



DRAFT Board Meeting Minutes

Location: Whatì, NT

Date: 10-12 September 2013

Board Members:

Grant Pryznyk (Federal Appointee)
Interim Chair
Charlie Rabesca (Tłı̄chō Appointee)
Charlie Jeremick'ca (Tłı̄chō Appointee)
Archie Wetrade (Tłı̄chō Appointee)
Jonas Lafferty (Tłı̄chō Appointee)
Steven Matthews (GNWT Appointee)
11-12 September only

Staff:

John McCullum
Susan Beaumont
Boyan Tracz

Translators:

James Rabesca

Absent:

Suzanne Carriere (GNWT Appointee)
Bruce MacDonald (Federal Appointee)

1.1 Call to Order 11:15 a.m. (Charlie Jeremick'ca's camp)

1.2 Opening Prayer: Jonas Lafferty

2.0 Agenda and Previous Minutes

2.1 Approval of Agenda

Motion #337-11-09-2013

To approve the agenda as presented

Moved:

Charlie Rabesca

Second:

Jonas Lafferty

Motion Approved

2.2 Approval of 22-24 May 2013 Minutes

Motion #338-11-09-2013

To approve the 22-24 May 2013 minutes as presented

Moved:

Jonas Lafferty

Second:

Archie Wetrade

Motion Approved

2.3 Approval of 15 July 2013 Minutes

Motion #339-11-09-2013 *To approve the 15 July 2013 minutes as presented*

Moved: Archie Wetrade
Second: Charlie Rabesca

Motion Approved

2.4 Review of Action Items

Outstanding action items listing was tabled and reviewed.

3.0 Business

Table Items 3.1 to 3.5 pending arrival of presenters from ENR and DFO

3.6 Snow Geese Management Proposal & Recommendations

This item was first presented to the Board at the March 2013 meeting. CWS has requested a response by October 31, 2013. Item was presented from kit with updated population figures. No concerns were raised.

Motion #340-11-09-2013 *To support the proposed changes to the harvest of western arctic Snow Geese by Canadian Wildlife Service.*

Moved: Charlie Rabesca
Second: Archie Wetrade

Motion Approved

ACTION #188-11-09-2013 (ED): To prepare a letter to CWS conveying the Board's approval and requesting updates on the status of the population.

Item 3.7 tabled pending arrival of presenters

3.8 Dinàgà Wek'èhodi Update

Item presented from kit. Noted that Charlie Rabesca wishes to be kept informed about meetings. Generally agreed that it is up to TG and ENR to reach an agreement before further discussions by the Working Group will be useful.

BREAK

Steve Matthews arrives together with Jan Adamczewski (ENR), Dale Nicholson (DFO) and Dean Cluff (ENR).

3.3 Bluenose East and Beverly/Ahiak/Qaminurijuaq Caribou Management Proposal & Recommendations: One bull-only resident harvest

Item introduced as per kit. These are two new management proposals that are linked by providing for a total resident harvest of one bull from either herd in specific management zones. The proposals were received following the May board meeting. WRRB sent letters responding to each proposal to ENR requesting specific further information to support each proposal in order for the Board to make recommendations on the proposals. ENR has not yet been able to provide all the information.

WRRB opened public registries on these proposals and invited comment. The registries closed August 30 with several comments received.

It was noted that these proposals do not affect Aboriginal rights to harvest, and that Aboriginal harvest is not restricted on these herds.

Jan Adamczewski from ENR presented the proposal along with some background. He noted resident and outfitter harvesting has been closed on the herds named in the proposals as well as the Bathurst herd. Resident harvesters have expressed concern about this lack of opportunity and ENR was asked to develop proposals for a resident harvest where appropriate.

For the Bluenose East herd (BNE) the 2010 best estimate was 122,000 with an increasing trend and good calf productivity. The 2013 survey has been completed and analysis is ongoing. Aboriginal harvest of the BNE is about 2300 to 3000 animals, about half cows. A statistical analysis showed that a harvest of about 3000 animals is sustainable even if it is mostly cows, and a bull harvest of 200-300 animals would not have much effect. The average resident harvest of BNE animals in the past was about 150. If the harvest went higher than that, ENR would monitor and possibly put a cap on the harvest.

For the Beverly / Ahiak / Qaminirijuaq herds there is a fair bit of overlap among the herds. All are seen as stable.

Consultation by ENR has been limited to date:

- WRRB requested information,
- WMAC(NWT) were opposed to including the BNE due to possible effects on the Bluenose West herd,
- the Tẖcho̱ Government was opposed due to concerns about Bathurst animals possibly being harvested accidentally,
- resident hunters were in support and
- the BQ Management Board do not support the Beverly/Ahiak/Qaminurijuaq harvest at this time as they are in the process of developing a management plan.

The Board raised questions and concerns as follows:

- overhunting
- need for an action plan and consultation with elders
- loss of habitat due to fire
- the zones are a long way away and will be difficult for inexperienced hunters to access

- possibility that current harvest is under-reported. Jan acknowledged that these figures are estimates and do not include wounding loss.
- Potential for Bathurst caribou to be harvested due to overlap with BNE herd. Jan acknowledged there can be significant overlap
- Length of season – this is the same as in the past
- Resident harvest has been higher than the reported average of 150 in the past
 - Jan noted that an earlier version of the proposal included a cap on the harvest; the current proposal assumes about 150 harvesters
- Calf recruitment appears to be declining. Jan noted that if calf recruitment is low for a number of years there will be an effect on the herd, with or without resident harvest.

Item tabled until presentations are completed.

LUNCH

3.5 Implementation of the New Fisheries Protection Provisions under the Fisheries Act & Recommendations Dale Nicholson

Item introduced as per kit. Noted that WRRB had expressed concern regarding the recent amendments to the Fisheries Act as well as the consultation process for the previous and currently proposed changes.

Dale Nicholson from DFO made a slide presentation. He stated that the current process is intended to modernize the Act. He noted that a number of amendments had already been approved by the Federal Government but are not yet in force. The focus of the modernization is on commercial, recreational or Aboriginal fisheries. It will provide more clarity for proponents and enhance partnerships

DFO is planning for the amendments to be in force by end of October.

Dale stated that DFO will have nine biologists to cover the north.

The board and staff raised a number of questions and concerns:

- DFO consultation in communities. Dale noted that the amendments will not be changed, but policies and procedures are under development and can be affected
- After the cuts there will be five enforcement positions for the western and central Arctic
- What is a habitat bank? This is a form of compensation that allows proponents to contribute to a larger project. Projects would be within the affected fishery area
- DFO was reminded that as a Party to the Thichcho Agreement they are required by section 12.5 to submit management proposals to the WRRB for review as per WRRB's Rules of Procedure and Rule for Management Proposals.
- What proportion of fish/fisheries that were protected prior to the amendments will no longer be protected? Dale was not sure.
- DFO states that habitat protection is very important, so why is habitat no longer mentioned in section 35? Would benthic organisms be protected? Dale was not sure but would ask a policy analyst. He did not think benthic organisms would be protected.
- Would fisheries that had been used in the past for Aboriginal, recreational or

- commercial fishing be protected? This will be determined through policy.
- What fisheries waters have been exempted in the north? Dale was not sure.
- How is the contribution of relevant fish determined? Does this mean that if the fishery is determined not to contribute sufficiently it will not be protected or serious harm allowed? This has been determined through policy – see Canadian Science Advisory Secretariat.
- It sounds like the consideration of public interest could be used to allow serious harm to fish in, say, Wek' èezhì, if it benefits the public in southern Canada. That is correct.

What are the next steps?

A policy statement is expected to be released within a few weeks, with an opportunity for interested parties to respond.

Will there be monitoring to determine the effects of the amendments on fish and fisheries?

Yes; proponents will be monitoring.

Noted that some oversight or audit function of proponent monitoring is needed to ensure accurate reporting.

Further consultation will include meeting with Boards, although travel restrictions on DFO staff may make it difficult to consult in person.

Item tabled until presentations are completed.

3.7 ENR Presentations (Dean Cluff): Wolves (including CIMP Wolf study), Bear, Moose, Boreal Caribou

Dean Cluff made four presentations to the Board for information on wolves, bear, moose and boreal caribou

4.1 Review and approval of 2012-13 audit

The audit was presented to the Board.

Motion #341-11-09-2013 *To approve the 2012-2013 audited financial statements as presented*

Moved: Jonas Lafferty
Second: Steve Matthews

Motion Approved

4.2 Auditor Recommendation Follow-up

Item presented as per kit.

Motion #342-11-09-2013

To approve purchase of a \$100,000 Flexi-GIC as recommended.

Moved:

Charlie Rabesca

Second:

Steve Matthews

Motion Approved

ACTION #189-11-09-2013 (ED): To instruct CIBC to purchase a Flexi-GIC in the amount of \$100,000.

4.3 Signing Authority Update

Item presented as per kit. All board members requested to sign RBC form to authorize John McCullum for signing authority as per motion from July 15 meeting

4.4 Current Financial Statement

Current financial statement to August 15, 2013 reviewed as per kit.

It was suggested that the effect of annual salary increases over time be forecasted for effect on the budget.

Motion #343-11-09-2013

To approve the financial statements to August 15, 2013 as presented.

Moved:

Charlie Rabesca

Second:

Jonas Lafferty

Motion Approved

Adjourned for the day

Meeting opened at 9:15a.m.

Opening prayer – Charlie Jeremick'ca

3.3 Bluenose East and Beverly/Ahiak/Qaminurijuaq Caribou Management Proposal & Recommendations: One bull-only resident harvest (continued)

Item re-presented from kit. Noted that ENR has not provided the information requested by the Board so staff are recommending waiting for the information before making a decision.

Results of WRRB consultation were presented.

Noted that no changes to Aboriginal harvesting of these herds is proposed.

ACTION #190-12-09-2013 (ED): send a letter to ENR stating the Board will consider the BNE and B-A-Q management proposals after receiving and reviewing the requested

information.

3.4 Boreal Caribou Proposed NWT Species at Risk Listing

Item presented from kit

Noted that there was no consultation in Behchok.

The main concern raised during the consultations was about the effects of fire.

What is the Thcho position on the listing? Not known.

BREAK

Noted that 18 boreal caribou were harvested in Whati this past summer. There seem to be lots around. Suggested that WRRB continue its research on boreal caribou.

Noted that caribou respond to fires, predator and other conditions such as weather.

What effect will the listing have on Aboriginal rights to harvest? None at this point. If a recovery plan is required there will be further consultation.

Motion #344-11-09-2013 *To recommend to CMA that Boreal caribou be listed as a "Threatened" Species at Risk in the NWT.*

Moved: Archie Wetrade
Second: Charlie Rabesca

Motion Approved

ACTION #191-12-09-2013 (ED): send a letter to CMA conveying the Board's recommendation to list boreal caribou as threatened under the Species at Risk (NWT) Act.

3.9 Wood Bison Management Plan update & Recommendation

Item presented as per kit. Noted that the population is half of the amount prior to the anthrax outbreak in 2012, and that the cow:calf ratio is low. Also noted that 50 bison were killed by vehicles last year.

It was noted that it is important for bison and humans to reduce the amount of bison being struck on the highway.

Motion #345-11-09-2013 *To recommend to ENR to continue the no-harvest restriction on Mackenzie Wood Bison for the 2013/14 hunting season.*

Moved: Steve Matthews
Second: Archie Wetrade

Motion Approved

ACTION #192-12-09-2013 (ED): send a letter to ENR conveying the Board's recommendation to continue the no-harvest restriction on Mackenzie Wood Bison.

ACTION #193-12-09-2013 (ED): to follow up the Board's March 21, 2013 letter to ENR, TG and DOT to develop a collaborative strategy to reduce the number of wood bison strikes along NWT highways.

3.5 Implementation of the New Fisheries Protection Provisions under the Fisheries Act & Recommendations (continued)

Generally felt that WRRB should raise concerns about the consultation process as well as the substance of the changes to the act and policies.

Suggested the Board should spend a day on this issue in the future.

Suggested the Board consider hiring a consultant, and consider legal advice. Noted that WRRB's lawyer has already reviewed the amendments. Also suggested that WRRB look at what other agencies have said (eg. GRRB) as background.

ACTION #194-12-09-2013 (ED): to send a letter to DFO setting out the Board's concerns with the amendments to the Fisheries Act, policy changes, and consultation process. This should include a review of other organizations' comments, including the legal review.

ACTION #195-12-09-2013 (ED): to get quotes for a consultant to review and advise on the upcoming changes.

BREAK

3.1 Bathurst Caribou Management Recommendations: 2013-2014: update

Item presented as per kit.

Agreed that no further action is needed until a response is received from ENR.

3.2 Bathurst Caribou Management Proposal status update

Item presented as per kit.

Noted that ED is following up the invitations to the October 2-3, 2013 workshop.

5.0 Operations

5.1 Communications Workplan 2013-14 (information only)

Item presented as per kit.

Suggested that any Board meeting in a community include a public education component including allowing the public to observe meetings and an open house in the evening.

Noted that the website and newsletter are a good way to reach young people. Elders appreciate photos and translation. WRRB needs to communicate with all parts of society.

Please contact Susan Beaumont with any further suggestions about the communications plan.

5.2 ED / staff communication with board

Item presented as per kit. Current approach is good.

5.3 Board Member Term Expiration update

Item presented as per kit.

5.4 Chair: Interim Chair; recruitment of Chair nominees

Item presented as per kit.

Noted that two board member terms are expiring in November, so it would be good to wait until then before deciding how to proceed. It would be best to choose from a current board member. In the meantime Grant is doing a good job.

Agreed to table until next meeting.

BREAK

5.5 Activity / Budget Planning Process

Item presented as per kit.

Suggested to include wildlife research fund in the planning discussion.

6.0 Information Items

Information items tabled for review by the Board Members.

7.0 Other Items

7.1 Round Table

All Board Members gave their thanks to Charlie Jeremick'ca for organizing the camp session and expressed disappointment that the Board was unable to stay

there for the entire meeting. Thanks to the translators and noted that one translator did not attend, so the other translator had to work continuously – this is not a good situation.

- Steve Matthews – thanks Board for funding the summer students at Daring Lake, and Archie for his work at Daring Lake. He would like an opportunity to ask Dean about studies of wolf predation on caribou
- Charlie Jeremick'ca – glad Board met in Whati and pleased to host board at his camp. He was disappointed the Board wasn't able to stay out there for the whole meeting but weather can't be controlled or predicted.
- Jonas Lafferty –He likes the idea of including a public education component at community meetings. Notes that the Board should always have two interpreters. He thought this was a productive meeting and hopes Charlie Rabesca and Charlie Jeremick'ca will be re-appointed.
- Charlie Rabesca – liked meeting in the community, and having the visitors present to the Board. ENR should come regularly.
- Archie Wetrade – thanks everyone. He thanks the previous Chair, Joseph Judas. He also thanks the Daring Lake organizers and students for involving him and is looking forward to next year. He is looking forward to seeing pictures on the WRRB website. He would like a joint meeting with the SRRB to discuss caribou and the Fisheries Act.
- Grant Pryznyk –A letter should be sent to Joseph Judas thanking him and inviting him to a meeting

ACTION #196-12-09-2013 (ED): Thank you letter and invitation to Joseph Judas to attend next meeting.

7.2 Next Meeting

The next regular meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 10-12, 2013 depending on when the Joint Proposal for Management of the Bathurst Caribou Herd is received. Otherwise it should be in January.

Motion #346-11-09-2013 To adjourn

Moved: Charlie Rabesca

Motion Approved

Closing Prayer: Charlie Jeremick'ca

Adjournment 2:30 p.m.

Minutes Approved:

Chairperson

Date