessment
3. An 18-24 month study is being done; Information will be shared and available to the public

D. Question & Answer

Q: Why is Doyon Corporation being so generous in this land exchange? (Dorothy Shockley)

A: Exchange is based on comparative cost analysis. Because the river and wetlands are not "developable," they are valued lower. The ratio is 3 acres refuge to 1 acre developable private land. Conservation easements prevent development.

I. USGS Water Quality Monitoring Project – Paul Schuster

A. Future Needs/Collaboration

1. After 5 years of work, passing the torch to the people who live on the river
2. We need people to continue monitoring for baseline data
3. USGS can provide resources, training, and lab analyses

B. Yukon River – Unique

1. Large and untamed
2. Relatively undisturbed (considered "pristine")
3. Continuously suspending, transporting, and redepositing

C. Dual Approach

1. Fixed stations (5) monitoring for:
 - a. Baseline data for future change
 - b. Seasonality of contributions
 - c. Large scale processes
2. Synoptic sites – where sources and sinks are
3. Measurements of 90 constituents per sample and discharge

D. Major Goal: Understanding Carbon Cycle

1. The sources and sinks of carbon and how they will change with climate
2. Nutrient availability at beginning of food chain

E. Findings

1. Yukon River buffers carbon – Carbon doesn't change much from beginning to end of river

2. Yukon is losing 188 cubic km of carbon. Half lost in delta, half goes to Bering Sea
→ Arctic Ocean → Atlantic Ocean, which could affect the thermohaline circulation belt heating Europe

3. Calcium carbonate was underestimated

4. Huge stores of carbon released from soils

5. Yukon acts like a small simple system, perhaps because of permafrost

6. Non-point source studies show no POPs or contaminants on large scale (diluted); In future could address point source problems
 7. Arsenic increases in waterways after fire
 8. Little mercury was found, but does exist in lake sediment
- G. Methods to Continue – La’ona DeWilde
1. Grant through Administration for Native Americans for Lower Yukon
 2. Three year project
 3. Outreach to other tribes to start monitoring work
 4. Hot spot strategy
 5. Have several volunteers
- H. Other options – Geoff Dates, River Network
1. Visual studies
 2. Bioassessment

II. Renewable Energy & Energy Analysis – Brian Hirsch & Lance Whitwell

- A. Clean water necessitates clean energy
- B. Solar, wind, and water energy systems are viable alternatives
- C. Venetie and Arctic Village have begun using solar energy 9 months/year.

III. Vision of Canoe Journey – Stanley James, Carcross Tagish First Nation

- Idea for canoe journey to travel to the next summit in St. Mary’s originated at Ft. Yukon summit
- We traditionally send messengers ahead when you visit another village
- We can show the whole world what a small group of people can do to help clean up the river, coming down the river with canoes, singing and drumming in traditional clothes, and we can get media coverage
- By the time we reach the ocean, there will be a whole slough of people in canoes
- A tribe from Washington state will give us a great big cedar tree
- We want to involve young people in carving the canoe
- Young people *are* becoming very strong. We have to teach them these things and how to be a part of this clean-up
- We’re showing respect – we get this from our ancestors
- This is *grassroots*
- Someone put this spark in kids
- Bring the ash to your communities and get people involved
- No one understands how much the elders know – talk to these people. They are waiting for people to ask them things. We need to provide training to younger people.
- There are prophecies that something is going to kill you unless you know how to survive (related to this nuclear thing). When this happens, what are we going to do? Why test nuclear power here and not in their community?
- We have 2 years to get people involved and set up processes to plan the canoe trip to show the world that a small group can do miracles like this
- Look at getting our clothes back, wearing our own clothes. Be proud of who you are because you are wearing your own clothes
- Be proud your roots go down, here in your homeland
- We need to know the process: we have to thank the tree for giving its life to create bigger life in the river. We need to learn this and pass this on to the next generation
- Rob: Carol Jurgesson, EPA, volunteered to get us a cedar tree from USFS
- Harold Gatensby: We decided Stanley James would be our elder advisor in Whitehorse

IV. Elders Invited to Speak

A. Danny Joe (?), Pelly River: I hear your voice, you’ve got a strong voice. We have to know each other better. If you want to stand together, let’s do so. The Yukon River saves lots of lives. New things happen. Climate change – we’ve been talking about this a long time, but most people don’t understand. Teach your young people to study this. Use money on something that’s going to help you someday. My father really believed in love, land, the spiritual... Why do I have to lose something like this? Our tradition and laws – gone? We should blame ourselves. We got concerns, we got a voice, we can make

a change whether or not we got our own laws. I still build a moose skin boat and would be glad to teach my grandchildren before I get too old.

B. Elder from Pelly: A vision from her father to keep prepared for what's coming. A hard time is coming. Train the children to be strong in heart. A hymn sung in her language.

V. Lucy Simpson, Indian Law Resource Center

A. Completed 2 books

1. YRITWC has copies and on website
2. Domestic and international laws condensed into handbook
3. Working on completing Canadian portion
4. Final draft by fall
5. Regional trainings in the future

B. Summary of books

1. Salmon/fisheries protection
2. Environmental assessments before projects
3. Safety – discharge
4. Solid waste
5. Contamination clean-up
6. Cultural resources
7. How law works and how you (individual, council, corporation, nation) can use it
8. It's a draft – suggestions welcomed

VI. Relationships with Municipalities – Rob & Lucy

A. Guiding principle to be inclusive of all those related to river

B. In 2004 meeting in Nenana, the mayor asked to sign the accord

1. Accord designed for tribal councils, that's where the power lies
2. Sparked new dialogue – how can they become involved without compromising the accord?

C. Possibilities

1. Creating municipal advisory committee without voting power, who meets every two years
2. Developing memorandum of agreement they can sign agreeing to principles of accord

D. We regularly work *with* municipalities (sewage, co-management, backhaul)

E. Guidance from leadership?

F. Two options

1. Participate as observers
2. Participate as more: observers with comment

G. Power is that we are native-led; Recommend you maintain control

H. Advisory council option

1. Wouldn't have to have a vote
2. Side agreement asserting to goals of YRITWC
3. Have meetings and submit recommendations
4. Leadership can hear it how they will
5. If not committed, YRITWC could terminate

I. Another option: Giving 1 executive seat to all municipalities, but since we use consensus, one vote could block any proposal