

Science Committee members present: A. Applejohn, D. Livingstone, B. Hanna, M. English, B. Sieben, J. Kanigan, M. Wilkie, J. Baltzer

Regrets: K. Stevens, S. Carrière, S. Kokelj, P. Marsh, S. Gray, E. Kelly, B. Quinton

SUMMARY

- Project liaison position filled (B Hanna) and field technician position competition complete.
- CIMP/ NCP Sahtú Environmental Research Results Workshop took place in Tulita, Nov 27-28. Discussion at workshop led to formation of focused working group to move Sahtu regional research initiative forward.
- WLU supportive of domestic student fee structure for GNWT grad students. GNWT to provide list of potential students/ interest areas.
- CIMP workshop in Yellowknife, Dec 10-11.

ACTIONS

- Bill Quinton will work with new hires to ensure that they receive adjunct status (from Nov 8, 2013 minutes)
- Bruce Hanna will follow up with ENR (Erin Kelly) about grad student proposals. If DM involvement required in future David Livingstone would assist.
- Bruce Hanna to work with Andrew Applejohn to provide alternate dates for Science Committee AGM that will tie in with university partnership meeting if possible. Proposed dates for partnership meeting are Feb 19 and 25th. For now, Jan 14-15 will remain but AGM date to be finalized by Friday, Dec 13.
- Bruce Hanna to follow up with Christine Wenman, SRRB regarding 1K of financial support for Nov 27-28 research results workshop.
- Bruce Hanna to provide last annual report to science committee with request for new items to incorporate into powerpoint presentation for AGM.
- Julian Kanigan to provide project name/ authors for Letters of Intent which will be submitting full proposals for CIMP funding consideration to see if WLU can assist with the formal review process.
- Participants to consider if they can participate as CIMP proposal reviewers in February 2014 in the areas of water, fish and caribou

MINUTES

1. Review of minutes from last meeting. Minutes accepted as drafted.
2. Updates on hiring process – new liaison and technician positions
Bruce Hanna started as the project liaison on Nov 18. Dec 9 as potential start date for Pete Cott if letter of offer accepted for field technician position.
3. Review of action items from November Science Committee meeting
 - Further action required, as identified in action items above: adjunct status for new positions, timing for AGM, GNWT grad students, funding to SRRB for Tulita meeting.
4. Science Committee AGM planning

The dates set previously will remain for now:

Monday January 13 2014 – travel

Tuesday January 14 and Wednesday January 15, 2014 – meetings

Thursday January 16, 2014 – travel

However, it is now recognized by the committee that there is definite value to coordinate the AGM with the proposed university partnership meeting as WLU research scientists in Yellowknife at the time will be invited to attend and discuss the partnership and how it's working. The two proposed dates for the partnership meeting are February 19 and February 25. Alternate dates for the AGM will be sent to the Science Committee and date for the AGM will be finalized by Friday Dec 13.

Suggestions for agenda items for AGM should be sent to Bruce Hanna. Request from Julian Kanigan for a document to be provided in advance regarding status of the partnership, current activities, and future direction. Previous annual report to be circulated to committee with request for new updates that can be shared during the AGM to address this.

5. NWT employees pursuing gradates studies (standing agenda item, if updates)

Update from Jen Baltzer:

Approved to go ahead by WLU. WLU supportive of domestic student fee structure for NWT students which is 1/3 the cost compared to a non-domestic student fee structure.

WLU requires a clear time line for remote, part-time students to insure it fits with course schedule. Documentation to formalize agreement still required but support is there.

Bruce Hanna to follow up with Erin Kelly regarding potential GNWT grad students with projects of interest. David Livingstone to engage if DM level discussions required in the future.

Once a list of students and interest areas are identified Jen can then identify interested and willing supervisors at WLU which will dictate whether the program is initially restricted to Science or expanded.

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

Spending on target. Equipment has to be delivered and invoiced for by the end of December. Availability of surplus money being looked at to cover costs associated with Yellowknife (e.g. truck, trailer maintenance, skidoo upgrade).

No update on the use of lab space – Waterloo or GNWT wildlife lab in YK.

7. Committee member project updates

Andrew Applejohn

Discussion held on December 3, 2013 between GNWT directorates and the SRRB to discuss the background of the November environmental research and monitoring workshop in Tulita and where everyone hopes to go with the regional study initiative in the Sahtu designed to answer community questions and address concerns related to development (e.g. shale oil).

The SRRB will be providing a report on the workshop to the GNWT which will be circulated to the Science Committee when finalized.

Terms of reference for a focused coordination working group will be developed and when available, also provided to the Science Committee. Good direction was received from the ADMs that were present at the Dec 3 meeting.

Brian Sieben

Podcast from the recent successful permafrost conference is now available and will be provided to Science Committee.

Julian Kanigan

Participated in Sahtú Environmental Research Results Workshop in Tulita, Nov 27-28. It's clear that the regional study has to be grounded in questions the communities have, and that if the communities feel they are being listened to they are enthusiastic about participating.

The CIMP, ENR, DFO results meeting is scheduled for December 10-12.

Letters of Intent for CIMP funding have been reviewed with only 35% of applicants being asked to provide full proposals for consideration. CIMP would appreciate any assistance WLU could provide in the review of the proposals which will be submitted in late January with a review period extending to March.

Bruce Hanna

Participated in Dec 3 discussion between GNWT directorates and SRRB. Representing WLU at Dec 9 NWT Water Stewardship Implementation Workshop.

Gradually getting up to speed with current projects and areas of interest for WLU researchers. Looking for potential linkages, partnerships etc for existing and potential projects inside and outside of the GNWT.

Mike Wilkie

Andrea Lister will be at the CIMP workshop, presenting on Tathlina Lake study done in conjunction with Mike Palmer, AANDC on effects to fish reproductive physiology.

Jen Baltzer

Participated in GNWT permafrost conference. Discussion with Steve Kokelj on potential collaboration regarding vegetation and ground ice relationships around Yellowknife.

Andrew and Jen are hoping to base out of Yellowknife for the summer 2014.

Scheduled to offer field course again through Dechinta Initiative Centre for Research and Learning, meeting next week to discuss with Eugene Belanger and Erin Freeland. Hoping to expand outside of Ontario only students – possible link to GNWT grad students.

Mike English

Mike will be traveling to Yellowknife with Jennifer Hickman on Dec 9 for the CIMP workshop and to collect additional sediment cores. Presentation and 2-3 posters at CIMP. Elevated levels of decomposition of organic matter expected to have significant implications on surface water quality in the NWT.

Expecting to be in Wekweeti three times this winter and hoping to sit down with elders to discuss topics such as changing snow conditions in recent years.

In contact with Jennifer Galloway, Geological Survey-NRCan about potential collaboration in the future. (Jen Galloway and Tim Patterson from Carleton University working with freeze coring in the NWT)

Planning on collecting cores in Daring Lake and Baker Creek in April trip north.

8. Communications – external website needs to be populated and kept current, newsletters to be done on a quarterly basis
9. Science Committee travel updates – Further updates to be provided to Bruce Hanna for distribution to Science Committee

10. Important Dates:

- Week of December 9, 2013 CIMP and partners' reporting meetings
- January 3-5 Canadian Conference for Fisheries Research 2014 <http://www1.uwindsor.ca/glier/ccfr/>
- January 14 and 15, 2014 WLU Science Committee annual meeting (tentative)

11. Additional business
None

12. Next meeting date

Science Committee meetings will be the first Thursday morning of every month at 9:00 AM in Yellowknife, 11:00 AM in Ontario.

If AGM remains on Jan 14-15 2014, no need for the January Science Committee meeting. To be determined.