



## Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 7-8 February 2018

**Location:** Denendeh Manor 1<sup>st</sup> Floor Boardroom, Yellowknife, NT

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**Board Members:**

Charlie Jeremick'ca (Tłıchq Appointee)

Suzanne Carrière (GNWT Appointee)

Grant Pryznyk (Chair)

Steven Matthews (GNWT Appointee)

Joseph Judas (Special Advisor)

**Staff:**

Jody Pellissey

Susan Beaumont

**Translators:**

James Rabesca

Violet Mackenzie

**Guests:**

Karin Clark, ENR

Andrea Patenaude, ENR

James Hodson, ENR

Myra Robertson, ECCC

Isabelle Duclos, ECCC

Amy Ganton, ECCC

Megan Ross, ECCC

Eric Reed, ECCC

Kyla Bas, U of S

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**Call to Order: 9:12 p.m.**

**Opening Prayer: Charlie Jeremick'ca**

### 1.0 Agenda and Previous Minutes

#### 1.1 Approval of Agenda

REMOVE: Items 1.2 Approval of Minutes – 12-13 December 2017, and 4.2 Revised Operating Procedures Manual

**Motion #568-07-02-2018**

*To approve the 7-8 February 2018 agenda as amended*

**Moved:**

Steve Matthews

**Second:**

Charlie Jeremick'ca

**Motion Approved**

#### 1.2 Approval of Minutes – 12-13 December 2018

Tabled until next meeting.

#### 1.3 Review of Action Items

Outstanding action items list was tabled and reviewed. #249-21-01-2015: Tłıchq Wildlife Research Workshop to be rescheduled, but to first determine if funding

will be provided and other organizations are interested in participating; possibility of linking with a North Slave Regional Workshop.

## 2.0 Business

- 2.1 Wildlife Research Permit Application – Wildlife Effects Monitoring for the Proposed Tłjchq All-Season Road in the Taiga Plains, North Slave Region – Boreal Caribou, Moose and Bison – Andrea Patenaude and James Hodson, ENR

PowerPoint Presentation, entitled “*Tłjchq All-Season Road Wildlife Effects Monitoring*”, tabled

ENR submitted this Wildlife Research Permit (WRP) application WRP on December 4, 2017. ENR staff held community engagements on the WRP application: on December 11, 2018 in Whati, and on December 14, 2018 in Behchokq; a TG staff member also attended.

At the December 12-13, 2017 Board meeting, Board Members had a lengthy discussion about the management proposal, considering its strengths and weaknesses. The WRRB sent ENR a letter on Dec 20, 2017 which noted that ENR has not replied to the WRRB's February 20, 2017 response, and reminded ENR that by not responding to the WRRB and providing rationale, the WRRB's credibility is undermined. The WRRB letter also requested:

1. A clearly defined set of objectives, including how collar data will be analyzed to determine the effect of the TASR on boreal caribou;
2. An explanation detailing how the program will adjust to a loss of more than five collars;
3. A report from the NWT Wildlife Care Committee, as the management proposal does not discuss the effects of collars on caribou;
4. Annual and periodic analyses and reporting on collars for both boreal and barren-ground caribou; and,
5. A plan detailing how communities' concerns about collaring will be managed.

The WRRB further clarified in the December 20, 2017 letter that the management proposal is incomplete and lacking information, and that the Board is unable to make a decision regarding support. The WRRB invited ENR to attend the February 2018 Board meeting to provide further clarification. On January 17, 2018 ENR provided a response to the WRRB's request for information and agreed to attend the February 7-8, 2018 Board meeting to discuss the responses and WRP.

Following presentation and extensive question period, the Board Members discussed the WRP application in-depth before agreeing to support the application for a two-year period only. Board Members also requested that the response to ENR include: hydrology (flooding), stratified habitat assessment, annual reporting/presentation to WRRB, pick up any carcasses that have been or will be found and conduct necropsies, show tódzi from other regions on maps in reporting, report on mortality and track effect of collars (future presentation by Heather Fenton on impacts of collars on wildlife).

**Motion #569-07-02-2018**

*To support the Wildlife Research Permit Application, entitled “Wildlife Effects Monitoring for the Proposed Tłı̄ch̄q All-Season Road in the Taiga Plains, North Slave Region – Boreal Caribou, Moose and Bison”, as presented for a two-year timeline only*

**Moved:**

Steve Matthews

**Second:**

Charlie Jeremick'ca

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #391-07-02-2018 (ED):** To write a letter to ENR to support the WRP application, entitled “Wildlife Effects Monitoring for the Proposed Tłı̄ch̄q All-Season Road in the Taiga Plains, North Slave Region – Boreal Caribou, Moose and Bison”, for a two-year timeline only

2.2 Wildlife Research Permit Application – Monitoring of the Bathurst, Bluenose-East and Beverly Caribou Herds

The WRP application requests support for the following monitoring actions:

1. Continued use of satellite collars to monitor the movement and distribution of migrating caribou. ENR plans to maintain up to 50 collars on the each of the Bathurst, Bluenose East and Beverly herds (30 on cows and 20 on bulls). It is expected that up to 20 collars will be added to Bathurst caribou, and 15 collars each will be added to Bluenose-East and Beverly caribou. If funding is available, a reconnaissance survey may be conducted to determine the distribution and density of caribou prior to collaring. Collaring will involve a helicopter capture crew and use of a net gun to capture animals; caribou will not be injected with immobilizing drugs. To reduce handling time no measurements will be taken; however, blood samples will be collected to assess pregnancy status.
2. Late winter calf survival / spring recruitment surveys (March-April 2018) to measure annual calf survival for the three herds, and to compare herd trends.
3. Fall sex-ratio survey (October 2018).

Note: Photo surveys are planned for summer 2018 for the Bathurst, and Bluenose East herds. No WRP application submitted as the work is conducted in Nunavut.

Some Board Members noted concerns about having to replace so many collars (20+) per year, while others were concerned about the number of collars in total. It was noted that 30 collared caribou are the minimum required to determine cow survival. After extensive discussion, Board Members agreed to this year's proposal with the idea to review the proposal with ENR biologists prior to the 2019 WRP application.

**Motion #571-08-02-2018**

*To support the Wildlife Research Permit Application, entitled “Monitoring of the*

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

*Bathurst, Bluenose-East and Beverly  
Caribou Herds”, as presented*  
Steve Matthews  
Charlie Jeremick'ca

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #395-08-02-2018 (ED):** To write a letter to ENR to support the WRP application, entitled “Monitoring of the Bathurst, Bluenose-East and Beverly Caribou Herds”

2.3 Wildlife Research Permit Application – Muskox Surveys North Slave Region, February – March 2018

The last muskox survey in the North Slave region occurred in late winter 2010. Two surveys are proposed for February-March 2018: the first would be a large regional survey north of tree-line similar to the one carried out in late winter 2010, and the second would be a smaller pilot survey primarily south of the tree-line (see Figure 1 in attached WRP application). Both surveys will use fixed-wing strip transect methods, and it is estimated 5-10 days of flying will be required to complete each of the two surveys.

The WRP application requests support for the following monitoring actions:

1. A larger muskox survey north of tree-line to provide an updated muskox population estimate for the same survey area used in 2010;
2. The larger survey results will help to determine if muskox distribution and density have changed since 2010, and if current harvest rates are sustainable;
3. The smaller survey will test survey methods for muskoxen that can be used south of tree-line where sightability of muskoxen is much reduced (i.e. strip-width of transects will be narrower than in the larger survey to increase likelihood of seeing muskoxen among the trees); and
4. The smaller survey will also obtain high-resolution photos of all muskoxen found, and test whether sex and age classes can be identified, following survey methods used by similar aircraft on muskox surveys in Alaska.

Note: The 2018 surveys are outside Wek'èezhì but are partially within Mqwhì Gogha Dè Njìt'èè.

**ACTION #392-07-02-2018 (ED):** To write a letter to ENR to support the WRP application, entitled “Muskox Surveys North Slave Region, February – March 2018”

2.4 Approval of Proposed Listing of Barren-ground Caribou, Grizzly Bear and Little Brown Myotis

The Conference of Management Authorities (CMA) is preparing to make decisions on adding barren-ground caribou, grizzly bear and the little brown myotis to the NWT List of Species at Risk, and is gathering feedback from the public on the listings.

In April 2017, the NWT Species at Risk Committee (SARC) assessed the status of grizzly bears as special concern, barren-ground caribou as threatened, and two bat species (little brown myotis and northern myotis) as special concern in the Northwest Territories (NWT). The assessment used objective biological criteria and was based on a status report containing the best available traditional, community and scientific knowledge.

In collaboration with Tłı̄ch̄ Government staff, consultations on the proposed listings occurred in all four Tłı̄ch̄ communities in October and November 2017. In addition to the consultation on the NWT listing of barren-ground caribou, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) consulted on the proposed listing of barren-ground caribou as “Threatened” at the national level; barren-ground caribou were assessed nationally by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC). The collaboration among TG, WRRB and ECCC during the consultation tour worked well. Consultation materials were provided by SARC and ECCC.

#### Barren-ground Caribou

The main threats to barren ground caribou are climate change related (e.g. changes to vegetation, icing events), predation, industrial development, and forest fires. Though an estimated 530,000 barren-ground caribou reside either partially or entirely in the NWT, overall the numbers have declined by 85% for all herds for which there is trend information for the past three caribou generations. It is understood that caribou populations can undergo large fluctuations, however, the cumulative effects from multiple interacting threats are considered unprecedented. Community consultations on barren-ground caribou clearly indicated that concerns about caribou are pervasive. Cultural significance was mentioned repeatedly, as were concerns about how quickly changes are occurring. Concerns about predators, climate change, human activities, and the impacts of harvest restrictions were also repeatedly mentioned. Overall, the many serious concerns in Tłı̄ch̄ communities provides an indication that a proposed “Threatened” status is appropriate.

#### Grizzly Bear

The main threats to the grizzly bear include behavioral changes leading to increased human-bear interactions (e.g. attraction to hunting activities). Though current mortality of grizzly bears is less than 1% of the total population, even a small increase in mortality can impact the population, and a precautionary approach may be warranted. Grizzly bears in the NWT have large home ranges, and there are concerns that industrial development may remove effective habitat. Negative impacts from climate change (e.g. affecting hibernation) are also recognized. In June 2017, CMA requested clarification from the NWT Species at Risk Committee (SARC) regarding the assessment of grizzly bear, as the CMA did not clearly understand SARC’s interpretation of threats in its assessment; SARC provided a response in June 2017. There is also indication that GRRB, SRRB, WMAC and TG may be considering downlisting grizzly bear to a “Not at Risk” status. Community consultations on Grizzly Bear indicated climate change-related concerns, along with recognition of the spiritual and physical power of the bears. Overall, comments on the appropriateness of the listing were limited.

Little Brown Myotis

The main threat to the little brown myotis is white-nose syndrome. Bats are highly susceptible to this fungus and have experienced devastating population declines. In eastern Canada, populations impacted by white-nose syndrome have declined by 94%. Though white nose syndrome has not been observed in the NWT, there is concern that the disease could spread to the NWT sooner than predicted (current prediction 10-20 years). The disease has recently been found in the US Pacific Northwest, where previously it had been expanding in eastern North America. Community consultations on Little Brown Myotis indicated some curiosity about bats and some possible sightings. Overall, knowledge was very limited

Board Members agreed with SARC assessment for barren-ground caribou and little brown myotis. Discussion about the assessment for grizzly bear noted concerns about harvest and management in Nunavut as well as recognizing the concerted management in areas throughout the NWT. Board agreed with SARC assessment for grizzly bear noting that without the special management in place, there is a concern that grizzly bear populations will be impacted (may not be biologically sound); however, it was noted that as long as all existing management continues as is and any proposed changes to management would result in a reassessment, the Board would be willing to agree to an assessment of not at risk.

**Motion #570-07-02-2018**

*To support the listing of barren-ground caribou as threatened, little brown myotis as special concern, and grizzly bear as special concern; however, willing to support grizzly bear as not at risk IF all existing management continues as is and any significant changes proposed to management that would negatively impact the status of the grizzly bear would result in a reassessment*

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

Steve Matthews  
Charlie Jeremick'ca  
Suzanne Carrière

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #393-07-02-2018 (ED):** To bring position forward to CMA during its February 2018 meeting

2.5 Bathurst Caribou Range Plan – Karin Clark, ENR

PowerPoint Presentation, entitled “*Draft Bathurst Caribou Range Plan, February 2018*”, tabled

Over the past three years, the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan Working Group has developed the Draft Range Plan with nine management recommendations, including: Cumulative Land Disturbance Framework, guardian programs, the

protection of key habitats, the use of mobile conservation measures and road planning and management. It is suggested that the proposed approaches for range management will be beneficial, provide regulatory certainty and reduce the cumulative impacts on caribou. ENR is seeking input on the proposed approaches and recommendations presented in the Draft Range Plan to help inform the development of the Final Plan. The Range Plan will be an advisory document providing guidance to keep land healthy for caribou and will be interim until land use plans are completed.

Board Members suggested that a discussion about range quality and seasonal changes be added to the draft to address the changes necessary for the herd to recover (climate change effects may cause the caribou decline to last longer than expected), continued research and monitoring of habitat quality and quantity is recommended, and development of an implementation plan to successfully implement the nine general recommendations. Another suggestion was to put people on the calving grounds to protect calves from predators, and to monitor how the winter road is impacting the range based on climate change.

**ACTION #390-08-02-2018 (ED):** To provide comments to ENR on the draft Bathurst Caribou Range Plan by the March 31<sup>st</sup> deadline date

## 2.6 GNWT Legislative Initiatives Update

The WRRB sent a formal letter to ENR and TG on January 8, 2018 noting its concerns about the lack of renewable resource boards (RRBs) involvement to date on the Technical Working Group, and the requirement to consult the Board on draft legislation. The Board further noted the recent Supreme Court of Canada's *Nacho Nyuk Dun* decision, which emphasized the importance of land claims-based co-management processes regarding government decision-making about land and resource management. The WRRB also wrote a separate letter to TG requesting the Tłı̨ch̨ Government support the Board in its petition to participate on the Technical Working Group.

The GNWT responded to the WRRB on January 29, 2018 indicating that the WRRB's request has been discussed with the Technical Working Group. The RRBs will be provided documents so that their priorities can be shared with the Technical Working Group, which will assist in understanding the RRBs interests in being invited to participate. Additionally, the RRBs were reminded that their input is being documented through a Stakeholder Advisory Group process, which is provided to the Technical Working Group.

Board Members noted concern about the lack of WRRB participation leading to poorer working relationships with both ENR and TG. Requested to write a letter pointing out that according to the Tłı̨ch̨ Agreement the Board needs to see draft legislation, at a minimum, and that drafting legislation using the current TWG process is invalid if not all legislated bodies are involved, i.e. the intent of the Tłı̨ch̨ Agreement is not followed.

**ACTION #396-08-02-2018 (ED):** To write a letter to TG and ENR noting continued concerns about technical working group process

## 2.7 Wek'èezhì Forum Update – Tłıchq Government Strategic Framework & Intentions

The Wek'èezhì Forum was established following the implementation of the Tłıchq Agreement to facilitate information sharing and discussion on matters of common interest between the Wek'èezhì resource co-management boards and Tłıchq Government. Members of the Forum include the Wek'èezhì Land and Water Board, the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board, and the Tłıchq Government.

The Forum held a meeting on October 17, 2017 to discuss the current initiatives and priorities of each member and review existing partnership projects. A discussion about the Tłıchq Government's Strategic Framework and Intentions was postponed until January 2018.

On January 23, 2018, the Forum Members met again to review and provide input into the most current version of the Strategic Framework and Intentions document (for use by the 4<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly). The six intentions that describe the work of the Tłıchq Government are:

1. Sustaining our Lands & Environment
2. Sustaining our Language, Culture & Way of Life
3. Strengthening our Communities, Our People
4. Increasing our Financial Strength & Economic Development
5. Strengthening Tłıchq Governance, Institutions & Organizations
6. Managing Effective Intergovernmental Relationships.

The target for completion of the Strategic Framework & Intentions for 2017-2022, including a vision, mission, principles and intentions is June 2018. The Board was requested to provide any input to the Tłıchq Government to include in their Strategic Framework and Intentions related to renewable resources and/or the WRRB.

## 2.8 Bathurst Caribou Management Plan Update

The Bathurst Caribou Advisory Committee's Technical Working Group (TWG) met on January 30 to February 1, 2018 to continue working on the draft Bathurst Caribou Management Plan. Discussions focused on thresholds and revising management actions. Several options for population thresholds for management were shared, including from existing management plans (Porcupine Caribou Herd, Cape Bathurst/Bluenose-West/Bluenose-East Caribou Herds, Beverly/Qamanirjuaq Caribou Herds, and the George River/Leaf River Caribou Herds). The TWG liked the circular diagram found in the George River & Leaf River Caribou Herd's draft plan as it was felt the diagram was the most visual and descriptive way to communicate the idea of thresholds with communities. The diagram can be used for harvest as well as other actions (i.e. predators).

The North Slave Métis Alliance completed a separate analysis of possible harvest thresholds for discussion during the meeting. They proposed a conservative approach, based on scientific data available, recommending a zero harvest when the Bathurst herd is below 60,000 animals, regardless of



population trend. Discussion amongst the TWG led to the proposal that a range of thresholds be brought to communities for review and discussion, i.e. zero harvest would be between 30,000 and 60,000. A final threshold will be determined by the TWG following input from communities.

The Bathurst Caribou Advisory Committee is tentatively scheduled to meet in March 2018, to discuss and approve the work to date completed by the TWG. Organizations will then be required to consult with their communities to get input on thresholds and management actions. The Advisory Committee is targeting the completion of the Bathurst Caribou Management Plan by fall 2018.

## 2.9 Environment & Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Update

### a) Proposed Changes to the Migratory Birds Regulations related to General Hunting Licences – Myra Robertson

PowerPoint Presentation, entitled *“Proposed deletion of General Hunting Licence reference in the Migratory Birds Regulations”*, tabled

ECCC is requesting feedback from the WRRB on the proposed changes as well as support/non-support. Board Members noted that consultations should occur with Tłıchq communities so that people are aware and understand the proposed changes. ECCC should also meet with the Tłıchq Government to be certain that the intent in the Tłıchq Agreement regarding non-beneficiary harvest is clear.

**ACTION #394-08-02-2018 (ED):** To write a letter to ECCC to recommend discussions with communities and confirm intent of Tłıchq Agreement with Tłıchq Government

### b) Boreal Caribou Conservation Agreement – Isabelle Duclos

PowerPoint Presentation, entitled *“SARA S.11 Conservation Agreements for Boreal Caribou”*, tabled

This is the first time that ECCC is exploring the use of Section 11 conservation agreements so currently just for one species (boreal caribou) instead of an ecosystem-based approach. Once specific measures for the conservation agreement are agreed to with the GNWT, the WRRB will be approached whether or not to become a part of the agreement. Current approach includes the measures and actions already supported in the CMA Implementation Plan for Boreal Caribou. It is hoped that the agreement-in-principle will be ready by March 2018.

### c) Species at Risk Update – Amy Ganton & Megan Ross

The next batch of species being considered for listing includes four species found in Wek'èezhì: Barren-ground Caribou, Transverse Lady Beetle, Harris's Sparrow, and Evening Grosbeak. ECCC is requesting feedback and comments from communities by May 22, 2018 for the Transverse Lady Beetle, Harris's Sparrow, and Evening Grosbeak, and is requesting feedback and comments from communities by October 22, 2018 for Barren-ground Caribou. Following

consultations, ECCC will summarize the consultation results and present them to the Board to seek the Board's decision on the proposed listing of the species.

The call for the Habitat Stewardship Program (HSP) and Aboriginal Funds for Species at Risk (AFSAR) applications for 2018-2019 is now open. Proposed activities should be after September 2018. Applicants are urged to contact their local ECCC office to ensure that projects meet the program priorities, due to changes in the programs' focus. Letters of Intent are due February 23, 2018 and applications are due March 19, 2018.

d) Boreal Waterfowl and Water Birds Monitoring Program – Eric Reed & Kyla Bas

PowerPoint Presentation, entitled “CWS Waterfowl Program Update for WRRB”, tabled

2017 newsletter to be provided to the Board once completed.

### 3.0 Financial

#### 3.1 Approval of 2018-19 Budget and Work Plan

The strategic business plan is currently not a part of the 2018-19 budget and work plan. A separate supplemental funding request will be made to INAC.

**Motion #572-08-02-2018**

*To approve the 2018-19 budget and work plan as presented*

**Moved:**

Suzanne Carrière

**Second:**

Steve Matthews

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #397-08-02-2018 (ED):** To send final 2018-19 budget and work plan to INAC

#### 3.2 Approval of Financial Statement as of 31 December 2017

**Motion #573-08-02-2018**

*To approve the financial statement as of 31 December 2017 as presented*

**Moved:**

Suzanne Carrière

**Second:**

Steve Matthews

**Motion Approved**

#### 3.3 2017-18 Interim Activity Report

Tabled for review by the Board Members.

## 4.0 Operations

### 4.1 Revised Rule for Management Proposals

The WRRB's Rule for Management Proposals, Section 5, has been revised to include information for Parties regarding varying and rejecting WRRB recommendations. The draft revised Rule will be forwarded to WRRB legal counsel for review before sending to the Parties to the Tłıchq Agreement for review and comment. Once revisions are complete, the Rule will be brought back to the Board for final review and approval.

### 4.2 Revised Operating Procedures Manual

Tabled to next meeting.

### 4.3 In-Camera Session

#### **Motion #574-08-02-2018**

*To go in-camera at 3:45 p.m.*

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

Steve Matthews  
Suzanne Carrière

**Motion Approved**

#### **Motion #575-08-02-2018**

*To come out of camera at 4:04 p.m.*

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

Steve Matthews  
Charlie Jeremick'ca

**Motion Approved**

#### **Motion #576-08-02-2018**

*To nominate Joseph Judas as the WRRB Chairperson*

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

Charlie Jeremick'ca  
Steve Matthews

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #398-08-02-2018 (ED):** To forward Joseph Judas' name for Chairperson to INAC, including resume

#### **Motion #577-08-02-2018**

*To increase Jody Pellissey's salary with a 2% merit increase as of January 1, 2018*

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

Charlie Jeremick'ca  
Steve Matthews

**Motion Approved**

HR Committee (Grant, Steve, Joseph and Jody): Grant and Jody to review and shortlist Wildlife Management & Conservation Biologists; Jody to conduct written exercises (online) during week of February 26, 2018; Grant and Jody to review exercises and further shortlist; Steve, Joseph and Jody to conduct interviews during the week of March 12, 2018

HR Committee (Grant, Steve and Jody): Approach Wood Gundy and two other investment companies for proposal for review at June 2018 meeting

## **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 that the Board is currently in a state of change with the loss of the Chair, two Board Members and one Staff member. Good opportunity to undergo strategic planning session in the fall as it will provide a good opportunity to step back and see where the Board wants to go.

Members noted their appreciation for Grant's leadership, all his hard work and travel to/from meetings. Members wish to recognize Grant and the other Board Members with gifts.

### **6.2 Next Meeting**

The next meeting is tentatively scheduled for June 13-14 or June 19-20, 2018 in Gamèti, NT.

**Closing Prayer: Joseph Judas**

**Adjournment: 4:35 p.m. (Motion #578-08-02-2018)**

Minutes Approved:

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**ORIGINALS SIGNED**

Chairperson

**June 20, 2018**

Date