



Board Meeting Minutes

Location: Yellowknife, NT
Date: 19-21 April 2016

Board Members:

Charlie Jeremick'ca (Tłìchq Appointee)
Jonas Lafferty (Tłìchq Appointee)
Steven Matthews (GNWT Appointee)
Suzanne Carriere (GNWT Appointee) – April 21 only
Grant Pryznyk (Federal Appointee)
Bruce MacDonald (Special Advisor) – April 19 only

Staff:

Jody Pellissey
Boyan Tracz
Susan Beaumont

Translators:

James Rabesca
Violet Mackenzie

Technical Advisors:

Alice Legat
Anne Gunn (via teleconference) – April 19-20 only

Opening Prayer: Jonas Lafferty

Call to Order: 9:10 a.m.

No formal agenda was produced for this meeting. The discussion focused on 1) the harvest and wolf management options identified by WRRB at its March 15-16, 2016 meeting for the 2016 Bathurst Caribou Herd Proceeding and 2) the proposed management actions identified by the Tłìchq Government (TG) and the Department of Environment & Natural Resources (ENR), Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) for the 2016 Bluenose-East Caribou Herd Proceeding.

1) 2016 Bathurst Caribou Herd Proceeding

Final Report Preparation

- Staff and Advisors recommended prioritization of decisions and recommendations by preparing two separate reports to respond to the proposed management actions.
- Proposed harvest management actions will require regulation changes and will need to be in place for the start of the 2016/17 harvest season (July 1); therefore, these proposed actions should be a priority.
- Ensure that reason for decision and timeline of submission of Report #2 are included.
 - Report #1 – Harvest management and wolf pilot program & feasibility assessment; to be submitted on May 13, 2016.
 - Report #2 – Predator management, monitoring and other recommended management actions, such as fire management; to be submitted on August 31, 2016.

Motion #479-21-04-2016 *To prioritize the decisions and recommendations for the 2016 Bathurst Caribou Herd by preparing two separate reports to respond to the proposed management actions*

Moved: Steven Matthews
Second: Charlie Jeremick'ca

Motion Approved

- Harvest Management
 - Based on both science and Tłjichq knowledge presented, the Board determined that there is a conservation concern for the Bathurst caribou herd.
 - At the March 2016 meeting, the Board identified two options as possible responses to the proposed harvest management actions: #1) TAH = 0 and #2) TAH = 0, with ceremonial (cultural/educational) harvest.
 - Evidence presented related to a TAH of zero included: conservation concern; precautionary principle; elders concerned that wildlife management regime should be helpful to people too (cannot go without caribou).
 - Evidence presented related to a ceremonial harvest included: harvest of 50-100 caribou would have no significant and/or measurable effect on the herd; help elders to maintain/transfer knowledge about caribou and harvesting to youth; due to a conservation concern, TG and North Slave Métis Alliance both were against a ceremonial harvest; any ceremonial harvest would have to be allocated to Tłjichq Citizens and other Aboriginal peoples with rights to harvest wildlife in Wek'èezhìi or Mqwhì Gogha Dè Njittlèè.
 - Based on the following, the Board decided to go with Option #1 (TAH=0) for inclusion in Report #1: proposal only for three years; if TG should wish to add a ceremonial harvest during the three years, the Board would accommodate their process as quickly as possible; if ceremonial harvest occurs, biological sampling would be required.

- Wolf Management
 - At the March 2016 meeting, the Board identified two options as possible responses to the proposed wolf management actions to be conducted in tandem with the proposed feasibility assessment: #1) training program (Mobile Camps), Tłjichq Only or for ALL Aboriginal harvesters in Wek'èezhìi and #2) limited time specific wolf control (emergency).
 - The pilot training program in Wekweèti did not happen in 2015/16; TG and ENR plan to conduct the pilot training program in 2016/17.
 - The Board will respond to the pilot training program in Report #1; why did the program not occur; what were the constraints; how can the Board be assured that the program will be implemented in 2016/17; follow-up regarding requested responses to Board questions.
 - Anne Gunn, Science Advisor, prepared information providing specific details related to Option #2 and options for Board involvement in the preparation of the proposed wolf feasibility assessment.
 - Limited time specific wolf control is best conducted in May; therefore, not a realistic option for 2016; discussion to be included in Report #2.

- To take initiative and a leadership role during a critical time for the Bathurst caribou herd, the Board decided to recommend, in Report #1, that the WRRB conduct the wolf feasibility assessment, including: hold meeting with TG and ENR to develop a terms of reference to determine what should be included in the feasibility assessment (including pilot training program and limited time specific wolf control); cost share assessment with ENR/TG/WRRB (Board to use monies from Wildlife Studies Fund); hire contractor to conduct the assessment; ensure both a TK and science assessment, including conducting focus groups; include both Bathurst and Bluenose-East caribou herds; assessment will not be a review of ENR's wolf program.

2) 2016 Bluenose-East Caribou Herd Proceeding

Final Report

- Staff and Advisors recommended prioritization of decisions and recommendations by preparing two separate reports to respond to the proposed management actions.
- Proposed harvest management actions will require regulation changes and will need to be in place for the start of the 2016/17 harvest season (July 1); therefore, these proposed actions should be a priority.
- Ensure that reason for decision and timeline of submission of Report #2 are included.
 - Report #1 – Harvest management and wolf pilot program & feasibility assessment; to be submitted on May 31, 2016.
 - Report #2 – Predator management, monitoring and other recommended management actions; to be submitted on August 31, 2016.

Motion #480-21-04-2016 *To prioritize the decisions and recommendations for the 2016 Bluenose-East Caribou Herd by preparing two separate reports to respond to the proposed management actions*

Moved: Steven Matthews
Second: Jonas Lafferty
Abstain: Suzanne Carriere

Motion Approved

Proposed Management Actions

- Staff reviewed the three management actions proposed by TG and ENR in the joint management proposal and provided different options the Board Members could consider, as well as, leading a discussion about items deemed 'outside the scope' of the management proposal.
- 1) Harvest Management
Subsistence Harvest
 - 4 options were presented to the Board related to subsistence harvest: #1) TAH = 950; #2) Voluntary Target = 1800; #3) TAH = >950 or <950; and #4) No restrictions.
 - Options #2 and 4 were discussed but quickly eliminated.
 - Options #1-2 were identified as possible responses to the proposed harvest management action; technical advisors and staff are to find and provide evidence from the public record to assist with the decision.

Harvest Allocation

- Herd wide vs. Wek'èezhì only; TG and ENR propose a herd wide allocation as follows: Tìjchq – 373; Sahtú – 163; Dehcho – 15; Inuvialuit – 8; MWT Métis Nation – 14; Akaitcho – 20; North Slave Métis Alliance – 17; and Nunavut – 339.
- Further discussion required before final decision; outstanding information from Undertaking #1 required (deadline for submission – April 22).

Sex Ratio

- 3 options were presented to the Board related to sex ratio: #1) 100% bull harvest (leave the big bulls alone and focus on smaller, younger bulls); #2) x% bulls: x% cows; and #3) No restrictions.
 - Options #2 and 3 were eliminated.
 - Options #1 was identified as possible response to the proposed harvest management action; technical advisors and staff are to find and provide evidence from the public record to assist with the decision, including TK about harvest of smaller bulls vs. larger bulls.
- 2) Wolf Management
 - There are no plans to conduct predator (wolf or grizzly bear) management on the Bluenose-East caribou range, except for the wolf feasibility assessment; possibly in the future, following successful implementation of the wolf pilot training program on the Bathurst caribou range.
 - 4 options were presented to the Board: #1) Wait for Bathurst Program to be completed before possible implementation; #2) Conduct similar training program at same time as Bathurst Program; #3) Limited time specific wolf control (emergency); and #4) No formal programs.
 - Option #4 was eliminated after a short discussion.
 - Options #1, #2 and #3 were identified as possible responses to be conducted in tandem to the proposed wolf management action; technical advisors and staff are to find and provide evidence from the public record to assist with the decision, including information about conducting the limited time specific wolf control in the NWT and the NWT/Nunavut.
 - 3) Monitoring
 - Board Members noted that monitoring is not a management action; rather, monitoring is collecting information to support management actions
 - 3 options were presented to the Board: #1) Core only (Biological, including Collars, Harvest & Wolves); #2) Core & Environmental monitoring; and #3) Focused modified monitoring.
 - Option #1 was eliminated after a short discussion.
 - Options #2-3 were identified as possible responses to the proposed monitoring actions; technical advisors and staff are to find and provide evidence from the public record to assist with the decision, including identifying necessary Core and Environmental monitoring actions and how Core monitoring actions may be modified/focused to collect different information. Additional work needed to ensure proper TK balance.
 - Board Members recognize limitations for funding and personnel exist; how best to maximize collection of information with the limitations.

