
Yukon River Inter Tribal Watershed Council
3rd Bi-Annual Summit
Brooks Brook, Yukon

August 9, 2001

Accord and Administrative Discussions (F.N. & Tribal Leadership, Staff)

AGENDA:

- ❖ Opening Prayer
- ❖ Panel and Round Table Discussions
- ❖ Presentations – Story of the River/Unified Watershed Assessment Plan/Mapping
- ❖ Success Stories – Projects and Current Work
- ❖ Water Ceremony
- ❖ Historical Overview, perspectives and summary of the YRITWC and the Accord
- ❖ Signing of the Accord
- ❖ Volunteer & Member recognition of contributions
- ❖ Closing Prayer

Proceedings:

1. Opening Prayer: 9:45 a.m.

Announcements were made

Recognition was given to the Anchorage office staff interns for all her hard work – Judy Wolf

Brief introductions of the guests who were in attendance

Perry Mead – River Network
Director

Ken Margolis – River Network
Director

The river is broke and we can fix it, but it has to be done by the people who use it. Organization is a facilitation organization providing assistance and funding

Goal is to find out where the problems are and look for ways to fix it

Geoff Dates – River Network

Help people understand and protect rivers. Our work is expanding to across the continent

Angie Read – River Network

Water resources specialist in Maine

Deborah Schaaf – Indian Law
Resource Centre

Having so much fun learning about what's going on and finding out how we can help

Andy Huff – Indian Law Resource
Centre

Chippewa. Amazing moment yesterday when we all came to consensus on the Accord. Today is truly a celebration of this most historical event.

Rebecca Seib – First Nations
Development Institute

Assoc. Director of grant making; privilege to see the interest, understanding and control being taken in this endeavour. We normally don't fund conferences, but this is such a united effort to take back control and guardianship of the rivers and look to the future for partnerships developing with the Council and communities

Julie Jessen

Wonderful job. ACF protects ecosystems in Alaska by raising funds for things like this. I have the utmost confidence that you will succeed

Laurie Bentlock – Lannon Foundation	Indigenous program, mainly in US First heard about the YRITWC three years ago; heard from Rosetta a year ago on her visit to New Mexico and encouraged her to submit a proposal for funding, which she did and we funded the Youth and Elders portion of this Summit. This is wonderful
Jean Gamache– EPA	
Scott Suffocool – EPA	On loan from the tribe to the EPA; works with 271 tribes, 231 are in AK; administer funds; goal to help them develop environmental programs; goal to help build nation to nation governments and sovereign tribes; thank you for allowing me to witness this historical event.
George MacKenzie Greaves – Environment Canada	We've been involved for the last couple of years trying to support the efforts to protect the waterways in the Yukon; acknowledge comments made by boss, Don Fast, who was unable to attend; he is very dedicated to working with the council; a lot of credit has to go to the Steering Committee and staff
Patricia Curl	Part of the Bristol Environmental Engineering Native Services expanded to all over AK; we specialize in water/sewer and landfill projects; helping tribes to do the work themselves;
Carl Schroeder	Non-point source Pollution – Juneau; Dept. of Env. Conservation recognizes that watershed problems are only solvable by the communities. No one can come in and solve them for you. Funding is being provided by DEC, also provide technical assistance, especially water quality monitoring
Tina Long – AK Village Initiatives	Rampart; working on a Wildlife project; mission to enhance rural economic development in AK; this project is especially important because it addresses economic development which promotes enhancement of the environment
Gordon Nelson – USGS	Geological survey – my job is in water studies; just started a 5 yr. Project on the Yukon River, moving all the money from the lower 48; Looking forward to working with the tribes and we hope to train within the communities so that the water testing can be continued. We also work with Water Survey of Canada
Lydia Olympic – Nat. Tribal Com.	19 caucus members – 2 from AK; being here, I've recognized your problem; we don't have the problem – yet! We have the largest salmon run, and it is now a lot easier for me to go back and push for this. I sit with the EPA senior management and this gives me a real feel for what the people need. At our last meeting, I told about the subsistence living, and I need to know more about this so that I can give them the message and work to make sure they're listening.

2. Question from the Floor:

Joanne MacDonald CYFN	We come from the Yukon and we grew up on the river. It really struck me about 10 years ago when I went to Eagle and found out that it was the same river – the Yukon River. We don't recognize the border. Will all the people here be able to deal with the cross border issues?
Answers from the audience/staff:	Now incorporated in the U.S. and in the process of doing it in Canada. A set of processes has been worked out so that these two legal bodies can work as one, but raise funds in both countries. Some foundations fund in both Canada and U.S. where they are related – U.S. and border tribes of Canada and Mexico, for example. Some funders can only fund on one side of the border, but if it's for, say, Strategic Planning, it would have an

'overflow' affect.

Also have an International Arm – First Peoples Worldwide which provide funding to indigenous communities. Urge especially the Canadian F.N. to join.

There is a growing awareness of the importance of transboundary work. ACS might fund the Anchorage office, but the work would be transboundary.

Environmental Grant Makers Association – group that deals with transboundary groups; meeting in the fall – look into it!!!

As far as the Federal Governments from both U.S. and Canada is concerned, there are a number of agreements in regard to eco-system rejuvenation; We are working to find creative ways to have funds moved cross-border and this Accord definitely could potentially qualify.

In some respects, the boundary is the problem, but those in the field get permits to operate on both sides of the border. Cooperative efforts are growing, and we are learning how to deal with it.

From Environment Canada perspective, we can only send money to Canadian offices, but we can find ways to assist with capacity building funds with Heidi in the Whitehorse office.

A request was made that each of the guests leave their E-mail and Website addresses before they leave so that the information can be distributed.

Harold made closing comments to the guests, saying that the whole watershed starts somewhere with one drop of water. I went down last night and drank some of the Yukon River water. Thank you for your efforts and dedication. You each represent one drop of water, and the more drops, coming together, we will all make it to the ocean. On behalf of the water system, and our forefathers and future generations, a Big Thank you.

Break – 11:15 – 11:30 a.m.

3. Presentations:

Story of the River *by the Youth and Elders* ON VIDEO

Unified Watershed Assessment Plan ON VIDEO

Break for Lunch – 12:35 – 1:30 p.m.

4. Water Ceremony

Following Lunch, the participants went down to the river for the Water Ceremony

5. Signing of the Accord Document

The Accord, having been approved by consensus on August 8, 2001, was presented and signed by the representatives of the Parties thereto.

Those signatures not having authorization by Resolutions will require ratification from their Tribe or First Nation.

6. Recognition of Volunteers and Members

Gifts and words of appreciation were distributed:

- Peter Captain Sr on behalf of Loudon for hosting the 1st Summit in Galena
- James Landlord on behalf of Kuigpagmuit Inc. for hosting the 2nd Summit in Mtn Village
- The River Network and Indian Law Resource Centre for their support and assistance to the YRITWC
- The funders and donors who contributed to the 3rd Summit
- The original Steering Committee: Peter, Harold, James and Clarence for their years of dedication and hard work
- Staff for 'putting on' the Summit
- Chief Eric Morris, the Teslin Tlingit Council and the community of Teslin for hosting the 3rd Summit

7. Closing Comments

A number of participants stepped forward to make closing comments, and extend their thanks to Teslin and the other participants. Highlights include:

- ❖ We have a vision of Clean Water, we have the Accord, which transcends the borders, now we must go forward and 'do it'. Congratulations to everyone who is here today.
- ❖ We live on the river, we live off the river. We've seen such tragedy, but the wisdom of our elders and energy of our youth gives us hope.
- ❖ We must recognize that we are governments. Accordingly, we must move forward as government to government.

8. Closing Prayer

After closing announcements, the Closing Prayer was said.