



Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 3-4 December 2020
Location: Katamavik B, Explorer Hotel, Yellowknife, NT

<u>Board Members:</u>	<u>Staff:</u>	<u>Interpreters/PIDO:</u>
Eddie Erasmus (Tłıchǵ Appointee)	Jody Pellissey	James Rabesca
Charlie Jeremick'ca (Tłıchǵ Appointee)	Aimee Guile	Jonas Lafferty
Joseph Judas (Chair)	Laura Meinert	Jeff Pitre
Steve Matthews (GNWT Appointee)	Shalyn Norrish (Zoom, Dec 4)	
Isabelle Duclos (Federal Appointee)		
Suzanne Carrière (GNWT Appointee) (Zoom, Dec 3)		<u>Guests (via Zoom):</u>
Stu Niven (Federal Appointee)		Mike Gravel, FMD-ENR, GNWT
		Lisa Smith, FMD-ENR, GNWT
<u>Regrets:</u>		Terry Armstrong, ENR, GNWT
Chris Football (Tłıchǵ Appointee)		Alicia Kelly, ENR, GNWT
Eddie Chocolate (Tłıchǵ Appointee)		<u>Guests (in-person):</u>
		James Hodson, ENR, GNWT

Call to Order: 9:19 a.m.

Opening Prayer & Comments: Charlie Jeremick'ca

1.0 Agenda and Previous Minutes

1.1 Approval of Agenda

Motion #729-03-12-2020 *To approve the 3-4 December 2020 agenda as presented*

Moved: Suzanne Carrière
Second: Stu Niven

Motion Approved

1.2 Approval of Minutes – 26-27 August 2020, 15 October 2020, 4-5 November 2020

26-27 August 2020

Motion #730-03-12-2020 *To approve the 26-27 August 2020 minutes as presented*

Moved: Stu Niven

Second:

Steve Matthews

Motion Approved

15 October 2020

Motion #731-03-12-2020

To approve the 15 October 2020 minutes as presented

Moved:

Eddie Erasmus

Second:

Steve Matthews

Motion Approved

4-5 November 2020

Motion #732-03-12-2020

To approve the 4-5 November 2020 minutes as presented

Moved:

Charlie Jeremick'ca

Second:

Isabelle Duclos

Motion Approved

1.3 Review of Action Items

Outstanding action items list was tabled and reviewed.

ACTION #519-03-12-2020 (ED): To add legend for acronyms used in action items table.

ACTION #520-03-12-2020 (ED): To follow-up with Digital NWT to see if training can be conducted under Covid-19 restrictions.

2.0 Business

2.1 Review & Approval Reasons for Decision for 2020 Wolf Management Proceeding

Reasons for Decision Report Draft Outline and Draft Recommendations tabled

Discussions included: assignment of wolf harvests to caribou herds vs harvest of wolves in management zone, reduce complexity in determining success of the program, ensure objectives have a measurable effect and are caribou centric; documenting inconsistencies and concerns as noted by the Board, ensure appropriate rationale is provided for all recommendations; impacts on caribou herds, including harvest, predators, mines; Nunavut successful at removing wolves, invite Kugluktuk harvester participate during Tłıchq training program; stopping point/target or maximum number of wolves to remove from the population, adjusted throughout the year to manage different caribou behaviour; boreal wolves v. tundra wolves; Tłıchq laws related to harvest of wolves; aerial shooting of wolves via helicopter v. ground based harvest (snaring, trapping, shooting), humaneness of program, cost of program, less wolves harvested via

Motion #737-03-12-2020 *To approve the 2020 Wolf Management Proceeding recommendations as amended*

Motion Approved

On October 30, 2020, a letter was distributed by GNWT ENR stating that the Yellowknives Dene First Nation (YKDFN) were unintentionally not included on the WLWB's Distribution List for the public review of the WMMP. The letter subsequently informs YKDFN that they can use the WRRB's online registry as a method for YKDFN to review and comment on the WMMP before GNWT INF submits a final updated version of the WMMP to ENR and the WLWB for approval. The WRRB's public comment period for the WMMP closed on October 27, 2020. The WRRB did not receive public comment from the YKDFN or any other individual or organization.

Motion #736-03-12-2020

To approve the Tłıchq All-Season Road Wildlife Management and Monitoring Program, Version 4.1 as presented

Moved:

Steve Matthews

Second:

Isabelle Duclos

Abstain:

Stu Niven

Motion Approved

ACTION #526-03-12-2020 (ED): To write letter to GNWT-INF approve the Tłıchq All-Season Road Wildlife Management and Monitoring Program, Version 4.1.

ACTION #527-03-12-2020 (ED): To write letter to GNWT-ENR regarding the WRRB review process and the recent inappropriate request to have YKDFN use the Board's process.

ACTION #528-03-12-2020 (ED): To confirm whether or not Stu Niven is in conflict for decisions related to Tłıchq All-Season Road.

- 2.3 Review & Approval of Wildlife Research Permit Application – Boreal Caribou Collar Deployment and Spring Classification Surveys, Tłıchq All-Season Road, James Hodson, GNWT-ENR

PowerPoint Presentation, entitled "*Boreal Caribou (Ṯɔdzı) Collar Deployment and Composition Surveys – Tłıchq All-Season Road Wildlife Effects Monitoring*", tabled

Ṯɔdzı (Boreal Caribou) are listed as Threatened under the Federal and Territorial Species at Risk Acts and are culturally and ecologically important species in Wek'èezhì. The Tłıchq All-Season Road (TASR) to Whatì runs through ṯɔdzı habitat. Measure 6-1, Part 2 from the Report of Environmental Assessment (EA) for the TASR Project directed the GNWT to conduct monitoring to determine population trends, abundance, and distribution of ṯɔdzı in the North Slave Region (MVEIRB 2018). The WRRB has previously supported this Measure and advocated for its creation through the EA process.

On November 4, 2020, ENR submitted a Wildlife Research Permit Application to the WRRB, proposing a collaring program for boreal caribou and a spring classification survey for the TASR Project area, occurring in February and March 2021. The management proposal summary includes the following: a) Deployment of up to 23 geofenced collars on adult cows in the TASR study area; b) Collars are programmed to automatically drop off; c) Ṯɔdzı capture will occur with an experienced net-gunning crew; d) Biological samples may be collected as the opportunity is presented; and, e) March 2021 aerial classification survey on the proportion of calves that survived the winter. Board Staff have been informed that an NWT Wildlife Care Committee (WCC) permit has been applied for, but that ENR does not yet have an active WCC permit. ENR has been granted a WCC permit for this work in previous years. WCC review timelines should allow enough time for ENR to receive a permit before work commences if they are approved.

Additional information discussed included: new RRO to be hired and based out of Whatì in 2021; TG to establish community based harvest monitoring program; community of Whatì concerns noted such as protection of t̥d̥z̥, monitoring programs for t̥d̥z̥, and implementation of T̥l̥ch̥q harvest laws specific to t̥d̥z̥; seasonal migration of t̥d̥z̥ back and forth across the TASR; use of burned areas by t̥d̥z̥; and changes in t̥d̥z̥ behaviour once TASR is in operations.

Motion #740-04-12-2020 *To approve the Wildlife Research Permit Application, entitled “Boreal Caribou Collar Deployment and Spring Classification Surveys, T̥l̥ch̥q All-Season Road”, as presented*

Moved:	Steve Matthews
Second:	Isabelle Duclos
Abstain:	Stu Niven

Motion Approved

ACTION #532-04-12-2020 (ED): To write letter to GNWT to approve the Wildlife Research Permit Application, entitled “Boreal Caribou Collar Deployment and Spring Classification Surveys, T̥l̥ch̥q All-Season Road”.

ACTION #533-04-12-2020 (ED): To follow up with the Wildlife Care Committee about thresholds for unacceptable levels of disturbance.

- 2.4 Review & Approval of Wildlife Research Permit Application – Mackenzie Bison Collaring Program 2021, Terry Armstrong & Alicia Kelly, GNWT-ENR

PowerPoint Presentation, entitled “*Mackenzie Bison Collaring Wildlife Research Permit Application*”, tabled

Ej̥e (Wood Bison) are a Species at Risk, listed as “threatened” in the NWT (CMA 2017), and under Canada’s *Species at Risk Act*, and assessed as “Special Concern” by COSEWIC (COSEWIC 2013). Bison populations in the NWT are monitored by ENR; however, since the 2012 anthrax outbreak, bison have changed habitat use patterns and have been difficult to locate during anthrax surveillance flights and classification surveys.

Ej̥e have not been collared in the Mackenzie subpopulation since 1993. Renewed collaring of ej̥e was recommended by the Mackenzie Bison Working Group (MBWG) and is a Key Action in the *Mackenzie Bison Management Plan*. The WRRB and T̥l̥ch̥q Government are among many members of the MBWG.

On November 25, 2020, ENR submitted a Wildlife Research Permit Application to the WRRB, proposing a collaring program on the Mackenzie Wood Bison subpopulation, with collaring deployments occurring in February and March 2021. The management proposal summary includes the following: a) 6-year collars, which must be removed by recapture; b) 20 adult female collars maximum; c) Ground (by road) or helicopter captures may occur; d) Capture will occur by darting and anesthetizing ej̥e; and, e) Ej̥e will be woken up by another drug combination. Board Staff have been informed that an NWT Wildlife Care

Additional information discussed included: possible change in proposal to deploy up to 26 collars where six collars would have cameras, if the camera collars become available an amended WRP will be submitted, no difference in deployment of camera collars.

Moved: Stu Niven
Second: Eddie Erasmus

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2.6 Review & Approval of Commercial Timber Cutting Permit – Greg Sage

Timber Cutting Permits (TCP) are valid for up to one year but are used to facilitate the commercial sale of up to 5,000 m³ of timber products. In addition to the \$20 application fee, harvesters pay additional stumpage dues, based on targeted species, timber condition, end products, and where in the NWT the harvesting is occurring.

Greg Sage has applied for a TCP for 250 m³ of dead spruce/pine fuelwood, and 13cm or greater stump diameter outside bark, and 7cm diameter inside bark. The work will occur on Highway #3 at KM185.

Motion #739-03-12-2020 *To approve the commercial timber cutting permit for Greg Sage as presented*

Moved:	Stu Niven
Second:	Isabelle Duclos

Motion Approved

ACTION #531-03-12-2020 (ED): To write letter to ENR to approve the commercial timber cutting permit for Greg Sage.

2.7 Review & Approval of GNWT's Forest Management Planning Framework, Mike Gravel & Lisa Smith, GNWT, FMD-ENR

Document, entitled "*Northwest Territories Forest Management Planning Framework*", tabled

The Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) Forest Management Planning Framework (the Framework) is intended to identify themes that should be addressed as part of the forest management planning process and lay out an approach to developing consistent regional or community-based forest management plans.

The development of regional forest management plans will provide an opportunity for Indigenous governments and organizations (IGOs), renewable resources boards, stakeholders, and the public to provide feedback on important issues about forest management. Regional forest management plans will capture the priorities, objectives and actions for forest management that are specific to that region and/or community and should include measures to track progress.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Forest Management Division has provided the WRRB with the Northwest Territories Forest Management Planning Framework. A previous version of the framework was presented to the WRRB at our February 2020 board meeting. Board Staff have reviewed previous versions of the Forest Management Planning Framework and provided comment.

Additional information discussed included: TASR increasing access to forest and wood cutting, something to be included in a Wek'ëezhiı forest management plan;

values at risk such as important wildlife habitat areas can be more difficult, working with TG to identify key caribou habitat.

Motion #735-03-12-2020 *To approve the Forest Management Planning Framework as presented*

Moved: Charlie Jeremick'ca
Second: Isabelle Duclos

Motion Approved

ACTION #525-03-12-2020 (ED): To write a letter to GNWT, FMD-ENR to approve the Forest Management Planning Framework.

2.8 Review & Approval of NWT General Status Ranking Program – Batch 6

The WRRB is being consulted on the species to be included in the *NWT Species 2021-2025*, which is to be published by early 2021. The consultation will occur in seven “batches” of species. Batches 1-5 were reviewed by the Board at previous meetings.

Batch 6 has been provided to the Board for review and approval. Batch 6 includes birds, vascular plants, fishes, butterflies, moths, and tree bugs. There are 299 bird species, 10228 vascular plant species, 125 fish species, 97 butterfly species, and 516 moth species.

Motion #733-03-12-2020 *To approve the NWT General Status Ranking Program – Batch 6 as presented*

Moved: Eddie Erasmus
Second: Stu Niven

Motion Approved

ACTION #522-03-12-2020 (ED): To write a letter to GNWT to approve the NWT General Status Ranking Program – Batch 6.

2.9 Review & Approval of COSEWIC Status Designation for Lesser Yellowlegs

The Lesser Yellowlegs has experienced substantial long- and short-term declines, which are expected to continue. As of 2020 there are estimated to be approximately 521,000 mature individuals, with 80% (417,000) breeding in Canada. There has been an average annual trend of -2.91% in Canada over the most recent three generations (2006 to 2018), corresponding to a cumulative loss of 30%. From 1970 to 2018, there is a statistically significant average annual trend of -2.57%, amounting to a total decline of 71%.

Hunting of Lesser Yellowlegs during migration and on wintering grounds in the Caribbean and South America appears to be the greatest threat to the species. Habitat loss is also an ongoing concern. Various impacts related to climate change remain poorly understood but may be increasing in importance. Other

threats which may contribute to ongoing declines are energy production and mining, increasing abundance of predators, and various forms of pollution.

The Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) is currently meeting and will be assessing the lesser yellowlegs. The proposed assessment status is *threatened*. If listed as threatened species under the federal *Species at Risk Act*, a management plan will be required. On November 24, 2020, the WRRB provided an in-principle support of the threatened designation.

Motion #734-03-12-2020 *To approve the threatened assessment status designation for Lesser Yellowlegs as presented*

Moved:	Steve Matthews
Second:	Charlie Jeremick'ca
Abstain:	Isabelle Duclos

Motion Approved

ACTION #523-03-12-2020 (ED): To write a letter to COSEWIC, Bird Species Specialist Committee to approve the threatened assessment status designation for Lesser Yellowlegs.

ACTION #524-03-12-2020 (ED): To confirm whether or not Isabelle Duclos is in conflict for decisions related to COSEWIC.

3.0 Financial

3.1 Review & Approval of Financial Statement as of 31 October 2020

Motion #742-04-12-2020 *To approve the 31 October 2020 financial statement as presented*

Moved:	Isabelle Duclos
Second:	Stu Niven

Motion Approved

ACTION #535-04-12-2020 (ED): To complete a cost comparison of Board meetings pre-Covid-19 and during Covid-19.

3.2 2020/2021 Interim Activity Report

Tabled for review by the Board Members.

4.0 Operations

4.1 In-Camera Session

Motion #743-04-12-2020 *To go in-camera at 11:27 a.m.*

Moved:	Stu Niven
Second:	Charlie Jeremick'ca

Motion Approved

Motion #744-04-12-2020 *To come out-of-camera at 11:41 a.m.*

Moved:
Second:

Eddie Erasmus
Steve Matthews

Motion Approved

ACTION #536-04-12-2020 (ED): To follow up with TG about Chris Football's appointment.

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, Shalyn Norrish

Shalyn reviewed zer communication update with the Board Members.

6.0 Other Items

6.1 Round Table

Board Members thanked one another, interpreters, PIDO, and Staff for an organized, safe, and informative meeting with lots of good discussion. Members worked well together, teaching, and learning from one another, important to listen carefully to one another to prevent any miscommunication, and very happy to be meeting in person. WRRB office will be closed for Christmas break from December 21, 2020 to January 1, 2021, reopening January 2, 2021.

ACTION #537-04-12-2020 (ED): To set up tour of Tłıchq All-Season Road for Board and staff in May 2021.

ACTION #538-04-12-2020 (ED): To bring DFO and/or TG to meeting to discuss fish and fish habitat in Wek'èezhìi.

6.2 Next Meeting

The next meeting is for February 10-11, 2021 in Yellowknife.

Closing Prayer: **Joseph Judas**

Adjournment: **12:01 p.m. (Motion #745-04-12-2020)**

Minutes Approved:

ORIGINAL SIGNED

Chairperson

May 25, 2021

Date