

Science Committee members present: A. Applejohn, D. Livingstone, B. Hanna, B. Sieben, J. Kanigan, J. Baltzer, P. Marsh, S. Gray, B. Quinton, P. Cott

Regrets: K. Stevens, M. Wilkie, S. Kokelj, E. Kelly, S. Carrière, M. English

SUMMARY

- Partnership strategic plan needs to be tied in more with the GNWT Science Agenda.
- Need to resurrect WLU field safety committee.
- University partnership meeting on April 23 – good opportunity for WLU to discuss Partnership.
- Need for GNWT to define in-kind support for CFI grant application.

ACTIONS

- D.Livingstone, A. Applejohn, B. Hanna, and B. Quinton to review/ revise Science Committee Terms of Reference and Partnership Strategic Plan.
- S. Gray to obtain time estimate for WLU to provide information for annual report and accounting.
- S. Gray to arrange meeting to discuss WLU role at partnership meeting.
- S. Gray to provide CFI Notice of Intent for distribution to SC.
- B. Hanna to connect with Susan Tighe, University of Waterloo.
- SC to send any requested edits to AGM draft minutes to B. Hanna.

MINUTES

1. Welcome and review of agenda.
2. Review of minutes from last meeting. Minutes accepted.
3. Review of action items from February Science Committee meeting.
 - High school exchange: Conference call with P. Dickson WLU, B. Hanna, S. Daniels (GNWT Education). GNWT will provide a letter of support for the program.
 - Masters students project summaries sent to J. Baltzer.
 - Map with GNWT facilities that may be used as in-kind for CFI grant application provided.
4. NWT employees pursuing gradates studies (standing agenda item, if updates)
 - One candidate, J. Vandermeer, met with A. Blay-Palmer WLU during AGM to discuss proposed project.
 - B. Hanna meeting with E. Kelly, J. Vandermeer, and K. Trembath to discuss next steps.
5. Revision of SC Terms of Reference and Strategic Plan – next steps
 - Good time to revisit with devolution, proposed changes can be run by senior management.
 - Strategic Plan most likely to require adjusting – link more with GNWT Science Agenda to broaden the focus.
 - Working group formed to review and revise if necessary.
6. Liability at Research Camps

- Nunavut has liability section in license now.
- Liability being looked at more seriously now for Scotty Creek, exposure to liability.
- Need to resurrect the field safety committee at WLU.
- Need to standardize field safety procedures, provide training (First Aid, gun handling).
- Could explore options for WLU staff/ students to attend GNWT internal training.

7. Susan Tighe, University of Waterloo

- B. Quinton provided overview of S. Tighe's research – pavement, linked in with Department of Transportation.
- Could make a great contribution to partnership.

8. Partnership budget, spending, equipment disbursement and lab space / use, (if updates)

- S. Gray to obtain time estimate for WLU to provide information for annual report and accounting.

9. Committee member project updates

Andrew Applejohn

Attended PERD (northern regulatory research) meeting in Calgary. Change is coming but just broad strokes at the moment, redefining themes and pillars. Wrap up reports from northern research projects terminated this year were provided. Reports were impressive enough for NRCan to offer up an additional year of funding. 14 million per year available so opportunities should present themselves, although focus has been on offshore.

University partnership meeting on April 23, 2014. 14 universities invited to attend based on criteria such as research licenses in the NWT. Tri-Councils (granting) will be represented, one council may speak for all. This would be a good opportunity for WLU (Deb Maclatchy) to discuss the nature of the WLU-GNWT partnership agreement- challenges and benefits. S. Gray to set up a meeting to discuss.

CHARS management meeting announced by AANDC to discuss governance model (i.e. hub and spoke with Cambridge Bay being the hub). Andrew to attend meeting in Ottawa.

Brian Sieben

Literature review on permafrost mapping in NWT with an infrastructure flavor. Should be ready for distribution in approximately 3 weeks.

Julian Kanigan

CIMP devolved from AANDC to GNWT April 1.

Lac de Gras cumulative effects Request for Proposal now out – hoping that WLU will put in a bid.

Tathlina Lake study and Inuvik – Tuk Highway, Dempster Hwy shrub/ snow interactions studies ongoing.

Bruce Hanna

Assisting with Letters of Support for NSERC Strategic Grant and gathering 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 of my students.

Bill Quinton

2014 Scotty field season started. Expanding the camp a bit, new weather stations. Alternate route chosen and cut to address trapper safety concerns about use of existing access trail. LKFN will be notified of the change.

Working with Liza McPherson from the LKFN (Fort Simpson) to bring high school students out to Scotty, potentially hire for field crew in addition to more experienced community member.

Possible Foundation funding to beef up infrastructure (boardwalks) to avoid environmental impacts – need to make the link to the high school student mentorship program.

Contractor visiting Scotty in June to develop a plan and provide a quote.

Trying to staff community modeler position, nested within ENR. Goal is to have him “train the trainers” on the use of the Cold Regions hydrological model. Only 3 applicants, possibility of a GNWT secondment.

NSERC application to look at a transect of permafrost degradation – extends into NE BC, oil and gas funding to extrapolate results from NWT. Community consortium including First Nations, federal, provincial and territorial partners.

Jen Baltzer

NSERC strategic project grant submitted for Inuvik – Tuk Highway project (shrubbing effects and impact on water quality). Announcement on funding should be made in September.

Scotty Creek field crew hiring process underway. Team of 5 going to Scotty in June.

August 10-23 field course is full and Trapper’s venue is confirmed.
Collaborating with S. Kokelj on grad student looking at permafrost, vegetation interactions.

Sally Gray

Will send link to WLU strategic research plan brochure and CFI Notice of Intent to B. Hanna for distribution to SC.

Attempting to arrange a meeting between Abby Goodrum and Minister Miltenberger to finalize what GNWT can offer as in-kind support for CFI application.

CFI reports may be required for existing projects and will have the same type of information that is required for the partnership annual report.

Phil Marsh

Accepted first grad student under WLU banner- atmospheric sciences background, will be working on snow in the ISR.

Attended PERD (pipeline) funding meeting in Calgary – still supportive of post doc located in Saskatoon working on hydrological model for in-stream flow events (same model to be used in the NWT).

Met with EC in Saskatoon to discuss sharing of equipment in the ISR and data. EC may be backing out of the ISR and could be interested in transferring equipment to WLU, historical data will be available.

Pete Cott

Just returned from Scotty Creek, dropping off supplies for the camp and bringing some equipment back as well as samples from Kakisa.

Alternate skidoo trail at Scotty looks like a good option and should shave some distance off compared to original access.

Worked with M. Palmer, GNWT and A. Lister, WLU on Tathlina Lake study. Work started on Kakisa Lake but turned over to the band. Tissues being collected from whitefish and walleye to look at reproductive stress hormone.

Alexie Lake fish movement study finished this year, possible to remove telemetry equipment and redeploy in Tathlina to determine where fish are spawning.

Involved in Arctic grayling study with University of AB with Masters student, link with Parks Canada and Federal Contaminated Sites.

10. Communications –

New external website now live. Thanks to Andrew Spring for his efforts on this.

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

12. Important Dates:

- April 23 - University Partnership meeting with Minister Miltenberger.
- May 15 – Above and Beyond magazine deadline

13. Additional business

None

14. Next meeting date

May 1, 2014 - 9:00 AM in Yellowknife, 11:00 AM in Ontario.