



Board Meeting Minutes

Location: Behchokò, NT

Date: 6 April 2011

Board Members:

Ray Case (GNWT Appointee)
Charlie Jeremick'ca (Tłıchǫ Appointee)
Steven Matthews (GNWT Appointee)
Archie Wetrade (Tłıchǫ Appointee)

Absent:

Grant Pryznyk (Federal Appointee)
Bruce MacDonald (Federal Appointee)
Joseph Judas (Tłıchǫ Appointee)
Charlie Rabesca (Tłıchǫ Appointee)

Guests:

Moise Rabesca, SARC Representative

Staff:

Jody Snortland Pellissey
Karin Clark

Translators:

Jonas Lafferty
James Rabesca

1.1 Appoint Meeting Chair

Motion #230-04-06-2011 To appoint Ray Case as meeting chair

Moved: Steven Matthews
Second: Archie Wetrade

Motion Approved

1.2 Call to Order 9:20 a.m.

1.3 Opening Prayer: Charlie Jeremick'ca

2.0 Agenda and Previous Minutes

2.1 Approval of Agenda

Add 3.7 – COSEWIC Designation for Barn Swallow

Motion #231-04-06-2011 To approve the agenda with additions

Moved: Steven Matthews

Second: Charlie Jeremick'ca

Motion Approved

2.2 a) Approval of Minutes – 22 July 2010, 18-19 & 27 January 2011

To defer approval of minutes until next meeting

2.3 Review of Action Items

Outstanding action items listing was tabled and reviewed.

3.0 Business

3.1 GNWT-TG Joint Implementation Plan

Reviewed the April 4, 2011 draft Implementation Plan (IP) submitted by GNWT and Tłıchǫ Government (TG). The Board and Staff identified the following areas where clarification is required in the draft:

- Where GNWT and TG have varied or rejected Board recommendations;
- Recommendation #12, 13, 19, 20, 26 & 27 do not request that specific caribou collar locations be made public; rather, the request is that maps be provided, prior to the start of the fall and winter hunts, to show the areas where harvest will be attributed to the Bathurst, Bluenose-East and Ahiak herds;
- When discussing appropriate harvest in Tłıchǫ communities, ensure the sophisticated Tłıchǫ classification of caribou is referenced;
- Emphasize the importance of engaging and informing Tłıchǫ citizens to ensure clarity in the communities;
- Encourage the quick implementation of the Tłıchǫ Knowledge Research and Monitoring Program as the Program is necessary in the overall approach to caribou management in Wek'èezhìi and ensures that Tłıchǫ harvesters are engaged in all aspects of management.

The Board is aware that both the GNWT and TG require further review and comment on the IP by their Policy Departments. If significant changes are requested by either government, the Board reserves the right to re-examine the document and provide additional comments. Further, the Members view the IP as a living document and expect to be involved in future reviews and revisions.

In addition to the review of the draft IP, a briefing note, entitled “*Tłıchǫ Caribou Harvest*”, and Tłıchǫ Caribou Harvest map were tabled for Board Member information. Future discussion is required to discuss the Bathurst Caribou cow harvest by the Tłıchǫ and Yellowknives Dene First Nation and to determine how the Board will define ‘materially exceed’.

Motion #232-04-06-2011 *To support, in principle, the draft Implementation Plan as presented*

Moved: Charlie Jeremick'ca
Second: Archie Wetrade

Motion Approved

ACTION (ED): To provide response to ENR and Tłıchǫ Government's draft Implementation Plan via email (**Action 96-04-06-2011**)

3.2 Wildlife Research Permits – BHP Billiton & ENR

Reviewed the draft response to ENR's Wildlife Research Permit Application on Black Bear Ecology of the North Slave Region. The Board is concerned that the intended research will not provide information that communities are interested in, including monitoring populations around Tłıchǫ communities and bear-human conflicts, nor does the application provide justification for handling wildlife and the use of collars. ENR indicated that an initial draft framework for a Black Bear Management Plan will be available by April 16, 2011.

Motion #233-04-06-2011 *To request that the Wildlife Research Permit not be issued until a Black Bear Management Plan Framework is received and reviewed by the Board*

Moved: Steven Matthews
Second: Charlie Jeremick'ca

Motion Approved

ACTION (Biologist): To revise and send letter to ENR recommending that the Black Bear Ecology Wildlife Research Permit not be issued at this time (**Action 97-04-06-2011**)

Reviewed the draft response to BHP Billiton's Wildlife Research Permit Application. Staff noted the difficulty of reviewing the application without having the in-depth analyses of programs that are available in the annual WEMP report. BHP Billiton has indicated that in future years it is doable to submit the Wildlife Research Permit Application at the same time as the WEMP report is available. It was also noted that a disagreement exists between GNWT and BHP Billiton about whose responsibility it is to conduct in-depth analyses of all available caribou information.

The Board is aware of some outstanding issues with respect to the two-year review of the WEMP that has been undertaken collaboratively with government, mine monitoring agencies, other mining companies and stakeholders. Members recommend following up with ENR regarding the following: 1) how and when an in-depth analysis of all previous caribou survey and behavioural data will take place, and 2) how will ENR address the inconsistencies between workshop recommendations and BHP Billiton's approaches to wildlife monitoring at the Ekati mine site.

Motion #234-04-06-2011 *To conditionally approve the issuance of BHP Billiton's Wildlife Research Permit provided that site*

specific analysis of previous caribou program data is conducted and that future Wildlife Research Permit applications coincide with the submission of the previous year's Wildlife Effects Monitoring Program (WEMP) report

Moved: Steven Matthews
Second: Archie Wetrade

Motion Approved

ACTION (Biologist): To revise and send letter to ENR recommending conditional approval of BHP Billiton's Wildlife Research Permit (**Action 98-04-06-2011**)

ACTION (Biologist): To send letter to ENR requesting response to the outstanding issues related to the WEMP review (**Action 99-04-06-2011**)

** As a thank-you for her time and dedication as a former employee for the WRRB, Alice Legat was presented with a print by a northern artist

3.3 NWT Wildlife Act

Reviewed the March 24, 2011 letter and draft legislation (Bill 9: Wildlife Act) from ENR as well as the Consultation-Public Engagement document. The Board has been represented and informed during the Wildlife Act revision process by WRRB legal counsel and staff as well as Tłıchǵ Government legal counsel and staff. The overall perspective is that the Act provides a complete toolkit for management and conservation of wildlife and wildlife habitat in Wek'èezhìi. It ensures that the GNWT is in the position to implement WRRB recommendations more effectively. The very refined and specific list of regulation making powers enables the GNWT to reflect regional differences; therefore, encourage the review and development of regulations as soon as possible. The Board is prepared to fulfill its role as set out in Bill 9 and in the Tłıchǵ Agreement, including participation during the seven-year review period.

Motion #235-04-06-2011 *To support the new Wildlife Act for the Northwest Territories as drafted*

Moved: Charlie Jeremick'ca
Second: Steven Matthews

Motion Approved

ACTION (ED): To send letter to Standing Committee on Economic Development & Infrastructure supporting Bill 9: Wildlife Act (**Action 100-04-06-2011**)

3.4 NWT Caribou Management Strategy 2011-2015

Reviewed the draft barren-ground caribou management strategy for the NWT. The Board regards the document as a comprehensive approach to barren-ground caribou research, monitoring and management. The actions specifically address the recommendations made by the Board in its October 2010 Recommendations Report (provide priority list of actions as identified in briefing note). Additions to the strategy include: 1) expansion of Strategy 3 to include regional and territorial exchange of traditional knowledge and scientific information and 2) inclusion of comprehensive assessment of caribou survey data from diamond mines monitoring programs to Strategy 7. The Board is not being requested to provide funding for the implementation of the strategy.

Motion #236-04-06-2011 *To supports the draft NWT Barren-ground Caribou Management Strategy 2011-2015 as submitted*

Moved: Archie Wetrade
Second: Steven Matthews

Motion Approved

ACTION (ED): To send letter to ENR providing support and comment on the barren-ground caribou management strategy (**Action 101-04-06-2011**)

3.5 NWT Wildlife Research and Management Plan 2011-2016

Reviewed the draft wildlife research and management plan for the NWT. There is not enough detail in the present form of the Plan, e.g. there is little justification provided for recommended surveys and it does not consistently identify wildlife habitat. There should be clarification of species specific management issues by region. As the draft barren-ground caribou management strategy is so detailed, it is not necessary to replicate the caribou research and monitoring in this document. The Plan could be useful to the Board particularly as a starting point for more detailed discussion internally and externally on project planning and priorities for broad wildlife issues in Wek'èezhì. The Plan should provide a comprehensive list of important activities identifying those with priority, not simply those that are funded.

ACTION (Biologist): To send letter to ENR providing comments on the wildlife research and management plan (**Action 102-04-06-2011**)

3.6 Tłıchq Ekwo Working Group Representative

Reviewed the January 27, 2011 letter from the Tłıchq Government requesting Joseph Judas' participation on the Tłıchq Ekwo Working Group. The Board expressed concerns that as Joseph is the incoming WRRB Chair there may be a perception of bias. However, due to Joseph's absence, the Members requested to defer the decision until next meeting.

Adjournment **5:03 p.m. (Motion #242-04-06-2011)**

Minutes Approved:

Chairperson

Date