

Kluane National Park Management Board  
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Meeting Minutes 09-24  
6:00pm, September 24<sup>th</sup> 2024  
KNPMB Office, Haines Junction

### 1. Call to Order

**Motion 01 09-24:** Elsabe motions to call meeting to order, Robin seconds, approved unanimously. In attendance: Tom Buzzell (Chair), Elsabe Kloppers, Robin Chambers, Todd Chambers, Darlene Small (Ex-Officio Park Canada), Aynslie Ogden (Office Manager).

### 2. Review draft Agenda 09-24

**Motion 02 09-24:** Todd motions to approve the Agenda 09-2024, Robin seconds, approved unanimously.

### 3. Review Minutes 08-24

**Motion 03 09-24:** Elsabe motions to approve Minutes 07-2024, Todd seconds, approved unanimously with the following amendments:

- 5.1.1 last bullet/sentence – Darlene to source package not Tom
- 5.1.5 Tom's name spelled wrong
- 5.1.4 hiring committee was Elsabe and Todd
- 5.1.3 Robin did not attend Sockeye Lake trip, Elsabe did
- **ACTION 01 09-24:** Aynslie to update 08-24 minutes.

### 4. Presentations & New Business

#### 4.1. Jeni Rudisill about the Alder Creek Prescribed Fire

- Jeni showed a slideshow with images of the day that the test fire ignition occurred along with photos of the crew involved.
- Yukon government's Wildland Fire Management, Yukon First Nations Wildfire crews, Canadian Forest Service were all involved with the operation.
- The Incident Command System(ICS) was used to organize the crews and communications.
- Unfortunately, the weather conditions were too wet for the fire to be successful.
- The day succeeded in providing a low-risk test of ICS for organizing crews and communications, as well as relationships, equipment, public perceptions.
- Parks plans to try again next year (funding permitting) and is actively looking for funding; hope to be able to leverage new sources of funding based on the success of the test fire.
- 5-year project; next year is the last year and is intended for reporting and communications. The project suffered from a slow start due to COVID.

- The project has succeeded in increasing public buy-in; social license to burn in the park has been granted, public attitudes have changed. Some local residents remain concerned about the risk of prescribed fires.
- After-action review completed – what went well, what can be improved on, and what lessons can be brought forward.
- Ron and Shiela, who participated in the day, remarked “this is the new way of doing things, because it is the old way.”
- The project was not about fuel management to protect the community; it was more about restoring fire as an ecological process in the park. And starting small.
- Will this project help steer future fuel abatement activities to the right places, and away from the wrong places?
  - Wildland Fire Management is interested in exploring a cross-boundary fire (inside and outside of park) in the Kloo Lake/Jarvis area that would involve engaging many agencies in a planning process.
  - The Board expressed concerns that this would facilitate Bison movement into the park.
- Next steps for Parks staff will be to explore next area(s) to burn and reason(s) for burning into those areas.
- The Board recommends Parks consider burning for sheep habitat enhancement (e.g. burning at higher altitudes).

#### 4.2. Kathy Burden Email about Management Plan

- The text of the Management Plan has officially been tabled in the legislature and was passed by Parliament and Senate.
- Parks is awaiting quotes from CAFN and KFN to prepare the news release.
- Tentatively planning to issue the news release on September 23, 2024.
- Tom will be the spokesperson for KNPMB.
- This Management Plan was the focus of the Board’s attention in recent years. That it is now done frees up time for the Board to focus on other matters.
- Darlene clarified next steps will be to get graphic design done on the report.
- ACTION 02 09-24: Darlene to ensure the Board will get to see the draft designed version before it goes to print/posted online.

#### 4.3. Northern Nights Festival at Kathleen Lake

- Tom, Todd and Elsabe attended and noted this is a real Yukoners’ event; few tourists in attendance. The event was well-attended; more people for live music last year.
- Darlene noted the attendance was a little lower than in previous years.
- Firewood contractor, for second year in a row, pulled up in a noisy truck during Ron Chamber’s talk and two woodcutters started cutting wood with chainsaws.
- The Board recommends
  - that the woodcutting contract specify that firewood is to be delivered cut and during business hours and/or when campground is closed.
  - that Parks Canada approach economic development within CAFN, and KFN, regarding potential FN-owned businesses / firewood suppliers.
- ACTION 03 09-24: Darlene to follow up with CAFN and KFN regarding the next firewood contract and will update terms and conditions to ensure wood is cut off site and delivered during business hours and/or when campground is closed.
- It was noted by the Board that the online reservation service is unable to waive fees for CAFN / KFN citizens. Having to call in to make a reservation is a hurdle for local

citizens, particularly citizens who reside a distance away. The Board recommends Parks Canada look into removing barriers for citizens to make reservations e.g. one-time registration.

- ACTION 04 09-24: Darlene will follow up with Visitor experience to explore what can be done to remove barriers to campsite registration by CAFN/KFN citizens.

#### 4.4. Assignment of Portfolios

- ACTION 05 09-24: Will await full attendance of the Board to assign portfolios.
- Aynslie explained how the ARRC handles portfolios. There are 15-20 files that the ARRC tracks. Several Council members are assigned a particular portfolio and Council members typically hold more than one portfolio. If you hold a portfolio you attend all meetings and report back to Council and seek positions from Council to bring forward into engagements.
- Potential portfolios for KNPMB:
  - Kokanee
  - Bison
  - Grizzly Bear
  - Trapping in the Park
  - Planning process for day-use area at Kathleen Lake
  - Prescribed fire
  - Attending ARRC meetings and/or FWMB meetings on related files
  - Transboundary meetings
  - Parks Canada National Advisory Boards / Conferences / Protected Area Management Forums and Delegations
  - Input into co-management for new Yukon National Parks

#### 4.5. Invitation to virtual workshop on Draft Management Plan for Grizzly Bear in Canada

- Portfolio item
- Todd interested in attending November 14<sup>th</sup> session, will bring back a sense of what the workload is anticipated to be required.
- ACTION 06 09-24: Aynslie will register Todd for the Grizzly Bear Draft Management Plan workshop.

### 5. Old Business

#### 5.1. Chair's Update

- Attended Alder Creek fire.
- Aynslie is now in the Office Manager role, undergoing training with Christa.

##### 5.1.1. KFN Trapping Letter

- Will discuss next meeting; intention is to get a letter drafted.
- ACTION 07 09-24: Board members to prepare for trapping discussion at next meeting.

#### 5.2. Site Manager's Update

##### 5.2.1. Report on Alder Creek Prescribed Fire

- Update provided by Jeni earlier in the meeting

##### 5.2.2. Suggested considerations to facilitate KFN commercial trapping

- Recommendations from staff:
  - Parks recognizes its job is to determine "how we make this happen", not "if"

- Parks has recently received legal clarity that their enforcement officers (Park Wardens) can enforce Yukon legislation; they are designated under the Yukon Wildlife Act. This allows Wardens to seal pelts which is a significant step, as seals are required for sale/commercial tanning of pelts; Yukon CO's do not need to be involved.
  - Has Parks considered the Board's earlier recommendation to add CAFN/KFN logos to Parks uniforms? This visual recognition of co-management would be helpful if enforcement actions need to be taken.
  - ACTION 08 09-24: Darlene to look into adding CAFN/KFN logos to uniforms.
  - Parks wants a MOU in place with Yukon government regarding sealing to enable use of YG tags – will request advice from the Board on this MOU
  - ACTION 09 09-24: Darlene to bring Draft MOU regarding sealing to the Board for advice.
  - Board would like to see Wardens visit communities regularly, say every few weeks, to seal pelts. This would be a significant contribution to efforts to build relationships between Wardens and community members.
  - ACTION 10 09-24: Darlene to follow up on suggestion for Wardens to visit communities to seal pelts.
  - Pelts from a certain region could fetch higher prices if marketed as such as they would be a rarer commodity.
  - Would like to have a workshop or working group to bring together staff and trappers to develop a plan that addresses the following information gaps
    - to avoid user conflicts, Parks could institute area closures – to do this Parks needs information on where traditional trap lines.
    - Parks has no conservation concerns over any furbearers in the Park; but see potential for cumulative effects.
    - No harvesting zones – if the Board recommends an area for trapping, it would also need to indicate a no harvest zone.
  - Comments from the Board
    - the intention of no harvest zones at the time the final agreements were negotiated was to avoid harvesting during summer tourist season and highway harvesting of sheep at Thechàl Dhâl.
    - Need clarity on what “no harvest” means – does it include berries, winter trapping of predators to shift their patterns away from sheep areas.
    - Board would like to approve a process before approving an area. The Board could quickly prepare a letter about process.
    - Would like to see this on Park's priority list with resources (staff time etc.) attached.
  - ACTION 11 09-24: Darlene to further develop concept to hold a workshop and/or working group to bring together staff and trappers to develop a plan for trapping in the Park.
  - ACTION 12 09-24: Board members to prepare for trapping discussion at next meeting.
- 5.2.3. 2024 season wrap-up and 5.2.4 Proposed future presentations from Resource Conservation and Visitor Experience

- Action item 13 08-24: Invite managers from Resource Conservation (Scott and Craig) and Visitor Experience (Carly) to provide a wrap up. Will also invite Park Warden Supervisor (Birch), Assets Manager (Jake). Darlene will work with Aynslie to schedule.

#### 5.2.4. Staffing update

- Darlene has been extended in Acting position.
- Poster for site manager competition included in the package – follow up email. Permanent position only open to CAFN and KFN citizens. Deadline October 20 2024.
- That the position is only open to CAFN and KFN citizens greatly appreciated by the Board
- Action item 14 08-24: The Board would like a member to sit in on senior level staffing processes including the current Site Manager competition alongside CAFN and KFN representatives. Darlene will take this request to John (Field Unit Superintendent) who is working with KFN and CAFN on the recruitment process.

## 6. Finance and Administration

### 6.1. August 2024 Financials

- 6.1.1. At year end, items that had been invoiced in the old year, but paid in the new year, were moved by the accountant into a special account that indicated the invoice as unpaid at year end. Christa and Sylvie are working to move these payments to show that they were paid. This will remove all items in red with the exception of depreciation, which was underestimated in the budget.

**Motion 04 09-24:** Elsabe motions to accept August financials, Todd seconds, approved unanimously.

### 6.2. Administrator's Update

#### 6.2.1. Signing Authorities Status

- Todd has gone to CIBC to sign; however, CIBC misplaced his signature and he is not listed as having signing authority.
- Christa did send letter that Elsabe drafted to CIBC. Next step is bank will send a letter for board members to sign – will wait until everyone is ready as this signing will need to be done within a time limit.
- Action item 15 08-24: Christa/Aynslie to draft Letter of Direction to add Tom as Chair and add Aynslie and remove Christa.
- Action item 16 08-24: Christa to touch base with Cathy regarding Todd's signing authority.
- Action item 17 08-24: Christa/Elsabe to find out who the contact is at CIBC. Find out who currently has signing authority. Letter sent to add Tom and Grace and Todd to signing authorities over the past year that has not been actioned yet.
- Todd volunteered to visit Whitehorse branch if someone needs to go in person to sort things out.

#### 6.2.2. VISA Update

- Christa has purchased the reloadable visa, will add funds this week.
- Action item 18 08-24: Christa/Aynslie to switch Google meets, Starlink, and Adobe automatic payments over to Visa

- Action item 19 08-24: Aynslie authorized to get a docking station, research new web hosting options, switch from Google meets to Zoom.
- Action item 20 08-24: Aynslie and Christa to update Merch inventory to reflect items handed out at CAFN GA.

**7. Updates or Additions**


**8. Action Log Review**

**9. Next Meeting Dates**

- Action item 21 08-24: Aynslie to update Google Calendar for October Board Meeting that is rescheduled for Oct 29<sup>nd</sup> 2024 – Elsabe to attend from Whitehorse
- Southwest Sheep Working Group October 15<sup>th</sup> Full day meeting – Elsabe to attend
- Action item 22 08-24: Aynslie to update Google Calendar for November Board Meeting: November 19<sup>th</sup> 2024
- Library Craft Sale: November 14<sup>th</sup> 2024
- Dakwakada Mountain Festival: November 15-16<sup>th</sup> 2024, now hosted by CAFN, lead is Sheila Greer, KFN is also involved. This year's theme is moving through our lands
- Catered open house with ARRC, YukonU, YESAB, etc. tentatively 4-6pm on December 3<sup>rd</sup> or 4<sup>th</sup> (typically ARRC pays for catering one year, KNPMB next). Board ok with either date.
- Action item 23 08-24: Robin to look into opportunities for KNPMB to join an open house or community dinner in Burwash in December.

10. Adjournment

**Motion 05 09-24**: Todd motions to adjourn, Robin seconds, approved unanimously.




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Chair or Vice-Chair

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Administration