

Science Committee members present: D. Livingstone, B. Hanna, J. Kanigan, J. Baltzer, P. Marsh, S. Gray, P. Cott, M. Wilkie, K. Stevens

Regrets: S. Kokelj, E. Kelly, S. Carrière, M. English, A. Applejohn, B. Sieben, B. Quinton

SUMMARY

- Minister Miltenberger expressed support for full CFI budget during WLU-GNWT teleconference
- Successful meeting on April 23 with GNWT, funding agencies and universities. Follow up meeting to work on specifics called for by Minister Miltenberger.
- Focus on CFI application, identifying in-kind contributions

ACTIONS

- D.Livingstone, A. Applejohn, B. Hanna, and B. Quinton to review/ revise Science Committee Terms of Reference and Partnership Strategic Plan.
- Second Partnership website to be removed.
- Work plan template for Master's program to be developed by J. Baltzer for June SC meeting.
- CFI Research Team meeting minutes to be circulated to SC.
- P. Cott to provide K. Stevens with re-vegetation report.
- WLU to address purchase card issue for YK staff

MINUTES

1. Welcome and review of agenda.
2. Review of minutes from last meeting. Minutes accepted.
3. Review of action items from April Science Committee meeting.
 - CFI Notice of Intent distributed to SC
 - B. Hanna has contacted Susan Tighe, University of Waterloo. Teleconference upcoming with GNWT-DoT to discuss shared interests.
 - SC AGM draft minutes finalized.
 - Review of SC ToR and Partnership Strategic Plan is still an action item.
4. NWT employees pursuing gradates studies (standing agenda item, if updates)
 - B. Hanna meeting with E. Kelly, J. Vandermeer, and K. Trembath to discuss next steps May 1.
5. Partnership budget, spending, equipment disbursement and lab space / use, (if updates)
 - Incinerator toilet and venting system for Scotty Creek has arrived in Yellowknife.
 - P. Cott and A. Lister bringing a mobile lab up from Alberta
6. Committee member project updates

Julian Kanigan

- Possibility for collaboration of some sort between Frame Lake project and CIMP project led by Mike Palmer involving Jules Blais from University of Ottawa (sediment coring)

Mike Wilkie

- Tathlina Lake analysis wrapped up.
- May be an opportunity to run water samples from Frame Lake sampling program in the new lab.
- Possible funding source through DFO for Frame Lake project
- Microscopes have been delivered to Waterloo, some getting shipped to the NWT.

Bruce Hanna

- Identifying sources of information related to CFI application – potential in-kind from industry and the GNWT.

Kevin Stevens

- Will be visiting the Colomac Mine Site in August with Andrew Richardson-AANDC, Mary Hewitt-Flat River Consulting, and two students.

Bill Quinton

- Continue to work with Brian Sieben and Andrew Applejohn to find someone to fill the Community Modeller position for the CWN-funded Water Knowledge Application Network (WatKAN). Perhaps Andrew or Brian has an update to add?
- Working with Christine Wenman on a project involving the Pembina Institute and Ecology North on engaging local communities on science-based knowledge and predictive tools for climate adaptation.
- Upcoming meeting with Susan Tighe and Bruce Hanna and members of DoT on potential studies projects in the NWT (permafrost thaw impacts on transportation infrastructure)
- CALIBER reporting. The CFI has requested that we submit our first annual report on the CALIBER project. Sally Gray and I are presently gathering information from all CALIBER equipment users on their use of the infrastructure.
- NSERC CRD application put forward by Baltzer, Berg, Sonnentag and Quinton nearing completion. (hoping to submit in the next few weeks. Seeking letter of Support from ENR).
- CCRN's Special Observing & Analysis Period (SOAP) initiative will meet next week in Banff. This will involve several study sites in the NWT, so the GNWT should be aware of it. Phil could expand?
- CCRN meeting with CHARS Director last week. Follow-up meetings scheduled for 20-22 October at the CCRN Annual Meeting at Laurier. Potential funding opportunities for research in NWT.

Jen Baltzer

- Coming to Yellowknife at end of May to set up student being co-supervised with Steve Kokelj. Steve has hired an intern to work with the WLU student.

- Team of 6 headed to Scotty Creek in early June.
- Invited to be on review panel for Smithsonian grant program.
- Black spruce study underway using NWT seeds.
- Working on funding proposals, CFI and another with B. Quinton.

Sally Gray

- Meeting with finance, will send update to B. Hanna for distribution – accounting information for annual report.
- Positive conference call with Minister Miltenberger, Abby Goodrum et al regarding CFI proposal.
- Working on valuations of GNWT in-kind contributions for CFI application. Sorina getting quotes for equipment. Will add B. Hanna to CFI research team meetings.

Phil Marsh

- Field crew at Trail Valley – end of winter snow survey, installing equipment.
- 50' tower being installed at Havikpak Creek site.
- August-September trip planned to start revitalizing Trail Valley Creek.
- Under grad and grad students plus a full time technician are in place.

Pete Cott

- Visited campus at Waterloo, dropped off Tathlina samples and toured new lab facility.
- Working with A. Lister to pick up mobile lab unit from Alberta. Unit allows testing on fish, wastewater etc. on site.
- Getting 100lb propane tanks for Scotty Creek camp.
- Issue with purchase card only being allowed to pay for Caliber related items (as identified by B. Quinton).
- Helping Oliver Sonnentag, U of Montreal with equipment.
- Talking to J. Baltzer about participation in upcoming field course.

David Livingstone

- Involved in Science meeting on April 23 – research needs of the GNWT and how universities and funding agencies can be involved. Opportunities and challenges of Laurier partnership addressed in D. Maclatchy presentation. Meeting set context but didn't get into specifics. Minister Miltenberger calling for a follow up meeting in 6 months.
- On working group developing an international biosphere reserve proposal for Great Bear Lake area. Proposal 80% complete. UNESCO very interested in proposal. Great Bear Lake Management Plan central to proposal, includes an extensive research needs components. Next working group meeting in June (meetings every 2 months) and looking for additional partners.
- Working on review of GNWT Science Agenda, synthesizing information on existing GNWT research programs and identified gaps and making recommendations for moving forward. Current research needs are possibly too vague to allow universities to see where they could fit in.

7. Communications –

WLU website person laid off, but Sally will try and get second partnership website removed soon. Link to new website has to be added to WLU main site.

8. Science Committee travel updates – Further updates to be provided to B. Hanna for distribution to Science Committee

9. Important Dates:

- May 31 – Above and Beyond magazine deadline (if given notice they can have some flexibility)
- End of June for CFI application to be ready.

10. Additional business
None

11. Next meeting date

June 3, 2014 - 9:00 AM in Yellowknife, 11:00 AM in Ontario.