

**2017 AGM – Held in the Grey Room at Mount McIntyre Recreation  
Centre, Whitehorse Yukon**

**May 5, 2017**

**1900 hrs**

1. Call meeting to order
    - In attendance from YWSF Board – Clint Walker, Derek Klassen, Andrew Craigen, Helen Christiansen, Greg McHale, Josh Johnson, Geoff Wooding, and Megan Klassen
    - Clint Walker call meeting to order
  2. Treasurers report
    - Approve 2017 Financial Statements
      - Motion to approve by Richard Christiansen
      - Seconded by Bernard Stehlin
      - All in favor - approved
    - Approve 2016 AGM Minutes
      - Motion to approve by Richard Christiansen
      - Seconded by Bryce Beker
      - All in favor – approved
  3. Executive / Board report
    - Clint – WSF leading the way in sheep conservation. Thought it to be important to have a chapter here after Thinhorn Summit I. Was hoping to have immediate visual successes, however where we are today is on track. YWSF is holding its first annual convention and fundraiser. Sold out 160 tickets and feel like it's going to be a success.
    - Originally formed board and started with housekeeping – banking, registration with societies, by-laws, working with WSF and membership, growing members etc.
    - Following this AGM – YWSF has a strong board and good
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membership base. This year will be focused on getting policy statements down so members know where we stand and the board knows how to answer questions based on the foundation policies. YWSF heard from members of ideas for policies i.e. - the ORV issue and disease – so YWSF is going to develop a policy position for ORV issue.

YWSF requests members to send in their opinion to YWSF board.

Peter Harms – board member on TOYA – was shuffled around when trying to get anything done and no progress to date. Is wondering why YWSF isn't interested in adopting ORV policy TOYA has made.

Rick Christiansen - suggests that YWSF doesn't need to start from scratch on a policy statement for YWSF – can draw from TOYA and Yukon Fish and Game. Common beliefs document is out there and is signed off by Yukon Fish and Game, TOYA and other organizations.

Clint – To address Peter Harms on question on stance of ORV issue – with strong membership base and new board blood YWSF can move forward on creating a stance for a foundation– Megan Klassen had a discussion with Ken Taylor and reached out to him to come to our next board meeting to hear TOYA's stance.

YWSF would like to form a committee for policy statement with ORV use and will look to work with TOYA and Yukon Fish and Game in creating YWSF stance/policy statement on ORV use.

Chuck Shewen - Breakthrough lies in a workaround in registration and license. Because that issue is where the policy gets hung up.

Yukon Fish and Game – code of ethics was written –very practical guidance –took a vote with members and struggled on having to register vehicle and helmet use. Thinks code of ethics document will align with YWSF stance.

Peter Harms – Territories are last jurisdiction to have any rules. Registration has to happen – can't tell who it is any other way. Can be a lifetime membership fee of \$10.

Mac Watson – shouldn't worry on who is going to put it in force – put the rules in place first. 80% will abide by the rules. Put the rules in place for the hunters.

Kevin Hurley – ORV issue in Northern BC and Alaska – is there a joint position statement with BC, Alaska, NWT? That way YWSF can get cover from the other jurisdictions.

Kevin will reach out to Alaska chapter and BC chapter boards and see if there is any appetite on joining forces.

Rick Christiansen - two different issues – ORV use in alpine and ORV registration.

John Devries – no ORV use in Muskwa Ketchika - they have designated trail routes

Neil Cosco – Attended the open house at the legion. From the “what we heard” when asked there, the main issue was ORV issue. Is worried because no progress has been made.

Clint addressed – there hasn't been enough involvement

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and support from the board / membership until now – and in year 3 we are moving to the next phase. We need to focus on our mandate and what is achievable.

Clint Walker – because it is such a major topic – could look at inviting membership to a special general meeting to hear their stance on YWSF policy with regards to ORV use.

Kevin Hurley – look at beating the drum of ORV impact and put photos in WSF magazine. Clint replied that has been the topic in a couple of issues to date.

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Clint Walker – One position statement the YWSF will come up with is the contact/disease issue. Update – had meeting today (Friday May 5<sup>th</sup>) to talk about private donor of \$15,000 U.S. earmarked for the disease issue. WSF will look to possibly match the donation once we know what the project will be.

Kevin Hurley – Thinhorn Summit II - 15 Yukoner's were there. There are presentation notes that can be sent out to YWSF members. Need to make this an issue with the Government. Need to skip the step of testing to see if Thinhorns are susceptible. Dealt with this in the states with Big horns and don't want to see this with Thinhorns

Bernard Stehlin – what about testing domestic sheep? Clint Walker – is not reliable. No legislation in process so what happens when sheep does test positive. Within city limits there are municipal bylaws to contain animals / livestock within city limits. No rules or regulations outside of city limits. Can test a sheep today and it is positive, 6 months

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later test same sheep and it is no longer positive. Science behind testing isn't there.

Kevin Hurley – no inoculations are currently available. If could get the Yukon to never have to face the issue, WSF would be up for paying residents higher than market value for their sheep to eliminate them completely, provided regulation would prohibit future importation concurrent to the purchase.

Options – ignore risk, kick everyone off crown land, is the land suitable to run a different class of livestock, is their somewhere else they can go away from the risk, and/or incentivize them to change their business.

Clint Walker – education is the key starting point. Need to really push that

Chuck Shewen - YFGA has been on this issue for about a year now. They are on board as well.

DM of Environment is “highly concerned” about the issue as well. As found out by the meeting earlier in the day. The Agricultural branch is on board and agrees. Once they were educated they agree with the issue. They didn't realize the risks.

Need to form a position and stance with YWSF so can hit on points and not contradict ourselves. Once YWSF has the policy then can go to the media etc.

2015 and 2016 - 87 tested samples of Thinhorn sheep every one has been negative. Every hunter and outfit should have

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a kit. Why couldn't they make it mandatory? When they bring the horns in could take a sample from the nasal. Taxidermist could take some tests as well.

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Clint Walker – YWSF to form a policy on statement of harvest. Could make bridge of the nose versus eye socket? A possible solution to bringing down sublegal ram harvest and increase average age of harvest versus putting zones on permit.

Bernard Stehlin – look at doing a voluntary group of staying away from certain areas that might have gotten hit hard the previous year.

Mac Watson – Fish and Wildlife board recommended bridge of the nose as well. Outfitters Association would be on board as well. Would raise the quality of rams for everyone.

Neil Cosco – possible idea is that if you shoot a 7 year old or younger sheep and still full curl, no punishment but don't get a license the next year.

#### 4. Committee Report

- Marketing Updates
  - Business as usual.
- Fund Raising Updates
  - The convention is the big fundraiser for the year. As per our Chapter Charter YWSF will need to donate 30% of the net proceeds to WSF.
- 2017 Banquet
  - A lot of effort by board members. Been marketing it hard and has sold out.

5. Election of Directors

Motion to accept the nominating committee report

- Moved by Bernard Stehlin
- Secondary Sven Bohnet

Motion – to accept the list of nominees as provided by the nominated committee – less the plus one

- Moved by Clint Walker
- Seconded by Geoff Wooding

Motion to acclaim the Secretary/Treasurer and Directors as listed in report

- Mac Watson moved for motion
- Derek Klassen seconded
- No opposed – adopt motion

New Board and Executive elected: Denica Christiansen (Secretary/Treasurer), Bernard Stehelin, Neil Cosco, Greg McHale, and Josh Johnson.

Continuing Board and Executive: Clint Walker (President), Derek Klassen (Vice President), Andrew Craigen, Helen Christiansen, Kelly Hougen, and Geoff Wooding.

6. Special Resolutions

- No special resolutions

7. Old Business

- Kevin Hurley – Update from disease issue notes from 2016 AGM – with regards to double fencing – 1-meter depth doesn't do anything. Transmission was passed by 10 meter
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gap in study of Washington State University – double fencing expensive and ineffective.

The other thought from 2016 AGM was intentionally exposing to test if transmission is a guarantee – Kevin says it is not necessary - 93 out of 95 bighorns died when exposed – so same would happen with Thin horns.

#### 8. Thin horn Summit II Summary

- Geoff Wooding – went and represented YWSF. Summary – MC was Kevin Hurley. More than 110 attendees. Evaluation of objectives and opportunities for managing Thin horn Sheep in Yukon, NWT, Alaska, and BC.

Covered genetics, disease issue, comparing the 4 jurisdictions (collaboration, management process, predator management and habitat enhancement).

Kevin Hurley - PowerPoint presentations available to be forwarded. Also provided a written synthesis and summary will be available by May 15<sup>th</sup>.

WSF may look to have another Thin horn Summit in 2020. If decide to hold one, it will hopefully be held in Whitehorse.

#### 9. New Business

- Sven Bohnet – will it just be board members on committee?  
Clint – Board members will be the chair of the committees but it is on them to reach out to membership for additional help.

#### 10. Adjournment

- Sven Bohnet motion to adjourn