



## Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 3-4 November 2016

**Location:** Tree of Peace Friendship Centre – Small Boardroom, Yellowknife, NT

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**Board Members:**

Jonas Lafferty (Tłıchq Appointee)

Suzanne Carriere (GNWT Appointee)

Grant Pryznyk (Federal Appointee)

Steven Matthews (GNWT Appointee)

Eddie Chocolate (Tłıchq Appointee)

Charlie Jeremick'ca (Tłıchq Appointee) – via phone, Nov 3 only

**Staff:**

Jody Pellissey

Boyan Tracz

Susan Beaumont

**Translators:**

James Rabesca

Violet Mackenzie

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**Call to Order: 9:17 a.m.**

**Opening Prayer: Jonas Lafferty**

### 1.0 Agenda and Previous Minutes

#### 1.1 Approval of Agenda

CHANGE: 2.2 – Bathurst Caribou Herd Management Update and 2.13 – Tłıchq Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring Program Update

ADD: 2.1 d – Bathurst and Bluenose-East Part B Reports and 3.4 – Audit Management Letter Review

REMOVE: 3.2 – 2016-17 Interim Activity Report and 4.3 – Operating Procedures Manual

**Motion #510-03-11-2016**

*To approve the 3-4 November 2016 agenda as amended*

**Moved:**

Jonas Lafferty

**Second:**

Eddie Chocolate

**Motion Approved**

#### 1.2 Approval of Minutes

14-17 August 2016

CHANGE: p.6, Action #323-15-08-2016: Responsibility from ED to Chair; p.11, Action #328-16-08-2016: Responsibility from Grant to Chair; p. 11, Action #329-16-08-2016: Responsibility from Steve to Board Member – Steve

**Motion #511-03-11-2016**

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

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

Suzanne Carriere  
Steven Matthews

**Motion Approved**

1.3 Review of Action Items

Outstanding action items listing was tabled and reviewed. Remove Actions #272-06-05-2015 and 273-06-05-2015. Review table for implemented and ongoing actions.

**2.0 Business**

2.1 Bathurst & Bluenose-East Caribou Herds Reasons for Decision, Part A & B

a) TG & ENR Clarifications on Bathurst Part A Report

On August 26, 2016, the WRRB requested clarifications from TG and ENR on their response to reasons for decision related to the Joint Proposal for the Management of the Bathurst caribou herd, specifically the related to Recommendation #1-2016 (subzones vs. mobile zone), Recommendation #2-2016 (aerial monitoring), and Recommendation #4-2016 (criteria to evaluate success of the pilot Community-based Wolf Harvesting Project).

TG and ENR provided the following responses on October 20, 2016: 1) no longer pursuing subzones, rather continuing to use the mobile zone while modifying over time (ENR plans to conduct aerial patrols two times per month until mobile zone is fixed, and then change to monthly aerial patrols. Ground patrols will be mainly by community monitors) and 2) general measures of success for the Pilot Project will include the education of hunters in traditional wolf harvesting practices and the participation of Tłjchq harvests on the land.

b) TG & ENR Response to Bluenose-East Part A Report

The WRRB received a response from TG and ENR for the Bluenose-East Reasons for Decision, Part A report on August 29, 2016. The Board reviewed the response and required no clarifications.

However, it was noted that in order for the Board to determine whether or not management actions are being voluntarily complied to, the Board would need monthly compliance statistics from ENR. The Board is not requesting private information, but can be trusted with confidential information. This will encourage ENR, along with community monitors, to do a better job with compliance actions, and determine whether the compliance program is working as designed.

**ACTION #332-03-11-2016 (ED):** To write a letter to TG and ENR requesting compliance statistics for the Bathurst and Bluenose-East Caribou Herds, with assistance from the Chair

c) ENR Response to SRRB's Bluenose-East Report

The Board Members reviewed the response by the Minister of ENR, dated September 26, 2016, to the SRRB's Bluenose-East Hearing Report. The Minister supported Déłıne's community conservation plan, entitled *Déłıne Belare wıle Gots'ę ʔekwé*. As well, the Minister indicated that the total allowable harvest (TAH) for the Bluenose-East caribou herd would be 750 bulls-only. The SRRB responded to the Minister with concern about implementing a TAH in their region. A final decision by the Minister is expected in December 2016. The SRRB has requested a technical meeting between the Sahtu and the Tlıcho (no Chiefs) in early December 2016. The SRRB and TG have requested that the WRRB participate.

d) Bathurst and Bluenose-East Part B Reports

The WRRB's Bathurst and Bluenose-East Reasons for Decision, Part B reports were tabled for Board Member information. To date, no responses received from TG and ENR.

2.2 Bathurst Caribou Herd Management Update

Bathurst Caribou Herd Long Term Management Planning

The Advisory Committee recently met on October 11, 2016 to discuss a final terms of reference and steps required to move ahead with long term management of the Bathurst Caribou Herd. The Advisory Committee agreed to have the Barren-ground Caribou Technical Working Group review and provide recommendations for revisions to the existing 2004 Bathurst Caribou Herd Management Plan.

Bathurst Caribou Range Plan

An options paper has been drafted which introduces the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan management options and recommendations for Working Group discussion. It describes a cumulative effects management framework that would apply across five different range assessment areas (RAAs), which together comprise the annual range (i.e., planning area) for the Bathurst herd, and applies specific options and recommendations suited to the unique conditions in each of the five RAAs.

**ACTION #333-03-11-2016 (ED):** To send the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan Options Paper to Board Members for review and comment

2.3 Annual Status Meeting – Bluenose-East, Bluenose-West and Cape Bathurst Herds

The ACCWM is meeting on Nov 29 – Dec 1, 2016 in Inuvik for the 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Status Meeting. Member Boards, along with ENR and communities. Member Boards are asked to provide both scientific and community-based monitoring information for each of the three herds: Bluenose-East, Bluenose-West and Cape Bathurst. Community-based information will be provided by Tı̄chq̄ Government at the meeting.

The Board reviewed the table of scientific monitoring information provided by the ENR-North Slave Region office. Clarifications regarding the annual rate of decline are required. The Board recommends that the herd status be changed to Red, based on the evidence available (2016 reconnaissance survey suggests decline; calf:cow ratio indicates increase; fewer bulls), the precautionary principle and to ensure consistency with the Board's Bluenose-East decisions. However, Members indicated that the Chair use his discretion during the meeting to possibly leave as Orange, with some management actions.

**ACTION #334-03-11-2016 (ED):** To confirm scientific monitoring information provided for the Bluenose-East Caribou Herd with the ENR-North Slave Region office

#### 2.4 Approval of the NWT Species 2016-2020 Publication

Since 1999, the NWT General Status Ranking Program has been compiling official species lists for the NWT and ranking the general status of the species using a simple set of categories. The program is part of the Accord for the Protection of Species at Risk in Canada, and is done in coordination with the federal government, wildlife co-management boards, and all provinces and territories in Canada. One of the program's main products is a report published every five years with lists of species general status ranks for fish, marine mammals, birds, terrestrial mammals, beetles, mosquitoes, reptiles, amphibians, bees, ants, corals/sponges, grasshoppers, mushrooms, vascular plants, etc.

The NWT Species 2016-2020 publication is complete and ready for final approval. The publication includes 18% of the expected species in the NWT, with the total number being ~30,000 species. The Board has reviewed the ranks and provided comments throughout 2015 and 2016 in four separate batches. The ranks are now considered pre-approved but are open for review. These ranks have been sent to the National program to be tabulated and used to calculate the Canada-wide ranks.

**Motion #512-03-11-2016**

*To approve the NWT Species 2016-2020 publication as presented*

**Moved:**

Jonas Lafferty

**Second:**

Steven Matthews

**Abstain:**

Suzanne Carriere

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #335-03-11-2016 (ED):** To write letter of support to ENR for the NWT Species 2016-2020 publication and provide WRRB logo for use in publication

#### 2.5 Approval of NWT Amphibian Management Plan

Five amphibian species are known to occur in the Northwest Territories (NWT): northern leopard frog (*Lithobates pipiens*), boreal chorus frog (*Pseudacris maculata*), wood frog (*Lithobates sylvaticus*), western toad (*Anaxyrus boreas*), and Canadian toad (*Anaxyrus hemiophrys*). The long-toed salamander

(*Ambystoma macrodactylum*) is suspected to occur in the NWT based on anecdotal observations, but as of 2015 there are no confirmed records of this species yet. Only the boreal chorus frog and wood frog are found in Wek'eezhii.

The northern leopard frog and the western toad are currently listed as Threatened species on the NWT List of Species at Risk under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. Both are also listed as species of Special Concern on Schedule 1 of the federal *Species at Risk Act*. Due to their species at risk status, there are national management plans for these two species and there is a legal requirement to complete NWT recovery strategies for them. The remaining NWT amphibians do not have this requirement, however the species share several threats in common and there is considerable overlap in their management needs. Therefore, an NWT-wide multi-species management plan was developed to address the needs of all NWT amphibians. On June 11 the public was invited to provide comments on the draft Management Plan. The Board provided comments on August 12, 2016.

**Motion #513-03-11-2016**

*To approve the NWT Amphibian Management Plan as presented*

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

Eddie Chocolate  
Steven Matthews

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #336-03-11-2016 (ED):** To write letter of support to the Species at Risk Secretariat, ENR for the NWT Amphibian Management Plan and provide WRRB logo for use in publication

2.6 Approval of the Barren-ground Caribou and Transverse Lady Beetle COSEWIC Designations

On October 7, the WRRB received letters from the COSEWIC Secretariat and the draft 2-Month Interim Status Reports for the Barren-ground caribou (*Rangifer tarandus*), and the Transverse Lady Beetle (*Coccinella transversoguttata*). The letters requested comments and recommendations for the national designations, along with the reason(s) for the recommendation. The Board's feedback on the both the draft 2-Month Interim Status Reports is to be provided at least 2 weeks prior to the Wildlife Species Assessment Meeting November 27-December 2, 2016.

Barren-ground caribou

The assessment includes all barren-ground caribou, including Porcupine Caribou (not Peary Caribou). There has been a 70% decline but population overall in Canada is about 800,000. There has been a 3 year generation decline of about 56% and, therefore, barren-ground caribou could have been designated as endangered. However, the proposed assessment is for threatened as the population still contains lots of individuals and there is not imminent extinction. A recovery strategy will be required.

The Board recommended the following edits from the barren-ground caribou status report: 1) Reason for Designation (delete “although knowledge is insufficient ..”); evidence suggests that at least some natural fluctuations, not enough knowledge to suggest that all herds go up and down, language must state that caribou have natural fluctuations but with today’s conditions this may not happen, and 2) line 143 (executive summary) change to “of a mix of settled and unsettled land claim areas”.

Transverse Lady Beetle

There has been a decline in eastern Canada of Transverse Lady Beetles; however, in the NWT, they are abundant and common. The proposed assessment is special concern (would be considered in more trouble if the NWT population wasn't in such good state). The main threat is intraguild predation (beetles eating beetles).

**Motion #516-04-11-2016**

*To approve the threatened designation for the Barren-ground Caribou*

**Moved:**

Steven Matthews

**Second:**

Eddie Chocolate

**Abstain:**

Suzanne Carriere

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #337-04-11-2016 (ED):** To write letter to Terrestrial Mammals Species Specialist Subcommittee to approve the threatened designation for barren-ground caribou

**Motion #514-04-11-2016**

*To approve the special concern designation for the Transverse Lady Beetle*

**Moved:**

Eddie Chocolate

**Second:**

Steven Matthews

**Abstain:**

Suzanne Carriere

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #338-04-11-2016 (ED):** To write letter to Arthropods Species Specialist Subcommittee to approve the special concern designation for Transverse Lady Beetle

2.7 Environment Canada Consultation Requirements for Nine-spotted Lady Beetle

The Nine-spotted Lady Beetle was listed as Endangered by COSEWIC in April 2016. The Nine-spotted Lady Beetle was once observed by Great Slave Lake, but it is now thought that the record was outside of its normal range (or vagrant). As a result, the Lady Beetle was not reported as occurring within the NT in COSEWIC's latest assessment. The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS), Environment and Climate Change Canada usually consults with communities 50km outside of the range of a species. CWS wants to make sure that any existing Traditional Knowledge from the WRRB and Tłı̄ch̄q communities is not excluded, given how close the buffer is.

It is expected that the unverified record of the Nine-spotted Lady Beetle was likely a Seven-spotted Lady Beetle, which are an introduced species common in the NWT. The Nine-spotted Lady Beetle would likely not have been found this far north due to incorrect habitat.

**Motion #515-04-11-2016**

*To confirm that ECCC is not required to consult with the WRRB about the Nine-spotted Lady Beetle*

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

Jonas Lafferty  
Steven Matthews  
Suzanne Carriere

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #339-04-11-2016 (ED):** To write letter to ECCC to confirm consultation requirements with the WRRB and indicate the TG could be contacted directly to determine their consultation requirements

2.8 Proposed Changes to the Fisheries Act & Standing Committee Participation

On August 30, 2016, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) sent the WRRB a letter indicating the Government of Canada's intention to undertake a review of the 2012 changes to the *Fisheries Act*. The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Fisheries and Oceans (SCOFO) is undertaking the review and soliciting input. In October 2016, DFO met with the WRRB, along with Land and Water Board's staff, to give an overview presentation of the 2012 changes to the *Fisheries Act* and encourage the Boards to participate in the SCOFO review. The deadline for submissions to SCOFO is November 25, 2016; however, DFO will collect submissions until the end of January 2017.

**ACTION #340-04-11-2016 (ED):** To provide comments to DFO and SCOFO regarding review of the changes to the *Fisheries Act*

2.9 Wolf Feasibility Assessment Working Group Update

A Terms of Reference has been finalized, and the process to conduct the feasibility assessment has been identified and continues to be modified. The Working Group recently held a 3-day workshop October 17-19, at the Denendah Manor boardroom. Discussions focused on the final selection of and details for each of the wolf management options that will be assessed, as well as clearly defining the criteria which will be used to assess each management option.

Board Members will have the opportunity to review the assessment once completed. Comments by the WRRB will be requested if a management proposal is submitted. It was noted that predator control, i.e. killing pups at wolf dens, has been conducted by Inuit elders in the past. It was also mentioned that even if management actions are applied, there may not be any measurable impact on the Bathurst herd.

## 2.10 Tłı̄chq All-Season Road (TASR) Update

The WRRB provided comments on the TASR to the WLWB on May 30, which focused on boreal caribou-related concerns such as impacts of access and federal and territorial requirements for boreal caribou critical habitat. WRRB staff attended the scoping session for the environmental assessment of the TASR, August 24, Tree of Peace, in Yellowknife. Staff reiterated previous comments, and provided additional clarifications. WRRB staff provided comments on the draft Terms of Reference and draft Adequacy Statement on October 12, 2016. The MVEIRB posted Terms of Reference and Adequacy Statement on October 28, 2016, along with information requests to various organizations, and a draft work plan. The scoping stage has been completed and the next step in the EA is for the developer to complete their Adequacy Statement Response. When this is submitted, the Review Board will issue a final work plan and initiate the first round of information requests. Participants and interested organizations in this EA will be asked soon to register for party status; the WRRB will register.

## 2.11 Wildlife Act, Section 15 Meeting Update

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Section 15 meeting was held October 25-26, 2016 in Yellowknife. The focus of the agenda was sessions on cooperative and collaborative harvest reporting and its importance. Existing harvest reporting programs were discussed, including successes and challenges. It is noteworthy to mention that the dynamics of the Section 15 meeting can be interesting with the differences between settled and unsettled land claim areas. The meeting ended with a roundtable discussion about future relevant topics.

## 2.12 Draft Nunavut Land Use Plan Update

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. On June 23, 2016, the NPC announced the on-line release of the Final DNLUP. On October 12, 2016 the NPC sent an email regarding the Notice of Direction on Procedure, and the DNLUP Public Hearing. The current timeline for the development of the NLUP indicates filing and service of expert reports (with executive summaries translated into English, French, Inuktitut and Innuinaqtun) is Nov 15, 2016 with final submission of written submissions, evidence, or other materials (translated in full) is Jan 13, 2017. A pre-hearing conference is scheduled for January 17-18, and the public hearing in Iqaluit is scheduled for March 21-28.

## 2.13 Tłı̄chq Aquatic Ecosystem Monitoring Program (TAEMP) Update

The 2016 TAEMP occurred in Wekweèti. September 19-23, 2016. The camp was located on a point west of Wekweèti (about 9km). Community concerns about the weather led the 2016 camp to be placed further west than where the 2012 camp had been located - on an island located about 6km west of Wekweèti.

Water, sediment and fish were collected near the same locations visited in 2012. At the community members' request, three additional water and sediment



locations west of the camp were sampled. In 2012, bad weather limited where and how samples were collected. However, in 2016, weather was quite good, with only wind on Friday morning affecting water and sediment sample collection at two locations nearest to Wekweèti. Tissue samples were collected from 20 *Łiwezqò* (Lake Trout) and 20 *Łih* (Lake Whitefish). Paul Vecsei (Golder), along with assistance from Ryan Gregory (ENR), demonstrated how fish are processed in order to collect information. Youth from Alexis Arrowmaker School also helped Sean Richardson (TG), and Roberta Judas (WLWB) collect water and sediment samples. Elders from Wekweèti, including Joseph and Madeline Judas, Charlie and Marie Adele Football, and Jimmy and Noella Kodzin, led visits to grave sites, sharing Tłjchq knowledge and cultural practices with youth and participants. Elders demonstrated net repair and dryfish preparation, with youth assisting with cleaning of fish. Though youth departed the camp earlier than expected on Thursday, community members were able to continue site visits and activities.

Samples have been sent to labs for processing, and once analyzed, the fish, water and sediment samples will provide the first set of comparative data for Wekweèti (2012 vs. 2016). The TAEMP team hopes to be back in Wekweèti early in 2017 to present and discuss results with interested community members.

### 3.0 Financial

#### 3.1 2015-16 Annual Activity Report

The annual activity report, dated August 31, 2016, was tabled and reviewed.

#### 3.2 2016-17 Interim Activity Report

The interim activity report was incomplete at the time of the meeting.

**ACTION #341-04-11-2016 (ED):** To complete and forward 2016-17 Interim Activity Report to Implementation Management Directorate

#### 3.3 Approval of Financial Statement as of 30 September 2016

**Motion #517-04-11-2016**

*To approve the financial statement as of 30 September 2016 as presented*

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

Jonas Lafferty  
Suzanne Carriere

**Motion Approved**

#### 3.4 Audit Management Letter Review

Crowe MacKay LLP conducted the WRRB's audit in June 2016. The final audit was approved by the Board in August 2016 and forwarded to INAC on September 1, 2016, as per reporting requirements. Crowe MacKay LLP provided a management letter with eight observations about the Board's financial practices and suggestions for improvement.

Observation #2 requires the Board to make a motion to identify that CIBC Flexi-GIC account totaling ~\$101K as funds held in trust for the Research and Monitoring Fund. This will then correct the assets balance. Further, it is then suggested that the two existing Flexi-GIC accounts (totaling ~\$526K and \$101K) be merged. Finally, the Flexi-GIC account totaling ~\$2.14 million be changed to a regular GIC and at the longest term (5-7 years) in order to earn a better interest rate.

**Motion #518-04-11-2016**

*To identify that CIBC Account #32-8461075/00051 (\$101K) as funds held in trust for the Research and Monitoring Fund*

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

Eddie Chocolate  
Steven Matthews

**Motion Approved**

**Motion #519-04-11-2016**

*To combine CIBC Account #33-8214178 (\$500K) with Account #32-8461075/00051 (\$101K) into a Flexi-GIC*

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

Jonas Lafferty  
Steven Matthews

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #342-04-11-2016 (ED):** To review management options to invest the Wildlife Studies Fund with other financial institutions (RBC, BMO, CIBC, TC, SBC)

**4.0 Operations**

4.1 In-Camera Session

Not required

4.2 Salary Review

The WRRB last reviewed and approved its current Salary Scale in September 2012, with a review to be conducted in September 2015. However, due to caribou proceedings, the salary review was deferred to another time. Following review, the Board determined that, at this time, there will be no changes to its salary scale. A future review should be conducted in November 2019.

**5.0 Information Items**

Information items tabled for review by the Board Members.

**ACTION #343-04-11-2016 (Com Officer):** To provide 2017 calendar proof to Board Members for review and comment

**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 the week of February 6, 2017 in Yellowknife, NT.

**Closing Prayer: Violet Mackenzie**

**Adjournment: 3:20 p.m. (Motion #520-04-11-2016)**

Minutes Approved:

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ORIGINAL SIGNED

February 8, 2017

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

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Date