



## Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 14-17 August 2016

**Location:** Tundra Ecosystem Research Station, Daring Lake, NT

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Board Members:

Charlie Jeremick'ca (Tłìchq Appointee)  
Suzanne Carriere (GNWT Appointee)  
Grant Pryznyk (Federal Appointee)  
Steven Matthews (GNWT Appointee)

Staff:

Jody Pellissey  
Boyan Tracz

Translators:

James Rabesca  
Violet Mackenzie

Advisor:

Alice Legat

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**Call to Order: 5:20 p.m.**

**Opening Prayer: Charlie Jeremick'ca**

### 1.0 Agenda and Previous Minutes

#### 1.1 Approval of Agenda

REMOVE: 5.1 – Working Group Table and 5.3 – Permit Tracking Sheets

**Motion #492-14-08-2016**

*To approve the 14-17 August 2016 agenda as amended*

**Moved:**  
**Second:**

Suzanne Carriere  
Steven Matthews

**Motion Approved**

#### 1.2 Approval of Minutes

13-14 January 2016

**Motion #498-16-08-2016**

*To approve the 13-14 January 2016 minutes as presented*

**Moved:**  
**Second:**

Steven Matthews  
Charlie Jeremick'ca

**Motion Approved**

1 February 2016

**Motion #499-16-08-2016**

*To approve the 1 February 2016 minutes as presented*

**Moved:**  
**Second:**

Suzanne Carriere  
Steven Matthews

**Motion Approved**

15-16 March 2016

**Motion #500-16-08-2016**

*To approve the 15-16 March 2016 minutes as presented*

**Moved:**  
**Second:**

Steven Matthews  
Charlie Jeremick'ca

**Motion Approved**

19-21 April 2016

**Motion #501-16-08-2016**

*To approve the 19-21 April 2016 minutes as presented*

**Moved:**  
**Second:**

Charlie Jeremick'ca  
Steven Matthews

**Motion Approved**

10-11 May 2016

**Motion #502-16-08-2016**

*To approve the 10-11 May 2016 minutes as presented*

**Moved:**  
**Second:**

Steven Matthews  
Charlie Jeremick'ca

**Motion Approved**

25 May 2016

**Motion #503-16-08-2016**

*To approve the 25 May 2016 minutes as presented*

**Moved:**  
**Second:**

Suzanne Carriere  
Charlie Jeremick'ca

**Motion Approved**

3 June 2016

**Motion #504-16-08-2016**

*To approve the 3 June 2016 minutes as presented*

**Moved:**

Steven Matthews

**Second:**

Charlie Jeremick'ca

**Motion Approved**

1.3 Review of Action Items

Outstanding action items listing was tabled and reviewed.

Concerns noted about Members being unavailable to attend meetings.

**2.0 Business**

2.1 ENR & TG Responses – Bathurst & Bluenose-East Caribou Herds Reasons for Decision, Part A Reports

On December 15, 2015, TG and ENR submitted the *“Joint Proposal on Caribou Management Actions for the Bathurst Herd: 2016-2019”* and the *“Joint Proposal on Management Actions for Bluenose-East Caribou 2016-2019”* to the WRRB outlining proposed management actions for the Bathurst and Bluenose-East caribou herds, respectively, in Wek'èezhì. The first Bathurst report, Part A, was submitted on May 26, 2016, and the first Bluenose-East report, Part A, was submitted on June 13, 2016.

TG and ENR provided response to Bathurst Recommendations #1-2016 and #2-2016 on June 29, 2016. TG and ENR responded to the WRRB's Bathurst Reasons for Decision on July 15, 2016.

TG and ENR requested a timeline extension to respond to the WRRB's Bluenose-East Reasons for Decision on June 29, 2016 and on July 29, 2016, based on the submission of the SRRB's hearing report. The Board accepted the request to extend the timelines. At the time of the meeting, no response had been received.

Board Members discussed the TG and ENR response to the Bathurst Caribou Part A report and wished to have clarification on the following: 1) patrols, 2) subzones, and 3) wolf pilot project. Grant also acknowledged Charlie Jeremick'ca's response to the people during the Tłìchq Gathering in July 2016 regarding the WRRB's reports on the Bathurst and Bluenose-East caribou herds.

**ACTION #321-15-08-2016 (ED):** To write letter to TG and ENR requesting clarification on responses to the recommendations in the Bathurst Reasons for Decision Report, Part A

2.2 Approval of Draft Recommendations – Bathurst & Bluenose-East Caribou Herds Reasons for Decision, Part B Reports

Detailed discussion about recommendations for the Bathurst & Bluenose-East caribou herds reasons for decision Part B reports, including traditional & scientific knowledge of the following: collars and aerial flyovers, caribou habitat (food), wolves, grizzly bears, protection of water crossing and narrows, climate change and monitoring of winter range, harvest monitoring (enforcement/self-regulation), cumulative effects, Bathurst range plan, land use planning, Slave Geological Province cumulative effects framework, fire, and biological monitoring

**Motion #508-17-08-2016**

*To approve accept the recommendations for Bathurst & Bluenose-East Reasons for Decision Reports, Part B*

**Moved:**  
**Second:**

Suzanne Carriere  
Steven Matthews

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #331-17-08-2016 (ED):** To prepare and finalize Bathurst and Bluenose-East Reasons for Decision Reports, Part B

2.3 Wolf Feasibility Assessment Working Group Update

In the WRRB's Reasons for Decision, Part A report for the Bathurst caribou herd, Recommendation #5-2016 states: *"The WRRB recommends TG and ENR support a collaborative feasibility assessment of options for diga management, led by the Board"*. The Board requested that the recommendation be initiated by June 2016 and to have the assessment completed by September 2016.

Given the scope of the work and role of various organizations, a collaborative working group was initiated with ENR, TG, WRRB, Yellowknives Dene First Nation and North Slave Metis Alliance. Lutsel K'e Dene First Nation has recently been invited to join the group. The Working Group has been meeting since May 2016 to identify and assess the technical feasibility and potential effectiveness of a series of different wolf management techniques in the annual range of the Bathurst caribou herd.

A Terms of Reference has been finalized. The process to conduct the feasibility assessment has been identified and is currently being modified. The WRRB Working Group members are Anne Gunn, Boyan Tracz and Jody Pellissey.

2.4 2016 Reconnaissance Survey Results – Bathurst & Bluenose-East Caribou Herds

Bluenose-East Caribou Herd

The Bluenose-East reconnaissance survey was flown June 4 to 6, 2016 under reasonable survey conditions. Compared to the 2015 reconnaissance survey, the breeding cows were much more tightly grouped into a small area, with very few

caribou in the surrounding areas. The total number of adult caribou on the Bluenose-East core calving ground was estimated at about 18,500 animals; however the precision of this estimate is relatively low. Since 2010, the number of Bluenose-East caribou counted on the calving grounds and the number of areas on the calving grounds with large densities of caribou have both declined. The 2016 reconnaissance survey suggests that the Bluenose-East herd has continued to decline, though there is no statistical difference between the 2015 and 2016 rates of decline.

#### Bathurst Caribou Herd

The Bathurst caribou herd reconnaissance survey was flown on June 7 and 8th, 2016, using similar methods to those used in previous reconnaissance surveys. Because the core calving area of the Bathurst herd has become very small, the transect lines in the core calving area needed to be spaced closer together (2.5 kilometers apart). Compared to the 2015 survey, caribou were found much more tightly grouped in a much smaller area. The size of the core calving area was about 40% of the core calving area in 2015. The estimate of adult caribou on the Bathurst caribou core calving grounds was about 10,500. Compared to the 2015 reconnaissance survey estimate, this suggests an increase in the number of animals on the core calving grounds, though the difference between the 2015 and 2016 results was not statistically significant.

Members noted that reconnaissance surveys are so imprecise that to detect a difference there would need to be no caribou calving at all. No helicopter work was conducted; therefore, cow:calf ratios were difficult to determine.

#### 2.5 Approval of Bluenose-East, Bluenose-West and Cape Bathurst Herds Action Plans

Based on the 2015 population estimates, the ACCWM met on December 18, 2015 to determine the assessments for each herd. The Cape Bathurst herd is in the RED zone, the Bluenose-West herd is in the ORANGE (with some RED management actions as provided) zone and the Bluenose-East herd is in the ORANGE zone. This information was provided to the ACCWM Working Group to prepare and finalize the three separate Action Plans for each herd.

On June 28-30, 2016, the ACCWM met in Deljine, NT to review and finalize the three Action Plans. Each Member Board is now required to go through its own land claim process to review and approve the three action plans. Approval, along with any comments, should be received by no later than September 1, 2016. The Action Plans will then be forwarded to the GNWT, GN and other Aboriginal Governments for implementation. The Annual Status Meeting is proposed for Nov 29 – Dec 1, 2016 in Inuvik (GRRB & WMAC (NWT) co-hosts).

The action plans will be revised annually, requiring annual WRRB approval (as per the Terms of Reference – Appendix B of the Action Plans).

#### ***Motion #494-15-08-2016***

*To approve the Bluenose-East, Bluenose-West and Cape Bathurst caribou herds action plans as presented*

**Moved:**  
**Second:**

Suzanne Carriere  
Steven Matthews

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #322-15-08-2016 (ED):** To write letter to the ACCWM approving the Bluenose-East, Bluenose-West and Cape Bathurst caribou herds action plans

2.6 Approval of NWT Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy

In 2012, the NWT Species at Risk Committee designated boreal caribou as Threatened in the NWT because of its small population size and an expected continuing decline in the amount of secure habitat and the number of boreal caribou. In 2014, boreal caribou were listed as Threatened in the NWT under the territorial *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. A NWT Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy has been prepared.

In May 2015, the WRRB and the Tłı̄ch̄q Government conducted joint consultation meetings in the communities of Gamèti, Whatì and Behchokò to gather input from community members on the Draft Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy. On July 15, 2015 the WRRB provided comments on the draft boreal caribou recovery strategy along with a summary of comments gathered during community consultations, and further clarified, on April 24, 2016, that the Board's revisions to the draft were sufficient to address concerns related to the need for communication with communities and harvesters.

Following the May 12, 2016 Conference of Management Authorities meeting, Management Authorities need to move the recovery strategy through their internal approval processes so that the consensus agreement accepting the recovery strategy can be signed in fall 2016.

Members noted that, given the amount of development and fires in the boreal forest, the elders say that 100% of habitat is required (not just 65%) as many types of habitat and landscape are required for life requirements. Region specific range plans are identified in the recovery strategy and have not be initiated at this time

**Motion #495-15-08-2016**

*To approve the NWT Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy with the addition that the North Slave Region, following the 2015 forest fire season, is now below the 65% threshold for critical habitat*

**Moved:**  
**Second:**

Steven Matthews  
Charlie Jermick'ca

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #323-15-08-2016 (Chair):** To sign the consensus agreement for the NWT Boreal

## Caribou Recovery Strategy with the addition of the 2015 forest fire season

### 2.7 Review of Proposed Listing of Wood Bison, SARA (NWT)

In April 2016, the NWT Species at Risk Committee (SARC) assessed the status of wood bison in the Northwest Territories (NWT) and determined that NWT wood bison are Threatened. The CMA is now preparing to make a decision on adding wood bison to the NWT List of Species at Risk and is in the process of gathering feedback from the public regarding the listing.

The entire wood bison population in the NWT is estimated at about 2,500 animals in three separate populations (Greater Wood Buffalo Ecosystem, Mackenzie and Nahanni). An overall decline of 50% was estimated over the last 7 years, and only the small Nahanni population showed an increase during this time. A severe 2012 anthrax outbreak in the Mackenzie population was an important driver of the decline but not the only cause. The small population size makes NWT wood bison vulnerable to threats, such as diseases including: anthrax, introduced bovine tuberculosis and brucellosis. Other important threats include ecological change that lead to loss of important meadow habitat, human-caused mortality (such as vehicle collisions) and increased predation.

In collaboration with Tłı̄ch̄ Government Staff, consultations on the proposed listing are planned in Behchokò and Whatı̄ in October 2016. Consultation materials have been provided by SARC, but no concrete dates have been set for consultations.

Members noted that bison have been seen close to Whatı̄; this information has been included in a management plan being developed for the Mackenzie Bison population.

### 2.8 Approval of Proposed Continuation of Harvest Closure for Mackenzie Bison Population

A survey in March 2012 of the Mackenzie bison herd estimated the population to be 1500; however, over 450 bison were lost in an anthrax outbreak in the summer of 2012. As a result, all bison harvest was closed as of October 31, 2012. A survey in March 2013 estimated the current population to have decreased to 700. A summer 2014 calf composition survey provided limited results, as conditions were poor due to smoke. In March 2016, ENR conducted a survey and estimated the population to be 851 bison, which was not statistically different than the 2013 estimate.

The draft National Recovery Strategy for wood bison has identified 1000 as the minimum individual herd size needed to support recovery objectives. The draft Mackenzie Bison Management Plan for the NWT has also proposed no harvesting when the population is below 1000 and that a less than 1% ceremonial harvest of the total population size would be allowed.

On July 29, 2016, the Board received a letter from ENR providing an update on the bison population and a proposal to continue the current harvest closure. The

proposed closure would remain in place until a new population estimate is available in March 2019.

**Motion #496-15-08-2016**

*To approve the continued harvest closure for the Wood Bison, Mackenzie Population for the 2016/17, 2017/18, and the 2018/19 harvest seasons*

**Moved:**

Charlie Jermick'ca

**Second:**

Steven Matthews

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #324-15-08-2016 (ED):** To write letter to ENR approving the continued harvest closer for the Wood Bison, Mackenzie Population

2.9 Approval of Proposed Listing of Red-necked Phalarope on List 1 of SARA (Federal)

The Red-necked Phalarope is a small shorebird that breeds in low and sub-Arctic wetlands and forest-tundra transition areas throughout the NWT, including Wek'èezhìi. Numbers have declined over the last 40 years in important staging areas, and overall population trends for last three generations are unknown. Habitat degradation associated with climate change is a potential threat to breeding grounds. Red-necked-phalarope are also susceptible to pollutants/oil exposure on migration and during the winter, when birds gather in large numbers on the ocean where currents concentrate pollutants. Given the threats and limiting factors, it is proposed that Red-necked Phalarope be listed as a species of Special Concern under the federal Species at Risk Act (SARA).

The Red-necked Phalarope was assessed COSEWIC as Special Concern in November 2014. Consultations on the proposed listing were scheduled between November 2015 and February 2016 with hunters and trappers committees, regional wildlife boards, and communities. At the Board's January 13-14, 2016 meeting, Dawn Andrews from the Canadian Wildlife Service updated the Board on proposed species at risk listings for the Red-necked Phalarope.

**Motion #497-15-08-2016**

*To approve the listing of the Red-necked Phalarope as Species of Special Concern on List 1 of SARA*

**Moved:**

Suzanne Carriere

**Second:**

Steven Matthews

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #325-15-08-2016 (ED):** To write letter to Director General, CWS to approve the listing of Red-necked Phalarope as Species of Special Concern on List 1 for SARA



## 2.10 Tłıchq All-Season Road Update

The Department of Transportation of the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT-DOT) submitted an application for a Type A Land Use Permit and Type B Water Licence to the Wek'èezhìi Land and Water Board (WLWB) on March 31, 2016. These applications were for the development of the Tłıchq All-season Road (TASR), beginning from kilometer 196 on Highway 3 to the community of Whati. This all-season road is approximately 94km long, 60m wide with the alignment crossing 15 tributaries, and will require four bridges.

On July 21, 2016, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) decided on its own motion, pursuant to subsection 126(3) of Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, to conduct an environmental assessment (EA) of the TASR project proposed by the GNWT DOT. The Review Board's Reasons for Decision outlines the key areas of concern and rationale for referring the project to EA, including: all season access to the community of Whati, impacts on existing social services, and impacts on caribou (boreal and barren-ground).

The WRRB provided comments on the TASR to the WLWB on May 30. Comments focused on boreal caribou-related concerns such as impacts of access and federal and territorial requirements for boreal caribou critical habitat.

The Review Board is hosting scoping sessions in Whati (August 18) and Yellowknife (August 24) on the environmental assessment of the TASR. The WRRB has been contacted by the MVEIRB regarding its participation as a Party to the EA as well as attending the scoping session in Yellowknife.

Based on concerns, including increased access, increased chance of harvest of boreal caribou and bison and addition to the threshold of critical habitat which is already under 65%, the Board Members agree that the Board should participate as a Party to ensure appropriate commentary on boreal caribou and wood bison>

**ACTION #326-15-08-2016 (ED):** To register as a Party to the Environmental Assessment for the Tłıchq All-Season Road

## 2.11 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan Update

The Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan (DNLUP) is a product of extensive consultations that included visiting all 25 Nunavut communities at least twice. The DNLUP provides guidance that directs resource use and development in the Nunavut Settlement Area, and provides for protection of caribou calving and post-calving grounds and critical bird habitat, identifies traditional on ice travel routes with special management tools to protect them, areas of mineral potential, as well as areas with potential for tourism activities.

The WRRB provided a letter to the Nunavut Planning Commission (NPC) to be considered for a grant of standing by the Nunavut Planning Commission on May 29, 2015, and provided a letter to the NPC outlining the Board's position on the Bathurst and BNE herds and their calving grounds on June 9, 2015.

Final public Information Sessions on the Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan are scheduled to take place in fall 2016, leading to a Public Hearing still planned for March/April 2017 in Iqaluit, Nunavut, subject to funding availability.

The Commission is inviting final written submissions on the DNLUP from all interested parties by November 28, 2016. The Board's original submission in 2015 was based on the 2014 version of the DNLUP, so a revised WRRB submission will be produced based on the June 2016 draft.

## 2.12 Tłıchq Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring Program Update

The 2016 TAEMP will occur in Wekweèti. An introductory meeting occurred August 5 in Wekweèti and it was agreed that the camp will occur September 19-23 in the same location as in 2012. Another planning meeting will occur in the first week of September to finalize planning; a date has not yet been set.

Final draft reports have been completed for Gamèti (2013), Whati (2014), and Behchokq (2015). The reports need to be reviewed by Program partners one last time before being posted on the WRRB website along with previous reports for Behchokq (2010, 2011) and Wekweèti (2012).

The TAEMP videos for all four Tłıchq communities, currently available online, have all been printed to DVD. A new educational video summarizing fish, water and sediment sampling has also been produced and printed. The new educational video uses footage collected at the 2014 camp near Whati, and is designed to provide a "how to" guide to sampling, along with additional commentary from Paul Vecsei, Fisheries Biologist, Golder Associates Ltd., and Sean Richardson, Wildlife Coordinator, Department of Culture & Lands Protection Tłıchq Government

The *Common Fish of the Tłıchq Region*, a basic field guide to fish found in Wek'èezhì, has been updated to include information on fish habitat in addition to basic information on the characteristics of common fish species in Wek'èezhì. The updated guide has since been printed.

The educational video and updated fish guide will be posted on the WRRB website in September 2016. A package of the 4 community videos, the educational videos and the updated fish guide will be provided to each of the Tłıchq community schools after the start the September 2016/17 school year.

## 3.0 Financial

### 3.1 Approval of 2015-16 Audited Financial Statement as of 31 March 2016

**Motion #498-15-08-2016**

*To approve 2015/16 Audited Financial Statement as of 31 March 2016 as amended*

**Moved:**

Charlie Jeremick'ca

**Second:** Steven Matthews

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #327-15-08-2016 (ED):** To forward final 2015/16 audited financial statement to Director, Treaty Management, INAC

3.2 Approval of Financial Statement as of 30 June 2016

**Motion #493-14-08-2016** *To approve the financial statement as of 30 June 2016 as presented*

**Moved:** Suzanne Carriere  
**Second:** Charlie Jeremick'ca

**Motion Approved**

#### 4.0 Operations

4.1 In-Camera Session

**Motion #505-16-08-2016** *To go in-camera at 5:02 p.m.*

**Moved:** Steven Matthews  
**Second:** Suzanne Carriere

**Motion Approved**

**Motion #506-16-08-2016** *To come out of camera at 5:53 p.m.*

**Moved:** Steven Matthews  
**Second:** Suzanne Carriere

**Motion Approved**

**Motion #507-16-08-2016** *To accept the negotiated settlement with John McCullum for \$4442.55*

**Moved:** Charlie Jeremick'ca  
**Second:** Steven Matthews

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #328-16-08-2016 (Chair):** To write letter regarding human resources matter

**ACTION #329-16-08-2016 (Board Member –Steve):** To obtain quote and prepare feasibility assessment for iPads for Board Member usage

**ACTION #330-16-08-2016 (HR Committee):** To prepare staff workload assessment, including review of office space requirements

**5.0 Information Items**

Information items tabled for review by the Board Members.

**6.0 Other Items**

6.1 Round Table

Board Members thanked one another, translators, TK Advisor and Staff for a good meeting with lots of good discussion and decisions.

6.2 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for November 2016 in Yellowknife, NT.

**Closing Prayer: Charlie Jeremick'ca**

**Adjournment: 12:10 p.m. (Motion #509-17-08-2016)**

Minutes Approved:



ORIGINAL SIGNED  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

November 3, 2016  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date