



Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 13-14 January 2016
Location: Yellowknife, NT

Board Members:

Charlie Jeremick'ca (Tłıchq Appointee)
Jonas Lafferty (Tłıchq Appointee)
Archie Wetrade (Tłıchq Appointee) – Jan 14 only
Steven Matthews (GNWT Appointee)

Staff:

Jody Pellissey
Boyan Tracz
Susan Beaumont

Special Advisors:

Grant Pryznyk (Federal Appointee)
Bruce MacDonald (Federal Appointee)

Guests:

Sjoerd van der Wielen, TG
Dawn Andrews, CWS-EC

Translators:

James Rabesca
Violet Mackenzie

Legal Counsel:

John Donihee – Jan 14 only

Call to Order: 9:15 a.m.

Opening Prayer: Charlie Jeremick'ca

1.0 Agenda and Previous Minutes

1.1 Approval of Agenda

ADD: 4.2 c) ED Employment Agreement

Motion #455-14-01-2016

To approve the 13-14 January 2016 agenda as amended

Moved:

Steven Matthews

Second:

Charlie Jeremick'ca

Motion Approved

1.2 Approval of Minutes

23-24 September 2015

Motion #456-14-01-2016

To approve the 23-24 September 2015 minutes as presented

Moved:
Second:

Steven Matthews
Charlie Jeremick'ca

Motion Approved

16 November 2015

Motion #457-14-01-2016

To approve the 16 November 2015 minutes as presented

Moved:
Second:

Charlie Jeremick'ca
Suzanne Carriere (via email)

Motion Approved

1.3 Review of Action Items

Outstanding action items listing was tabled and reviewed.

2.0 Business

2.1 ENR & TG Response to 2015/2016 Recommendations & Reasons for Decision

TG & ENR Letters, dated November 24 and 27, 2015, tabled

On August 25, 2015 and September 22, 2015, respectively, TG and ENR submitted letters to the WRRB that set out perspectives on declining herd statuses as well as recommendations for short (2015-16) and long-term (2016-17) management for the Bathurst and Bluenose-East caribou herds.

The Board reviewed the information during its September 2015 meeting and submitted its *"Recommendations and Reasons for Decision on Management Actions for Bathurst and Bluenose-East Caribou Herds in 2015-16 and 2016-17& Beyond"* on September 25, 2015. Most of the recommendations were accepted by TG & ENR, with several varied.

Board Members noted that Recommendation #1-2015 should include a follow-up with Nunavut (NWMB, KRWB and GN) to reduce harvest.

2.2 Draft Regulations – Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Management Zone

TG and ENR agreed to a renewed version of the Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Conservation Area, which provides the ability to create more than one mobile zone, i.e. if the Bathurst Herd was to split into two smaller herds, two small zones could be identified on the maps rather than one large zone. Additionally, the regulation provides a change in name for the zone to Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Management Zone.

Following Staff and Legal Counsel review, the WRRB provided a letter of support for the draft regulations on November 30, 2015.

2.3 Community-based Wolf Harvesting Project, Sjoerd van der Wielen, TG

The Community-based Wolf Harvesting Project is based on information from Tłıchǫ elders discussed during an internal TG meeting in November 2015 to train participants in effective field techniques for hunting/trapping wolves, skinning, and fur preparation and identifying appropriate locations away from communities for skinning and processing wolf carcasses. The pilot program proposed by TG and ENR is to reduce the potential impact of wolves on the Bathurst Caribou herd.

The pilot project is not considered a cull; rather, the harvest will be approximately 40 to 100 wolves. A respected elder, experienced wolf harvester/trapper and experienced skinner will be at the camp, which will be located near large lakes where the impact to caribou will be lessened. The expectation is to be camped at one spot from 10 days to three weeks with transport of carcasses directly from camp to Yellowknife, where possible. The pilot area for Bathurst will be near Wekweèti; if pilot project successful, then camps will be added Gamèti and/or Whatì for the Bluenose-East caribou herd.

Tłıchǫ Members noted that the Tłıchǫ are reluctant to harvest wolves, but, if pilot program conducted correctly with input and approval from elders, the pilot project could go ahead. It is unclear what effect a wolf harvest of 40 to 100 wolves will have on the caribou herd as no population estimate exists for wolves; however, it will show the communities that something other than restrictions on human harvest is happening.

Concerns noted: 1) aerial and/or ground-based disturbance to caribou; 2) unintentional or accidental harvest of the caribou; 3) measurement and assessment of caribou disturbance; and, 4) facilitation of wolf movements through the wolves' use of skidoo trails. Recommendations to include: 1) regular communications and reporting, including numbers and location of harvest; 2) ability to curtail or stop the program immediately should impacts to the Bathurst caribou increase; and, 3) ability to assess the success of the program, i.e. the effectiveness of training a core set of wolf hunters and continued program implementation.

If the Project is to be expanded to other Tłıchǫ communities, a management proposal must be submitted to the WRRB for review and approval. If the Project is to be expanded in scope to include reduction in impacts to barren-ground caribou, prior to the submission of a management proposal to the WRRB, a population estimate for wolves must be available and research on habitat quality and quantity on the Bathurst caribou herd range must be conducted

Motion #461-14-01-2016

To support the establishment of the proposed Community-based Wolf Harvest Project as a pilot training program only and not as a management action to reduce any potential impacts to the Bathurst caribou herd given that no accurate population

estimate is available for wolves in Wek'èezhìi or the broader NWT

Moved: Steven Matthews
Second: Charlie Jermick'ca

Motion Approved

ACTION #298-14-01-2016 (ED): To write letter of support to TG and ENR on the Community-based Wolf Harvest Project, noting concerns and recommendations

2.4 Joint Proposal on Caribou Management Actions for the Bathurst Herd: 2016-2019

On December 15, 2015, TG and ENR submitted the *“Joint Proposal on Caribou Management Actions for the Bathurst Herd: 2016-2019”* to the WRRB outlining proposed management actions for the Bathurst Caribou Herd in Wek'èezhìi.

The goal of the actions presented in the proposal is to reverse the Bathurst herd's decline and promote an increase in the number of breeding females in the herd, over the period of November 2016-November 2019. The proposal has three main components carried forward from the previous joint proposal in May 2010: 1) hunter harvest, 2) predator management and 3) monitoring.

Members noted concerns about proceeding without confirmed funding and appointments of federal appointees. It was noted that cumulative effects, habitat or climate change were not included in the proposal and that cultural sensitivities were not reflected well. It was suggested by legal counsel that the Board use the information requests process to acquire the information necessary to make balanced decisions.

Motion #462-14-01-2016 *To deem contents of the proposal, entitled “Joint Proposal on Caribou Management Actions for the Bathurst Herd: 2016-2019”, sufficient and call the 2016 Bathurst Caribou Herd Proceeding*

Moved: Archie Wetrade
Second: Steven Matthews

Motion Approved

ACTION #299-14-01-2016 (ED): To distribute notice of Bathurst proceeding & public hearing

ACTION #300-14-01-2016 (ED): To write letter to TG and ENR to request assistance with federal appointments to the WRRB

2.5 Joint Proposal on Management Actions for Bluenose-East Caribou 2016-2019

On December 15, 2015, the Tłı̄ch̄q Government (TG) and Department of Environment & Natural Resources (ENR), Government of Northwest Territories

submitted the “*Joint Proposal on Management Actions for Bluenose-East Caribou 2016-2019*” to the WRRB outlining proposed management actions for the Bathurst Caribou Herd in Wek’èezhìi. The proposed management actions are: 1) hunter harvest, 2) predator management, 3) monitoring, and 4) land use.

In anticipation of the proposal, the Sahtú Renewable Resources Board and the WRRB signed a “*Memorandum of Understanding Regarding Collaborative Efforts for the Management of the Bluenose-East Caribou Herd*” in October 2015. Each Board will conduct its own proceeding, including a public hearing in both the Sahtú and Wek’èezhìi and separate registries. The Boards will attend one another’s hearing and will share technical information, as per the cooperative framework and approach outlined in the MOU.

Members noted that cumulative effects, habitat, climate change or field compliance programs were not included in the proposal and that cultural sensitivities were not reflected well. It was suggested by legal counsel that the Board use the information requests process to acquire the information necessary to make balanced decisions.

Motion #463-14-01-2016

To deem contents of the proposal, entitled “Joint Proposal on Management Actions for Bluenose-East Caribou 2016-2019”, sufficient and call the 2016 Bluenose-East Caribou Herd Proceeding

Moved:

Steven Matthews

Second:

Archie Wetrade

Motion Approved

ACTION #301-14-01-2016 (ED): To distribute notice of Bluenose-East proceeding & public hearing

Bathurst & Bluenose-East Caribou Herd Joint Management Proposals – Information Requests – Round 1

Section 12.1.6 of the Tłìchq Agreement states that the Board “*shall take steps to acquire and use traditional knowledge as well as other types of scientific information and expert opinion*” in exercising its powers. The Board requested that Dr. Allice Legat, Traditional Knowledge (TK) expert and Dr. Anne Gunn, science expert, review and comment on both joint management proposals.

Following review, both Dr. Legat and Dr. Gunn provided a list of information requests to deal with their concerns related to the joint management proposals.

Motion #464-14-01-2016

To accept Round 1 information requests for both the Bathurst & Bluenose-East caribou herds proceedings as presented

Moved:
Second:

Archie Wetrade
Steven Matthews

Motion Approved

ACTION #302-14-01-2016 (ED): To send out Round 1 Information Requests for both the Bathurst and Bluenose-East caribou herds proceedings to TG and ENR

2.6 WRRB Bathurst Proceeding & WRRB/SRRB Bluenose-East Proceedings

a) Public Registry

As per Section 12.3.11 of the T~~h~~ Agreement, the WRRB is required to establish and maintain a public file for information received in order to make its determinations and recommendations. The online public registry will allow Parties to apply for status, the public to subscribe to notifications of updates to a Proceeding, and provide an inventory of documents added to the Registry throughout the Proceeding.

Public registry is a combination of information on the record as well as administration. Public record is the evidence used to make a decision.

ACTION #303-14-01-2016 (ED): To open public registry for Bathurst & Bluenose-East proceedings

b) Work Plans & Notice of Hearings

A work plan is prepared for each joint management proposal outlining the processes and timelines to be followed throughout the Proceeding. The work plan will be posted to the public registry following approval by the Board and Legal Counsel. The Board will review the work plan periodically during the proceeding and adjust as required.

A Notice of Proceeding and Public Hearing is prepared for each joint management proposal outlining the Board's decision and the proposed timelines. The Notice of Proceeding and Public Hearing will be posted to the public registry and used as the Board's media release, following approval by the Board and Legal Counsel. The Board may revise the Notice of Proceeding and Public Hearing should any of the proposed timelines change.

WRRB Board meeting scheduled for February 1, 2016 to review Round 1 information requests and to prepare Round 2 information requests. As well, the Board will conduct an internal Public Hearing workshop for its Members on February 22, 2016.

Motion #465-14-01-2016

To accept the 2016 Bathurst Caribou Herd Proceeding work plan as amended

Moved:
Second:

Steven Matthews
Charlie Jeremick'ca

Motion Approved

ACTION #304-14-01-2016 (ED): To post 2016 Bathurst Caribou Herd Proceeding work plan to public registry

Motion #466-14-01-2016

To accept the 2016 Bluenose-East Caribou Herd Proceeding work plan as amended

Moved:

Archie Wetrade

Second:

Charlie Jeremick'ca

Motion Approved

ACTION #305-14-01-2016 (ED): To post 2016 Bluenose-East Caribou Herd Proceeding work plan to public registry

c) Funding

As per Section 12.3.10 of the Tłı̨ch̨ Agreement, the WRRB is required to hold a public hearing when the Board considers a determination or recommendation for a total allowable harvest (TAH) level in respect of a wildlife population which has not been subject to a TAH within the previous two years. However, no CORE funding is provided in the annual budget to undertake a public hearing.

A funding request for each joint management proposal was submitted to the Implementation Branch, INAC on December 21, 2015. Staff understands that the WRRB's funding requests will be reviewed during the week of January 11, 2016. It is possible that funding for the Bluenose-East Caribou Herd Proceeding may be delayed until the new fiscal year.

ACTION #306-14-01-2016 (ED): To send revised budget to the Implementation Directorate, INAC, for the Bluenose-East proceeding to include participation in the SRRB's public hearing

2.7 Proposed Listing of Red-necked Phalarope and Yellow-banded Bumble Bee on List 1 of SARA, Dawn Andrews, CWS

PowerPoint Presentation, entitled "*Yellow-banded Bumble Bee & Red-necked Phalarope – Proposed Listing as Special Concern under the federal Species at Risk Act*", tabled

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) recently completed a status assessment of the Yellow-banded Bumble Bee and the Red-necked Phalarope. COSEWIC assessed both species as Special Concern under the federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA). If listed, management plans will be required for both species.

A decision for the Yellow-banded Bumble Bee is requested by May 4, 2016; a decision for the Red-necked Phalarope is requested by October 4, 2016.

2.8 Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management Update

a) Bluenose Caribou Herds Assessments and Action Planning

The *“Taking Care of Caribou: the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West and Bluenose-East Caribou Herds Management Plan”* sets out management actions for four colour zones for the three herds based scientific and community-based monitoring information. 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 has been provided to the ACCWM Working Group to prepare and finalize the three separate Action Plans for each herd.

Based on the request of several ACCWM Member Boards, ENR has called a meeting of all traditional NWT and Nunavut harvesters of the Bluenose-East caribou herd as well as wildlife management authorities from the herd range to discuss and determine a harvest allocation on January 20, 2016. Jonas Lafferty, Grant Pryznyk and Jody Pellissey will attend on the WRRB's behalf.

3.0 Financial

3.1 2015/2016 Interim Activity Report

2015/2016 Interim Activity Report, dated November 3, 2015, tabled

3.2 Approval of Financial Statement as of December 31, 2015

Motion #458-14-01-2016

To approve the financial statement as of December 31, 2015 as presented

Moved:
Second:

Steven Matthews
Charlie Jeremick'ca

Motion Approved

3.3 Approval of 2016/2017 Budget and Work Plan

Motion #459-14-01-2016

To approve the 2016/2017 Budget and Work Plan as presented

Moved:
Second:

Steven Matthews
Charlie Jeremick'ca

Motion Approved

ACTION #295-14-01-2016 (ED): To forward the 2016/2017 budget and work plan to the Implementation Directorate, INAC

4.0 Operations

4.1 Approval of Section 7 – Fieldwork Safety Policy, Operating Procedures Manual

Additions to the fieldwork safety policy were drafted by Staff and reviewed by legal counsel.

Motion #460-14-01-2016

To approve the fieldwork safety policy as presented

Moved:

Charlie Jermick'ca

Second:

Steven Matthews

Motion Approved

ACTION #296-14-01-2016 (ED): To amend the Operating Procedures manual accordingly with the revised fieldwork safety policy

ACTION #297-14-01-2016 (ED): To follow-up with legal counsel regarding the potential need to include contractors as employees, whether appropriately trained to discharge a firearm is different from safe handling of a firearm, and whether training is required to use bear bangers

4.2 In-camera Session

Motion #467-14-01-2016

To go in-camera at 3:53 p.m.

Moved:

Steven Matthews

Second:

Archie Wetrade

Motion Approved

Motion #468-14-01-2016

To come out of camera at 4:08 p.m.

Moved:

Steven Matthews

Second:

Archie Wetrade

Motion Approved

Motion #469-14-01-2016

To accept ED Employment Agreement as presented

Moved:

Archie Wetrade

Second:

Charlie Jeremick'ca

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 February 1, 2016 in Yellowknife, NT.

Closing Prayer: Archie Wetrade

Adjournment: 4:30 p.m. (Motion #470-14-01-2016)

Minutes Approved:

ORIGINAL SIGNED

AUGUST 16, 2016

Chairperson

Date