



Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 5 June 2019

Location: Denendeh Manor 1st Floor Boardroom, Yellowknife, Wekweètì, NT

Board Members:

Eddie Erasmus (Tłıchq̓ Appointee)
Steve Matthews (GNWT Appointee)
Joseph Judas (Chair)
Isabelle Duclos (Canada Appointee)
Suzanne Carrière (GNWT Appointee) – via telephone

Translators:

Jonas Lafferty
James Rabesca

Staff:

Aimee Guile
Shalyn Norrish
Jody Pellissey
Randi Jennings

Regrets

Charlie Jeremick'ca (Tłıchq̓ Appointee)
Chris Football (Tłıchq̓ Appointee)
Eddie Chocolate (Tłıchq̓ Appointee)

Guests:

John Donihee
James Hodson, ENR
Rachel Turnquist, ENR
Kathy Unger, ENR
Mike Gravel, ENR
Bruno Croft, ENR

Call to Order: 10:53 a.m.

Opening Prayer: Joseph Judas

1.0 Agenda and Previous Minutes

1.1 Approval of Agenda

ADD 2.6 – Live Capture Muskox Review

Motion #642-05-06-2019

To approve the 5 June 2019 agenda as amended

Moved:

Eddie Erasmus

Second:

Steve Matthews

Motion Approved

2.0 Business

2.1 Review and Approval of Bluenose-East Caribou Reasons for Decision Report

Bluenose-East Caribou DRAFT Reasons for Decision Report V.3 tabled

Legal counsel reminded the Board that it has the requirement to make decisions based on the evidence received, i.e. that recommendations made must have supporting evidence. The Board must review the recommendations made in 2010 and 2016 as the Tłıchq Government and ENR have legal obligations to implement once approval of accepted or varied recommendations, i.e. it is important for the Board to keep track of what the Tłıchq Government and ENR have said they were going to do, which is the central component of an adaptive management framework. Recommendations must be written in a very precise way: why is recommendation necessary, use evidence to provide the explanation; who is responsible for the action; how should the action be implemented; when should the action be completed; once completed, report back to the Board to know whether action is making things better/worse (feedback system).

Total Allowable Harvest

Board wanted to use a known population estimate to calculate the 1%, therefore, using 19,300 population estimate from 2018 to make a TAH of 193; suggestion that TAH should be rounded to 190 as the level of accuracy of 193 is not warranted by the data; explanation needs to be improved; need to be clear to which harvest seasons the proposed TAH will be applied.

Harvest Allocation

Be more specific in determination and add the number along with the percent, e.g. Tłıchq Citizens: 39.29% or 76 caribou.

Harvest Monitoring

Add sex to the list of harvest information to be collected; annual harvest report information needs to be clarified, must indicate who will prepare the report and to whom the report should be provided to (public); adjust recommendation to state "hire up to 4 monitors where necessary" rather than provide specific number of monitors to hire, and put more detail in the analysis prior to the recommendation (too much work for one monitor, can be unsafe).

Predator

Ensure that evidence provided prior to recommendation #3 clearly states the link between the effectiveness in achieving Sahti Ekwò conservation goals and the wolf feasibility assessment or the management proposal to be submitted; suggestion to improve #3 by requiring the development of a framework to evaluate effectiveness and submit to the Board for review and approval by September 30; need to be clear that walking the land is not considered a disturbance.

Habitat

Include definition for high priority habitat.

Education

Replacement program should include financial/logistical support to help with alternative species harvest, complement to the alternative species to have meat replacement program if not enough alternate species.

Research & Monitoring

Ensure that the text does not give incorrect inferences, i.e. fecal pellet collection is not a replacement for the reconnaissance survey; revise wording in collar recommendation to include a list of requirements to be provided annually; ensure that there is a better link given between climate change and the adaptive management framework.

Motion #647-05-06-2019

To accept the recommendations provided in the draft 2019 Bluenose-East Reasons for Decision Report V.3 as amended

Moved:

Steve Matthews

Second:

Eddie Erasmus

Motion Approved

ACTION #455-05-06-2019 (ED): To complete final Bluenose-East Caribou Herd Reasons for Decision Report and forward to TG and GNWT.

2.2 Review and Approval of Bathurst Caribou Reasons for Decision Report

As the Board has not received the 2018 Bathurst Calving Ground Report from ENR and the Tłıchǵ Government, it is recommended that the WRRB consider a delay, i.e. adjourn proceeding until report is provided. Legal counsel noted that the Board has the legal authority to take more time if convinced that it is necessary before making a decision, and the Board is entirely within its rights to insist to have the best and most current information available. The report may have the Board find that they want to amend their recommendations.

Board Members noted concern that ENR and the Tłıchǵ Government will think there is no urgency to provide the calving ground survey report; suggestion to then adjourn the Bathurst proceeding for 4-6 weeks and if calving ground survey not provided, then consider Section 12.3.7, i.e. summons senior management to come before the Board to explain why report not available

Motion #643-05-06-2019

To delay the submission of the 2019 Bathurst Caribou Herd Reasons for Decision Report

Moved:

Steve Matthews

Second:

Eddie Erasmjus

Motion Approved

Motion #644-05-06-2019

To adjourn the 2019 Bathurst Caribou Herd Proceeding until July 17, 2019

Moved:

Eddie Erasmus

Second:

Steve Matthews

Motion Approved

ACTION #451-05-06-2019 (ED): To write letter to TG and GNWT informing of the 2019 Bathurst Caribou Herd Proceeding adjournment.

2.3 Review and Approval of Bathurst Caribou Range Plan

Bathurst Caribou Range Plan 2019 tabled

The GNWT submitted the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan 2019 to the WRRB on May 10, 2019 as a management proposal, as per Section 12.5.1 of the Tłıchq Agreement. The Board is requested to complete its review of the plan by June 10, 2019.

Board Members questioned about an implementation plan; Section 5 of the plan discusses implementation with Table 7 providing near-term and mid-term implementation actions.

Motion #646-05-06-2019

To approve the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan as presented

Moved:
Second:

Isabelle Duclos
Eddie Erasmus

Motion Approved

ACTION #453-05-06-2019 (ED): To write letter to ENR supporting the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan

2.4 Review and Approval of Boreal Caribou Range Planning Framework, James Hodson, ENR

PowerPoint Presentation, entitled “*Boreal Caribou Range Planning Framework*”, tabled

The GNWT submitted the Boreal Caribou Range Planning Framework to the WRRB on May 27, 2019 as a management proposal, as per Section 12.5.1 of the Tłıchq Agreement. The Board is requested to complete its review of the plan by July 15, 2019. Work is scheduled to begin on the Wek’èezhì boreal caribou range plan in September 2019. ENR has hired two new Boreal Caribou Range Planners: Rachel Turnquist and Kathy Unger.

Motion #645-05-06-2019

To approve the boreal caribou range plan framework as presented

Moved:
Second:

Steve Matthews
Isabelle Duclos

Motion Approved

ACTION #452-05-06-2019 (ED): To write letter to ENR supporting the boreal caribou range plan framework

- 2.5 Forest Management Update, Mike Gravel, ENR
Power Point Presentation, entitled "*Forest Management Update - WRRB*", tabled

Forest Management working to identify important caribou areas and make values at risk; adding fire crew in Wekweètì starting summer 2019, with assured funding for 5 years; beginning to work closer together on projects to share information and resources, i.e. WRRB's TK project; hiring a forest/fire research scientist whose focus will be wildlife and fire, caribou and communities; requesting that the WRRB consider a forest management plan for Wek'èezhì that satisfies communities needs, include timber harvesting, research, wildfire management, plan would help to strengthen and clarify how the Board and ENR work together

Board Members noted concerns about dry forests close to the barrenlands, lack of green left in Wek'èezhì that should be kept safe as well as burned grave sites. Commitment made to provide an annual fire update on fire season as well as discuss how to share more information and collaborate.

- 2.6 Muskox Live Capture Review

Rev. Dr. Regehr submitted a request to the WRRB to reconsider its decision about muskox live capture made in 2018. The proposal has changed from a private muskox farm to a farm with an educational purpose and would hire Indigenous people to care for the muskox.

Board Members note that the proposal has not changed significantly to warrant a change in decision.

ACTION #454-05-06-2019 (ED): To write letter to Rev. Dr. Regehr informing of the Board's decision to not support the request to live capture muskox

3.0 Financial

4.0 Operations

5.0 Information Items

6.0 Other Items

- 6.1 Round Table

- 6.2 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for September 10-11, 2019 in Whatì.

Closing Prayer: Eddie Erasmus

Adjournment: 4:40 p.m. (Motion #648-05-06-2019)

Minutes Approved:

ORIGINAL SIGNED

10 September 2019

Chairperson

Date