



## Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 12-13 December 2017

**Location:** Denendeh Manor 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Boardroom, Yellowknife, NT

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**Board Members:**

Archie Wetrade (Tłıchq Appointee)  
Suzanne Carrière (GNWT Appointee)  
Grant Pryznyk (Chair)  
Jonas Lafferty (Tłıchq Appointee) – Dec 12 only  
Steven Matthews (GNWT Appointee)  
Charlie Jeremick'ca (Tłıchq Appointee)

**Staff:**

Jody Pellissey  
Susan Beaumont

**Translators:**

James Rabesca  
Violet Mackenzie

**Guests:**

Christian Bertelsen, ECCC  
Amy Ganton, ECCC  
Isabelle Duclos, ECCC  
Megan Ross, ECCC

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**Call to Order:** 1:20 p.m.

**Opening Prayer:** Jonas Lafferty

### 1.0 Agenda and Previous Minutes

#### 1.1 Approval of Agenda

**Motion #556-12-12-2017**

*To approve the 12-13 December 2017 agenda as presented*

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

Jonas Lafferty  
Steve Matthews

**Motion Approved**

#### 1.2 Approval of Minutes – 13-14 September 2017

**Motion #557-12-12-2017**

*To approve the 13-14 September 2017 minutes as presented*

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

Suzanne Carrière  
Charlie Jeremick'ca

**Motion Approved**

#### 1.3 Review of Action Items

Outstanding action items list was tabled and reviewed.

## 2.0 Business

### 2.1 Annual Status for the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West and Bluenose-East Caribou

The ACCWM met on Nov 21-23, 2017 in Yellowknife for the 2<sup>nd</sup> 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 current statuses for each herd should remain as is: 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. The ACCWM Working Group is working 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 before early March 2018.

Board Members noted that little new scientific information was presented, and despite conflicting community information available for the Bluenose-East herd, that there is no evidence to support a change in status for any of the three herds.

In addition to the herd statuses, the ACCWM reviewed the recently developed ACCWM Education & Communication Working Group's terms of reference, and the draft scope of work for *Review and Development of Best Practices for including Traditional and Community Knowledge in ACCWM Status Decisions for Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, and Bluenose-East Caribou*. This will be a limited review of current best practices for the inclusion of traditional and community knowledge (TK/CK) in collaborative management settings in order to develop and document a methodology and guidance for future engagement work.

Board Members noted concerns about additional workload related to the new working group but also recognize the importance of communicating with and educating the public. Request to ensure involvement of elders for both the working group and development of TK/CK best practices. Suggest reviewing how SARC is documenting and using TK for species status reports.

**Motion #559-13-12-2017**

*To support the proposed statuses for Bluenose-East (Orange), Bluenose-West (Orange) and Cape Bathurst (Red) caribou herds*

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

Archie Wetrade  
Steve Matthews

**Motion #560-13-12-2017**

**Motion Approved**  
*To approve the Education and Communication Working Group Terms of Reference as presented*

**Moved:**

Steve Matthews

**Second:** Suzanne Carrière

**Motion Approved**

**Motion #561-13-12-2017**

*To approve the scope of work for TK/CK as presented*

**Moved:**

Archie Wetrade

**Second:**

Charlie Jeremick'ca

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #381-13-12-2017 (ED):** To write a letter to the ACCWM to approve the herd statuses, Education & Communication Working Group terms of reference and scope of work for TK/CK

2.2 *Mackenzie Bison Management Plan*

The Mackenzie Bison Working Group developed the Mackenzie Bison Management Plan during November 2011 to March 2014. The Working Group comprised members from communities that harvest Mackenzie bison, agencies that have management authority for the population (including the WRRB), and those whose land-use areas include part of its range.

The management plan's goal is to manage the Mackenzie bison population to sustain its long-term viability while providing for social, economic and cultural connections to people. The Working Group did not include a specific population size target as a goal because it was unable to determine how many bison the habitat could support and how that number is likely to change as habitat conditions change. However, the plan does contain a detailed range of management and monitoring actions under different population sizes and trend.

Section 35 consultations were completed in October 2017. No comments were received that raised issues about the Management Plan or identified an infringement of Aboriginal and/or treaty rights. Concerns raised by the Tłı̨ch̨ Government were addressed by ENR in December 2016.

Suggested edits for management plan: p.8 and 9, update SARC and COSEWIC listing/assessment information as no longer pending.

**Motion #562-13-12-2017**

*To approve the Mackenzie Wood Bison Management Plan as presented, with suggested edits*

**Moved:**

Steve Matthews

**Second:**

Archie Wetrade

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #382-13-12-2017 (ED):** To write a letter to ENR approving the Mackenzie Wood Bison Management Plan

## 2.3 COSEWIC Designation – Peregrine Falcon

On October 3, 2017, the WRRB received a letter from the COSEWIC Secretariat on the draft 2-Month Interim Status Report for the Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). The letter requested comments and recommendations for the national designation, along with the reason(s) for the recommendation. The Board's feedback on the draft 2-Month Interim Status Report was to be provided at least two weeks prior to the Wildlife Species Assessment Meeting November 26-December 1, 2017 in Ottawa, ON.

The WRRB provided a letter, on October 23, 2017, with an in-principle recommendation to support the recommended status of "not at risk" for the Peregrine Falcon, given the current understanding of its population trends and threats.

**Motion #558-12-12-2017**

*To support the designation of not at risk for Peregrine Falcon*

**Moved:**

Jonas Lafferty

**Second:**

Archie Wetrade

**Abstain:**

Suzanne Carrière

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #380-12-12-2017 (ED):** To write a letter to the COSEWIC Bird Species Specialist Committee to support designation of not at risk for Peregrine Falcon

## 2.4 Wildlife Research Permit Application – Wildlife Effects Monitoring for the Proposed Tłı̄ch̄o All-Season Road in the Taiga Plains, North Slave Region – Boreal Caribou, Moose and Bison

The WRP application requests support for the following monitoring actions for a five-year period (one year of pre-construction baseline data collection, and collection during the four-year construction phase of the TASR):

1. Moose and bison aerial surveys every three years to generate density estimates in the TASR regional study area (first survey to occur in February 2018).
2. Boreal caribou capture and collaring work to monitor the movements, habitat use, survival and responses of these caribou to disturbance (deploy 5 GPS collars, with geofencing feature, on females in February 2018). Additional collars will be deployed each year to maintain a sample size of 25-30 collared females.
3. Boreal caribou aerial recruitment surveys to provide information on the proportion of calves that have survived their first year (first survey in March 2018).

The proposed monitoring actions support management objectives, including:

- Long term monitoring of boreal caribou adult female survival and calf recruitment to track population trends in the TASR study area;
- Assess the impact of the TASR on boreal caribou habitat use and movement;

- and,
- Monitor changes in the abundance and distribution of moose and bison along the TAsR.

Anne Gunn reviewed the WRP, as well as the WRRB's February 2017 response to the previous WRP application and provided comment. Board Members concerned about completeness of application, poor communication with the communities, validity of methodology and analyses.

Before making a decision for support/non-support, write a letter about outstanding issues 1) clearly defined set of objectives, noting that can't determine the effects of the road on caribou from the collars as presented (information is incomplete, how do they plan to analyze the collar data to determine the effect of the road on boreal caribou), 2) winter road response (difficult to compare cause already responding), 3) quote about prior experience on cow survival in the Dehcho that can have low survival but high annual variability, number of collars can be reduced quickly over the year, what happens if more than five need to be replaced, 4) report from NWT wildlife care committee should be provided, proposal does not discuss effects of collars on caribou, 5) how will they specifically deal with communities about collaring, and 6) review that the moose and bison surveys will meet stated objectives. Written response is expected by January 10, 2018. Invite project lead to next meeting to provide further clarification on the application before support/non-support can be provided.

**ACTION #383-13-12-2017 (ED):** To write a letter to ENR identifying outstanding issues with WRP application and invite project lead to next WRRB board meeting

## 2.5 GNWT Legislative Initiatives – Forest Management & Protection Act and Protected Areas Legislation

A key commitment of the GNWT's 18<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly is the evolution of legislative, regulatory and policy systems for the management of land and resources of the NWT. As such, ENR, along with Aboriginal governments, is working to modernize the Environmental Protection Act, Environmental Rights Act, Forest Management and Protection Act, and the Waters Act, as well as establish a new piece of legislation for protected areas. The goal is to complete this work during the life of the current Legislative Assembly, i.e. by the fall of 2019.

The WRRB, along with 60+ stakeholders, was invited to attend an information session on October 12, 2017 regarding these legislative initiatives, including an overview of the current legislative process, work completed to date, and receive initial feedback. The WRRB, along with the GRRB and SRRB, have noted concern about their inclusion to date in the process to date. As per the Tłı̄chǫ Agreement, the WRRB has mandated responsibilities related to forests and protected areas management as well as requirements to review and approve new legislation (12.5.1, 13.4.2, 16.1.1). In the current process, it is the Board's understanding that the GNWT and Aboriginal governments prefer to enlist the Boards in the legislative initiatives process at certain times, based on the RRB's priorities.

Legal Counsel recommendation to send a formal letter to ENR and TG about WRRB involvement, noting WRRB expertise and that full involvement will result in shorter timelines.

**ACTION #385-13-12-2017 (ED):** To write a letter to ENR and TG identifying concerns about not participating in legislative initiatives

## 2.6 Federal Aquaculture Legislation – Participation

In June 2017, Canada's federal, provincial and territorial ministers responsible for aquaculture agreed to analyze the impacts of a potential act and develop a proposal for an aquaculture act to be considered by all ministers in the summer of 2018. Fisheries & Oceans Canada (DFO) is engaging with partners and stakeholders to hear perspectives on potential benefits of an aquaculture act in Canada as well as any implications or issues that should be addressed by this potential act.

The WRRB is requested to provide input at this preliminary stage regarding preference on engagement on an aquaculture act and other aquaculture-related items that may develop moving forward. Board Staff recommend that, at this time, participation be limited as there are currently no aquaculture activities in Wek'èezhì. If an aquaculture act is developed, the Board should review the legislation to ensure that there are no impacts on fish and fish habitat in Wek'èezhì.

**ACTION #384-13-12-2017 (ED):** To write a follow-up with DFO noting limited participation at this time

## 2.7 Tłıchq All-Season Road Environmental Assessment – Final Argument

Since the last meeting, on October 11, 2017, the WRRB submitted its technical report on t̄dzı (Tłıchq knowledge only), ʔekw̄ (science and Tłıchq knowledge), and łıwe (science and Tłıchq knowledge); on October 23, 2017, the Board submitted its technical report (attached) on t̄dzı (science only). The WRRB attended the MVEIRB's public hearing in Whatı, NT, on November 15-17, 2017, giving presentations on both Day 2 and Day 3.

The Board Staff, along with consultants, are preparing the final argument for the TASR project, which will be submitted on the December 15, 2017 deadline. Board Members suggested the addition of two points to recommendations 6.1 and 6.2.

## 2.8 Wolf Feasibility Assessment Working Group Update

The Working Group (WG) 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.

Since the last Board meeting, a final draft document was provided to the WG for review on September 22, 2017. The WG discussed the final draft and proposed revisions during conference calls on October 16 and 30, 2017. The final Wolf

Feasibility Assessment was submitted to the GNWT and TG on November 11, 2017. The document was posted to the WRRB's website on November 14, 2017; it is uncertain at this time whether GNWT or TG will post the document to their own websites.

## 2.9 Bathurst Caribou Range Plan & Management Plan Update

### Bathurst Caribou Range Plan

In September 2017, the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan Working Group met to review and discuss how information from the Traditional Knowledge and Technical (Science) Workshops, held in June 2017, were incorporated in the draft Bathurst Caribou Range Plan. Comments were solicited on the draft range plan before submitting to the GNWT Cabinet for review and approval for public engagement; final approval was granted on November 16, 2017. Consultation sessions will be conducted between January to March 2018.

### Bathurst Caribou Management Plan

A Technical Working Group (TWG) was created in March 2017 by the Bathurst Caribou Advisory Committee (BCAC) to advance and continue the efforts on the management of the Bathurst caribou herd. The first TWG meeting, held in October 2017, was to begin the work of redrafting the 2004 Bathurst Caribou Management Plan. After completion of a visioning exercise, threats exercise and review of the 2004 management plan, and subsequent in-depth discussions, the TWG then created the skeleton of the new draft framework for a management plan. The TWG is tentatively scheduled to meet again in January 2018, with a target of finalizing a Bathurst Caribou Management Plan by fall 2018.

## 2.10 'Rules' for Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Management Zone

The Board sent a letter to ENR on August 31, 2017 identifying concerns regarding the WRRB's ability to assess efficiency and effectiveness of the MCBCMZ as an approach to managing harvest. The Minister of ENR replied on October 5, 2017 noting that the Barren-ground Caribou Technical Working Group had begun work on drafting 'rules' for defining and implementing the MCBCMZ. The current draft of the *Rules for Definition of the Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Conservation Area (MCBCCA) for Winter 2017-2018* is now available.

## 2.11 Environment & Climate Change Canada Update on Proposed Listings and COSEWIC Assessments – Christian Bertelsen, Amy Ganton, Isabelle Duclos & Megan Ross

The next batch of species being considered for listing includes four species found in Wek'èezhì: Barren-ground Caribou, Transverse Lady Beetle, Harris's Sparrow, and Evening Grosbeak. Barren-ground Caribou were assessed by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) as Threatened, while Transverse Lady Beetle, Harris's Sparrow and Evening Grosbeak were assessed as Special Concern.

The assessment of Barren-ground Caribou includes all herds of Barren-ground Caribou (including the Porcupine Herd) as one unit. The Species at Risk Committee (SARC) in the NT also assessed Barren-ground Caribou, but split the assessment into two groups; the Porcupine herd was assessed as Not at Risk, while all remaining herds were assessed as Threatened. To coordinate consultation efforts for the proposed listing of Barren-ground Caribou under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) as well as under the territorial *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, ECCC and the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) worked together to consult with partners in the NT. ECCC joined the community consultation tour organized by the Tłı̨chǫ Government and the WRRB to discuss Barren-ground Caribou.

ECCC worked with WRRB staff in November 2017 to confirm which communities should be consulted on the proposed listing of Transverse Lady Beetle, Harris's Sparrow and Evening Grosbeak. Given the ranges, ECCC will consult with Wekweèti, Gamèti, Whatì and Behchokò on the Transverse Lady Beetle and Harris's Sparrow, and consult with Whatì and Behchokò on Evening Grosbeak. Communities will be sent a letter, presentation, questionnaire, summary of the assessment, and a digital copy of the full COSEWIC Assessment and Status Report.

Board Members questioned whether Evening Grosbeak occur in Wek'èezhìi (likely Pine Grosbeak instead); ECCC noted that the range had been extended based on an e-Bird observation with 50-km buffer.

### 3.0 Financial

#### 3.1 Approval of Financial Statement as of 31 October 2017

***Motion #563-13-12-2017***

*To approve the financial statement as of 31 October 2017 as presented*

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

Steve Matthews  
Archie Wetrade

**Motion Approved**

#### 3.2 Update on Funding for Treaty-based Boards and Committees

Andrew Webster, INAC, provided an update at the November 2017 NWT Board Forum in Inuvik. To date, core funding for treaty boards has been increased by up to 29% and the contingency fund, which is supplemental funding for things such as public hearings and land use plan reviews, has been increased. The Minister has now requested a review of the Ministerial remuneration (honoraria) rate structure, which has not changed since 2002. The review is expected to take up to a year to complete before any recommendations are made.



## 4.0 Operations

### 4.1 WRRB Strategic Business Plan & Communications Strategy

The WRRB underwent a strategic planning exercise in January 2015, with the help of Elevate Consulting. In May 2015, the WRRB approved and implemented its "2015-2018 Strategic Business Plan". At the same time, the Board revised and approved its 2015-2018 Communications Strategy. The 2015-2018 Strategic Business Plan and Communications Strategy are set to expire on March 31, 2018. Previous facilitation for the strategic planning workshop has been conducted by Elevate Consulting, with a funding request submitted to the Implementation Management Directorate.

Board Members suggest that the strategic planning session be held in fall 2018 at a on-the-land retreat, separate from regular board meeting. Follow-up with GRRB and SRRB to find out which company they have used for strategic planning.

**ACTION #386-13-12-2017 (ED):** To arrange strategic planning session for Fall 2018

### 4.2 Board Member Appointments

Upcoming end of terms for three Board Members: Suzanne Carrière (December 18, 2017), Jonas Lafferty (December 22, 2017) and Archie Wetrade (December 22, 2017). Letters to nominating agencies were sent on May 31, 2017, and to date, no reply has been received.

**ACTION #387-13-12-2017 (ED):** To follow-up with GNWT and TG regarding Board Member terms

### 4.3 In-Camera Session

**Motion #564-13-12-2017**

*To go in-camera at 3:33 p.m.*

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

Steve Matthews  
Archie Wetrade

**Motion Approved**

**Motion #565-13-12-2017**

*To come out of camera at 3:56 p.m.*

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

Suzanne Carrière  
Charlie Jeremick'ca

**Motion Approved**

**Motion #566-13-12-2017**

*To appoint Joseph Judas as a special advisor to the WRRB, effective February 2018 meeting*

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

Archie Wetrade  
Suzanne Carrière

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #388-13-12-2017 (ED):** To follow-up with Joseph Judas regarding interest in being nominated Board Chair

**5.0 Information Items**

Information items tabled for review by the Board Members.

Susan Beaumont reviewed the Communications Table, highlighting the recently printed 2018 WRRB Calendar. The theme of the 2018 calendar is species at risk. Additional copies will be available for pick up.

**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, and wished one another a Merry Christmas. Board Members noted that everyone works hard to understand one another and make consensus style decisions, to support one another. The Board is doing important work that is about the wildlife, we are witnessing change that is happening at a rapid pace, more profound than anywhere on the globe.

**ACTION #389-13-12-2017 (ED):** To add resource materials to iPads for next meeting

6.2 Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for February 7-8, 2018 in Yellowknife, NT.

**Closing Prayer: James Rabesca**

**Adjournment: 4:21 p.m. (Motion #567-13-12-2017)**

Minutes Approved:

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**ORIGINALS SIGNED**

**June 20, 2018**

Chairperson

Date