



## Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 12-13 February 2020

**Location:** WRRB Boardroom, Denendeh Manor, Yellowknife, NT

---

Board Members:

Eddie Erasmus (Tłıchq̓ Appointee)  
Charlie Jeremick'ca (Tłıchq̓ Appointee)  
Joseph Judas (Chair)  
Isabelle Duclos (Federal Appointee)  
Stu Niven (Federal Appointee)

Staff:

Jody Pellissey  
Aimee Guile  
Shalyn Norrish

Translators:

James Rabesca  
Peter Huskey

Regrets:

Chris Football (Tłıchq̓ Appointee)  
Suzanne Carrière (GNWT Appointee)  
Steve Matthews (GNWT Appointee)  
Eddie Chocolate (Tłıchq̓ Appointee)

Guests:

Lisa Smith, FMD, GNWT  
Tom Lakusta, FMD, GNWT  
Cindy Wood, CWS, ECCC  
Carine Cote-Germain, CWS, ECCC

---

**Call to Order: 9:17 a.m.**

**Opening Prayer & Comments: Joseph Judas**

### 1.0 Agenda and Previous Minutes

1.1 Approval of Agenda

Remove: 3.3. Surplus Funding

***Motion #685-12-02-2020***

*To approve the 12-13 February 2020 agenda as amended*

***Moved:***

Eddie Erasmus

***Second:***

Stu Niven

**Motion Approved**

1.2 Approval of Minutes – 9-10 December 2019

Tabled to next meeting.

1.3 Review of Action Items

Outstanding action items list was tabled and reviewed. Provide #205-6-2-2014 to Stu Niven for review.

## 2.0 Business

### 2.1 GNWT and TG Response – Bathurst Caribou Reasons for Decision Report

Joint Response from GNWT and TG, dated December 6, 2019 and Draft Bathurst (Kòk'èeti ekwò) Implementation Table, tabled

A written response to the WRRB's Bathurst Caribou Reasons for Decision Report were received on December 13, 2019. The WRRB's determination will be implemented as per the Tlicho Agreement. Of the 18 recommendations made by the WRRB, GNWT and TG have accepted 13, varied five, and rejected zero. The draft implementation table is to track when and how each recommendation will be implemented.

**ACTION #489-12-02-2020 (ED):** To write letter to GNWT and TG accepting response as provided for the Bathurst Caribou Reasons for Decision Report.

### 2.2 Review GNWT and TG's Joint Proposal on Management Actions for Wolves (diga) on the Bathurst and Bluenose-East Barren-ground Caribou (ʔekwò) Herd Winter Ranges: 2020-2025

Management Proposal, entitled "*Joint Proposal on Management Actions for Wolves (diga) on the Bathurst and Bluenose-East Barren-ground Caribou (ʔekwò) Herd Winter Ranges: 2020-2025*", tabled

On January 31, 2020, GNWT and TG submitted a Joint Proposal on Management Actions for Wolves (diga) on the Bathurst and Bluenose-East Barren-ground Caribou (ekwò) Herd Winter Ranges: 2020 – 2025. The proposal includes three main approaches to diga management: 1) Wolf Harvester Training, 2) Proposed Wolf Reduction Actions, and 3) Research, Monitoring and Assessment, including the potential use of aerial shooting of diga. The proposal states that aerial shooting will be used if winter harvesting does not meet removal targets.

Wolf removal targets will depend on the degree of overlap between the Bathurst, Bluenose-East and Beverly caribou herds on winter range in the NWT: 1) Bathurst herd with no overlap: 100 wolves; 2) Overlap of Bathurst and Bluenose-East herds: 300 wolves; and 3) Overlap of Bathurst, Bluenose-East and Beverly herds: no aerial removals given it would not be feasible to achieve the 60-80% removal rate need to support caribou recovery given the very large number of wolves.

Aerial wolf removal will be done using the following means: 1) Conduct aerial removal of wolves after March 15th if targets are not met by harvesters; 2) Aerial removal would be done at least 100 km from the winter road or other areas where harvesters may be active; 3) Use wolf collar locations and aerial survey results to identify areas where wolves are present; 4) Remove all un-collared wolves encountered; and, 5) Continue removal efforts each winter for at least five years.

It is recommended that the proposal be deemed completed and a Level 2 proceeding be called. The situation of the two herds is dire and action needs to be taken as soon as possible. A Level 3 proceeding is not required at this time as it is not clear whether a Total Allowable Harvest is being proposed. A Level 2 proceeding will ensure that public opinion on the proposed management actions can be heard. However, the Board will reserve the right to call a public hearing should it be determined that there is a need to do so.

Board discussed: 1) put on the record the Board's concern with the time taken to prepare the proposal as the delay put the Board in a position that the possibility of wolf management happening in the 2019/2020 harvest season is unlikely, providing no relief for the caribou herds that are in a dire situation; 2) TG community-based wolf harvest program (training) requires consultation with elders and the community members about where to place the camps; and, 3) trainer should know the area, i.e. should not be hired from Alberta.

**Motion #692-13-02-2020**

*To deem the contents of the proposal, entitled "Joint Proposal on Management Actions for Wolves (diga) on the Bathurst and Bluenose-East Barren-ground Caribou (ᑭᑭᑭᑭ) Herd Winter Ranges: 2020-2025", sufficient and call the 2020 Wolf Management Proceeding (Level 2)*

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

Isabelle Duclos  
Stu Niven

**Motion Approved**

**Motion #693-13-02-2020**

*To approve the 2020 Wolf Management Proceeding work plan as presented*

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

Stu Niven  
Eddi Erasmus

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #495-13-02-2020 (ED):** To write letter to GNWT and TG to deem the wolf joint management proposal sufficient and to open the Level 2 2020 Wolf Management Proceeding.

**ACTION #496-13-02-2020 (ED):** To distribute notice of Wolf Management Proceeding and public comment period on March 2, 2020.

**ACTION #497-13-02-2020 (ED):** To open public registry for the 2020 Wolf Management Proceeding on March 2, 2020.

**ACTION #498-13-02-2020 (ED):** To post the 2020 Wolf Management Proceeding work plan to the public registry.

### 2.3 Review and Approval of Wildlife Research Permit Application – Wolf Collaring on the Central Barrens

Wildlife Research Permit Application, entitled “*Wolf Collaring on the Central Barrens*”, tabled

ENR’s wildlife research permit application is to collar 30 *Dìga* (wolf) on ranges of the *Kòk’èetì* (Bathurst) and *Sahti* (Bluenose East), and Beverly *Ekwò* (barren-ground caribou) herds. The aim is to collar 10 wolves associated with each herd. The objectives of the program are: 1) Provide data useful for understanding how *dìga* travel among caribou on their winter ranges; 2) Provide insight into patterns of movement of individual *dìga* between *ekwò* herds; 3) Serve to identify active den sites and document fidelity to dens, and 4) Collaring data will improve our understanding about *dìga*, and support management actions.

The *dìga* will be captured using a net gun, and handling times are estimated to be between 15 and 21 minutes. The work is scheduled to begin February 15, 2020 and run for five years. The standard operating procedures for the live capture of *dìga* states that *dìga* captures should be avoided from late February to early May when females may be pregnant because the stress of capture and handling may increase the likelihood of reproductive failure.

The proposal states that the *dìga* collaring is tied closely to the Joint Wolf Management Proposal that was received January 31, 2020. Staff note that collaring was not considered part of monitoring for *dìga* management in either WRRB’s 2019 *dìga* proposal, in TG/ENR’s response March 2019, or in WRRB’s Reasons for Decision reports for Bluenose East and Bathurst in 2019.

Staff were concerned that the proposal lacks much of the detail that would allow an assessment of the effectiveness of collaring relative to *dìga* management. For example, there is no explanation as to how collar data would be used in adaptive management. Although the proposal to collar wolves and the Joint Management Proposal are closely linked, there is a lack of consistency in the objectives. For example, the Joint Proposal states that collared wolves will be used to find the packs for aerial shooting, but there is no mention of this in the collar proposal.

In the context of *dìga* management improving survival of barren-ground caribou, staff do not feel that there needs to be a rush in collaring wolves as *dìga* populations can be monitored using den surveys, which does not require collaring. Monitoring trends in *dìga* numbers can be replaced by den surveys which do not require collared animals.

Board Members discussed: 1) collaring wolves in the fall may result in wolves that are not be associated specifically with a herd; 2) submission of WRP application and joint management proposal considered project splitting?, i.e. joint management proposal is dependent on the WRP application, need to manage overall process first before deciding on wolf collars; and, 3) need to learn more about wolves, need to know how efficient this application will be, nothing about population (trends), what using the collar information for?

**Motion #694-13-02-2020**

*To not support the Wildlife Research Permit Application, entitled "Wolf Collaring on the Central Barrens", as presented at this time*

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

Eddie Erasmus  
Charlie Jeremick'ca

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #499-13-02-2020 (ED):** To write letter of non-support to GNWT for wolf collaring WRP application.

2.4 Review and Approval of Special Harvesting Licence Request – Kugluktuk Hunters & Trappers Organization

Letter from Kugluktuk Hunters & Trappers Organization, dated January 14, 2020, tabled

In 2019, the Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT) introduced the Enhanced Incentive Program from *Diga* (wolf) Harvesters. The program offers up to \$1650 per *diga* harvested in the prescribed area which overlaps with *Kòk'èeti ekwò* (Bathurst caribou) and *Sahti ekwò* (Bluenose-East caribou) winter ranges. The goal of the program is to harvest *diga* that are having a direct impact to *Sahti* and *Kòk'èeti ekwò*, in an effort to increase survival rates and promote recovery of the herds.

A Special Harvesting Licence is the only way for Nunavut harvesters to come into *Wek'èezhìi* to harvest *diga* in the Enhanced Incentive Area. Harvesters in *Wek'èezhìi* have exclusive rights to trap so the Licence allows others to be given permission. Special harvesting licenses can be issued for any species. Renewable Resource Councils and Hunters' and Trappers' Committees must approve the application and can decide on any conditions. The Government of the Northwest Territories, Environment and Natural Resource then issues the Licence.

The Inuit in Nunavut have always traditionally harvested *diga*. The Kugluktuk Hunters' and Trappers' Organization (HTO) is looking to obtain Special Harvesting Licences for Nunavut indigenous People to allow them to hunt *diga* in the Northwest Territories to contribute to the efforts of the GNWT in increasing adult survival rates in *ekwo*, while receiving the incentives from the Enhanced Incentive Program. It is thought by the Kugluktuk HTO will issue approximately ten licences, and hope to harvest over 100 wolves.

Board Members discussed: 1) Nunavut harvesters will help us to harvest wolves and help the caribou; 2) noted in the joint management proposal to have Nunavut harvesters hunt wolves in the NWT in enhanced area; and, 3) present the enhanced incentive area map differently, with different colours to show where *Wekweèti* harvesters would harvest wolves.

**Motion #695-13-02-2020**

To support Kugluktuk Hunters & Trappers Organization's request for a special harvesting licence in Wek'èezhìi

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

Stu Niven  
Isabelle Duclos

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #500-13-02-2020 (ED):** To write letter to Kugluktuk Hunters & Trappers Organization to support request for special harvesting licence in Wek'èezhìi.

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

Wildlife Research Permit Application, entitled “*Monitoring of the Bathurst, Bluenose-East and Beverly Caribou Herds*”, tabled

The Environment & Natural Resources' (ENR) Wildlife Division has submitted a Wildlife Research Permit (WRP) Application regarding the monitoring of the Bathurst, Bluenose-East, and Beverly Caribou Herds; this is an ongoing program. The application is for March 1, 2020 to April 30, 2021.

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 deploy and maintain up to 70 collars each on the Bathurst and Bluenose-East herds (50 on cows and 20 on bulls). Approximately 56 collars for Bathurst and 49 collars for Bluenose-East will be deployed by mid-April 2020 to bring the collar totals to 70. ENR plans to deploy and maintain up to 50 collars on the Beverly herd (30 on cows and 20 on bulls). Approximately 32 collars for Beverly will be deployed by mid-April 2020 to bring the collar total to 50.

A reconnaissance survey will 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, hair and fecal samples will be collected to assess pregnancy status and for other testing and possible genetic studies.

2) Late-winter calf survival/spring recruitment surveys (March-April 2020) to measure calf survival, provide an index of recruitment and provide a long-term trend assessment of calf productivity for the three herds.

3) Fall sex ratio survey (October 2020) to assess the ratio of bulls to cows in the herd and extrapolate to the total population estimate following a calving ground photographic survey for the three herds.

A June photographic survey will be conducted; however, as this work is done in Nunavut, it is not included in this application. A Wildlife Research Permit application for this survey will be sent to the Government of Nunavut.

**Motion #686-12-02-2020**

*To approve the Wildlife Research Permit Application, entitled “Monitoring of the Bathurst, Bluenose-East and Beverly Caribou Herds”, as presented*

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

Charlie Jeremick'ca  
Isabelle Duclos

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #490-12-02-2020 (ED):** To write letter to ENR approving Wildlife Research Permit Application, entitled “*Monitoring of the Bathurst, Bluenose-East and Beverly Caribou Herds*”.

2.6 Review and Approval of NWT General Status Ranking Program – Batch 3

NWT General Status Ranking Program Work Plan and Species Review Tables, tabled

The WRRB is being consulted on the species to be included in the *NWT Species 2021-2025*, which is to be published by early 2021. The consultation will occur in six “batches” of species. The Board has reviewed Batch 1 and Batch 2 its September and December 2019 meetings, respectively.

Batch 3 has now been provided to the Board for review and approval. Batch 3 includes several species who are being reassessed including: macro-lichens, freshwater gastropods and bivalves (molluscs), terrestrial gastropods, grasshoppers, caddisflies, various True flies (mosquitoes, black flies and horse flies, flower flies, bee flies). There are also several species being assessed for the first time including: springtails, myriapods (centipedes), slime molds, and other true flies (35 new groups).

**Motion #687-12-02-2020**

*To approve the Batch 3 NWT General Status Rankings as presented*

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

Stu Niven  
Isabelle Duclos

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #491-12-02-2020 (ED):** To write letter to ENR approving the Batch 3 NWT General Status Rankings.

2.7 NWMB Bluenose-East & Bathurst Caribou Public Hearings Update

On December 13, 2019, the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB) called two public hearings to consider the following Government of Nunavut’s proposals:

1) Proposal to modify the total allowable harvest of Bluenose-East caribou from 340 to 107 and to establish a male-only harvest non-quota limitation; and, 2) Proposal to decrease the total allowable harvest for Bathurst caribou from 30 to 0.

The NWMB identified the WRRB as Parties to both public hearings and requested the Board to file written submissions and supporting documents. The Bluenose-East Caribou in-person public hearing will take place in Kugluktuk, NU on March 2-3, 2020. The Bathurst Caribou in-person hearing will take place in Cambridge Bay, NU on March 5-6, 2020.

The staff have prepared written submissions along with supporting documentation for both public hearings that are currently being translated. The written submissions, in English and Inuktitut, will be provided to the NWMB by the deadline of February 14, 2020. Joseph Judas, Randi Jennings and Jody Pellissey will attend both hearings, in Kugluktuk and Cambridge Bay, NU, to make in-person presentations to the NWMB during the week of March 1-7, 2020.

## 2.8 Bluenose-East, Bluenose-West, and Cape Bathurst Action Plans Update

The ACCWM met on November 19-21, 2019 in Inuvik for the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Status Meeting to discuss community-based monitoring and scientific information for the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West and Bluenose-East caribou herds. Based on the information provided, the ACCWM proposed the following statuses for each herd: Cape Bathurst herd is in the YELLOW zone, the Bluenose-West herd is in the ORANGE zone and the Bluenose-East herd is in the RED zone.

Each Member Board is required to get approval for the proposed statuses within 30 days. The WRRB provided its approval on December 11, 2019. While the Member Boards agreed to the herd statuses proposed for the Bluenose-West and Bluenose-East, the GRRB and WMAC (NWT) disagreed on the herd status for the Cape Bathurst.

The ACCWM Member Boards held a conference call on January 17, 2020 and determined that the ACCWM Working Group could finalize the Bluenose-West and Bluenose-East Action Plans and forward to governments. The Working Group had a call on January 31, 2020 to make final revisions to the action plans. It is expected that action plans will be submitted before the end of February 2020. Additionally, in the NWT, each Member Board will submit its position to the ENR Minister; in Nunavut, the KRWB will submit its position to the NWMB.

The GRRB and WMAC (NWT) have agreed to collect additional information and meet face-to-face to discuss the Cape Bathurst status to try to come to consensus. The two Boards will meet in February 2020. If consensus is not reached, the Member Boards will hold a conference call to discuss next steps.



## 2.9 ECCC Update

### a. Black Duck Program Update, Cindy Wood

PowerPoint Presentation, entitled “*CWS Waterfowl Program Update – Scoter Surveys*”, tabled

Scoters are a popular game bird species, yet poorly monitored and population dynamics poorly understood relative to other North American waterfowl. Limited data available suggests population declines. This lack of info for a harvested species poses a risk for overharvest. Scoters are culturally important, and, therefore, there are obligations to land claim areas to ensure future generations can continue to have the same opportunity to harvest scoters as they have in the past. Scoters have been identified amongst the highest priority species for research and monitoring by the Sea Duck Joint Venture.

Development in the north is resulting in changes to the landscape as well as environmental stressors such as climate change and the associated effects (temperature increases, permafrost changes, wetlands drying, increased frequency of forest fires). All of these factors point to the need to better understand scoter breeding distribution, population trends and estimates.

CWS has developed survey methodology for scoters and other Boreal waterfowl to estimate population size of the 3 scoter species and other waterfowl and waterbirds as well as evaluate habitat selection. Study blocks are 5km x 5 km, use information collected to extrapolate density of waterfowl in the entire study area. Stratified random sampling has been used to ensure that all habitat types were sampled. The highest number of lesser & greater scaups as well as surf scoters were found in the Yellowknife study area.

Board Members discussed: 1) fewer waterfowl species seen in the past 10 years, including scoters, scaup and oldsquaws, impacts of development and forest fires as well as increasing populations of beaver and muskrats, and fewer people harvesting; 2) limited information available from communities so difficult to do comparative analysis but seeing an overall decline; and, 3) information collected from bands, includes migration data (where banded and where harvested), age information, and survival data (how well surviving over the years).

### b. Review and Approval to Post Draft Horned Grebe Management Plan, Carine Cote-Germain

PowerPoint Presentation, entitled “*Horned Grebe, Western Population, Summary of the Draft Management Plan*”, and *Draft Management Plan for the Horned Grebe (Podiceps auritus), Western Population, in Canada*, tabled

The Horned Grebe, Western population, was assessed as Special Concern by COSEWIC in 2009 and listed in 2017 under SARA. The size of the North American population of Horned Grebes is estimated at 200,000 to 500,000 individuals, 92% of which breed in Canada. It has experienced both long-term and short-term declines and there is no evidence to suggest that this trend will be

reversed in the near future. The main threats are habitat loss and degradation due to expanding agriculture in the prairies and by natural resources developments (oil & gas, mining and forestry) in the boreal forest. Direct causes of mortality include diseases (i.e. avian botulism), fisheries bycatch, dry landings, collisions with power lines and wind turbines, and increased predation, particularly by Raccoons. Although high densities have been recorded near Yellowknife, this is probably not representative of the Taiga Shield/Taiga Plains habitat.

Consultation packages were sent by mail and email. No responses. The WRRB is asked to consider whether or not they approve posting the draft management plan to the public registry for comments. The proposed final management plan will be brought back to the WRRB for approval.

***Motion #688-12-02-2020***

*To approve the posting of the draft Horned Grebe Management Plan to the SARA public registry as presented*

***Moved:***

Stu Niven

***Second:***

Charlie Jeremick'ca

***Abstain:***

Isabelle Duclos

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #492-12-02-2020 (ED):** To write letter to ECCC approving the posting of the draft Horned Grebe Management Plan to the SARA public registry.

2.10 Forest Management Planning Framework Update, Lisa Smith & Tom Lakusta

PowerPoint Presentation, entitled "*Forest Management Planning, January 2020*" and *Forest Management Planning Framework Version: November 2019*, tabled

Forest Management Planning refers to planning how forest resources are used and managed in order to balance environmental, economic, social and cultural interests and needs. A framework for Forest Management Planning is a guide to assist with forest management planning that identifies sustainable forest management as a key principle as well as identifying five major themes for planning and six pillars with additional concepts.

The framework was developed based on technical working group meetings working on the Forest Act. It is to 1) guide development of regional forest management plans (grassroots approach); 2) provide opportunity to give feedback with respect to forest management; and, 3) integrate with land use plans, regional boreal caribou range plans, Bathurst caribou range plan, and species at risk recovery documents. The Gwich'in Forest Management Plan is a good template for future regional plans that was developed in collaboration with Gwich'in Tribal Council, GNWT, and the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board.

Board Member discussed: 1) regional plans and/or forest management agreements in the NWT; 2) ensure regional plans are compatible with land use

plans and caribou management plans, i.e. important to identify areas of forest that have multiple values and include in document; 3) forest fire management will be included; 4) identify community uses, e.g. sawmills, woodcutting (personal/small community-based businesses, as regional forest management plan will enable community to create a specific community plan; and, 5) work to start again on revising the Forest Act, expected WRRB to be invited to TWG meeting before summer break.

**ACTION #488-12-02-2020 (ED):** To write letter to TG and Forest Management Division, ENR, regarding the development of a regional forest management plan for Wek'èezhìi.

## 2.11 Conference of Management Authorities & Species at Risk Committee

### a. Review and Approval of Draft Barren-ground Caribou Recovery Strategy and Draft Bat Management Plan

*Draft Bat Management Plan and Draft Barren-ground Caribou Recovery Strategy, tabled*

In July 2018, little brown myotis and northern myotis bats were listed as special concern under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. Because bat species in the NWT have management needs and threats in common, the CMA chose to develop a multi-species management plan, designed to meet the needs of all the NWT's bat species (photos attached). The *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* requires the development of a management plan for species listed as Special Concern within two years of their designation.

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 *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* requires the development of a recovery strategy for species listed as Threatened within two years of listing.

The WRRB and TG conducted joint consultations on the recovery strategy and management plan between October and November 2019 in all four Tłıchǫ Communities. The documents were updated based on comments received across the NWT. The CMA will be meeting February 19-20, 2020 to discuss the approval of the documents and approval of the consensus agreement accepting the plans. Once the consensus agreements are signed, implementation plans will be developed.

Board Members discussed: 1) bats listed as special concerns due to potential threats that exist, i.e. white-nose syndrome, uncertain if there are population estimates; 2) coronavirus and bats, no risk to get coronavirus from bats in the NWT as not harvested to eat and hibernate in the winter.

**Motion #689-12-02-2020**

*To approve the draft Bat Management Plan as presented*

**Moved:** Stu Niven  
**Second:** Isabelle Duclos

**Motion Approved**

**Motion #690-12-02-2020**

*To approve the draft Barren-ground Caribou Recovery Strategy as presented*

**Moved:** Eddie Erasmus  
**Second:** Charlie Jeremick'ca

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #493-12-02-2020 (ED):** To inform the CMA of the WRRB approval for the draft Bat Management Plan and draft Barren-ground Caribou Recovery Strategy.

b. Implementation Activities Update – Boreal Caribou and Amphibians

*Status of Implementation of Management Plans/Recovery Strategies – Species at Risk (NWT) Act, February 2019 Status Update, tabled*

Board Members reviewed implementation activities conducted by the WRRB to date for amphibians and boreal caribou.

c. Review and Approval of SARC Appointment

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 WRRB's appointed SARC member, Aimee Guile is the alternate.

The next meeting of SARC is scheduled for April 20-24, 2020 where the status of northern mountain caribou in the Northwest Territories will be assessed. Moise's appointment to SARC expires on March 15, 2020. The Board can choose to reappoint Moise or appoint another candidate.

Board Members discussed: 1) Moise understands how the SARC runs and has good expertise, very knowledgeable, good for him to remain.

**Motion #691-12-02-2020**

*To reappoint Moise Rabesca to the SARC for a period of five years*

**Moved:** Isabelle Duclos  
**Second:** Stu Niven

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #494-12-02-2020 (ED):** To write letter to SAR Secretariat to reappointing Moise Rabesca to SARC for a five-year term.

## 2.12 Adaptive Management Framework Update

*WRRB Adaptive Management Framework & Workplan 2019 – Draft 1*, tabled

In 2019, the WRRB recommended that an adaptive management framework for *Kòk'èeti* (Bathurst) and *Sahti ekwò* (Bluenose East Caribou) be collaboratively developed with ENR and TG and the WRRB taking a lead role. WRRB staff and technical adviser have initiated the collaboration by drafting the document and bringing monthly updates to the Barren-ground Caribou Technical Working Group (BGCTWG).

The Board's staff have been working with technical advisor, Dr. Anne Gunn, on an adaptive management framework. The current draft document has been shared with the BGCTWG for review and comment.

Board Members discussed: 1) the more information feeding into framework (figure 1), the better, should be collecting information on habitat (eskers), caribou food; and 2) seasonal/monthly Tłıchq names for caribou should be included.

## 2.13 Bathurst Caribou Guardianship Initiative Update

The Bathurst Caribou Guardianship Initiative is a result of the Bathurst Caribou Plan (BCRP), which was finalized in August 2019. Recommendation 2 from the BCRP states, *“Support Indigenous groups in the coordinated development and use of integrated community guardianship programs across the range of the Bathurst herd. Such programs would watch and report on activity associated with industrial development and harvest in combination with the movements, abundance, health and condition of caribou and caribou habitat, the relationship between caribou and Caribou People and overall caribou well-being”*. In upholding the responsibility from the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan, the Bathurst Caribou Guardianship Initiative or the Caribou Guardians Coalition group was formed.

Due to the continued decline of the Bathurst herd, in addition to the other herds present in the NWT, organizations felt the need to create a group with the purpose of overseeing a program which brings together different management partners with a common goal, in order to better understand different management techniques being used throughout the NWT. This also gives a space for sharing and communicating concerns and/or results from monitoring activities to the group.

The first Bathurst Caribou Guardianship Initiative meeting was held on January 21-23, 2020 in Yellowknife, NT. The meeting set out the vision, goals and group's priorities to work towards fulfilling. Over the next few years, and with guidance from each organization, the Bathurst Caribou Guardianship Initiative will identify and develop monitoring criteria and techniques that will address issues identified by each organization in order to help all caribou herds recover. A draft summary report will be available for review in the next few months. Additionally, a new name was proposed as the Caribou Guardians Coalition, members will have the

opportunity to comment on the name before the next meeting. The next meeting is scheduled to take place in October 2020, pending funding.

### 3.0 Financial

#### 3.1 Review and Approval of 2020/2021 Budget and Work Plan

2020/2021 Budget and Work Plan, tabled

**Motion #696-13-02-2020**

*To approve the 2020/2021 budget and work plan as presented*

**Moved:**

Isabelle Duclos

**Second:**

Stu Niven

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #501-13-02-2020 (ED):** To write letter to CIRNAC with approved 2020/2021 budget and work plan.

#### 3.2 Review and Approval of Financial Statement as of 31 December 2019

Financial Statement as of December 31, 2019 tabled

**Motion #697-13-02-2020**

*To accept the financial statement as of 31 December 2019 as presented*

**Moved:**

Stu Niven

**Second:**

Eddie Erasmus

**Motion Approved**

### 4.0 Operations

#### 4.1 Developing a Research Agenda

The WRRB has a research fund from which it can use the interest to fund research at its discretion. To-date, these funds have not been used. The Board asked staff to begin work on developing a research agenda which would guide the use of these funds.

Staff have been in contact with the Gwich'in, and Sahtú Renewable Resources Boards (GRRB, and SRRB) to determine how they develop their respective research agenda's. The SRRB has indicated that they are in the process of updating their agenda and will update the board when they can.

The GRRB has indicated that they have a research and management priority process. They engage with the communities and co-management partners every 5-years to create a research and management priority list. This list usually serves as a guideline on priority species or topics to work on, collaborate on or to

strongly support. Though it is set every 5-years, the list can be dynamic and revised every year if need be.

The GRRB also holds a list of research and management interest in the GSA. This can be related to priority, but also includes interests or concerns heard during various meetings or workshops. They have a questionnaire anyone can fill out regarding an interest related to the board's mandate. An interest can be as simple as a community member having concerns over the effect of slumps on wildlife. Usually, the GRRB would support any research or management related to an interest, but most likely to a lesser extent than a priority. This is usually because there was no consultation on the interest.

Staff will continue toward determining how best to develop a research agenda in Wek'èezhìi, and welcome input from the Board. Recommended to see if agencies (GNWT, ECCC, DFO) would match Board funding or provide in-kind support for research projects in Wek'èezhìi.

#### 4.2 In-Camera Session

**Motion #698-13-02-2020** *To go in camera at 3:13 p.m.*

**Moved:** Isabelle Duclos  
**Second:** Stu Niven

**Motion Approved**

**Motion #699-13-02-2020** *To come out of camera at 3:40 p.m.*

**Moved:** Eddie Erasmus  
**Second:** Stu Niven

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #502-13-02-2020 (ED):** To write letter to TG about Chris Football, referencing the WRRB attendance policy and requesting a new appointee.

Board Members discussed: TASR site visit, preferred for the end of March 2020.

**ACTION #503-13-02-2020 (ED):** To follow-up with INF regarding a site visit for the TASR.

#### 5.0 Information Items

##### 5.1 Working Group Table

Tabled for review by the Board Members.

##### 5.2 Permit Tracking Table

Tabled for review by the Board Members.

5.3 Communications Update

Communications Officer Update, February 12-13, 2020 Board Meeting, tabled

Board Members discussed: 1) community school visits, met with Mike Pickles, working to develop materials that fit within school environmental science curriculum; 2) Barren-ground Caribou Recovery Strategy and Bat Management Plan presentations to schools in Wekweètì and Behchokò in October and November 2019; and 3) suggestion for calendar to use old pictures from past and tie to traditional laws, could run a contest in communities for photos.

5.4 Mackenzie Bison Population Survey Results

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, organized and informative meeting with lots of good discussion. At every meeting, there is a lot of learning; need to take time and go step-by-step cautiously. Members worked well together, making good decisions for Tłıchq citizens, the public and future generations.

6.2 Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for May 5-6, 2020 in Behchokò.

**Closing Prayer: Eddie Erasmus**

**Adjournment: 3:59 p.m. (Motion #700-30-02-2020)**

Minutes Approved:



**ORIGINALS SIGNED**

**August 26, 2020**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date