



## Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 13-14 September 2017  
**Location:** Charlie Charlo Building, Behchokò, NT

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<b>Board Members:</b> Eddie Chocolate (Tłıchq̓ Appointee) Suzanne Carriere (GNWT Appointee) Grant Pryznyk (Federal Appointee) Bruce MacDonald (Federal Appointee) Steven Matthews (GNWT Appointee) Charlie Jeremick'ca (Tłıchq̓ Appointee)	<b>Staff:</b> Jody Pellissey Boyan Tracz Susan Beaumont  <b>Translators:</b> James Rabesca Violet Mackenzie	<b>Guests:</b> Amy Ganton – ECCC Joline Huskey – TG Via telephone: Kirsten Querbach – ECCC Isabelle Duclos – ECCC
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**Call to Order: 9:50 a.m.**

**Opening Prayer: Charlie Jeremick'ca**

### 1.0 Agenda and Previous Minutes

#### 1.1 Approval of Agenda

CHANGE: Item #1.2 – Approval of Minutes – 8-9 February 2017 to Approval of Minutes – 13-14 June 2017

**Motion #546-13-09-2017**

*To approve the 13-14 September 2017 agenda as amended*

**Moved:**  
**Second:**

Bruce MacDonald  
Suzanne Carriere

**Motion Approved**

#### 1.2 Approval of Minutes – 13-14 June 2017

**Motion #553-13-09-2017**

*To approve the 13-14 June 2017 minutes as presented*

**Moved:**  
**Second:**

Steve Matthews  
Charlie Jeremick'ca

**Motion Approved**

### 1.3 Review of Action Items

Outstanding action items list was tabled and reviewed. Item #330-16-08-2016 will be completed by this fall.

## 2.0 Business

### 2.1 Action Plan for the Woodland Caribou (*Rangifer tarandus caribou*), Boreal Population, in Canada – Federal Actions, Kirsten Querbach, Amy Ganton & Isabelle Duclos, ECCC

PowerPoint Presentation, entitled “*Proposed Action Plan for Boreal Caribou – Federal Actions*”, tabled

Comments on Action Plan to be submitted online by September 25, 2017; if extension required, send request to ECCC through online site.

Questions:

- 1) Disturbance mapping for ranges will be updated every five years, when will the map on page 6 be updated?  
~ Close to being finished, will be shared through the open data portal this fall;
- 2) Page 16 – non-federal land, page 17 – federally administered land – are these the same?  
~ Different types of land, non-federal land under the jurisdiction of provinces and territories, federal administered land is land owned or administered by federal government (DND, ECCC (NWA), PCA), devolved land is considered federal land under SARA, page 18 – first bullet would refer to Tliche Lands (private lands, fee simple lands owned by the Tliche Government), second bullet would refer to other lands (devolved lands);
- 3) More information available by April 2018 to protect critical habitat?  
~ Undertake assessment whether critical habitat is protected on non-federal land, if Minister is of the opinion that protection does not exist, then report is required publicly to show progress toward protection of the critical habitat;
- 4) Page 25 – national standards and updated maps, when will these be available?  
~ Unknown at this point;
- 5) Page 24 – all critical habitat on both non-federal and federal land?  
~ On non-federal land;
- 6) does this then include Tliche Lands?  
~ Private lands would be part of the assessment, devolved lands would not
- 7) Draft available of the Saskatchewan updated disturbance model in boreal shield area p. 20?  
~ Phil McLaughlin report on TASR public registry
- 8) Establishment of conservation agreements, once range plans are in place; in absence of range plans, can conservation agreements be established?  
~ Goal is to work towards agreements sooner rather than later (Species at Risk Accord, GNWT signed), NWT range plans will not be completed by October, how to bridge gap until the plans are developed, work with partners to recover caribou

~ 5-year report on implementation of recovery strategy, will speak to lack of range planning completed.

**ACTION #371-13-09-2017 (ED):** To send list of questions to ECCC for response

2.2 *Caribou Recovery in a Changing Landscape* – CircumArctic Rangifer Monitoring and Assessment Funding Proposal

The CircumArctic Rangifer Monitoring and Assessment (CARMA) network brings together people concerned about the future of migratory tundra caribou and wild reindeer among the seven Arctic nations with caribou and wild reindeer. The WRRB is one of the co-management boards, which along with Aboriginal governments, government agencies and university researchers, have used CARMA meetings to exchange ideas and experience during breakout sessions and learn about shared problems.

The proposed 2018 meeting is the 9<sup>th</sup> in a series of meetings since 2004. The meeting will be in Whitehorse, Yukon to facilitate Alaskan and Russian attendance. While previous meetings were funded through International Polar Year or International Arctic Science Committee, CARMA 9 funding will rely on a series of smaller donations. The WRRB is requested to support two Board delegates (~\$5000) and to provide \$2500 to cover meeting room costs and towards student travel.

Attendees to include one Board Member and one staff; note in response the importance to include TG and Tlicho community representatives at the CARMA meeting.

**Motion #547-13-09-2017**

*To support the CARMA proposal as presented*

**Moved:**

Steve Matthews

**Second:**

Bruce MacDonald

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #370-13-09-2017 (ED):** To write a letter to CARMA supporting the funding proposal request

2.3 Barren-ground Caribou Technical Working Group Update

The Barren-ground Caribou Technical Working Group met in July 2017, after a six-month hiatus. Discussions focused on updates about reconnaissance surveys, harvest monitoring, collaring and fall 2016/spring 2017 surveys for the Bathurst, Bluenose-East and Beverly-Ahiak caribou herds as well as the development of an implementation plan for the 2016 Bathurst and Bluenose-East caribou determinations and recommendations.

The WRRB sent ENR a letter about the Mobile Core Bathurst Caribou Management Zone (MCBCMZ) noting concerns about having sufficient criteria to assess the efficiency or effectiveness of the mobile zone as an approach to ensure proper management of harvest, and recommending that a set of 'rules' be developed to define the mobile zone. The MCBCMZ was implemented at the beginning of September 2017 due to concerns about harvest near MacKay Lake (GHL harvesters working at a nearby exploration camp). Concerns noted about overharvesting, particularly females, deficiencies in monitoring harvest and conflicting harvest estimates between regions.

#### 2.4 Wolf Feasibility Assessment Working Group Update

In 2015, ENR committed to conduct a collaborative feasibility assessment of wolf management options for the range of the Bathurst herd, including areas both within and outside of Wek'èezhii. In the WRRB's Reasons for Decision, Part A report for the Bathurst caribou herd, Recommendation #5-2016 states: "*The WRRB recommends TG and ENR support a collaborative feasibility assessment of options for diga management, led by the Board*".

The Working Group (WG) has been meeting since May 2016 to identify and assess the technical feasibility and potential effectiveness of a series of different wolf management techniques in the annual range of the Bathurst caribou herd. A meeting was held on June 30, 2017 to discuss modelling used to examine effects of wolf removal on the Bathurst herd population trend. Don Russell followed up on August 4, 2017 with information that was included as an appendix in the draft assessment. The draft Wolf Feasibility Assessment document will be provided to the WG by September 18.

#### 2.5 Tłıchq All-Season Road (TASR) Environmental Assessment Update

The Department of Infrastructure, Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT-INF; formerly DoT) submitted an application for the development of the Tłıchq All-Season Road (TASR), beginning from kilometer 196 on Highway 3 to the community of Whatı. On July 21, 2016, the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board (MVEIRB) decided on its own motion, pursuant to subsection 126(3) of Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, to conduct an environmental assessment (EA) of the TASR project.

Since the last meeting, a consultant has been hired to provide an assessment of fish-related topics, including harvest. A draft report has been received, with a meeting on August 24 clarifying that the Board will receive a final report which can be used to support further IRs and questions at the Hearings. Items addressed included ATV use at stream crossings, and access to and harvest of fish in Lac La Martre and surrounding waterbodies.

A 3-day Technical Session was held in Behchokq August 15-17, 2017, and Boyan Tracz, WRRB Biologist, and Allice Legat, Traditional Knowledge researcher, attended. Commitments and undertakings related to boreal and barren-ground caribou, small mammals, and elders' participation in site visits to water crossing were results of the WRRB participation.

The TASR EA hearings are scheduled for November 15-17 in Whatì. The WRRB submitted a letter to the MVIERB on August 28, 2017 outlining concerns about timelines and the EA process overall. On September 11, 2017, WRRB met with GNWT to discuss an extension for submission of its Technical Report until October 23, due to timing conflicts and limited staffing.

## 2.6 Wek'èezhì Forum, October 2017

The Wek'èezhì Forum was established following the implementation of the Tłıchq Agreement to discuss matters of common interest between the Wek'èezhì resource co-management boards—the WRRB and the Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board—and the Tłıchq Government. By updating each other on their respective roles, responsibilities and activities, the Forum as a collective body can identify areas where they can collaborate and share expertise and resources.

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for October 17 or 18, 2017 in Behchokò.

## 2.7 Revisions to the *Fisheries Act* Update

On July 31, 2017, WRRB staff, along with WLWB staff, met with DFO and Transport Canada representatives to discuss the Standing Committee on Fisheries and Ocean (SCOFO)'s Review of the 2012 changes to the *Fisheries Act*, and the subsequent response by the Government of Canada in June 2017 (DFO, Transport Canada, Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency and Natural Resources Canada). The WRRB followed up with a formal letter to the DFO Minister on August 28, 2017, indicating satisfaction with the 32 recommendations made by SCOFO and supported by DFO, and noting concerns about implementation, in particular the capacity to deliver services in Wek'èezhì, and engagement during legislation.

## 2.8 Consultation Schedule for Proposed NWT Species at Risk Listings – Barren-ground Caribou, Grizzly Bear, and Little Brown Myotis

At its April 2017 meeting, the Species at Risk Committee assessed the biological status of the following three species and proposed a species at risk listing:

1. barren-ground caribou – threatened
2. grizzly bear – special concern
3. little brown myotis – special concern

The Conference of Management Authorities will be required to sign a consensus agreement on listing of these species by April 11, 2018. The WRRB will be conducting joint consultations with Tłıchq Government during late October and early November 2017. The tentative schedule is:

1. Wekweèti – Oct 24-26, 2017 (TBC)
2. Whatì – Oct 30-31, 2017 (TBC)
3. Gamèti – Nov 1-2, 2017 (TBC)
4. Behchokò – Nov 6-7, 2017 (Confirmed)

The information collected during the joint consultations will be used by the WRRB to make its final decision about the consensus agreements for each species.

2.9 Review and Approval of Implementation Actions for NWT Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy

Document, entitled “*Consensus Agreement Respecting Implementation of the Recovery Strategy for Boreal Caribou in the Northwest Territories*”, tabled

The Conference of Management Authorities reached a consensus respecting the implementation of the *Recovery Strategy for Boreal Caribou in the Northwest Territories*. The recommended conservation and recovery approaches and the Management Authorities’ intent to undertake them are summarized in Annex A of the Consensus Agreement. Implementation is subject to appropriations, priorities and budgetary constraints of the Management Authorities.

**Motion #548-13-09-2017**

*To approve the recommended approaches to conservation and recovery listed in the consensus agreement for implementation of the recovery strategy for boreal caribou in the NWT*

**Moved:**  
**Second:**

Eddie Chocolate  
Steve Matthews

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #372-13-09-2017 (ED):** To bring WRRB decision forward to the CMA during its October 19, 2017 conference call

**3.0 Financial**

3.1 Nunavut Planning Commission Participation Costs

The Board requested that Staff determine the costs associated with participating in the Nunavut Planning Commission process. Primary costs included translation (\$9380.86) and travel (\$15,637.98) for a total of \$25,018.84. A funding request was made on September 11, 2017 to the Implementation Directorate to recover the costs expended to attend and participate in the Nunavut Planning Commission’s public hearing.

3.2 2016-17 Annual Report

Tabled for review by the Board Members.

3.3 Approval of Audited Financial Statement as of 31 March 2017

**Motion #549-13-09-2017**

*To approve the Audited Financial Statement as of 31 March 2017 as presented*

**Moved:** Suzanne Carriere  
**Second:** Steve Matthews

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #373-13-09-2017 (ED):** To forward final audited financial statement to Implementation Branch, INAC

3.4 Approval of Revised 2017-18 Budget & Work Plan

**Motion #550-13-09-2017** *To approve the revised 2017/18 budget and work plan as presented*

**Moved:** Bruce MacDonald  
**Second:** Suzanne Carriere

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #374-13-09-2017 (ED):** To forward final revised 2017/18 budget and work plan to Implementation Branch, INAC

3.5 Approval of Ten-year (2017-2027) Budget & Work Plan

Requested that item noting the use of the Wildlife Studies Funds, i.e. reviewing and administering funding proposals, be added

**Motion #551-13-09-2017** *To approve the ten-year (2017-2027) budget and work plan as amended*

**Moved:** Steve Matthews  
**Second:** Suzanne Carriere

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #375-13-09-2017 (ED):** To forward final ten-year budget and work plan to Implementation Branch, INAC

3.6 Approval of Financial Statement as of 31 July 2017

**Motion #552-13-09-2017** *To approve the financial statement as of 31 July 2017 as presented*

**Moved:** Bruce MacDonald  
**Second:** Suzanne Carriere

**Motion Approved**

### 3.7 Wildlife Studies Fund Investment Review

The WRRB had a meeting with Wood Gundy (CIBC investment company) to discuss the Board's Wildlife Studies Fund and request a proposal to get some returns with low risk. A bond ladder portfolio and an equity portfolio were provided to the Board for their review.

Members discussed getting proposals for a \$2.8 million bond ladder from three different investment companies (noting requirement to not go below \$2.5 million), allow Board guidance in the types of investment, i.e. no uranium companies, determine management fees (%).

**ACTION #376-14-09-2017 (ED):** To check with legal counsel about possible bias related to investment in certain companies, i.e. Diavik

**ACTION #377-14-09-2017 (ED):** To approach Wood Gundy and two other investment companies for proposal

## 4.0 Operations

### 4.1 Board Member iPads & Board Effects Software

Board Members interested in moving away from paper binders and using digital technology (iPads). Uncertain whether Board Effects software is necessary, possibly use WRRB website and add secure section. Suggestion to purchase 10 iPads (standard, with WIFI and cellular capabilities) with case and adapters.

Requirement to update Operating Procedures Manual for terms of use for iPad.

**Motion #554-14-09-2017**

*To purchase 10 iPad X up to a maximum of \$15,000*

**Moved:**  
**Second:**

Bruce MacDonald  
Steve Matthews

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #378-14-09-2017 (ED):** To purchase iPads

### 4.2 New Biologist Position

With increase in funding, the Board is able to consider hiring a new position that could be a combination of the biologist and communication officers' duties. Recommended that Staff review and develop a job description for review by the HR Committee. Review job descriptions of similar positions with other Boards (i.e. GRRB Species at Risk Biologist or Renewable Resource Manager).

**ACTION #379-14-09-2017 (ED):** To finalize job description and proceed with hiring new biologist



**5.0 Information Items**

Information items tabled for review by the Board Members.

**6.0 Other Items**

6.1 Round Table

Board Members thanked one another, translators and Staff for a good meeting with lots of good discussion and decisions. Board Members noted the Board is working during a time of transition with new technology and staff as well as renewing long term investments. Staff encouraged to come forward if workload or personnel concerns.

6.2 Next Meeting

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for December 12-13, 2017 in Yellowknife, NT.

**Closing Prayer: Charlie Jeremick'ca**

**Adjournment: 12:23 p.m. (Motion #555-14-09-2017)**

Minutes Approved:

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Chairperson

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Date