

## WILLIAM J. KLASSEN, M.F., B.Sc.

Technical Discipline Manager, Permitting and Compliance



Mr. William Klassen has extensive experience in natural resource management and environmental assessment in northern Canada, having lived and worked in the Yukon, NWT, Nunavut, Alaska and the Russian Far East for the past forty years. This experience was gained in government through progressively more responsible positions, including as deputy minister of the Yukon's Department of Renewable Resources for five years, and in the private sector consulting to a range of clients. Mr. Klassen chaired the Environmental Impact Screening Committee for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region in the Western Arctic.

### Select Project Experience

#### Resource Management, Planning and Policy

- **Member of the Senior Peer Review Panel for Yukon Development Corporation's Next Generation Hydro Project**  
Along with three other long-time Yukon residents with resource management experience, review and provide advice on documents prepared by a hydro-electric engineering firm regarding potential hydro sites in the Yukon Territory.
- **Lead Consultant – Draft Strategic Plan for Gunnar Nielsen – Mickey Lammers Research Forest**  
Preparation of a draft Strategic Plan which involved working with YG Forest Management Branch Staff and interested parties.
- **Lead Consultant - Vuntut National Park - Impact and Benefits Plan, Canadian Heritage Parks Canada and the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation**  
Preparation of this plan involved working closely with the Vuntut Gwitchin of Old Crow as well as Parks Canada staff. The report outlines potential benefits and impacts of the Park and how the Vuntut Gwitchin may take advantage of the benefits while minimizing the negative impacts.
- **Lead Consultant - White River First Nation Sustainable Development Plan, White River First Nation, Beaver Creek, YT**  
Under the Community Resources Management Program conducted an inventory and assessment of the natural resources and other assets of the WRFN traditional territory in the Beaver Creek region, including soil capability for agriculture and grazing as well as forestry.
- **Lead Consultant - Kwanlin Dun First Nation Sustainable Development Strategy, Kwanlin Dun First Nation, Whitehorse YT**  
Under the Community Resources Management Program conducted an inventory and assessment of the natural resources and other assets of the Kwanlin Dun First Nation traditional territory in the Whitehorse region, including soil capability for agriculture and grazing as well as forestry.

#### EDUCATION

- Master of Forestry degree, Yale University, School of Forestry and Environmental Studies, 1981
- Bachelor of Science degree in Wildlife Management, University of Alaska, Fairbanks, 1976

#### AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Natural Resource Management
- Environmental Assessment
- Facilitation
- Permitting and Compliance

- **Lead Consultant – Development of an Enforcement and Compliance Policy for Water Resources, Northern Affairs, DIAND, Whitehorse, YT**  
Developed a draft enforcement and compliance policy for the Yukon Waters Act.
- **Lead Consultant – Development of an Enforcement and Compliance Policy for Forest Resources, Northern Affairs, DIAND, Whitehorse YT**  
Developed a draft enforcement and compliance policy for the Forest Resources unit.
- **Lead Consultant – Compensation Policies and Practices Related to Natural Resources Management, for Yukon Territory Water Board**  
Completed a review of compensation policies in other jurisdictions that resulted in the preparation of a draft compensation policy, guidelines, and forms.
- **Lead Consultant – Policy and Legislation for Yukon Forest Management: Background survey and program for development, Yukon Department of Renewable Resources**  
Prepared a report outlining the scope of needed forest policy and legislation in anticipation of forestry devolution.

#### **Government Administration and Management**

- **Lead Consultant**  
Environment Act Public Review for the Yukon Department of Renewable Resources. Conducted public meetings throughout the Yukon to review the then proposed Environment Act.
- **Lead Consultant**  
Legislative Development Process for the Yukon Government Executive Council Office. Prepared a legislative development process for the Yukon Government.
- **Lead Consultant, Renewable Resources Land Claims Implementation Costing for the Yukon Department of Renewable Resources (now Department of Environment)**  
Conducted an assessment of the costs of implementing the renewable resource management obligations under the Umbrella Final Agreement.
- **Lead Consultant, Analysis of Effectiveness of Tourism Marketing Expenditures, for Yukon Department of Tourism**  
Conducted an assessment of the benefits to the Yukon Territory of moneys spent by the Department of Tourism on marketing the Yukon as a tourism destination.

#### **Workshops, Public Consultation**

- **Facilitator of Sessions of Yukon Development Corporation's Next Generation Hydro Public Engagement Workshops**  
Led discussions of government, First Nations and public representatives regarding hydro generation options and reported to the plenary sessions at two such workshops.
- **Lead Consultant, International Model Forest Workshop, for External Affairs and Forestry Canada**  
Organized, coordinated and reported on a Model Forest Workshop conducted in Khabarovsk, Khabarovsk Krai, Russian Far East, leading to the establishment of the Gassinski Model Forest.
- **Facilitator for Symposium on Yukon Forests: A Sustainable Resource, for Yukon College, Whitehorse, YT**  
Facilitated and prepared a report on a Yukon Forests symposium which brought together a range of boreal forest research scientists, managers and users.
- **Facilitator for Salmon Symposium, for Yukon College, Whitehorse, YT**  
Facilitated and prepared a report on a salmon symposium which brought together a range of salmon research scientists, managers and users.

- **Facilitator for a series of public meetings on a discussion paper on forest policy issues for Northern Affairs, DIAND, Whitehorse, YT**  
Conducted these meetings in most Yukon communities during a time of tension and dissension on forest management in the Yukon.
- **Chaired the Aishihik Hydro Facility Re-licensing Technical Advisory Group (TAG), for Yukon Energy Corporation, Whitehorse, YT**  
Chaired the TAG for a period of one year to address technical issues related to the Yukon Energy Corporation's re-licensing of the Aishihik hydro facility.
- **Facilitator for the Yukon Oil and Gas Workshop: "Getting Ready for Yukon's Oil and Gas Industry", for Department of Economic Development, Government of Yukon**  
Conducted this meeting in Watson Lake, YT with participation by the public, First Nations and government agency representatives with the main focus being the potential expansion and development of the Kotaneelee gas field in south eastern Yukon.
- **Mackenzie Gas Project Gap Analysis or Northern Affairs, Yellowknife, NWT**  
Assisted Gartner Lee Limited in conducting workshops in several Mackenzie Valley communities to assess information gaps related to the proposed Mackenzie Valley gas pipeline project.
- **Facilitated Snap Lake Diamond Mine Technical Sessions, for MVEIRB and MVLWB, Yellowknife, NWT**  
Facilitated several technical sessions in Yellowknife related to the licensing of the Snap Lake Diamond Mine.
- **Facilitator for a series of Cumulative Effects Workshops, for Northern Affairs, DIAND, Whitehorse, YT**  
Facilitated a series of three workshops on related aspects of cumulative effects; each of the workshops featured experts on the several aspects of cumulative effects and involved government agency and First Nations representatives.
- **Facilitator for Two Workshops on the Proposed Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline Project, for the Aboriginal Pipeline Coalition, Whitehorse, YT**  
Facilitated two workshops on the Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline, the first having to do with Business and Training Opportunities for First Nations businesses and individuals, and the second having to do with the Regulatory Framework which would apply to the pipeline project. The workshops were attended by representatives of First Nations potentially affected by the project as well as representatives of the pipeline proponent and government agencies.
- **Lead Consultant for the Community Consultation for the DeBeers Canada Kennady Lake Gahcho Kué Diamond Mine Project**  
The project involved consulting with First Nations and other community members in seven communities affected by the proposed diamond mine, in support of DeBeers' preparation of its environmental assessment report.

#### **Forestry and Other Resources Projects**

- **Consultant for Haeckle Hill Fuelwood Harvesting Plan for Yukon Department of Renewable Resources (now Department of Environment)**  
Assessed resource base, volumes, harvest feasibility, and management plan for a fuelwood salvage cut of the Haeckle Hill burn near Whitehorse, YT
- **Lead Consultant for Policy and Legislation for Yukon Forest Management: Background survey and program for development for Yukon Department of Renewable Resources (now Department of Environment)**

Prepared a report outlining the scope of needed forest policy and legislation in anticipation of forest management devolution. This project also entailed participation in and reporting on a workshop entitled “Toward the Design of a Future Forest Resource Management Program”.

- **Lead Consultant for “The Spruce Bark Beetle in the Kluane Area” – An Information Pamphlet, for the Haines Junction Spruce Bark Beetle Advisory Committee**  
Researched and designed a public information pamphlet regarding the spruce bark beetle infestation in the southwest Yukon forests.
- **Background Document for the Kluane Area Forests affected by the Spruce Bark Beetle, for the Haines Junction Spruce Bark Beetle Advisory Committee**  
Researched and prepared a report on the spruce bark beetle infestation of the southwest Yukon forests.
- **Lead Consultant for Spruce Bark Beetle Severe Infestation Areas Management Options**  
Assisted the Haines Junction Spruce Bark Beetle Technical Committee in drafting a report addressing forest management options in the forested areas of the southwest Yukon affected by the spruce bark beetle.
- **Lead Consultant for Management Plan Alternatives: Bonnet Plume River Canadian Heritage River Nomination, for Yukon Department Renewable Resources (now Department of Environment)**  
Carried out a field survey of the Bonnet Plume River, conducted public meetings and prepared a report of management alternatives for this river as part of the Canadian Heritage River system.
- **Lead Consultant for Fish Fertilizer Project Market Analysis, for Triple L Landscaping, Dawson City, YT**  
Preparation of market analysis report for a Dawson City-based fish fertilizer plant relying on waste from Yukon River Salmon harvest.
- **Lead Consultant for Yukon Agricultural Association Strategic Plans, for the Yukon Agricultural Association (YAA), Whitehorse, YT**  
Surveyed members of the association and other agriculturists and assisted the YAA in the development of strategic plans in 2000 and 2006.
- **Lead Consultant for An Analysis of the Potential Feasibility of a Killing Floor and a Mobile Slaughter Facility to Provide Inspected Meat to the Yukon Retail Market, for Yukon Agriculture Branch, Whitehorse, YT**  
This project entailed visiting a number of Yukon communities where beef and poultry are raised and assessing the options for efficient provision of inspected slaughter facilities.
- **Lead Consultant for the Vista Road Study, for the Lands Branch, Energy Mines and Resources, Yukon Government**  
This study involved meeting with the eleven land applicants in the Vista Road area to achieve resolution to concerns, including overlapping applications. In the main such resolution was achieved and a report with recommendations provided to the Lands Branch, which then implemented it.
- **Yukon Member of a Consulting Team for A Sustainable Yukon Irrigation Development Strategy, for Yukon Agriculture Association**  
Participated in the field work and interviews with Yukon farmers, the Association executive and Yukon Agriculture Branch staff to prepare an irrigation strategy. Participated in the writing and review of the report.

### Environmental Assessment and Environment Act Projects

- **Project Manager for Provision of Support Services to Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Board (YESAB) re Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Effects Assessment for Casino Mine, Y.T.**  
Led a team of biologists and botanists providing third party independent advice to YESAB in its assessment of the potential effects to wildlife and wildlife habitat of a proposed copper and gold mine and access road in central Yukon Territory.
- **Senior Team Member in the Permitting of the Howard's Pass Access Road to the Selwyn Chihong Mining Ltd.'s Howard's Pass Mine, NWT**  
As a senior member of the SLR team provided advice and wrote portions of the Project Description Report in support of the land use permit applications for this year-round mine access road along the Yukon/NWT border.
- **Lead Consultant for the Stoney Creek Abattoir Site Assessment, for Yukon Agriculture Branch and Yukon Agricultural Association, Whitehorse, YT**  
Initial Environmental Evaluation of a potential abattoir site near Stoney Creek, YT
- **Lead Consultant for an Initial Environmental Evaluation of the Takhini Forestry Nursery Abattoir Site, for Yukon Agriculture Branch, Whitehorse, YT**  
Completion of an Initial Environmental Evaluation of a potential abattoir site on the Takhini Forestry Nursery near Whitehorse. The project involved field work, public consultation and preparation of an assessment report.
- **Lead Consultant for Preliminary Environmental Investigations of Several World War II military Campsites Related to the Construction of the Alaska Highway: Site HJ034 - Canyon Creek; Site 13 - M'Clintock Crossing; Site 14 - Yukon River Bridge; and, Site 35 - Dry Creek, for Arctic Environmental Strategy, Action on Waste, DIAND, Whitehorse, YT**  
These projects entailed reviews of the site histories, field examination of the sites, sampling and analysis of soil and water for the presence of contaminants, and preparation of reports. Conducted with support from the late Dr. D.B. Craig, Consulting Engineer.
- **Lead Consultant for Preparation of an Environmental Baseline for the Brewery Creek Heap Leach Mine, for DIAND, Whitehorse, YT**  
This environmental baseline report was prepared in anticipation of devolution of mining responsibility to the Yukon government. Conducted with support from the late Dr. D.B. Craig, Consulting Engineer.
- **Lead Consultant for the Completion of the Diavik Diamond Mines CEAA Comprehensive Study Review for Northern Affairs, DIAND, Yellowknife, NWT.**  
Coordinated the completion of the comprehensive study, including chairing meetings with a local advisory group, co-chairing wildlife meetings related to the proposed mine, participating in field trips, participating in the preparation of the final report and in its presentation to the Minister responsible for Indian and Northern Affairs in Ottawa.
- **Lead Consultant for the Coordination of the Kaska Forest Resources Timber Harvest Agreement, for Northern Affairs, DIAND, Whitehorse, YT**  
Coordinated the preparation of the Environmental Assessment Report, facilitated a guidelines workshop, and managed on-going liaison amongst DIAND staff, Kaska Forest Resources and its consultants.
- **Lead Consultant in the Assessment of Several Yukon Abandoned Mines, for the Contaminated Sites Unit, DIAND, Whitehorse, YT and PWGSC, Vancouver, BC.**  
Environmental assessment and preparation of reports with recommendations for remediation of eight small abandoned mines in the south-central and south-eastern Yukon with support from the late Dr. D.B. Craig, Consulting Engineer, and D.W. Flinn, Engineer.

- **Chair the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) for the Western Silver Carmacks Copper Mine, for the Yukon Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Whitehorse, YT**  
The TAC considered the technical information produced by the proponent in relation to the environmental assessment of the Carmacks Copper mine project. The Committee's members represented the Carmacks-Little Salmon First Nation, federal government and Yukon government agencies.
- **Alaska Highway Gas Pipeline Project for the Yukon Oil and Gas Management Branch, Energy Mines and Resources, Yukon Government**  
Prepare discussion documents and provide research support and advice to the Branch in relation to the environmental assessment and regulatory processes that would apply to the Alaska Highway Pipeline project over a period of several years.
- **Lead Consultant for Klondike Star Mineral Corporation (KSMC) Projects**  
Coordinate the environmental assessment of several mineral exploration and development projects in the Dawson City, Haines Junction and Ross River, YT areas.
- **Lead Consultant for Wellgreen Mine Mill Site Current Environmental Evaluation, for Mineral Resources Branch of Department of Energy Mines and Resources, Yukon Government**  
Provide an evaluation of the current environmental situation at the former HBMS Wellgreen Mine Mill site near Burwash Landing, YT The project involved a site visit with EMR and Kluane First Nations staff and preparation of a report.

### Senior Government Experience

- **Deputy Commissioner, Yukon Government, Development Assessment Commission**  
As the Deputy Commissioner, led the Yukon team negotiating the content of the federal legislation that became the *Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act* for a two year period.
- **Deputy Minister, Department of Renewable Resources (now Environment)**  
For a period of five years held the position of deputy minister of the department then responsible for the management of the Yukon Territory's wildlife, freshwater fish, agriculture, territorial parks and fuelwood forestry. During this period the department was also engaged in the first land use planning exercise in the Yukon and the establishment of the Nacho Nyak Dun Renewable Resources Council, the forerunner of other such councils established after the implementation of First Nations Land Claims Agreements.
- **Deputy Minister, Department of Health and Human Resources (now Social Services)**  
For a three years period held the position of deputy minister of the department responsible for health, family and children's, social assistance, and youth justice services throughout the Territory. Together with the minister, held public meetings in all Yukon communities on a proposed new, and controversial, *Childrens Act* and led its implementation once passed.

### Memberships & Associations

- International Association of Impact Assessment

### Publications

Research Paper on Trappers Compensation Policy, for Yukon Department of Energy, Mines and Resources, Whitehorse, YT