



## Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 13-14 September 2022

**Location:** WRRB Boardroom, Denendeh Manor, Yellowknife, NT

---

Board Members:

Joseph Judas (Chair)  
Travis Washie (Tłıchq̓ Appointee)  
Isabelle Duclos (Federal Appointee)  
Stu Niven (Federal Appointee)  
Steve Matthews (GNWT Appointee)  
Eddie Chocolate (Tłıchq̓ Appointee)  
Suzanne Carrière (GNWT Appointee)

Interpreters/PIDO:

Jonas Lafferty  
James Rabesca  
Chris Coomber  
Munya Matanise

Regrets:

Janelle Nistiza (Tłıchq̓ Appointee)

Guests:

Jan Adamczewski, ENR (Zoom)  
Lawrence Lewis, ENR (Zoom)  
Bruce Laurich, ECCC (Zoom)  
Myra Robertson, ECCC  
David Boguski, DFO  
Amy Amos, DFO  
Gabe Nirlungayak, DFO  
Michelle Wheatley, DFO  
Andrew Randall, DFO  
Matthew Bannister, Crowe MacKay  
David Chen, Crowe Mackay

Staff:

Aimee Guile – Sep 13 only  
Simon Whitehouse  
Jody Pellissey

---

**Call to Order: 9:10 a.m.**

**Opening Prayer & Comments: Joseph Judas**

### 1.0 Agenda and Previous Minutes

1.1 Approval of Agenda

**Motion #823-13-09-2022**

*To approve the 13-14 September 2022 agenda as presented*

**Moved:**

Steve Matthews

**Second:**

/Suzanne Carrière

**Motion Approved**

1.2 Approval of Minutes

Tabled until next meeting.

### 1.3 Review of Action Items

Outstanding action items list was tabled and reviewed.

## 2.0 Business

### 2.1 Review TG and GNWT Responses to Bathurst & Bluenose-East Joint Management Proposals

#### Kqk'èeti Ekwò

On June 10, 2022, GNWT & TG responded to WRRB Recommendation #2-2022 (Kqk'èeti Ekwò), which recommended that TG and GNWT not conduct the June 2022 aerial reconnaissance survey. The Governments rejected this recommendation. The calving ground survey for Kqk'èeti Ekwò occurred June 5-16, 2022.

On July 26, 2022, GNWT & TG responded to the other recommendations. GNWT & TG accepted WRRB Recommendation # 1, #4, and #6-2022 (Kqk'èeti Ekwò). These recommendations were to draft a technical assessment of emigration of the herd, implement the adaptive management framework, and develop plain language summaries of the Proposal and calving ground survey.

GNWT & TG varied WRRB Recommendation # 3 and #5-2022 (Kqk'èeti Ekwò). Recommendation #3 was related to the technical workshop to discuss monitoring questions. This was to occur summer 2022, but the Governments varied to recommendation to that this is to occur winter 2022/2023. Recommendation #5 was varied: TG and GNWT will collaborate and coordinate between the Northwest Territories and Nunavut to support calving ground surveys for the Beverly Ekwò herd, starting in 2023 depending on the needs of the Government of Nunavut.

GNWT & TG also provided a timeline for the implementation of previous recommendations that the Board highlighted that still needing to be implemented. WRRB Recommendation #14-2019 (Kqk'èeti Ekwò) – Results from the analysis of 331 fecal pellet samples on winter ranges of the Bathurst (Kqk'èeti), Bluenose-East (Sahti) and Beverly herds collected in March 2020 as a pilot project will be reported to the WRRB by September 30th. Results of this pilot project can be reviewed with WRRB and TG and the potential for further sample collections assessed.

WRRB Recommendations #2B, 3B, 5B, 19B and 20B-2016 – The comprehensive TK study planned in 2017 by TG has evolved into the Ekwò Nàxoèhdee K'è Caribou Research Program. This program is holistic and includes information on predators, cumulative effects, and climate change, and addresses many of the aspects of WRRB recommendations in 2016. TG would like to engage with WRRB on both timing issues relating to these recommendations and how aspects of them, depending on available resources, can be addressed under the Ekwò Nàxoèhdee K'è Caribou Research Program.

Board Members noted: importance and validity of 2016 recommendations that do not seem onerous, once recommendations are implemented and information is

provided, allows the Board to make better decisions, currently BOTG program is summer only.

#### Sahti Ekwo

On July 26, 2022, GNWT & TG responded to the Board's recommendations. GNWT & TG varied WRRB Recommendation #1 and #2-2022 (Sahti Ekwo). Recommendation #1 (Sahti Ekwo) was varied: The GNWT will continue to assess methods of estimating caribou pregnancy rate in 2022-2023, prior to the Sahti Ekwo calving season, in order to interpret calf survival during a possible July 2023 composition survey. Recommendation #2 (Sahti Ekwo) was related to the technical workshop to discuss monitoring questions. This was to occur summer 2022, but the Governments varied to recommendation to that this is to occur winter 2022/2023.

GNWT & TG accepted WRRB Recommendation #3, #4, and #5-2022 (Sahti Ekwo). These recommendations were to implement the adaptive management framework, expand the ongoing Kòk'èeti habitat conservation work to include Sahti Ekwo, and develop plain language summaries of the Proposal and calving ground survey.

GNWT & TG also provided a timeline for the implementation of previous recommendations that the Board highlighted that still needing to be implemented. WRRB Recommendation #7-2019 (Sahti Ekwo) – Work with Indigenous governments and Indigenous organizations on advancing conservation areas in key caribou habitat such as water crossings and land corridors within Wek'èezhì has been ongoing since January 2021. Some highlights of this work include a technical analysis of collar data to identify more frequently used crossings, legal review of legislation that could be used for protection and Indigenous Knowledge of key areas. GNWT will continue to support this work.

WRRB Recommendation #11-2019 (Sahti Ekwo) and WRRB Recommendations #2B, 3B, 5B -2016 – Same response as for Kòk'èeti Ekwo above.

**ACTION #600-13-09-2022 (ED):** To work with TG and GNWT to sort out implementation of outstanding recommendations.

**ACTION #601-13-09-2022 (ED):** To promote the Northern Caribou Canada website.

- 2.2 June 2022 Bathurst & Bluenose-East Calving Ground Survey, Jan Adamczewski, ENR

PowerPoint Presentation, entitled "*June 2022 Bathurst & Bluenose-East Calving Ground Survey*", tabled

Board Members discussed the following: timing of survey (early June) is to be relatively close to peak of calving as females are not moving much (<5km per day) but weather is often poor during this time; tracked fidelity of collared females for several years, proportion of females go back to calving ground vs those that move (98-99%), in 2018, 2019, and 2021, the proportion of Bathurst females going back to calving ground has been lower, small Bathurst herd mixing with larger Beverly herd during the winter, some of the Bathurst animals move with the larger Beverly herd, most of the time still go back to Bathurst calving ground,

2022 high fidelity to calving ground; overall impression less predators, usually 5x the number of bears compared to the wolves, the variability can be quite high (broad index); still harvest in Nunavut of 10 Bathurst caribou, own co-management process (NWMB).

### 2.3 Review of 2022 Wolf Management Program Summary

The WRRB reviewed and provided recommendations on the wolf management proposal through a Level II proceeding in 2020. GNWT & TG committed to providing an annual report of digga management activities.

Seven (7) collars were placed this year from six (6) different packs with pack sizes from 2-8. Three (3) adult females, one (1) juvenile female, and two (2) adult males were collared. All animals were in good body condition. Handling time was  $27 \pm 6$  minutes. Two (2) of the collared digga have been harvested, one (1) was found dead of natural mortality, three (3) have stopped transmitting data, and only one (1) remains active. During the helicopter flights for collar deployment, 27 digga were observed in 4 separate encounters during 31.2 hours of helicopter survey time. Pack sizes ranged from one to eight. Crews sighted 0.86 digga per hour, which is less than in 2021 (1.82 digga per hour), suggesting there may be less digga on the landscape.

An aerial survey estimated 89 digga (95% CI: 31-147) on the Kòk'èeti Ekwò range in March 2021. To increase precision a detection survey was flown March 2022 which had a detection rate of 57% of collared digga. This information will be used to increase precision of future surveys.

The strongest associations were recorded with Kòk'èeti and Sahti Ekwò with five digga showing interaction percentages greater than 60%, while three other digga did not have any herd associations greater than 40%. Assigning digga to an initial ekwò herd affiliation at winter capture likely does not inform ekwò herd affiliation which may rather be related to den site location.

February to April 2022, a total of 69 digga were harvested within the North Slave Digga Harvest Incentive Area on the winter ranges of the Kòk'èeti and Sahti Ekwò herds. Hunting occurred primarily along the winter-road (17 digga removed). The TG's Community-based Digga Harvest Program resulted in the removal of 9 digga in 2022 and 32 digga in 2021. Inuit hunters harvested 24 digga in 2022 and 87 digga in 2021. Poor snow conditions and bad weather were reported to have influenced the success of both harvesting groups.

A total of 40 (19 males and 21 females) digga out of the total of 69 harvested in the incentive zone in winter 2022 were necropsied for demographics and health analyses. There was a declining trend in proportion of mature/breeding age harvested animals from 2021-2022. This is expected in a harvested population. There was no statistically significant difference in litter sizes between the 2 years (6.3 in 2021 & 6.6 in 2022). A significant declining trend in body condition as indicated by body condition score and fat weight, was observed even when taking age structure changes into account. This trend may be an indicator of declining health and/or condition in the digga population. The proportion of





*Bluenose-East, Bathurst, and Beverly caribou herds”, as presented*

**Moved:** Suzanne Carrière  
**Second:** Steve Matthews

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #605-14-09-2022 (ED):** To write letter to Gunn, Poole, and Pelchat to approve funding proposal, entitled “*Describing pre-calving migratory pathways relative to switches in calving distribution between Bluenose-East, Bathurst, and Beverly caribou herds*”.

2.7 Review & Approval of Wildlife Research Application – Moose Ecology and Monitoring in the Mackenzie and Tłıchq Highway Study Areas

The Environment & Natural Resources’ (ENR) Wildlife Division has submitted a Wildlife Research Permit (WRP) Application regarding the monitoring of dedıı (moose) in the Mackenzie bison range and Tłıchq Highway study areas. This is a new project. The application is for January 2023- December 2025.

The WRP application requests support to deploy up to 20 collars on adult female moose in the study area, collect samples, and monitor dedıı. The objectives are to: Investigate how dedıı use habitat in relation to *Ejıe* (bison), and *Tqdzı* (boreal caribou), and how these species influence each other; Use dedıı location data, along with other information, to model and predict the distribution and abundance of dedıı in the future as the climate and habitat changes; Investigate dedıı habitat use in relation to areas burned by wildfire; Investigate impact of Tłıchq Highway on dedıı movements and habitat use; Help validate new aerial survey methods that will be tested in the study area, and provide detectability correction factor for dedıı in ENR aerial surveys; Determine timing and cause of death for adult female dedıı; Learn more about dedıı health; Determine calving and twinning rates of dedıı in the study area.

Collaring will occur in March 2023 after other aerial surveys provide reconnaissance data for dedıı locations. The animals will be darted from a helicopter using immobilization drugs. ENR will follow established protocols and the conditions of the Wildlife Care Committee permit for capture and handling of moose during collar deployment. Twinning surveys, if funding permits, will occur in late May or early June and/or autumn. Calf recruitment surveys will occur in Feb or March of 2024 and subsequent years, along with boreal caribou recruitment surveys.

**Motion #828-14-09-2022** *To approve the Wildlife Research Permit application, entitled “Moose Ecology and Monitoring in the Mackenzie and Tłıchq Highway Study Areas”, as presented, pending Wildlife Care Committee approval*

**Moved:** Stu Niven  
**Second:** Travis Washie





Board Members discussed the following: CWG minutes and other relevant documents should be available publicly on INF website.

**ACTION #608-14-09-2022 (ED):** To write letter to INF to request CWG documents and minutes are made public, referencing the success of the Inuvik to Tuktoyaktuk CWG.

#### 2.10 Update on Mackenzie Wood Bison Management Meeting

On August 9, 2022, WRRB Staff attended a Mackenzie Bison Working Group Meeting to discuss potential hunting season date changes, bison monitoring updates, bison deterrence in Fort Providence as well as planning for the 2023 Mackenzie Bison Management Plan review. As not all members had consulted with their leadership regarding potential hunting season date changes, the decision and discussion on that was deferred to the next meeting scheduled for November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022 in Yellowknife. Any hunting season date changes, if decided upon by the Working Group, would be presented to the WRRB as a Management Proposal.

#### 2.11 Update on Dinàgà Wek'èhodì Multiparty Governance Session

GNWT and TG provided a conceptual governance approach in May 2020 which WRRB staff and legal counsel reviewed and provided comment on. June 03, 2022, the first multiparty governance sessions was held to discuss the governance approach, which was unchanged from the draft provided in 2020. WRRB staff were unable to attend this meeting.

The second multiparty governance session was held September 1 & 2, in Behchokq with representatives from TG, YKDFN, NSMA, GNWT, NWTMN, and WRRB in attendance. A few key items to come from the discussion: agreement to proceed with a Representative Decision-making Board; agreement on consensus being the most important for decision-making; agreement that the responsibilities outlined for the new board needs to include wording on the WRRB as the management plan and management proposals need to go to the WRRB. Also, that the Dinàgà Wek'èhodì management board will have no responsibilities for wildlife but could make recommendations to WRRB; composition of the Dinàgà Wek'èhodì Governance Board was discussed at length and tabled for future discussions.

In the meantime, GNWT is drafting an updated version of the governance structure with the changes discussed by the group. GNWT noted that they are hoping for decision on establishment from this Assembly. May is likely the latest to get a decision before the election. This means that work on an establishment agreement must be completed before May, 2023.

#### 2.12 Party Updates

a) Environment & Climate Change Canada

i) Review of Migratory Bird Regulations & Avian Influenza, Myra Robertson, ECCC

PowerPoint Presentations, entitled “Update on the Migratory Bird Regulations” & “Avian Influenza Update”, tabled

Board Members discussed the following: of the 18 species protected all year long, only the Pileated Woodpecker is found in the NWT, new regulations make it easier to protect nests and ensure better compliance

ii) Review & Approval of Listing of Species to SARA Schedule 1 – Barn Swallow, Lesser Yellowlegs, Short-eared Owl, Bruce Laurich, ECCC

PowerPoint Presentations, entitled “Barn Swallow”, “Lesser Yellowlegs” & “Short-eared Owl & CWS Update”, tabled

CWS Update: Wolverine internal working group for development of management plan to start in October 2022 and Grizzly Bear IK validation workshops in November 2022.

Short-eared Owl – reassessed as threatened from special concern; Barn Swallow – reassessed as special concern from threatened; Lesser Yellowlegs – assessed as threatened, not previously assessed. Barn Swallow is found further north in NWT and NU, including in Wek’èezhìi.

**Motion #849-13-09-2022**      *To support the listing of Short-eared Owl as threatened, Barn Swallow as Special Concern, and Lesser Yellowlegs as threatened to Schedule 1 of SARA*

<b>Moved:</b>	Stu Niven
<b>Second:</b>	Steve Matthews
<b>Abstain:</b>	Suzanne Carrière & Isabelle Duclos

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #602-13-09-2022 (ED):** To write letter to ECCC supporting the listing of Short-eared Owl as threatened, Barn Swallow as Special Concern, and Lesser Yellowlegs as threatened to Schedule 1 of SARA.

b) Environment & Natural Resources, GNWT

ENR Wildlife and Fish Division Headquarters Update tabled for Board Member information.

i) Forest Management Division Update (Tłchq Highway Plan, Forest Management Plan, and Fire Overview), Lawrence Lewis, ENR

PowerPoint Presentation, entitled “North Slave Forest Management Update”, tabled

Board Members discussed the following: any fires associated with TASR? No fires along new highway, huge value at risk for GNWT to protect; when actioning fires using aircraft, use water or chemical suppressants? Use water and foam,

use water bombers, difficult around Highway 9 as not many scooping lakes, retardant used mainly to protect a cabin, does not last long before dissipating, not used in 2022; was the summer really dry for fires? Yes, really dry summer, similar to 2014, more lightning in 2022, more rain but hit and miss; how take care of a camp on the land if a fire is close by? Do you know where all the camps are? ENR keeps a database of all values at risk, traplines, cabins, record coordinates, take photos, hazard rating; 75% of fires are from lightning, above normal year of lightning, over half of the summer each day had lightning, fire can hit anywhere, lots of high ground fires, vegetation on top of hills that are dried out hit by lightning, Faber Lake had a fire in an old burn (8 years ago).

c) Fisheries & Oceans Canada

i) Review of Integrated Fisheries Management Planning for Great Slave Lake, David Boguski, DFO

PowerPoint Presentation, entitled “*Let’s discuss a fisheries management plan: Great Slave Lake*”, tabled

Board Members discussed the following: would management plan come to the WRRB as a management proposal? No, as the Tłıchq Agreement is clear that the WRRB is not to have any authority for fish or fish habitat in Great Slave Lake; Moise Rabesca was a member of GSLAC, would be a good candidate.

ii) Introduction & Update – Arctic Region Management Board, Gabriel Nirlungayuk, Michelle Wheatley, Amy Amos & Andrew Randall, DFO

Gabe Nirlungayuk, Regional Director General (Rankin Inlet), Michelle Wheatley, Associate Regional Director General (Ottawa), Amy Amos, Director, Arctic Operations (Inuvik), Andrew Randall, Regional Director, Aquatic Ecosystems.

If the WRRB has any priorities related to fish, there is implementation funding available, Amy Amos is the contact.

### 3.0 Financial

3.1 Review & Approval of Audited Financial Statement as of March 31, 2022, Matthew Bannister & David Chen, Crow MacKay LLP

**Motion #830-14-09-2022**      *To approve the audited financial statement as of 31 March 2022 as presented*

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

Eddie Chocolate  
Isabelle Duclos

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #609-14-09-2022 (ED):** To send CIRNAC the final audited financial statement as of 31 March 2022.

3.2 Review & Approval of Financial Statements as of 31 August 2022

**Motion #831-14-09-2022** *To approve the financial statement as of 31 August 2022 as presented*

**Moved:** Suzanne Carrière  
**Second:** Steve Matthews

**Motion Approved**

3.3 2021-2022 Annual Activity Report

Tabled for Board Member information.

**4.0 Operations**

4.1 Eddie Erasmus Scholarship

Following the loss of Board Member Eddie Erasmus in July 2022, the staff wanted to honour him in some way. As such, the staff proposed the Board consider creating a scholarship in his name.

The proposed Eddie Erasmus Memorial Scholarship is named after WRRB Board member and former Tłıchq Grand Chief, Eddie "Ediwa" Erasmus. With the Board since 2018, Eddie E's quiet, wise presence was invaluable in ensuring discussions and decisions about wildlife and the land were a balance of Tłıchq knowledge and science, following the Tłıchq philosophy of "strong like two people."

Depending on available funds and the number of applicants, the WRRB would award two scholarships of \$1000 annually to students pursuing an education in wildlife, wildlife management, or the application of traditional knowledge in wildlife management. Priority will be given to students of Tłıchq heritage. The Board may change the amount of the scholarships based on available funds, the number of applicants, the quality of applications, etc. An application form will be developed. The deadline for applying for the scholarship will be March 31 of each year.

**Motion #832-14-09-2022** *To approve Eddie Erasmus Memorial Scholarship as presented, pending approval from Eddie Erasmus' family*

**Moved:** Steve Matthews  
**Second:** Travis Washie

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #610-14-09-2022 (ED):** To follow-up with Eddie Erasmus' family and develop scholarship application.

**ACTION \$611-14-09-2022 (ED):** To get a thank you gift for Eddie Erasmus' family.

**5.0 Information Items**

5.1 Working Group Table

Tabled to next meeting.

5.2 Permit Tracking Table

Tabled for review by the Board Members.

5.3 Communications Update

Reviewed and discussed with Board Members.

**6.0 Other Items**

6.1 Round Table

Board Members thanked one another, interpreters, sound engineer, and staff for a good meeting. Members happy to have Travis Washie as new Member and to meet Simon Whitehouse in person. Eddie Erasmus will be greatly missed as he contributed a lot to the Board, made everyone comfortable, and helped to translate concepts for staff and Board Members. Members happy to be creating a scholarship in Eddie Erasmus' memory. Members encouraged by the caribou survey results presented and look forward to the actual estimate. Members look forward to working together and learning from one another. Members hoping to get back into the communities for meeting soon.

6.2 Next Meeting

The next meeting is for December 13-14, 2022, combined in-person (Yellowknife) and Zoom meeting.

**Closing Prayer: Joseph Judas**

**Adjournment: 2:38 p.m. (Motion #833-14-09-2022)**

Minutes Approved:

---

---

**ORIGINAL SIGNED**

**December 13, 2022**

Chairperson

Date