



Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 21-22 January 2015

Location: Yellowknife, NT

Board Members:

Edward Chocolate (Tłıchq Appointee)
Archie Wetrade (Tłıchq Appointee)
Charlie Jeremick'ca (Tłıchq Appointee)
Grant Pryznyk (Federal Appointee)
Bruce MacDonald (Federal Appointee)
Jonas Lafferty (Tłıchq Appointee)
Suzanne Carriere (GWNT Appointee) – Jan 22 only

Staff:

Jody Pellissey
Boyan Tracz
Susan Beaumont

Translators:

James Rabesca
Violet Mackenzie

Guests:

Moise Rabesca
Dawn Andrew
Jan Adamczweski
Bruno Croft
John Moffet (via teleconference)
Sara Neamtz (via teleconference)
Vesna Guzina (via teleconference)
Darlene Romanko
Roger Wah-Shee
Janice Ziemann
Roger Fraser

Call to Order 9:15 a.m.

Opening Prayer: Jonas Lafferty

1.0 Agenda and Previous Minutes

1.1 Approval of Agenda

Add: 2.1.a Management Proposal Presentation, ENR, Bruno Croft and Jan Adamczweski

Revise: 2.7 In-camera Conference Call, 11:00 a.m. MST

Revise: 3.2 Approval of Financial Statement as of January 17, 2015

Motion #394-21-01-2015 *To approve the agenda as amended*

Moved: Bruce MacDonald
Second: Edward Chocolate

Motion Approved

1.2 Approval of Minutes

6-8 October 2014

Motion #406-22-01-2015 *To approve the 6-8 October 2014 minutes as presented*

Moved: Bruce MacDonald
Second: Charlie Jeremick'ca

Motion Approved

18 November 2014

Motion #395-21-01-2015 *To approve the 18 November 2014 minutes as presented*

Moved: Bruce MacDonald
Second: Charlie Jeremick'ca

Motion Approved

1.3 Review of Action Items

Outstanding action items listing was tabled and reviewed.

Clarification was requested on the following action items:

#209-2-4-2014: NICO drainage/Lou Lake: Contact Fortune Minerals to determine the amount of water used from Lou Lake, if any water is discharged back into Lou Lake and if there are any downstream effects related to discharge

#210-2-4-2014: Follow-up with John McCullum as the listed action item is unclear

#213-2-4-2014: Send letter to the Nunavut Planning Commission

2.0 Business

2.1 Bathurst and Bluenose-East Caribou Technical Working Group & Bathurst Caribou Joint Management Proposal Update

Bathurst & Bluenose-East Caribou Technical Working Group

The Minister of Environment & Natural Resources (ENR) invited First Nation leaders and wildlife management authorities to a meeting on Aug 27, 2014 to discuss the results from the 2014 reconnaissance surveys for the Bathurst and Bluenose-East Caribou herds, which suggest a marked decline in the number of breeding females on the calving grounds. The Bathurst and Bluenose-East Caribou Technical Working Group met Oct 9-10, 2014 and Oct 22-23, 2014. A list of recommended actions was developed and refined for review by leadership. The Minister of ENR, First Nation leaders and wildlife management authorities

met on Nov 7 & 28, 2014 to review and discuss the recommendations of the Technical Working Group. No consensus decision was reached on which management actions to implement in 2014/2015 for either herd.

ACCWM Recommendations

The ACCWM submitted the *“Taking Care of Caribou: The Cape Bathurst, Bluenose West and Bluenose East Barren-ground Caribou Herds Management Plan”* to GNWT and other governments on Nov 5, 2014. As well, the ACCWM provided recommendations regarding the Bluenose-East Caribou herd to the Minister of ENR on Nov 5, 2014, Nov 19, 2014, and Dec 4, 2014, with the primary recommendation being that, during the 2014/2015 harvest season, the existing voluntary harvest target of 2800 Bluenose-East Caribou (NWT overall harvest of 1800 caribou) continues with a focus on a majority bulls harvest, emphasizing younger and smaller bulls and not the larger breeders and leaders. If ENR has evidence to suggest that the harvest target has been exceeded by 10% or more for the 2014/2015 harvest season, then, after consultation with the ACCWM, regulations should be put in place to close harvesting in areas occupied by the Bluenose-East Caribou herd.

The Minister of ENR replied on Dec 17, 2014 accepting the interim recommendations of the ACCWM with a request to vary the overall NWT harvest target of 1800 Bluenose-East Caribou to 1500 \pm 10%, with 80% of the harvest being bulls. The ACCWM replied on Jan 9, 2015 requesting that its previous harvest recommendation be implemented.

Bathurst Caribou Joint Management Proposal

On Jun 30, 2014, ENR and Tłı̄ch̄q Government (TG) submitted a joint management proposal, entitled *“Joint Proposal on Caribou Management Actions in Wek’èezhii: 2014 – 2019”*. The Board informed ENR and TG on Jul 11, 2014 that the joint management proposal was deemed incomplete until receipt of consultation reports from both governments. To date, both consultation reports remain outstanding.

On Sep 15, 2014, the ENR and TG requested that the WRRB defer consideration of the joint management proposal to allow the two governments to review the new information about the Bathurst Caribou herd and determine whether the management actions suggested are still appropriate. The WRRB accepted receipt of the letter on Oct 17, 2014, as well as reminding ENR and TG about Tłı̄ch̄q Agreement requirements and the Bluenose Caribou Herds management plan.

- 2.1.a Management Proposal Presentation, Bruno Croft & Jan Adamczweski, Environment & Natural Resources

PowerPoint Presentation entitled, "*Management Proposal January 2015: Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Conservation Area*", tabled

Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Conservation Area: How It Would Work

1. Based on collars & surveys
2. No harvest in Conservation Area, except for ceremonial purposes (15 authorization cards)
3. Conservation Area updated weekly with maps made public
4. Authorization cards required in other zones (R/BC/01, R/BC/02, R/BC/03, S/BC/03, D)
5. Re-Assess Later in 2015
6. General Support from Aboriginal Governments

Motion #407-22-01-2015 *To support the establishment of the proposed Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Conservation Area through wildlife regulations and the amendments to the Big Game Hunting Regulations to require authorization cards for harvest within R/BC/01, R/BC/02, and R/BC/03*

Moved: Archie Wetrade
Second: Edward Chocolate

Motion Approved

ACTION #252-22-01-2015 (ED): To write letter to Minister of Environment & Natural Resources to support the establishment of the proposed MCBCCA and the requirement for authorization cards for harvest in Wek'èezhìi

ACTION #253-22-01-2015 (ED): To write letter to request meeting with Deputy Minister of Environment & Natural Resources to discuss communication issues

- 2.2 Wildlife Research Permit Application – Monitoring of Bathurst and Bluenose-East Caribou Herd

Wildlife Research Permit (WRP) Application, entitled "*Monitoring of the Bathurst and Bluenose-East Caribou Herds*", tabled

The WRP application requests support for the following monitoring actions:

1. The use of satellite collars to monitor the movement and distribution of migrating caribou on a weekly basis. For that purpose, ENR plans to deploy in February-March 2015 and maintain up to:
 - a. 50 collars on the Bathurst herd (30 on cows and 20 on bulls),
 - b. 50 collars on the Bluenose East herd (30 on cows and 20 on bulls);

2. The late winter calf survival / spring recruitment survey (in March-April 2015) to measure annual calf survival for the Bathurst and Bluenose-East caribou and compare herd trends; and,
3. The fall sex-ratio survey in mid-October 2015 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.

Although elders do not support collars, with Tłı̄ch̄q Government support and the requirement for additional information, the Members agreed to support the application.

Motion #399-21-01-2015 *To support the Wildlife Research Permit application, entitled “Monitoring of the Bathurst and Bluenose-East Caribou Herds” as presented*

Moved: Bruce MacDonald
Second: Charlie Jeremick’ca

Motion Approved

ACTION #248-21-01-2015 (ED): To write letter to Environment & Natural Resources, North Slave Region, to support the Wildlife Research Permit application, entitled “Monitoring of the Bathurst and Bluenose-East Caribou Herds”

2.3 NWT Species at Risk Committee Membership & Update, Moise Rabesca

The most recent Species at Risk Committee (SARC) meeting took place in Ft. Simpson in December 2014 and Moise Rabesca and Boyan Tracz both attended. The Conference of Management Authorities (CMA) approved amendments to the Assessment Schedule, moving barren-ground caribou to 2016.

A decision was made to approve Status Report for Wolverine in the NWT, with minor edits discussed. A discussion of the assessment of Wolverine occurred, and a decision was made to assess wolverine as Not at Risk in the NWT. A decision was made to approve the Status Report for Western Toad in the NWT. A discussion of the assessment of the Western Toad occurred, and a decision was made to assess western toad as Threatened in the NWT.

The NWT Species at Risk Secretariat informed SARC members that many appointments will be expiring in March 2015, including Moise Rabesca. Moise expressed interest in renewing his appointment.

Motion #396-21-01-2015 *To appoint Moise Rabesca to the Species at Risk Committee for a five-year term*

Moved: Edward Chocolate

Second:

Charlie Jeremick'ca

Motion Approved

ACTION #243-21-01-2015 (ED): To request SARC rationale for why barren-ground caribou are being assessed as a whole, rather than by herd

ACTION #244-21-01-2015 (ED): To write letter to the NWT Species at Risk Secretariat to reappoint Moise Rabesca to SARC for a five-year term

2.4 NWT Conference of Management Authorities – Assessment, Listing and Management Planning for Lesser Known Species & Update

During an in-camera session at the June 2014 Conference of Management Authorities (CMA) meeting, the Management Authorities were asked the following: “Do you support assessing, listing and doing management planning for species at risk that are of lesser interest or might be considered lower priority?” They might be of lesser interest because NWT residents don't care very much about them (e.g. if they are not harvested), or because they are not very well known (e.g. we don't have a lot of information about them), or because there seems to be little we can do to manage them. Examples of lesser known species include: Drummond bluebell, Banks Island alkali grass, bumble bees, collared pika and bats.

The Board acknowledges the importance of an ecosystem approach and, as such, that all species are connected. Therefore, the Members recommended that the decision about assessing lesser know species is done on a case-by-case basis. Where lesser know species have been assessed, consultation requirements for listing and management planning will be deferred to GNWT.

2.5 Wood Bison Recovery Strategy & Species at Risk Update/Listings, Dawn Andrews, Environment Canada

PowerPoint Presentation & Briefing Note entitled, “*Canadian Wildlife Service Species at Risk Program Update*”, tabled

Proposed Listings

In November 2013 and May 2014, COSEWIC (Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada) assessed several species. The following assessed terrestrial species are found within Wek'èezhìi:

- Wood Bison (*Bison bison athabasca*) – Re-assessment - previously Threatened, now Special Concern – 2013
- Wolverine (*Gulo gulo*); Western population – Re-assessment - Confirmed Special Concern - 2014
- Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee (*Bombus bohemicus*) – New - Endangered - 2014

On December 22, 2014, a consultation package was sent out to communities asking for their input into the proposed listing of the three species found within Wek'èezhì; this material was also sent to the Tłìchq Government and the WRRB. The Board is requested to approve the proposed listings.

Short-eared Owl Management Plan

The Short-eared Owl was assessed as Special Concern under the federal *Species at Risk Act*; therefore, a management plan is required. A first jurisdictional review of the document was completed by the WRRB in February 2014. A second jurisdictional review is now required along with a request for approval and support to post the recovery strategy on the Species at Risk Public Registry for a 60-day public comment period. The Board is requested to approve the posting of the management plan to the public registry.

Wood Bison Recovery Strategy

Even though COSEWIC has most recently assessed the Wood Bison as Special Concern, its status under the federal *Species at Risk Act* remains Threatened and a recovery strategy is required. On January 6, 2015, the WRRB and Tłìchq Government were sent the draft recovery strategy for a jurisdictional technical review, which is due on February 11, 2015. The Board is requested to provide input on the draft recovery strategy and advice on Tłìchq communities to be consulted.

Little Brown Myotis Recovery Strategy

The Little Brown Myotis is a mammal that was emergency-listed as Endangered under the federal *Species at Risk Act* in November 2014; therefore, the recovery strategy will be due in November 2015. Environment Canada staff are in the early stages of developing a recovery strategy for the Little Brown Myotis, which governments, wildlife management boards, and communities within the range will receive. The Board is requested to provide input on the draft recovery once available.

Motion #397-21-01-2015 *To support the listing of Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble bee as Endangered, Wolverine as Species of Special Concern and Wood Bison as Species of Special Concern to Schedule 1 of SARA*

Moved: Archie Wetrade
Second: Charlie Jeremick'ca
Abstain: Bruce MacDonald

Motion Approved

ACTION #245-21-01-2015 (ED): To write letter to Director General, Canadian Wildlife Service to support listing of Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble bee, Wolverine and Wood Bison to Schedule 1 of SARA

Motion #398-21-01-2015 *To support the posting of the proposed Management Plan for the Short-eared Owl on the Species at Risk Registry for a 60-day public comment period.*

Moved: Charlie Jeremick'ca
Second: Edward Chocolate
Abstain: Bruce MacDonald

Motion Approved

ACTION #246-21-01-2015 (ED): To write letter to Regional Director, Prairie and Northern Region, Canadian Wildlife Service to support posting the proposed Management Plan for the Short-eared Owl on the Species at Risk Registry for a 60-day public comment period

ACTION #247-21-01-2015 (ED): To provide feedback to local CWS office regarding consultation requirements for Wood Bison in Wek'èezhii

2.6 Tłı̨chq Wildlife Research Workshop

On Feb 20-21, 2013, the Tłı̨chq Wildlife Research Workshop was held in Gamèti, NT. The purpose of the Workshop was to 1) solicit advice from both Tłı̨chq communities and scientists, 2) provide an opportunity for Tłı̨chq communities and scientists to share information, and 3) develop a sense of ownership in research and management planning activities. The WRRB partnered with the Tłı̨chq Lands Protection Department, Wek'èezhii Land & Water Board, and Environment & Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories to ensure fulsome discussions occurred.

Staff is interested in making the Tłı̨chq Wildlife Research Workshop a bi-annual event, i.e. the workshop would be held every two years in a Tłı̨chq community. Previous partners would be approached to determine their interest and seek ideas on themes for discussion. Funding or in-kind support would be sought from the GNWT, TG, WLWB and the WRRB's Wildlife Studies Fund.

Motion #400-21-01-2015 *To support the Tłı̨chq Wildlife Research Workshop with up to \$40,000 from the Wildlife Studies Fund*

Moved: Archie Wetrade
Second: Charlie Jeremick'ca

Motion Approved

ACTION #249-21-01-2015 (ED): To organize Tłı̨chq Wildlife Research Workshop for February 2016

- 2.7 Federal Species at Risk Proposed Amendment, In-Camera Conference Call, John Moffet, Sara Neamtz & Vesna Guzina, Environment Canada

Motion #403-22-01-2015 *To go in-camera at 11:04 a.m.*

Moved: Archie Wetrade

Second: Jonas Lafferty

Motion Approved

Motion #404-22-01-2015 *To come out of camera at 11:48 a.m.*

Moved: Archie Wetrade

Second: Charlie Jeremick'ca

Motion Approved

Motion #405-22-01-2015 *To support the proposed amendment to the definition of federal lands in the Species at Risk Act*

Moved: Archie Wetrade

Second: Jonas Lafferty

Abstain: Bruce MacDonald

Motion Approved

ACTION #251-22-01-2015 (ED): To write letter to Director General, Legislative and Regulatory Affairs, Environment Canada to support the proposed amendment to the definition of federal lands in the federal SARA

- 2.8 Forest Management Update, Janice Ziemann & Roger Fraser, Environment & Natural Resources

PowerPoint Presentation entitled, "*NWT Wildlife Season 2014*", tabled

Total Number of fires: 385

Total area affected (ha): 3,418,291

North Slave Region – 143 fires; burnt 2,663,670 ha

3.0 Financial

- 3.1 Approval of 2015 Budget & Work Plan

Motion #401-21-01-2015 *To approve the 2015 Budget and Work Plan as presented*

Moved: Archie Wetrade

Second: Edward Chocolate

Motion Approved

ACTION #250-21-01-2015 (ED): To Forward final 2015/2016 Budget and Workplan to Director, Implementation Management Directorate, AANDC

3.2 Approval of Financial Statement as of January 17, 2015

Motion #402-21-01-2015 *To approve the financial statement as of January 17, 2015 as presented*

Moved: Edward Chocolate
Second: Archie Wetrade

Motion Approved

3.3 2014-2015 Interim Activity Report

2014-2015 Interim Activity Report, dated November 19, 2014, tabled

4.0 Operations

4.1 Communications Update

Communications Action Item List tabled

4.2 John McCullum – Outstanding Pension Payment

4.3 Operating Procedures Manual

4.4 Employment Contracts

4.5 Chair Nomination

Motion #408-22-01-2015 *To go in-camera at 3:30 p.m.*

Moved: Archie Wetrade
Second: Edward Chocolate

Motion Approved

Motion #409-22-01-2015 *To come out of camera at 4:35 p.m.*

Moved: Jonas Lafferty
Second: Suzanne Carriere

Motion Approved

Motion #410-22-01-2015 *To deny John McCullum the requested reimbursement for the employer pension contribution of \$8645.00*

Moved: Archie Wetrade
Second: Charlie Jeremick'ca

Motion Approved

ACTION #254-22-01-2015 (ED): To write letter to John McCullum to indicate that no reimbursement of pension will be made

Motion #411-22-01-2015 *To approve the Operating Procedures Manual as amended*

Moved: Suzanne Carriere
Second: Edward Chocolate

Motion Approved

ACTION #255-22-01-2015 (ED): To revise Operating Procedures Manual to reflect approved amendments

Motion #412-22-01-2015 *To support the principle of the employment contracts, ensuring consistency with Operating Procedures Manual*

Moved: Archie Wetrade
Second: Jonas Lafferty

Motion Approved

ACTION #256-22-01-2015 (ED): To implement employment contracts ensuring consistency with Operating Procedures Manual

ACTION #257-22-01-2015 (ED): To organize a special meeting in April 2015 with full board to finalize Chair nominations

5.0 Information Items

Information items tabled for review by the Board Members.

6.0 Other Items

6.1 Round Table

On behalf of the Board Members, the Chair thanked the translators, Staff and Board Members for their work during the Strategic Planning Workshop and the Board Meeting.

6.2 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 5-7, 2015 in Gamètì, NT.

Closing Prayer: Archie Wetrade

Adjournment 5:00 p.m. (Motion #413-22-01-2015)

Minutes Approved:

Original Signed

May 5, 2015

Chairperson

Date