



Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 1 September 2021
Location: Zoom Meeting

Board Members:

Eddie Erasmus (Tłıchq Appointee)
Joseph Judas (Chair)
Isabelle Duclos (Federal Appointee)

Staff:

Jody Pellissey
Randi Mousseau
Shalyn Norrish

Call to Order: 10:02 a.m.

Opening Prayer & Comments: Joseph Judas

1.0 Agenda and Previous Minutes

1.1 Approval of Agenda

Motion #779-01-09-2021 *To approve the 1 September 2021 agenda as presented*

Moved:
Second:

Eddie Erasmus
Isabelle Duclos

Motion Approved

2.0 Business

2.1 Review & Approval of Bathurst Caribou Management Plan

The GNWT-ENR submitted the Final Bathurst Caribou Management Plan to the WRRB on August 20, 2021. The Bathurst Caribou Management Plan has one overarching goal for the Kqk'èetì Ekwò supported by five specific management objectives. Each management objective is associated with a suite of management actions recommended for implementation at different herd status threshold levels. These actions will bring all groups together in taking appropriate action throughout the natural phases of the caribou population cycle. The end goal is to turn around the decline, get the herd to recovery, and do our part to help the Kqk'èetì Ekwò thrive over the long-term. The management plan includes recommendations from the 2019 Bathurst Caribou Range Plan – which outlines how land use and habitat should be managed to best support the Bathurst herd.

BCAC developed the Bathurst Management Wheel as a visual representation of the recommended management actions associated with different herd status

Board Members discussed: Nunavut, NWT, and Saskatchewan involvement; and Bathurst management wheel includes the high/low population estimate.

Moved: Isabelle Duclos
Second: Eddie Erasmus

ACTION #571-01-09-2021 (ED): To write letter to GNWT and BCAC to approve the Bathurst Caribou Management Plan.

A Draft Caribou Habitat Offset Plan was required to be submitted to the WRRB a minimum of 30 days prior to commencement of the road construction. The Draft Plan was submitted to the WRRB on July 30, 2019, meeting this deadline.

GNWT-INF is proposing to implement this plan in a phased approach, by piloting implementation of the restoration approaches outlined in the plan. The Final Plan has an additional appendix, which outlines a framework for implementation for the plan over the next few years. The Implementation Plan focusses on restoring linear features which will require further collaboration to include important Traditional Knowledge to identify which specific linear features can be restored and which to leave alone. The GNWT-INF submitted the final version of the Caribou Offset Plan to the WRRB on July 16, 2021.

Moved: Eddie Erasmus
Second: Isabelle Duclos

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ACTION #572-01-09-2021 (ED): To write letter to INF to approve the Boreal Caribou Offset Plan, Tłıchq Highway.

2.3 Review & Approval of Application for Outfitters Licence – Aylmer Lake Lodge

On August 13, 2021, Kevin and Patti McNeil contacted the WRRB to ask for a letter of support regarding the expansion of their Aylmer Lake Lodge to include Courageous Lake Camp, Jolly Lake Camp, Lac de Gras East, and West Lake Camps. As these camps are in a different hunting area, a Unit R Outfitter License is required for them to operate.

For Unit R, it was identified that the outfitted guided hunts would include:

- 20 to 30 wolf (*diga*) hunters between the 4 camps each year;
- 4 to 5 wolverine (*nògha*) per year, and would be considered an opportunistic hunt versus a targeted hunt;
- And a few black bears (*sah*).

For Unit U, it was identified that the outfitted guided hunts would include:

- 5 muskox (*hozì edzie*) per year;
- 20 *diga* hunters per year;
- 5 to 10 *nògha* per year, and would be considered an opportunistic hunt.

Board Members discussed: Lodge is found in Unit U, satellite camps will be in Unit R, no permanent structures; and in process of private purchase of camps from John Andre.

Motion #782-01-09-2021 *To approve the Aylmer Lake Lodge application for an Outfitters Licence as presented*

Moved:
Second:

Isabelle Duclos
Eddie Erasmus

Motion Approved

ACTION #573-01-09-2021 (ED): To write letter to GNWT to approve the Aylmer Lake Lodge application for an Outfitters Licence.

2.4 Review & Approval of Black Bear Research & Monitoring 2021-22

The GNWT submitted a Wildlife Research Permit application for collaring up to 20 Black Bears (*sah*) in the South and North Slave regions on July 5, 2021. The application outlines that the work is to be conducted from September 1, 2021 to August 31, 2022. The aim is to deploy half of the collars this fall before denning and the other half after emergence from their dens in the spring. Collars are to be deployed within the Mackenzie Bison range and the Mackenzie and North Slave boreal caribou study areas.

The objectives of the program are to: 1) Investigate impacts of *sah* on boreal caribou (*tòdzì*) calf recruitment, as well as predation of wood bison (*ejie*) and moose (*dedii*) calves; 2) Collect baseline information to determine *sah* home range sizes, habitat use and selection, and seasonal movements; this addresses

Measure 6-1, Part 2 of the Tłıchq All-Season Road report of EA, which requires the GNWT to “monitor predator populations, including densities, movements and predation rates”; 3) Compare sah habitat use to habitat use by other species (e.g., tǫdzı, ejie) monitored with GPS collars; 4) Contribute to a holistic understanding of food web dynamics and species interactions between tǫdzı, ejie, dedii, wolves (*dıga*), and sah; 5) Provide information to support the GNWT to evaluate whether the current national definition of tǫdzı critical habitat, based on the idea of disturbance-mediated apparent competition, is appropriate for the NWT; 6) Collect biological samples during capture (e.g., serum, whole blood, hair) for broader-scale or future genetic, hormone (e.g., stress), diet and other analyses. Collect sah biological samples opportunistically (e.g., scats), during mortality investigations, or where feasible during other surveys. Samples may also be collected in cooperation with harvesters. Some samples will be banked for broader-scale or future analyses (e.g., DNA, diseases, parasites, contaminants); and 7) Document and monitor sah den sites, den site characteristics, and spring emergence.

The methods of the program are as follows: 1) Baited culvert traps used in areas with road or trail-access, to be checked a minimum of twice daily; 2) Bait stations will be set up in remote locations, in hopes of attracting free ranging bears to a central location for capture; 3) A pole syringe (culvert traps) or a dart gun (culvert traps) will be used to immobilize the bears; 4) Helicopter based captures and immobilization will likely be included for captures during the spring when bears are more visible against the vegetation greening up; 5) Bears will be fitted with the collars and biological samples will be collected at the same time (serum, whole blood, and hair); 6) Finally, the bears will be assessed for recovery from the chemical immobilization following the procedure and released in the same location that they were captured.

Staff were provided with a copy of the GNWT Wildlife Care Committee's application and approval form to include in our review of the program.

Board Members discussed: roads will be used for culvert traps and helicopter for the rest of the deployments; and collaring will be conducted in early September and no bears with cubs will be collared.

Motion #783-01-09-2021 *To approve the Wildlife Research Permit Application, entitled “Black Bear Research and Monitoring 2021-2022” as presented*

Moved:	Isabelle Duclos
Second:	Eddie Erasmus

Motion Approved

ACTION #574-01-09-2021 (ED): To write letter to GNWT to approve the Wildlife Research Permit Application, entitled “Black Bear Research and Monitoring 2021-2022”.

3.0 Financial

3.1 Review & Approval of Financial Statement as of 31 March 2021

Motion #784-01-09-2021

To approve the Audited Financial Statement as of 31 March 2021 as presented

Moved:
Second:

Eddie Erasmus
Isabelle Duclos

Motion Approved

ACTION #575-01-09-2021 (ED): To write letter to CIRNAC to provide the audited financial statement as of 31 March 2021.

4.0 Operations

5.0 Information Items

6.0 Other Items

6.1 Eddie Erasmus – Leave of Absence

Eddie Erasmus notified the Board he will be taking a leave of absence, effective immediately, until October 1, 2021, while he runs for Tłıchq Grand Chief. Eddie's membership will be reviewed following the outcome of the election.

6.2 Next Meeting

The next meeting is for December 1-2, 2021 in Yellowknife.

Closing Prayer: Joseph Judas

Adjournment: 11:14 a.m. (Motion #785-01-09-2021)

Minutes Approved:

ORIGINALS SIGNED

December 7, 2021

Chairperson

Date