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YRITWC

Executive Council

Carl Sidney
(Co-Chair)
Teslin TlingitClarence Alexander
(Co-Chair)
Yukon FlatsGeorge Shepherd
Carcross / TagishDarren Taylor
Vuntut Gwich'in /
Tr'ondek Hwech'inChief Eddie Skookum
Northern TutchoneSam Donnessey
Kaska Tribal CouncilGeraldine Pope
Southern TutchoneJessie Dawson
Kwanlin DunChief David Johnny
White River First NationEdna Hancock
Tanana RiverPat Sweetsir
Middle YukonHarry Maillele
Innoko ConfluenceKaren Kriska
Koyukuk RiverJames Landlord
Lower YukonRoberta Landlord
Coastal Communities

Elder Advisors

Stanley James
(Carcross, YT)Peter Captain
(Fairbanks, AK)Sarah James
(Arctic Village, AK)

A Letter from the Director

Jon Waterhouse



Well, here we are at the beginning of a great summer! I hope the winter and spring treated you well.

The 2011 Summit in Ruby August 4-6 is getting close and the entire team is working hard to make this an excellent experience for all. The theme, "We are the River: Respect, Protect, Restore" is fitting. This has been the very heart of the Council, expressed through our Accord and actions to care for the Watershed. Our success can be seen in the many efforts along the Watershed and around the globe that take

inspiration from what you, the People of the Watershed, have created.

Working together, all of us, First Nations, Tribes and affiliated organizations, are making a difference.

As we move into the future though we must remember that there is still much work to be done, let that thought energize us for the challenges ahead.

As you look through this issue of Currents, see if there are projects that you're interested in or like to comment on. If there is, please get a hold of us, we'd love to have you and definitely want to hear how we can make things even better.

See you at the Summit!

In Loving Memory

This spring Anna Pratt passed away. Anna was formerly a long time, hard working YRITWC employee in the Backhaul Department. She truly cared for the People of the Yukon River and will be greatly missed.

All of us at the YRITWC extend our deepest sympathies to her family.



Signatory Tribes & First Nations

Alakanuk Traditional Council
 Alatna Village Council
 Algaaciq Tribal Government
 Allakaket Traditional Council
 Anvik Tribal Council
 Arctic Village Council
 Asa'carsarmiut Tribal Council
 Beaver Tribal Council
 Birch Creek Tribal Council
 Canyon Village Council
 Carcross/Tagish First Nation
 Chalkyitsik Village Council
 Chevak Native Village
 Chuloonawick Native Village
 Circle Village Council
 Daylu Dena Council
 Dease River Band Council
 Eagle Traditional Council
 Emmonak Traditional Council
 Evansville Tribal Council
 Grayling IRA Council
 Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Gov't
 Hamilton Tribal Council
 Holy Cross Traditional Council
 Hooper Bay Native Village
 Hughes Village Council
 Huslia Tribal Council
 Iqurmiut Tribal Council
 Kaltag Tribal Council
 Kaska Tribal Council
 Kluane First Nation
 Kotlik Traditional Council
 Koyukuk Tribal Council
 Kwanlin Dun First Nation
 Liard First Nation
 Little Salmon/Carmacks First Nation
 Louden Tribal Council
 Manley Village Council
 Marshall Traditional Council
 Mentasta Village Council
 Na-cho Nyak Dun First Nation
 Naqsrarmiut Tribal Council
 Native Village of Bill Moore's Slough
 Native Village of Minto
 Native Village of Shaktoolik
 Native Village of St. Michael
 Native Village of Tanacross
 Native Village of Venetie Tribal Gov't
 Nenana Native Council
 Nulato Tribal Council
 Ohogamiut Traditional Council
 Paimiut Traditional Council
 Pilot Station Tribal Council
 Pitka's Point Traditional Council
 Ross River Dena Council
 Ruby Tribal Council
 Scammon Bay Traditional Council
 Selkirk First Nation
 Shageluk IRA Council
 Stebbins Community Association
 Stevens Village Council
 Ta'an Kwach'an Council
 Taku River Tlingit First Nation
 Tanana Tribal Council
 Teslin Tlingit Council
 Trondek Hwech'in First Nation
 Venetie Village Council
 Vuntut Gwichin First Nation
 White River First Nation
 Yupiit of Andreafski



Phase One Site Assessment, Hooper Bay.

The Sustainable Lands Department Prepares For ESAs and More...

By Caleb Aronson



The Sustainable Lands Brownfields Program has had a challenging winter trying to shorten the distance between what is and what should be. It always seems that when there is some work to do, there are some people to help. But when there is a lot of work to do, help is scarce. But the YRITWC Brownfields Program can help close the gap between the work that needs to be done and the resources that will get it done. This spring, the Brownfields Program accepted Environmental Site Assessment (ESA) Requests for suspected contaminated sites within participating communities. After a process in which sites are prioritized by qualifying parameters, selected sites will receive an ESA from a certified environmental consultant. The ESA can help leverage funding in the future for cleanup. This spring, the Brownfields Program has also continued to work on a new database that will help communities inventory and update progress

among contaminated sites within the Watershed. Some of the database's functions are undergoing changes but the overall concept has taken shape, and was presented at the annual Alaska State and Tribal Response Program Workshop in Fairbanks this past December and anticipates a fully functioning database by



the end of the summer. In addition to developing the new database, the Brownfields Program spent the spring preparing for a busy summer field season. We plan to visit 3-5 communities who have applied for Environmental Site Assessments through the Brownfields Tribal Response Program as well as visit 3-5 additional communities to hold a Contamination Management

Action Plan (CMAP) meeting. The focus of a CMAP isn't to address one specific site in the community, but rather to look at the community as a whole and determine how it can better manage and prevent contamination from entering the environment and the village. In this way, CMAPs gather as many community members as possible for a round-table discussion on the history of the village and the history of contamination to help draft a plan so that the village can understand where to focus its resources in managing contaminants as they enter the community. We hope you will attend this summer's much anticipated Biennial Summit, where – among other trainings – we will be hosting our annual Brownfields Training. This training will focus on the role of the Brownfields Program within the Watershed, awareness of contaminants, and what communities can do to prevent contaminants from entering the environment and their communities. See you in Ruby!

The Solid Waste Department Is On The Move!

By Stephen Price



If you have been following all these articles about the success of the Backhaul Program over the years, you may have noticed something missing. That something has been Canada. While we are an international organization with 17 signatory Nations in Canada, we have been hamstrung by US Federal funding restrictions and a lack of Canada-based funding to bring the Backhaul Program across the border. This spring, however, I was able to travel under discretionary funds to visit our communities in the Yukon Territory and British Columbia. Having lived and worked only in Alaska, I had assumed that solid waste issues in Canada were the

same as in Alaska. This is not the case. I was very impressed to learn that the Yukon Territory Government (YTG) has been actively addressing solid waste issues. Communities have segregated landfills, connex containers to house used oils, a "free" pile, and more. YTG has even partnered with a recycler to travel to communities and remove scrap metal from landfills! One thing lacking, though, was communication

with the Nations. Few people I spoke with knew a recycler was coming, which is where I think YRITWC Solid Waste could be a great help. We will work with YTG so that First Nations know about opportunities to help clean up their communities. Many thanks to the Nations for their generosity and making me feel so welcome. I look forward to doing more work in your beautiful lands.



We Really Rely On Hazardous Waste Specialists

Have you seen our Solid Waste Department lately?

If not, there is a very good chance you'll be seeing them this summer. Due to the hard work of Michael Grundberg, a Solid Waste Department employee, we've secured funding to assist Tribes without IGAP funding or without funding to cover freight costs. We have also received funding to assist communities that are only accessible by plane. This means that, with your help, there will be a lot more material moved this year. Last November a Backhaul Packet was sent to all Tribes which included the backhaul manual and the 2011 Backhaul Inventory Sheet. The Inventory Sheet is our main tool in knowing what's still out there and lets the transportation companies know what to expect. If your Tribe didn't receive this let us know!

CONGRATULATIONS 2011 Hazardous Specialist Graduates!



Marvin Sanford
 Jamie Agwiak
 Les Standfir
 Michael Grundberg
 Candace Kruger
 Carol Thomas
 Rachael Peltola
 Anahma Saito
 Cynthia Agnes

Trisha Bower
 Harriet David
 Debbie Sue Nictune
 Liana John
 Pamela Vent
 Valerie Andrew
 Karen Pletnikoff
 Jason Bavilla

Representing Villages

Beaver
 Emmonak
 Mentasta Lake
 Anvik
 Nome
 Nulato

Allakaket
 Evansville
 Gakona
 Marshall
 Tuntutuliak



Quickbooks Trainings Are A Valuable Resource By David McGraw

YRITWC's PAN program was pleased to conduct two QuickBooks trainings this past May, and we hope to conduct similar trainings in the coming year. This is a valuable course that aids financial education of all those performing financial functions on grant administration. QuickBooks is a solid foundation for financial accounting software and is used by many accountants. These courses offer an introduction to those who

have never used this program as well as increasing knowledge for those who are familiar with it. Successful grant administration includes proper financial handling, which financial software knowledge can greatly enhance. This training will help achieve that familiarity and working knowledge that is necessary for successful grant financial application. As the YRITWC's Director of Finances, I encourage all those who are

working under federal grants or will receive federal grants in the future to consider attending one of these trainings and to keep an eye out for training notifications as we solidify a calendar of 2012 trainings.



WELCOME!

Ryan Toohey



YRITWC's
Science Manager

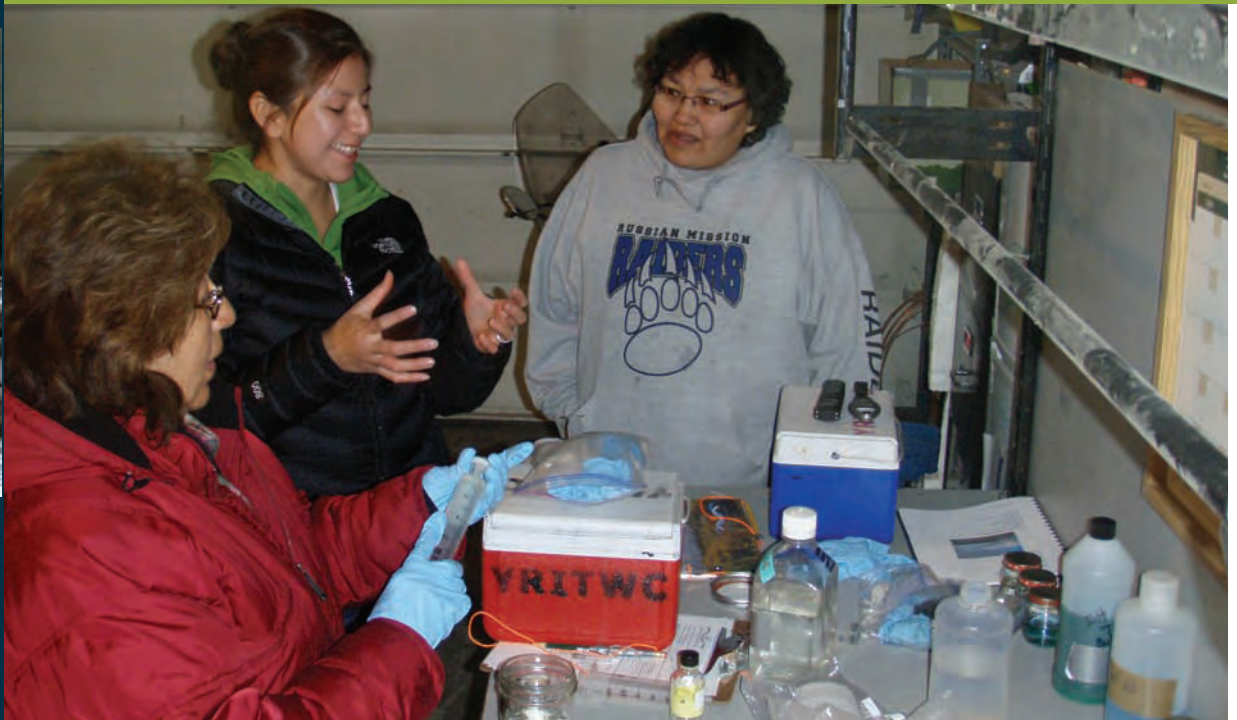
I am very excited to be joining the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council. Over the past 14 years, I have worked in the water resources field from the western U.S. to Costa Rica.

For the past two years, I have been Adjunct Faculty at the University of Alaska-Anchorage in the Environmental Studies and Geography department. Through my experiences at UAA, I have had the luxury of quickly learning about many of Alaska's environmental challenges.

Several of my students each semester were Alaskan Natives from communities throughout Alaska. Each semester, these students brought a unique perspective to the classroom and put a face to the communities experiencing these environmental challenges.

I look forward to working directly with your communities, learning from your experiences and about your cultures. I am greatly inspired by the past and current projects of the YRITWC. I can only hope to continue to provide high quality data, community interest projects, and to integrate traditional, cultural knowledge with cutting-edge scientific research.

I believe this position will be a truly unique scientific, cultural, and learning experience. Thank you so much for the opportunity to be a part of your Council!



Carol Thomas (YRITWC) explains sampling techniques to Rose Alexie (Russian Mission) & Hazel Lolnitz (Koyukuk)

The Science Department Continues Research On The River

By Leah Mackey



The Science Department will be experiencing some exciting changes and expansion in the next year. We learned in April that we received funding to accomplish the 3-year initiative titled "The Yukon River Basin Indigenous Observation Network: Uniting Traditional Ecological Knowledge and Western Science to Address and Understand Water Resources in the Arctic" through the National Science Foundation's division of Arctic Science research. The goal of the project is to expand our study of the hydrologic cycle of the Yukon River Basin, with specific focus on the Tanana River, the longest tributary influence into the Yukon River. With the continued support of Tribes and First Nations, we will quantify fluxes in important water constituents, calculate discharge at

multiple locations, and document local ecological knowledge in order to gain a better understanding of the Tanana River system, and in turn the Yukon River's hydrology.

The water quality program of 2011 will be very similar to past years' efforts. In March, we held a 3-day Water Quality training in Fairbanks, where Tribal technicians could ask questions and refresh skills. We also discussed ideas on how to better regulate sewage discharge, and gave a brief introduction on sewage monitoring. A 2-day training was held in Marshall in early June covering similar skills. Stay posted on training opportunities for changes & expansion to be implemented in the 2012 season.

We are in the second year of the Administration for Native Americans (ANA) funded project titled "Building capacities to monitor and self-regulate sewage discharge in the Yukon

River Basin." To date, we've completed 16 community sewage facility inventories. These inventories collect information about the current status of wastewater systems and will be cataloged in a limited access database to assist communities in monitoring and managing sewage issues that they may face. Monitoring plans are being implemented this summer. By taking water samples and analyzing for E. coli, fecal coliforms, and total coliforms, we are trying to answer the big question coming from communities: "How is the sewage affecting our water?"

The Active Layer Network (ALN) project, in collaboration with the United States Geologic Survey (USGS), will continue into a third field season this fall to maintain the 20 sites that have been installed across the Yukon River basin. This year we will focus on training the Environmental

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Energy Update: Past & Future Projects

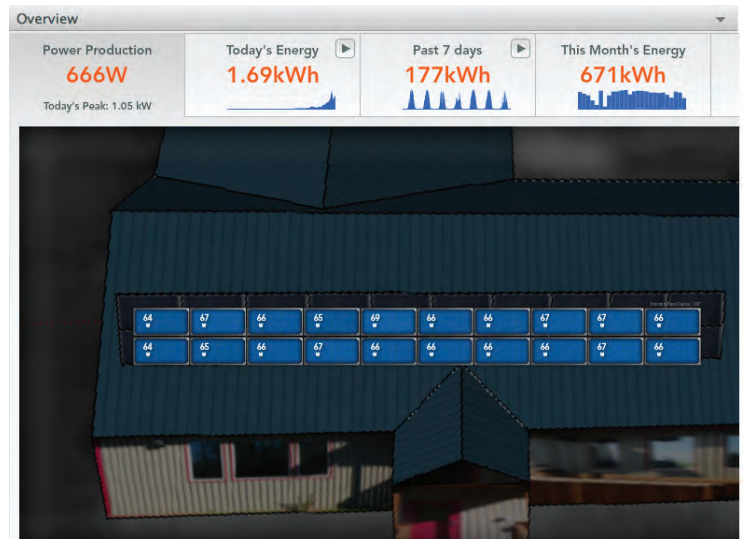
By Dave Pelunis-Messier



Our Energy staff kept hard at work this spring researching various energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies aimed at lowering the cost of living in Rural Alaska. We're proud to announce some recent results from an on-going project as well as two exciting partnerships and accompanying potential

projects. The latest results from our project on the Nenana Teen Rec Center have shown a savings of 600 gallons of fuel in the past 6 months, and over 2,000 kilowatt hours of energy produced from the 4.4kW solar array installed on the building's roof, giving a savings of \$2,710 in the FIRST 6 MONTHS ALONE! A big thank you to the City of Nenana and the Nenana

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See our Nenanna Project's Real Time Energy Production at <http://enlighten.enphaseenergy.com/systems/BToD7969>

WELCOME SUMMER INTERNS



Elli Matkin - Science Intern

Elli is a combined Sociology and Environmental Studies Major at Whitman College. She is originally from Homer, AK and is incredibly excited about the opportunities that YRITWC provides her to experience other parts of her home state. This work also offers a great chance to engage in issues of personal interest (social and environmental justice, salmon and water health, communication/public outreach) and most importantly, to contribute to the well-being of Alaskan communities.



Penny Ma - Legal Intern

Penny just finished her first year of law school at Queen's University and is extremely excited to intern with the YRITWC this summer to pursue her passion for water issues from a legal perspective, and to learn more about Aboriginal land and water rights! She obtained her BA in Biology and Society (with a theme in Environment, Health and Society) at Cornell University, and then completed her Master of Science in Integrated Water Resources Management at McGill University.



Megan Strachan - Legal Intern

Megan is a Juris Doctor/Master's Global Affairs student at the University of Toronto. She's thrilled to work with YRITWC this summer, and is excited to study the intersecting legal regimes of Canada and the United States regarding resources like the Yukon River, and explore the role international law can play. She is doing her Master's research on Indigenous governance in the Arctic and is over the moon to have this opportunity to work with an Indigenous treaty organization in the North.

2011 Summit, August 4-6, 2011, Ruby, AK

We Are The River: Respect, Protect, Restore



On behalf of the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council and the Ruby Tribal Council, we are pleased to invite you to our eighth Biennial Summit August 4-6, 2011, in Ruby, AK

The 2011 Summit, *We Are The River: Respect, Protect, Restore*, is bringing together delegates from our 70 signatory Tribes and First Nation governments as well as friends and supporters from across North America and abroad to take part in the Summit's three full days of trainings, working sessions, speakers, and entertainment. Participants will develop new skills, insights, and motivation, fostering and strengthening the vital links between communities and ecosystems for current and future generations to come.

In an effort to better educate the future generations, the Summit will also provide a launching point for new youth engagement efforts that will feature hands on trainings and educational programming. These efforts will create a fun and exciting atmosphere for the youth to play an active role alongside their peers.

With the Summit being less than one months away, planning and coordination have reached a feverish pace and the YRITWC along with the Ruby Tribal Council would like to hear your feedback and suggestions as they are a very important part of coordinating and organizing the summit. The YRITWC Web Site (<http://www.yritwc.org>) has been updated with a feedback/suggestion form that can be filled out online and submitted anonymously. Please do not hesitate to contact Manny Masony the Summit Coordinator at (907) 258-337 or via email at mmasony@yritwc.org with any questions, comments or feedback.

The website also features up to date Summit information and updates along with useful links such as our Summit Guide that is chock-full of information from transportation, accommodations, food, entertainment, Canadian passport regulations, and a camping checklist that itemizes the bare essentials of what may be needed in Ruby.

If you plan on attending the Summit, please contact Manny prior to making any travel arrangements as there are savings and special rates being offered by getting listed on one of the charter flights or the Coach that is scheduled to depart out of Whitehorse.

The YRITWC is excited and very thankful to Pat Sweetsir, the Ruby Summit Committee, and the City of Ruby in going above and beyond in assuring that the Gem of the Yukon will be host to one of the most memorable and groundbreaking Summits in YRITWC history.

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Energy Article Continued (from pg 5)

Tribal Council for their support and to last summer's energy team: Greg Bringham, Emily Carrol and Andrew Graham.

We have also reached out to Eco-Emissions Inc. developers of a fuel catalyst shown to increase the fuel efficiency of a diesel engine by up to 10% and decrease harmful smoke stack emissions. This catalyst has proven successful on Bering Sea fishing boats, indicating a strong potential for applying the technology to remote village electric grids run off diesel generators. We have submitted a grant proposal alongside Eco-Emissions to the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) to test this technology in the villages of Beaver and Venetie. If funding is secured, this project could yield an efficiency increase of 5%-10%, translating into thousands of gallons of diesel fuel saved and hundred of tons of decreased emissions.

Our second potential project involves the use of home energy meters to increase energy awareness and education throughout the watershed. Currently, residents receive a bill from the local utility each month and pay it, generally with no idea as to which appliances or lighting fixtures are responsible for what portion of the bill. We have partnered with CurrentCost Home Energy Meters to install 50 energy meters in the village of Nenana, AK. The meters provide home-owners with real-time information on when and how much electricity each home is consuming. Our proposal is to install the meters and monitor home-owner's response via their energy bill. In this way we can determine the Meter's effectiveness in encouraging energy conservation.

If your tribe or village council is interested in working with the Energy Department in any way to increase the sustainability of your village and lower utility bills please contact us!



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