



Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 26-27 August 2020

Location: Katamavik B, Explorer Hotel, Yellowknife, NT

Board Members:	Staff:	Interpreters/PIDO:
Eddie Erasmus (Tłıchq Appointee)	Jody Pellissey	James Rabesca
Charlie Jeremick'ca (Tłıchq Appointee)	Aimee Guile	Jonas Lafferty
Joseph Judas (Chair)	Shalyn Norrish (Zoom)	Jeff Pitre
Isabelle Duclos (Federal Appointee)		
Stu Niven (Federal Appointee)		
Eddie Chocolate (Tłıchq Appointee)	Guests (via Zoom):	
Suzanne Carrière (GNWT Appointee)	Carine Cote-Germain, CWS, ECCC	
Steve Matthews (GNWT Appointee) – via Zoom	Matthew Bannister, Crowe MacKay LLP	
	Rolanda Campbell, Wood Gundy	
Regrets:		
Chris Football (Tłıchq Appointee)		

Call to Order: 1:16 p.m.

Opening Prayer & Comments: Joseph Judas

1.0 Agenda and Previous Minutes

1.1 Approval of Agenda

Motion #703-26-08-2020 *To approve the 26-27 August 2020 agenda as presented*

Moved: Eddie Erasmus
Second: Charlie Jeremick'ca

Motion Approved

1.2 Approval of Minutes – 9-10 December 2019, 12-13 February 2020, 9 March 2020

9-10 December 2019

Correct 4.1 policy title

Motion #704-26-08-2020 *To approve the 9-10 December 2019 minutes as amended*

Moved: Suzanne Carrière

Second:

Steve Matthews

Motion Approved

12-13 February 2020

Correct 2.8 title, correct 2.10 spelling of Tom Lakusta's name

Motion #705-26-08-2020 *To approve the 12-13 February 2020 minutes as amended*

Moved:

Isabelle Duclos

Second:

Charlie Jeremick'ca

Motion Approved

9 March 2020

Motion #706-26-08-2020 *To approve the 9 March 2020 minutes as presented*

Moved:

Eddie Erasmus

Second:

Isabelle Duclos

Motion Approved

1.3 Review of Action Items

Outstanding action items list was tabled and reviewed.

2.0 Business

2.1 Review GNWT and TG's Joint Proposal on Management Actions for Wolves (diga) on the Bathurst and Bluenose-East Barren-ground Caribou (ᔨekwò) Herd Winter Ranges: 2021-2024

In January 2020, ENR and TG developed a proposal for diga management. In March 2020, the WRRB approved a Pilot program for the winter of 2020, and requested ENR and TG submit a revised joint management proposal on August 21, 2020, based on the learnings from the Pilot program.

On August 25, 2020, the GNWT and TG submitted the revised GNWT and TG "Joint Proposal on Management Actions for Wolves (Diga) on the Kòk'èetì ekwò and Sahti ekwò Barren-ground Caribou (Ekwò) Herd Winter Ranges: 2021 – 2024". A 2020 Diga Management Pilot Program Technical Report (August 21, 2020 in the digital binder) was submitted to describe and analyze the work completed to-date. The 2020 Pilot program consisted of enhanced support for diga harvesters, monitoring, and aerial diga reduction actions.

The 5-year proposal uses learnings from the 2020 Pilot program (year 1) and outlines a range of actions to manage wolves, specifically: 1) Enhanced support for diga harvesters and the traditional economy; 2) Aerial diga reduction actions (if required) to reach removal targets; and, 3) Monitoring, research, and assessment.

Motion #707-26-08-2020 *To deem the joint management proposal, entitled “Joint Proposal on Management Actions for Wolves (diga) on the Bathurst and Bluenose-East Barren-ground Caribou (ᑭᑭᑭᑭ) Herd Winter Ranges: 2021-2024”, as complete and to proceed with a Level 2 review*

Moved:
Second:

Suzanne Carrière
Steve Matthews

Motion Approved

ACTION #505-26-08-2020 (ED): To write a letter to GNWT and TG accepting the joint management proposal and proceeding with a Level 2 review.

2.2 Review and Approval of Wildlife Research Permit Application – Wolf Collaring on the Central Barrens, Amendment

On January 8, 2020, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) submitted a Wildlife Research Permit application for collaring 30 *Diga* (wolf) on ranges of the *Kōk'èetì* (Bathurst) and *Sahti* (Bluenose East), and Beverly *Ekwō* (barren-ground caribou) herds. The WRRB did not support this Wildlife Research Permit as the Board was then unable to undertake the process of reviewing and providing recommendations on the *Diga* Joint Management Proposal, which it is closely tied.

ENR issued themselves Wildlife Research Permit #WL500830 for the *Diga* collaring program outlined in the January 8 application. ENR can issue Wildlife Research Permits without the Board's approval. A *Diga* collaring program occurred in early 2020. On June 24, 2020, ENR submitted an amendment to Wildlife Research Permit #WL500830, in the form of an updated Wildlife Research Permit Application.

The amended Wildlife Research Permit application includes the following main changes from the January 8th application: 1) Flexibility to also deploy GPS collars on wolves during other months of the year, including June, late summer, and fall; 2) the option to also use chemical immobilization, in addition to net-gunning, for the capture of *Diga*; and, 3) the option of occasionally setting up trail cameras at den sites, in order to assess pup production.

Motion #708-26-08-2020 *To not support the Wildlife Research Permit Application, entitled “Wolf Collaring on the Central Barrens”, as presented at this time*

Moved:
Second:

Stu Niven
Isabelle Duclos

Motion Approved

ACTION #506-26-08-2020 (ED): To write letter to GNWT indicating non-support of the Wildlife Research Permit Application (Wolf Collaring).

2.3 Review and Approval of Proposed Increase to the Total Allowable Harvest for the Mackenzie Bison Herd

Harvest on the Mackenzie wood bison population was closed in 2012 after an anthrax outbreak killed at least 450 bison. The population declined from 1550 to 740 (2013 estimate). In 2016, the population was estimated at 851 and, in 2019, at 1468. This indicates an average annual population growth rate of 13% since 2013.

The Mackenzie Bison Working Group (MBWG) recommended that ENR reopen harvesting of a limited number of male bison from the Mackenzie wood bison population, based off of the harvesting plan within *the Mackenzie Bison Management Plan* and the *Recovery Strategy for Wood Bison* (Bison bison *athabasca*) *in the Northwest Territories*. The harvesting plan outlines harvest of between 1-3% when the population is between 1000-1500 animals, and harvest of between 2-3% when the population is between 1500-2000 animals.

On August 10, 2020, ENR submitted a management proposal to the WRRB to amend the Big Game Hunting Regulations under the Wildlife Act to reopen harvesting opportunities on wood bison in the Mackenzie population. The management proposal includes the following: 1) Timeframe: Fall 2020 until March 31, 2024 (4 years); 2) 40 male bison harvest only; 3) all harvesters required to have a tag to hunt bison; and, 4) Initial allocation to communities/management authorities based on MBWG recommendations. Harvest allocation to be revisited by MBWG before March 31, 2024.

Motion #710-27-08-2020 *To support the increase in total allowable harvest to 40 for Mackenzie Wood Bison herd and support the initial allocation presented.*

Moved:
Second:

Steve Matthews
Stu Niven

Motion Approved

ACTION #508-27-08-2020 (ED): To write letter to GNWT supporting TAH increase and initial allocation, noting future work required on allocations and reallocation of tags if not used.

2.4 Review and Approval of Amendments to the Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou (Kòk'èeti Ekwò) Management Zone Regulations

The *Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Management Zone Regulations* identifies a wildlife management area that prohibits all hunting of barren-ground caribou under the *Wildlife Act* to help conserve the Bathurst caribou herd. The Mobile Zone changes weekly and is based on collared caribou information. To date, the Mobile Zone has never overlapped with other ecotypes of caribou, such as boreal caribou. However, GNWT must ensure that the zone can be applied wherever it is needed and apply to any type of caribou found within it.

As such, GNWT is requesting to change the current regulation by removing the term “barren-ground” from Sections 1, 2(1), and 2(2). This change will ensure that the regulation will apply to all types of caribou. GNWT feels this will maximize conservation protection efforts and affirm commitments to do everything possible for the Bathurst caribou herd.

Motion #709-26-08-2020 *To support the amendment to the Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Management Zone Regulation as presented*

Moved:
Second:

Stu Niven
Steve Matthews

Motion Approved

ACTION #507-26-08-2020 (ED): To write letter to GNWT and TG supporting the amendments to the Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Management Zone regulations.

2.5 Review and Approval of NWT General Status Ranking Program – Batch 4 & 5

Batch 4

Batch 4 has been provided to the Board for review and approval. Batch four includes vesper wasps, sponges, corals, marine decapods, sea urchins, sea cucumbers, ants, spiders, mayflies, stoneflies, and lacewings. Photos of species in these categories are included at the end of this briefing note. There are 16 ant species, 10 coral species, 24 lacewing species, 20 marine decapod species, 85 mayfly species, 9 sea cucumber species, 3 sea urchin species, 323 spider species, 8 sponge species, 38 stonefly species, and 24 vespine wasp species. Rankings of the species are varied. Batch 4 approvals were required by June 15, 2020; as such, the Staff provided a letter of support in principle on May 27, 2020.

Motion #712-27-08-2020 *To support the Batch 4 NWT General Status Rankings as presented*

Moved:
Second:
Abstain:

Charlie Jermick'ca
Isabelle Duclos
Suzanne Carrière

Motion Approved

ACTION #510-27-08-2020 (ED): To write a letter to GNWT supporting Batch 4 NWT General Status Rankings.

Batch 5

Batch 5 has been provided to the Board for review and approval. Batch five includes amphibians, birds, damselflies, dragonflies, marine mammals, reptiles, and terrestrial mammals. Photos of species in these categories are included at the end of this briefing note. There are 5 amphibian species, 47 bird species, 14 damselfly species, 36 dragonfly species, 12 marine mammal species, 1 reptile species, and 76 terrestrial mammal species. Rankings of the species are varied.

Motion #713-27-08-2020 *To support the Batch 5 NWT General Status Rankings as presented*

Moved:	Eddie Erasmus
Second:	Isabelle Duclos
Abstain:	Suzanne Carrière

Motion Approved

ACTION #511-27-08-2020 (ED): To write a letter to GNWT supporting Batch 5 NWT General Status Rankings.

- 2.6 Review and Approval to Post Draft Red-necked Phalarope Management Plan, Carine Cote-Germain, ECCC

Under the Species at Risk Act (SARA), a management plan must be developed for each species listed as Special Concern in order to identify measures for the conservation of the species. The main threats facing the Red-necked Phalarope are: 1) Breeding habitat degradation from threats like development and climate change, and 2) Breeding ground and nest disturbances by exploration and development. The main management objective is to achieve a stable or increasing population trend, measured over a period of 10 years, by 2040. ECCC did not receive any consultation responses.

Motion #711-27-08-2020 *To support the posting of the draft Red-necked Phalarope Management Plan to the SARA registry*

Moved:	Suzanne Carrière
Second:	Eddie Erasmus
Abstain:	Isabelle Duclos

Motion Approved

ACTION #509-27-08-2020 (ED): To write letter to ECCC supporting posting of draft Red-necked Phalarope Management Plan to SARA registry.

2.7 Review and Approval of Proposed Timeline Change for the Wek'èezhì Boreal Caribou Range Plan

Measure 6-1, Part 1 of the Environmental Assessment for the Tłıchq All Season Road (TASR) project (EA1617-01) states that “GNWT-ENR will complete and submit a range plan ... to the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board for review under section 12.5.1 of the Tłıchq Agreement a minimum of 90 days before the Project is opened for public use”. However, since the date the measure was accepted, the timeline for completion of the TASR was accelerated by almost two years, which does not allow for enough time for GNWT to complete the plan. Additionally, COVID-19 restrictions have delayed community meetings to gather Indigenous Knowledge. The GNWT cannot request to modify the timeline in the measure once the responsible ministers have adopted the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's recommendations with modifications.

The GNWT is proposing to submit an “interim” boreal caribou range plan for the Wek'èezhì to the WRRB a minimum of 90 days before the TASR is open to the public. The interim plan would use currently available Indigenous knowledge only. The interim plan would only be in effect for two years while the GNWT continues to develop a complete range plan, including full consideration of the Indigenous knowledge collected at community meetings. This final range plan would be submitted to the WRRB as a management proposal under Section 12.5.1 of the Tłıchq Agreement, approximately two year after the interim proposal is submitted.

Board staff have consulted with legal counsel to review the Board's authority related to the original Measure 6-1, Part 1.

Motion #715-27-08-2020 *To support the draft timelines proposed for developing the interim and final Wek'èezhì Boreal Caribou Range Plan as presented*

Moved:	Eddie Erasmus
Second:	Isabelle Duclos
Abstain:	Stu Niven

Motion Approved

ACTION #513-27-08-2020 (ED): To write a letter to GNWT supporting the draft timelines proposed for developing the interim and final Wek'èezhì Boreal Caribou Range Plan, noting that both interim and final range plans need to be submitted as management proposals as per Section 12.5.1 of the Tłıchq Agreement and encouraging virtual means to conduct TK.

3.0 Financial

3.1 Review and Approval of 2019/2020 Audited Financial Statement, Matthew Bannister, Crowe MacKay LLP

Motion #714-27-08-2020 *To approve the 2019/2020 audited financial statement as of 31 March 2020 as presented*

Moved:
Second:

Suzanne Carrière
Charlie Jeremick'ca

Motion Approved

ACTION #512-27-08-2020 (ED): To send final 2019/2020 audited financial statement to CIRNAC.

- 3.2 Review and Approval of Proposed WSF Investment Changes, Rolanda Campbell, Wood Gundy

It is recommended that as an alternative to GICs, the Board consider investing in the CIBC Conservative Fixed Income Pool and the Renaissance Balanced Optimal Fund. Additionally, it is recommended to increase the existing Equities positions.

Motion #716-27-08-2020 *To approve the proposed changes to the investment fund as presented*

Moved:
Second:

Suzanne Carrière
Steve Matthews

Motion Approved

ACTION #514-27-08-2020 (ED): To write a letter to Wood Gundy approving the proposed changes to the investment fund.

- 3.3 Review and Approval of Financial Statements

31 March 2020

Motion #717-27-08-2020 *To approve the 31 March 2020 financial statement as presented*

Moved:
Second:

Isabelle Duclos
Stu Niven

Motion Approved

30 June 2020

Motion #718-27-08-2020 *To approve the 30 June 2020 financial statement as presented*

Moved:
Second:

Eddie Erasmus
Charlie Jeremick'ca

Motion Approved

4.0 Operations

4.1 Review and Approval of Pandemic Response Policy

Starting March 18, 2020, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the WRRB office closed its doors and staff began working from home to reduce risk of exposure to Covid-19. McLennan Ross LLP recommended that all businesses and organizations prepare a pandemic response policy to provide direction to staff.

Following legal review, the Board was provided the final draft copy of the Pandemic Response Policy on March 19, 2020. All contractors were canceled as of March 19, 2020 until further notice. Additional wording added to ensure that the policy can be used during current pandemic as well as in the future.

Motion #719-27-08-2020 *To approve the Epidemic Disease Initial Response Plan as amended*

Moved:	Stu Niven
Second:	Suzanne Carrière

Motion Approved

ACTION #515-27-08-2020 (ED): To update the OHS Policy Manual with amended Epidemic Disease Initial Response Plan as Appendix C.

4.2 Review and Approval of Exposure Control Plan

On May 15, 2020, the GNWT published its *Emerging Wisely Response Plan*, which identifies that 25 people are allowed indoors so long as adequate protocols are implemented to reduce the risk of transmission of Covid-19. Workers' Safety and Compensation Commission (WSCC) requires employers to have an *Exposure Control Plan* in place that looks at the risk of COVID-19 transmission in their workplace.

A Workplace Risk Assessment and individual Worker Hazard Assessments were completed. Using the completed assessments, a draft Exposure Control Plan was created. The Plan outlines how employers, supervisors, and workers will eliminate or control the risk of Covid-19 exposure at work. The final draft Exposure Control Plan was reviewed by legal counsel and shared with Board Members on July 10, 2020. Staff returned to the office, starting August 5, 2020 (three days in office, two days at home). The office will remain closed to the public until Phase 4 (vaccine available).

Motion #720-27-08-2020 *To approve the Exposure Control Plan as amended*

Moved:	Stu Niven
Second:	Steve Matthews

Motion Approved

ACTION #516-27-08-2020 (ED): To post amended Covid-19 Exposure Control Plan to the WRRB website.

4.3 Proposed Revisions to the Rule for Management Proposals

The Rule for Management Proposals is a document used to provide guidance to any person or organization making an application to the Board or required to consult the Board, including Parties to the Tłıchq Agreement. The Rule for Management Proposals was last approved on October 16, 2018.

Staff have been working with John Donihee, Legal Counsel, to revise and expand the current Rule to better include proposals for forest, plants, and protected areas in addition to wildlife as well as provide more clarity and consistency throughout the document. Once a final draft is available, the Rule will be sent to Parties of the Tłıchq Agreement as per Section 6 of the Rule, which identifies that the Rule will be reviewed at three-year intervals. Following input from the Parties, the Rule will be brought to the Board for final review and approval

4.4 Review and Approval of Proposed Website Upgrades

The WRRB's website is created and managed using a software called Drupal. The current version of Drupal no longer offers the support needed to maintain the website. Outcrop manages and provides technical support for the WRRB's website.

Board Staff has discussed with Outcrop the process of upgrading to the newest version of Drupal to ensure that the website continues to be supported and user-friendly. Outcrop has provided a technical analysis and breakdown of what is needed to upgrade the website along with a quote.

Motion #721-27-08-2020 *To approve the Outcrop quote for website upgrades as presented*

Moved:	Charlie Jeremick'ca
Second:	Stu Niven

Motion Approved

ACTION #517-27-08-2020 (ED): To write letter to Outcrop approving the quote for website upgrades.

5.0 Information Items

5.1 Working Group Table

Tabled for review by the Board Members.

5.2 Permit Tracking Table

Tabled for review by the Board Members.

5.3 Communications Update

Tabled for review by the Board Members.

5.4 Other Updates

Tabled for review by the Board Members.

6.0 Other Items

6.1 Round Table

Board Members thanked one another, interpreters, PIDO, and Staff for a good, organized, and informative meeting with lots of good discussion. It is a challenging time with many restrictions, but the Board is capable of withstanding them together. Participating virtually is different but went pretty smoothly. Covid-19 has shown that humans can adapt, modify, and learn new behaviours; perhaps, this training can be applied to improving and reducing the impact of climate change. Members worked well together, very happy to see most everyone in person, happy to be able to continue the work, making good decisions for Tłıchq citizens, the public and future generations.

6.2 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for November 3-4, 2020 in Yellowknife to review all materials/information posted to public registry for 2020 Wolf Management Proceeding.

The following meeting is scheduled for December 2-3, 2020 in Yellowknife.

Closing Prayer: Joseph Judas

Adjournment: 12:46 p.m. (Motion #722-27-08-2020)

Minutes Approved:

ORIGINAL SIGNED

December 3, 2020

Chairperson

Date