



Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 7-9 May 2019

Location: Wekweèti Youth Centre, Wekweèti, NT

Board Members:

Eddie Erasmus (Tłıchq Appointee)
Charlie Jeremick'ca (Tłıchq Appointee)
Joseph Judas (Chair)
Steve Matthews (GNWT Appointee)
Chris Football (Tłıchq Appointee) – May 7 only

Staff:

Jody Pellissey
Aimee Guile
Shalyn Norrish

Translators:

Jonas Lafferty
Violet Mackenzie

Regrets

Suzanne Carrière (GNWT Appointee)
Eddie Chocolate (Tłıchq Appointee)

Call to Order: 10:12 a.m.

Opening Prayer: Joseph Judas

1.0 Agenda and Previous Minutes

1.1 Approval of Agenda

Motion #627-07-05-2019

To approve the 7-9 May 2019 agenda as presented

Moved:
Second:

Steve Matthews
Eddie Erasmus

Motion Approved

1.2 Approval of Minutes – 29-30 January 2019, 15 February 2019

29-30 January 2019

Motion #630-08-05-2019

To approve the 29-30 January 2019 minutes as presented

Moved:
Second:

Eddie Erasmus
Steve Matthews

Motion Approved

15 February 2019

Tabled until next meeting.

1.3 Review of Action Items

Outstanding action items list was tabled and reviewed.

2.0 Business

2.1 In-Camera Session, Bluenose-East Caribou Management Proposal

Motion #628-07-05-2019

To go in-camera at 10:12 a.m.

Moved:
Second:

Steve Matthews
Charlie Jeremick'ca

Motion Approved

Motion #629-07-05-2019

To come out of camera at 4:06 p.m.

Moved:
Second:

Steve Matthews
Eddie Erasmus

Motion Approved

2.2 Bathurst Caribou Management Proposal

On January 22, 2019, the WRRB received a joint management proposal titled *Government of the Northwest Territories and Tłı̨chǫ Government Joint Proposal on Management Actions for the Bathurst Ekwò (Barren-ground caribou) Herd: 2019 – 2021*. On January 30, 2019, the WRRB decided to deem the proposal sufficient and call the 2019 Bathurst Caribou Herd Proceeding (Level 2). A Level 2 proceeding means that the board seeks formal written comments from the public. The public comment period was open February 4, 2019 to April 5, 2019. The WRRB received written comments from Alternatives North, Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation, and the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee.

There were few differences between the 2019 kokètì ekwò joint management proposal and the 2016 kokètì ekwò joint management proposal. The table below outlines the proposed management actions of the 2016 and 2019 proposals.

	2016 Actions	2019 Proposal
Harvest	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- TAH of 0- Mobile Zone- Mobile Zone compliance monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- TAH of 0- Mobile Zone- Mobile Zone compliance monitoring
Predator Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Incentive program- TG program to train wolf harvesters	<ul style="list-style-type: none">- Enhanced Incentive program- Separate proposal to be received in 2019

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - TG program to train wolf harvesters - Collaborate with GN
Habitat and Land Use	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Remote sensing monitoring 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Implement the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan - Identify and protect key ekwò habitat
Education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community meetings - Radio programs - Sight-your-rifle - Boots on the ground - Social media - Poster campaign 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Community meetings - Radio programs - Sight-your-rifle - Boots on the ground - Social media - Poster campaign - Cultural programs
Monitoring and Research	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 50 collars - Population estimates every 3 years (photo survey) - Annual reconnaissance survey - Every 3 years: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Breeding cows estimate o June composition survey o Fall sex ratio o Winter calf:cow ratio o Cow survival rate - Wolf abundance - Environmental conditions 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 70 collars - Population estimates every 2 years (photo survey) - Annual monitoring of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Fall sex ratio o Fall calf:cow ratio o Winter calf:cow ratio o Pregnancy rates o Cow survival rate - Expansion of boots on the ground

Board Members noted the following: concerns about receiving management proposals, harvest data and other information in a timely manner from the GNWT; valuable information received from Alternatives North, Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation, and the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee should be noted in preamble; need to ensure that recommendations are tighter and more detailed with specific deadlines; how can the Board know if the mobile zone is the best way to implement the TAH of zero if no work has been completed on the effectiveness of the zone, i.e. how can the Board be certain whether or not Bathurst caribou have been harvested; concerns noted that recommendations about predator management have not yet been implemented; key habitats have been identified, need to be more direct "key habitat is protected"; increase the number of monitors in communities to help one another with harvest collection; and increased education about harvesting alternative species.

Motion #631-08-05-2019

To recommend the following to TG and GNWT: harvest – maintain TAH at zero, continue mobile conservation zone, quantitative assessment of mobile zone by Sep 1, 2019; predators – support proposed wolf harvester training program, support the enhanced wolf harvest incentive program, GNWT and TG work with GN on protecting the calving ground, monitors on the perimeter of the calving grounds to chase wolves, grizzly bear, eagles, and wolverines away during calving; habitat and land use – implement

Bathurst Caribou Range Plan, key habitat protected, including water crossings, land crossings, important unburned winter habitat, and important migration routes; education – work with communities and schools on promoting Indigenous laws and respecting wildlife, support community meetings, radio programs, sight-in-your-rifle events and highlight results of programs such as Boots on the ground, support on-the-land activities; and, monitoring and research – population surveys conducted every two years and at the same time as adjacent herds (should not prevent other research and monitoring, including environmental conditions), increase collars to 70 (more reliable estimates of cow survival), support expansion of Boots on the Ground, continue scientific and TK research, suspension of June reconnaissance surveys, TG and GNWT educate communities about population declines and factors affecting population declines, implement a replacement or subsidy program to compensate for the lack of caribou being harvested, community harvest monitors are increased from 1 to 3 per community.

Moved: Charlie Jeremick'ca
Second: Steve Matthews

Motion Approved

ACTION #442-08-05-2019 (ED): To write letter to TG and GNWT recommending Bathurst Caribou management actions.

2.3 Wildlife Research Permit Application – Boreal Shorebird Monitoring Program

Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) Canadian Wildlife Service submitted the Boreal Shorebird Monitoring Program, a Wildlife Research Permit (WRP) Application, for review to the board on February 19, 2019. The proposed work would study lesser yellowlegs (*Tringa flavipes*), which has been identified as a high priority candidate species for assessment by the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC), based largely on significant population declines over the past several decades.

The proposed research, scheduled for June 1, 2019 to July 31, 2019 around Behchokò, and other communities outside Wek'èezhìi, involves the following:

- Capture lesser yellowlegs using mist nets, checked every 30 minutes or less;
- Leg banding each lesser yellowlegs; and,
- Fitting up to 10 lesser yellowlegs with a GPS device (leg-loop or harness).

Details of the GPS device from the 2018 report:

*“GPS pinpoint tags are small (3.5g) devices that record a number of waypoints before uploading them to satellite where they can be downloaded remotely by researchers. We only deploy these tags on birds that weigh 80g or larger. We captured and banded four Lesser Yellowlegs near Yellowknife during June of 2018. Of these, **one** was large enough to carry a GPS pinpoint tag.”*

Motion #632-08-05-2019

To support the Wildlife Research Permit Application, entitled “Boreal Shorebird Monitoring Program”, as presented

Moved:
Second:

Charlie Jeremick'ca
Eddie Erasmus

Motion Approved

ACTION #443-08-05-2019 (ED): To write letter to ECCC supporting the WRP Application (Boreal Shorebird Monitoring Program).

2.4 Review and Approval of Phase 2 Regulation Amendments for the *Wildlife Act*

PowerPoint Presentation, entitled, “*Wildlife Act ‘Phase 2’ Regulation Amendments*”, tabled

ENR is considering a government action involving *Wildlife Act* Phase 2 related regulatory amendments to the *Wildlife General Regulations, Big Game Hunting Regulations, Wildlife Management Zones and Areas Regulations*, and issuing a *Declaration of Pest Species Order*. In addition, ENR has prepared draft Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plan (WMMP) process and guideline requirements.

In June 2018, ENR provided a presentation to the Board on the proposed *Wildlife Act* Phase 2 regulations. The Board provided comments to GNWT through its public engagement period on July 3, 2018. The *Wildlife Act* Working Group met at the end of October 2018 to review and finalize the Phase 2 regulations, based on comments received during the public engagement phase. As such, the *Wildlife Act* Phase 2 regulatory amendments are ready for formal approvals as per land claim agreements.

Most of the amendments are administrative, which are needed to fix the metes and bounds in several regulations. Details of the amendments for each set of regulations are in the materials provided. GNWT has decided that more consultation is required regarding the proposed regulations on the possession and use of drones while harvesting. As such, these regulations have been removed from the Phase 2 *Wildlife Act* amendments and will be dealt with separately.

Board Members encouraged education about wild boars, invasive species due to climate change, and chronic wasting disease.

Motion #633-08-05-2019

To support the Phase 2 regulation amendments for the Wildlife Act as presented

Moved:
Second:

Eddie Erasmus
Steve Matthews

Motion Approved

ACTION #444-08-05-2019 (ED): To write letter to ENR supporting Phase 2 regulation amendments for the Wildlife Act.

2.5 COSEWIC Designation – Hudsonian Godwit

The Hudsonian Godwit (*Limosa haemastica*) is a large, long-legged shorebird with a long, slightly upturned bill. The main threats to the Hudsonian Godwit are reduced nesting habitat, changes in prey availability, overgrazing by geese, and loss of habitat on the wintering grounds of South America.

Systematic long-term monitoring data are generally lacking for this species and estimates of population size and trends are considered imprecise. The most recent population estimate for Hudsonian Godwit is approximately 41,000 mature individuals. Migration monitoring trend data from 1995 to 2016 (just under 3 generations) indicate a 6% annual decline (71% cumulative decline) in total population size.

In April 2019, the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) assessed the status of the Hudsonian Godwit as threatened in Canada. If listed as threatened species under the federal *Species at Risk Act*, a management plan will be required. On April 5, 2019, the WRRB provided an in-principle support of the threatened designation under the *Species at Risk Act* (SARA) given the ongoing threats of reduced nesting habitat, changes in prey availability, overgrazing by geese, and loss of habitat on the wintering grounds of South America.

Motion #634-08-05-2019

To support the proposed designation of threatened for the Hudsonian Godwit

Moved:
Second:

Charlie Jeremick'ca
Steve Matthews

Motion Approved

ACTION #445-08-05-2019 (ED): To write letter to COSEWIC Bird SSC to support the proposed designation for Hudsonian Godwit.

2.6 Conference of Management Authorities

a. Review and Approval of 2020-2024 Species Assessment Schedule

The Species at Risk Committee (SARC) is an independent committee of up to 15 experts responsible for assessing the biological status of species at risk in the NWT. Moise Rabesca is the WRRBs appointed SARC member, Aimee Guile is the alternate.

SARC met April 1-3, 2019 in Fort Simpson with both WRRB members present. At this meeting, the following proposed Assessment Schedule was drafted based on a priority scoring exercise.

- April 2020 – woodland caribou (northern mountain population)
- April 2021 – hairy braya (re-assessment) and polar bear (re-assessment)
- April 2022 – peregrine falcon, woodland caribou (boreal population) (re-assessment), and Peary caribou (re-assessment)
- April 2023 – Dolphin and Union caribou (re-assessment) and northern leopard frog (re-assessment)
- April 2024 – Canadian toad, western toad (re-assessment)

The schedule includes also a list of prioritizes species which SARC does not recommend assessing owing to significant information gaps including American white pelican, red-sided garter snake, rusty blackbird, muskoxen, mountain goat, Dall's sheep, and cranberry.

The CMA will meet May 16-17, 2019 in Yellowknife, NT, where discussions will focus on the approval of the 2019-2023 assessment schedule proposed by SARC.

Board Members noted concerns about not seeing oldsquaw (long-tailed ducks) as much in Wek'èezhìi.

Motion #635-09-05-2019

To approve the 2020-2024 species assessment schedule as presented

Moved:

Steve Matthews

Second:

Eddie Erasmus

Motion Approved

ACTION #446-09-05-2019 (ED): To inform the CMA during its May 2019 meeting of the Board's decision to approve the 2020-2024 species assessment schedule.

b. Clarification of Western Bumble Bee, Yellow-banded Bumble Bee and Gypsy Cuckoo Bumble Bee Assessments

SARC met April 1-3, 2019 in Fort Simpson with both WRRB members present. At this meeting, the yellow-banded bumble bee, western bumble bee, and gypsy cuckoo bumble bee were assessed.

The yellow-banded bumble bee was assessed as Not at Risk in the NWT. The yellow-banded bumble bee is noted to be in serious decline in areas of southern and central Canada but appears to be relatively stable in the northwestern parts of its range, including the NWT.

The western bumble bee and gypsy cuckoo bumble bee were assessed as data deficient in the NWT. Only 5 western bumble bee specimens have ever been

collected in the NWT. The gypsy cuckoo bumblebee has been collected through time in the NWT, but a major portion of its range has not been surveyed recently.

Management Authorities have until June 5, 2019 to request formal clarification from SARC respecting the assessments, the reasons for assessments, or the approved status report for these species. At this time, Staff do not feel there is any need for formal clarifications.

c. Review and Approval of ECCC Additions to Draft Barren-ground Caribou Recovery Strategy

The Conference of Management Authorities (CMA) is made up of the wildlife co-management boards and governments in the NWT that share responsibility for the conservation and recovery of species at risk in the NWT.

In the NWT, following an assessment by the Species at Risk Committee, barren-ground caribou (Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West, Bluenose-East, Bathurst, Beverly, Ahlak, and Qamanirjuaq herds) were added to the NWT List of Species at Risk as Threatened in July 2018. The status report assessed the Porcupine herd as not at risk in the NWT.

The *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* requires the development of a recovery strategy for species listed as Threatened within two years of listing. In February 2019, the CMA met in Inuvik and discussed the draft barren-ground caribou recovery strategy. During the discussions, Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) requested the addition of critical habitat and population/distribution objectives.

In order to better inform the federal population and distribution objectives, ECCC suggests that the addition of a rationale section could provide context and further explain/define NWT population goals as well as determine whether the herd distribution has changed over time and what the distribution goal should be for a recovered state for the species.

ECCC also requests the definition of critical habitat be changed or the addition of habitat descriptions, including features, functions and attributes, of wintering grounds, calving grounds and water crossings. This information will help ECCC when developing the critical habitat identification section of the national recovery strategy.

The WRRB and TG will conduct joint consultations on the final draft recovery strategy in the fall of 2019 in all four Tłı̄ch̄ Communities.

Motion #636-09-05-2019

To approve the ECCC additions to the draft NWT Barren-ground Caribou Recovery Strategy as presented

Moved:
Second:

Eddie Erasmus
Steve Matthews

Motion Approved

ACTION #447-09-05-2019 (ED): To inform the CMA during its May 2019 meeting of the Board's decision to approve the ECCC additions to the NWT Barren-ground Caribou Recovery Strategy.

d. Wood Bison Recovery Strategy Consensus Agreement Update

In November 2018, WRRB and TG conducted community consultations on the *Draft Wood Bison Recovery Strategy* in Behchokò and Whatì. The WRRB made a motion to support the consensus agreement for the Wood Bison Recovery Strategy in January 2019.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories and TG supported the consensus agreement in March 2019 and April 2019, respectively.

As such, the "*Consensus Agreement on Accepting the Recovery Strategy for Wood Bison (Bison athabasca) in the Northwest Territories*" was signed on April 26, 2019 and provided to the Minister of ENR.

2.7 GNWT Legislative Initiatives Framework (Protected Areas Act & Forest Act) Update

ENR introduced the Forest Act (Bill 44), Protected Areas Act (Bill 38) and the Environmental Rights Act (Bill 39) during the Legislative Assembly's Winter Session (Feb 5 – March 14); each bill passed First and Second Reading. Versions of Bill 38 and 44 with highlighted changes since the December 2018 draft were reviewed. The WRRB did not review or provide comments on Bill 39.

Prior to Third and Final Reading, the Standing Committee on Economic Development and Environment (SECE) conducted its legislative review process for the three environmental Bills. Public hearings were held during April 23 – May 2, 2019. The Board submitted a formal written submission on April 23, 2019 and gave an in-person presentation on April 25, 2019 in Behchokò to the SECE.

During the in-person presentation, a SECE committee member requested that the WRRB provide more specific places in Bills 38 and 44 where co-management and renewable resource boards could be included. A formal letter with this information was provided to the SECE on May 3, 2019.

ACTION #448-09-05-2019 (ED): To add May 3, 2019 WRRB letter to the SECE to the May 2019 meeting Dropbox.

2.8 Tłıchq All-Season Road Caribou Offset Plan Update

The Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) adopted the recommendations of the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review (MVEIRB) for the development of the Tłıchq All-season Road (TASR) to Whatì, including measures modified by the Tłıchq Government (TG) and responsible

GNWT Ministers. Finalized Measure 6-3 states “the developer will offset effective boreal caribou (t̄odzı) habitat lost because of disturbance from the project.” As well, the developer (GNWT) is required to collaborate with the WRRB in preparing the plan, and the developer must submit a draft plan to the WRRB a minimum of 30 days prior to commencement of construction of the TASR. A final plan must be submitted to the WRRB under section 12.5.1 of the Tłıchq Agreement, no later than 90 days prior to public use of the road.

The purpose of the offsetting plan is to “make up” for t̄odzı habitat lost because of the road. Although nothing has been planned yet, offsetting methods may include:

- Restoring other t̄odzı habitat that is not good – Make it safer for t̄odzı, or make it harder for predators to hunt t̄odzı
- Protect t̄odzı habitat – through full protection, restrictions, fire management, etc.
- Research and funding related to t̄odzı habitat and the t̄odzı population
- Monitoring activities that help us understand changes in the behaviour of t̄odzı and their main predators

A Working Group has been established to help design the offsetting plan. The GNWT Department of Infrastructure (INF), Department of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), TG, and WRRB, as well as the Yellowknives Dene First Nation and North Slave Métis Alliance, are members of the working group.

On Feb 22, 2019, the Working Group met for the first time to discuss how collaboration in developing the plan will work, to share key offsetting concepts and to agree on an engagement approach going forward. On April 23-24, 2019, a workshop was held in Behchokq̄, and elders and harvesters from Whatı and Behchokq̄, as well as Working Group members, including WRRB Staff, attended. Elders and harvesters were provided detailed maps of the TASR area and provided information such as where linear disturbances are and how they are used by wildlife and people, as well as where t̄odzı have recently been seen. Map information will be used to inform the Offsetting Plan but will remain confidential and will not appear in the Plan itself. Workshop participants also discussed different offsetting methods and how they could be used in the TASR area.

Board Members noted that it is important to remember the Tłıchq Land Use Plan and how that plan may impact on the road.

2.9 Dinàgà Wek'èhodı Management and Monitoring Project Update

The management and monitoring working group met February 5-7, 2019 at an on-the-land workshop at Stagg River. Attendees included GNWT, TG, North Slave Métis Alliance, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, Tłıchq elders and Tłıchq youth. At this workshop, the Gogha wet'à ʔah (conservation targets) were confirmed and the understanding of the health of these targets was discussed. The working group also worked on understanding and prioritizing the threats to these targets.

A workshop is being planned for June 2019 with elders and youth from every Tłı̄ch̄ community, North Slave Métis Alliance, Yellowknives Dene First Nation, and the North Slave Métis Alliance. This meeting will ensure that all organizations are up-to-date on the work that has been completed to date and verify that what has been done so far makes sense.

A final meeting of the working group, prior to the plan being written, will be held at old Fort Rae in August 2019. The working group has applied for funding under Canada's Nature Fund. If awarded, the project will be fully funded for the next four years, which should include establishment and implementation.

3.0 Financial

3.1 Review and Approval of 2019-2020 Budget and Work Plan

2019-2020 Budget and Work Plan tabled

Motion #637-09-05-2019

To approve the 2019-20 budget and work plan as presented

Moved:
Second:

Charlie Jeremick'ca
Steve Matthews

Motion Approved

ACTION #449-09-05-2019 (ED): To forward final 2019-20 budget and work plan to CIRNAC.

3.2 Approval of Financial Statement as of 31 March 2019

Financial Statement as of March 31, 2019 tabled

Motion #638-09-05-2019

To accept the financial statement as of 31 March 2019 as presented

Moved:
Second:

Charlie Jeremick'ca
Steve Matthews

Motion Approved

3.3 Signing Authority Change

The WRRB requires two signatures for all cheques issued and no one may sign a cheque for themselves. All Board Members and the Executive Director have signing authority for the Board's CIBC and RBC accounts.

As of January 7, 2019, Joseph Judas was appointed by the Tlı̄cho Government for a term of five years.

Motion #639-09-05-2019

To add Joseph Judas as a signing authority on all CIBC and RBC accounts

Moved:
Second:

Eddie Erasmus
Steve Matthews

Motion Approved

ACTION #450-09-05-2019 (ED): To forward letter and required paperwork to CIBC and RBC to add Joseph Judas as signing authority.

4.0 Operations

4.1 Review and Approval of WRRB Communications Strategy 2019-2024

2019-2024 WRRB Communications Strategy tabled

Board Members discussed how the media is dealt with by the WRRB; it was noted that the WRRB's Operating Procedures manual sets out that the Chair or another designate is the Board's spokesperson.

Motion #640-09-05-2019

To approve the WRRB Communications Strategy 2019-2024 as presented

Moved:
Second:

Eddie Erasmus
Suzanne Carrière

Motion Approved

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, interpreters and Staff for a good and informative meeting with lots of good discussion. Board Members thanked the community of Wekweètì for the welcome, good food and good workers. This meeting had a lot of heavy items on the agenda with tough decisions to make but Members worked well together. Everyone made compromises, were respectful, and happy with the decisions made to help the caribou.

6.2 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for June 5, 2019 in Yellowknife.

Closing Prayer: Joseph Judas

Adjournment: 2:34 p.m. (Motion #641-09-05-2019)

Minutes Approved:

ORIGINAL SIGNED

10 September 2019

Chairperson

Date