



Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 8-9 February 2017

Location: Denendeh Manor Boardroom, Yellowknife, NT

Board Members:

Jonas Lafferty (Tłıchq Appointee)
Suzanne Carriere (GNWT Appointee)
Grant Pryznyk (Federal Appointee)
Bruce MacDonald (Federal Appointee)
Archie Wetrade (Tłıchq Appointee)
Charlie Jeremick'ca (Tłıchq Appointee)

Guests:

John Donihee – via phone
Andrea Patenaude, ENR
Judy Williams, ENR
Alicia Kelly, ENR
Karin Clark, ENR
Dan Ohlson, ENR
Allice Legat, TK Advisor
Amy Ganton, ECCC
Dawn Andrews, ECCC
Carolyn Seburn, ECCC – via phone

Staff:

Jody Pellissey
Boyan Tracz
Susan Beaumont

Translators:

James Rabesca
Violet Mackenzie

Call to Order: 9:15 a.m.

Opening Prayer: Jonas Lafferty

1.0 Agenda and Previous Minutes

1.1 Approval of Agenda

REVISE: 4.1, no presentation by Dee Sicklesteel

Motion #521-08-02-2017

To approve the 8-9 February 2017 agenda as amended

Moved:

Bruce MacDonald

Second:

Jonas Lafferty

Motion Approved

1.2 Approval of Minutes – 3-4 November 2016

Motion #522-08-02-2017

To approve the 3-4 November 2016 minutes as presented

Moved:

Jonas Lafferty

Second:

Archie Wetrade

Motion Approved

1.3 Review of Action Items

Outstanding action items listing was tabled and reviewed. Remove Action #288-24-09-2015.

2.0 Business

2.1 Bathurst & Bluenose-East Caribou Herds Reasons for Decision, Part B Report – Response from TG & ENR, John Donihee

TG & ENR Letters, dated November 25, 2016 and December 2, 2016, tabled

TG and ENR provided response to the Bathurst Part B report on November 25, 2016. Of the report's 21 recommendations: 5 were accepted, 2 were rejected and 14 were varied. TG and ENR provided response to the Bluenose-East Part B report on December 2, 2016. Of the report's 17 recommendations: 3 were accepted, 2 were rejected and 12 were varied.

Following Staff review of the TG and ENR responses, WRRB Legal Counsel was requested to review and comment. The following are noteworthy: 1) the responses do a poor job explaining the reasons for rejecting or varying recommendations, 2) no final wording was provided for the varied recommendations, 3) suggestion that management actions be completed by organizations that are not a Party to the Tłı̄chq Agreement, and 4) inappropriate to reject recommendations based the opinion that the WRRB does not have jurisdiction over certain matters i.e. land use planning.

Recommendations by Legal Counsel and Staff are to 1) respond to Agenda Items #2.1 and 2.2 as one piece, 2) undergo the suggested exercise of structuring an approach for Parties to the Tłı̄chq Agreement to respond to Board recommendations through Rule for Management Proposals, and 3) meet with senior levels of TG and ENR to discuss the matter.

Board Members noted that the WRRB is not given the same respect as Land & Water Boards, Nunavut processes impact on the NWT, and discussions with senior level managers in government can lead to delays in responses.

2.2 Bathurst & Bluenose-East Caribou Herds Compliance Statistics – Response from TG & ENR, John Donihee

ENR Letter, dated January 10, 2017, tabled

ENR provided response to the WRRB's request for compliance statistics on January 10, 2017, noting their concern about the request due to the reliance on Community Wildlife Monitors and the possibility of jeopardizing ongoing investigations.

Following Staff review of the ENR response, WRRB Legal Counsel was requested to review and comment. The following are noteworthy: 1) the response misunderstands the Board's request for compliance statistics due to the

concern about jeopardizing ongoing investigations and 2) that ENR has determined that the provision of compliance statistics will not be helpful to the Board, i.e. it is not up to ENR to determine what information the Board does or does not require.

Recommendations by Legal Counsel and Staff are to 1) respond to Agenda Items #2.1 and 2.2 as one piece, 2) use this specific information as an example while undergoing the suggested exercise of structuring an approach for Parties to the Tłı̨ch ǫ Agreement to respond to Board recommendations through Rule for Management Proposals, and 3) meet with senior levels of TG and ENR to discuss the matter.

ACTION #344-08-02-2017 (ED): To write a letter to ENR and TG recommending a collaborative exercise of structuring an approach for Parties to the Tłı̨ch ǫ Agreement to respond to Board recommendations through Rule for Management Proposals

2.3 Approval of Bluenose-East, Bluenose-West and Cape Bathurst Herds' Annual Action Plans

Draft Action Plans for the Bluenose-East, Bluenose-West and Cape Bathurst Caribou Herds, dated February 6, 2017, tabled

The ACCWM met on Nov 29 – Dec 1, 2016 in Inuvik for the 1st Annual Status Meeting. Member Boards, along with ENR and communities, were asked to provide both scientific and community-based monitoring information for each of the three herds: Bluenose-East, Bluenose-West and Cape Bathurst. During the meeting, the ACCWM discussed the information provided and determined the following status for each herd: Cape Bathurst herd is in the RED zone, the Bluenose-West herd is in the ORANGE zone and the Bluenose-East herd is in the ORANGE zone. Concerns were raised about the rate of continued decline and herd size proximity to red zone for both the Bluenose-East and Bluenose-West caribou herds despite ongoing management actions.

Since early January 2017, the ACCWM Working Group has met weekly to revise the three Action Plans, in accordance with the decisions made during the Annual Status Meeting, with the intention to submit to appropriate governments for implementation by early March 2017.

Motion #525-02-09-2017

To approve the Bluenose-East, Bluenose-West and Cape Bathurst caribou herd statuses as presented

Moved:

Bruce MacDonald

Second:

Charlie Jeremick'ca

Motion Approved

ACTION #347-09-02-2017 (ED): To email ACCWM supporting the statuses as presented for Bluenose-East, Bluenose-West and Cape Bathurst caribou herds

2.4 Approval of Wildlife Research Permit Application: Monitoring of the Bathurst, Bluenose-East and Beverly Caribou Herds

WRP Application, entitled “*Monitoring of the Bathurst, Bluenose-East and Beverly Caribou Herds*”, tabled

The WRP application requests support for the following monitoring actions:

1. The use of satellite collars to monitor the movements and distribution of migrating caribou on a weekly basis. ENR plans to deploy collars in February-March 2017 to maintain up to 50 collars on each herd, with total of 30 on cows and 20 on bulls in each herd. This potentially requires the deployment of: 20 collars on the Bathurst herd, 15 collars on the Bluenose-East herd, and 25 collars on the Beverly herd. The number of collars deployed depends on collars active at time of deployment. Reconnaissance surveys will occur prior to collar deployment.
2. The late winter calf survival/spring recruitment survey, in March-April 2017, to measure annual calf survival for the Bathurst and Bluenose-East caribou and compare herd trends.
3. The fall sex-ratio survey, in mid-October 2017, to assess the ratio of bulls to cow in the herd, and to extrapolate the total population estimate when a calving ground photographic survey is conducted. The WRP indicates that fall surveys to determine sex ratios for the Bluenose-East and Bathurst herds are subject to availability of funding.

Board Members noted that the response should request clarification regarding fall surveys and whether WRP applications can be for multiple years for on-going programs with no changes.

Motion #526-02-09-2017

To support the Wildlife Research Permit Application, entitled “Monitoring of the Bathurst, Bluenose-East and Beverly Caribou Herds” as presented

Moved:

Bruce MacDonald

Second:

Jonas Lafferty

Abstain:

Charlie Jeremick'ca

Motion Approved

ACTION #348-09-02-2017 (ED): To write letter to ENR-North Slave Regional Office supporting the WRP Application: Monitoring of the Bathurst, Bluenose-East and Beverly Caribou Herds

- 2.5 Approval of Wildlife Research Permit Application: Boreal Caribou Population Trends, Habitat Use and Response to the Proposed Tłıchq All-Season Road in the Taiga Plains, North Slave Region, Andrea Patenaude, Judy Williams & Alicia Kelly, ENR

WRP Application, entitled "*Boreal Caribou Population Trends, Habitat Use and Response to the Proposed Tłıchq All-Season Road in the Taiga Plains, North Slave Region*", tabled

The WRP application requests support for the following monitoring actions:

1. Deployment of collars in February-March 2017 (up to 25 collars), with the understanding that not all 25 collars may be deployed in 2017 (target is at least 10 for 2017).
2. The late winter calf survival / spring recruitment survey, in Feb/March 2018, to measure annual calf survival.

Board Members noted the logistical constraints and time sensitive aspects of the monitoring program; however, the Members are unable to make a decision due to insufficient timing to get a proper assessment of pre-development baseline, inadequate consultation conducted with Tłıchq communities, and insufficient time to review the management proposal.

ACTION #349-09-02-2017 (ED): To write letter to ENR indicating that the WRRB is unable to make a decision about the WRP Application: Boreal Caribou Population Trends, Habitat Use and Response to the Proposed Tłıchq All-Season Road in the Taiga Plains, North Slave Region

- 2.6 Bathurst Caribou Range Plan Update, Karin Clark & Dan Ohlson, ENR

PowerPoint Presentation, entitled "*Bathurst Caribou Range Plan*", and documents, entitled "*Bathurst Caribou Range Plan Interim Discussion Document, December 2016*" and "*Executive Summary – Bathurst Caribou Range Plan – Discussion Document*", tabled

ACTION #345-08-02-2017 (ED): To review and provide comments to ENR on the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan discussion document

- 2.7 Tqdzı (Boreal Caribou) and Wildfire Update, Alice Legat

PowerPoint Presentation, entitled "*Tqdzı and Wildfire Update*", tabled

- 2.8 SARA Policies & Recent COSEWIC Assessments, Dawn Andrews, Amy Ganton & Carolyn Seburn, ECCC

PowerPoint Presentation, entitled "*Species at Risk Act – Draft Policies*", and briefing note, entitled "*New COSEWIC Assessment of Species in the Wek'èezhì Boundary*", tabled

Board Members noted that future submissions should include an overview of the relevancy of the information to the NWT and land claim areas.

ECCC noted that there are ongoing discussions with the GNWT to determine if co-consultations can occur for the barren-ground caribou assessment (NWT consultations expected to occur Aug to Nov 2017 while ECCC consultations are not expected to begin until January 2018). An added complication is that the SARC assessment does not include the Porcupine caribou herd, while the COSEWIC assessment does.

ACTION #346-09-02-2017 (ED): To provide comments to ECCC on relevant SARA policies by March 31st deadline

2.9 Conference of Management Authorities Items
a) Approval of NWT Wood Bison Listing

TG & WRRB Joint Community Consultation summary notes tabled

The WRRB and TG conducted joint community consultations in Behchokò and Whatì on the proposed listing of Wood Bison as threatened. The consensus agreement for the listing is to be signed by April 15, 2017.

A formal GNWT endorsement of listing is still pending, but GNWT representatives are planning on recommending listing as threatened. It will take approximately two months for formal GNWT endorsement to be received. If formal WRRB and Tłıchq Government positions recommend something other than listing as threatened, Management Authorities will need to discuss how to proceed in the absence of clear consensus.

Motion #527-09-02-2017

To support the listing of Wood Bison in the NWT as threatened

Moved:

Jonas Lafferty

Second:

Bruce MacDonald

Abstain:

Suzanne Carriere

Motion Approved

ACTION #350-09-02-2017 (ED): To write letter to SARC Secretariat supporting the listing of Wood Bison in the NWT as threatened

b) Boreal Caribou & Amphibians Implementation Plans

Annex A of the Boreal Caribou & Amphibians implementation plans tabled

The consensus agreements for both the NWT Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy and the NWT Amphibian Management Plan were submitted to the Minister of ENR in October and November 2016, respectively. A next step is to prepare and finalize consensus agreements for implementation of both recovery documents. A preliminary effort on the part of the individual management authorities was made at the CMA Meeting, Jan 24-26, 2017, to identify actions that their organizations may be willing to consider implementing (these are not final implementation commitments). Final implementation agreement is due

November 25, 2017.

ACTION #351-09-02-2017 (ED): To bring WRRB review of boreal caribou and amphibian implementation plans to the CMA meeting in May 2017

c) Grizzly Bear & Myotis/Bats In-principle Assessments

Comparison tables for grizzly bear/wolverine and big brown bat/western toad tabled

Concerns were raised during an in-camera session at the January 2017 CMA meeting with the in-principle assessments of grizzly bear and big brown bat. It was felt that these assessments may not be consistent with either the final status reports or SARC's Assessment Process and Objective Biological Criteria. Further, concerns were raised with how the assessment of grizzly bear compares to the earlier assessment of wolverine, and how the assessment of big brown bat compares to the earlier assessment of western toad.

Preference was to deal with this through a formal Request for Clarification process once the assessments are formally released by SARC in April. In this case, Management Authorities would have until about mid-June to submit a request for clarification (until 60 days after receipt of the assessments).

Board Members agreed with the decision to manage any concerns with the assessments conducted in April 2017 through the formal request for clarification process.

2.10 Wolf Feasibility Assessment Working Group Update

Since the last Board meeting, WG meetings have occurred November 21 and December 12, 2016, and most recently on January 24 and 26, 2017. The next call-in meeting is scheduled for February 13. The current focus of the WG is preparation for a workshop set for March 1-3, 2017 in Yellowknife. The focus of the workshop is to critique the completeness of 11 options, the criteria used to assess the options, and the WG's overall approach. To assist, experts have been invited to present on their experiences in wolf management, and provide their advice on the Feasibility Assessment. A draft agenda and additional materials have been sent to the experts for review. Materials include: the Terms of Reference, a draft Feasibility Assessment, summaries of the 11 management options along with the related budget tables and criteria to assess humaneness of the options.

2.11 Tłıchq All-Season Road EA Update

WRRB Letter to MVEIRB, dated December 19, 2016, WRRB Response to GNWT, dated December 16, 2016, and Proposed Tłıchq All-Season Road map, tabled

On Dec 7, 2016, the WRRB submitted a Request for Party Status to MVEIRB.

On Dec 19, 2016, the WRRB provided a response to an MVEIRB Information Request (IR) directed to Aboriginal government organizations and resource managers. The IR asked for information on fish harvest levels along the proposed TASR route, as well as suggestions for mitigation measures. The WRRB clarified that the Board did not possess detailed information on fish harvest levels, and also provided a 1997 DFO report.

On Nov 10, 2016, WRRB, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC), GNWT ENR, GNWT Lands, and Canadian Northern Economic Development Agency (CANNOR) staff participated in a meeting to follow-up on GNWT's comments on the Adequacy Statement related to boreal caribou population trends. On December 16, WRRB staff provided the GNWT comments on the Nov 10th meeting, as well as comments on follow-up items that were sent Nov 22, 2016., focusing on the lack of population information in Wek'èezhìi and concerns that population trends could not be accurately estimated at either the regional (N.Slave/Wek'èezhìi), or territorial scale (NT1). Participants in the previous meeting met again on Jan 20, 2017 to discuss monitoring of boreal caribou in relation to the TASR, and to clarify the responses ECCC and WRRB provided to the GNWT.

The TASR EA is currently in the Developer's Assessment Report/Impact Statement stage. No dates for public hearings have been set.

3.0 Financial

3.1 Approval of 2017-18 Budget and Work Plan

Motion #528-09-02-2017

To approve the 2017-18 budget and work plan as presented

Moved:

Charlie Jeremick'ca

Second:

Suzanne Carriere

Motion Approved

ACTION #352-09-02-2017 (ED): To forward 2017-18 Budget & Work Plan to Implementation Management Directorate

3.2 Approval of Financial Statement as of 31 December 2016

Motion #529-09-02-2017

To approve the financial statement as of 31 December 2016 as presented

Moved:

Jonas Lafferty

Second:

Bruce MacDonald

Motion Approved

4.0 Operations

4.1 Board Member iPads & Secure Server Software

ACTION #353-09-02-2017 (HR Committee): To address outstanding issues related to iPads and bring recommendations forward at next meeting

4.2 In-Camera Session

Motion #523-08-02-2017

To go in camera at 4:13 p.m.

Moved:

Bruce MacDonald

Second:

Jonas Lafferty

Motion Approved

Motion #524-08-02-2017

To come out of camera at 4:26 p.m.

Moved:

Jonas Lafferty

Second:

Archie Wetrade

Motion Approved

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 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 June 12, 2017 in Whatì, NT.

Closing Prayer: Jonas Lafferty

Adjournment: 4:14 p.m. (Motion #530-09-02-2017)

Minutes Approved:

ORIGINAL SIGNED

June 13, 2017

Chairperson

Date