



## Board Meeting Minutes

**Date:** 9 March 2020

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

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Board Members:

Eddie Erasmus (Tłıchq̓ Appointee)  
Steve Matthews (GNWT Appointee)  
Joseph Judas (Chair)  
Suzanne Carrière (GNWT Appointee)  
Stu Niven (Canada Appointee)  
Isabelle Duclos (Canada Appointee)  
Charlie Jeremick'ca (Tłıchq̓ Appointee)

Staff:

Jody Pellissey  
Shalyn Norrish

Translators:

James Rabesca  
Violet Mackenzie

Guests:

Robert Mulders, ENR  
John Nishi, TG  
John Donihee, Legal Counsel

Regrets:

Eddie Chocolate (Tłıchq̓ Appointee)  
Chris Football (Tłıchq̓ Appointee)

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**Call to Order: 1:24 p.m.**

**Opening Prayer: Joseph Judas**

### 1.0 Agenda and Previous Minutes

### 2.0 Business

#### 2.1 Amend 2020 Wolf Management Proposal

PowerPoint Presentation, entitled *“Technical Discussion with WRRB: How will aerial “shooting” of wolves be carried out in 2020?”*, tabled

Robert Mulders, ENR -GNWT, and John Nishi, TG, presented to the Board about the proposed wolf removal program and associated activities for 2020. Wolf collaring proposed in the NWT from early March to April 15, 2020. Wolf removals proposed in the NWT from March 15 to April 30, 2020, with the idea that an entire pack is removed. One chopper being used, two marksmen from YK. Due to trees, the marksmen will need to shoot from father away; therefore, recommended that on barrens, a closer shot with a shotgun will be most effective (back of skull/neck).

Unique opportunity right now with current overlap being limited and few wolves having been harvested with the other programs. Fewer wolves have been seen along the winter roads, likely due to fewer caribou along the road. Preference to have ground-based harvesting by communities; therefore, conduct the ground-

based work first, and then begin aerial shooting in March if target not met by ground-based work. Ground-based work can be a challenge if there are difficulties accessing the wolves. The program will allow insight into how wolves will react, i.e. experience gained will make wolf removals more effective in subsequent years.

Splitting the proposal was not considered as ENR and TG want to get on with the management actions. The multiple year proposal is to show commitment to wolf management; however, each year, management actions will be assessed and revised as needed. Information to be provided to governments and WRRB first and then to the public. Board noted concerns with respect to lack of consultation prior to starting the wolf removals.

Target proposed is 100 Bathurst wolves if herds not mixed; if herds are mixed, then the proposed target is 300 wolves. Reconnaissance surveys prior to the removals will help determine outcomes. Board noted that wolves are very smart animals, i.e. tundra wolves will hear chopper and will move to rocky areas while boreal wolves will move into the trees. Very important to select an area that allows the maximum of wolves to be shot from the air.

Following the presentation, ENR and TG technical staff left the meeting. The Board discussed the proposal and had input from John Donihee, Legal Counsel, regarding the Board's legal authority to reconsider its chosen procedure and to design a flexible proceeding procedure with timelines. In February 2020, the Board decided to call a Level 2 proceeding; however, TG and ENR have come back and said will lose the field season and concern about urgency. It is the Board's choice how they wish to respond, i.e. the Board can break up the proposal with no concerns with respect to legal authority.

Concern noted about 'project splitting'; suggestion to send back to governments and ask for separate proposals. Legal counsel noted that the idea of project splitting comes out of EA law; therefore, does not have application here. Unfortunately, there is a negative aspect to this no matter the decision. WRRB asked for the proposal and a delay may be seen as an issue particularly with optimal situation with herds. Must keep in mind "what is best for the caribou?"

Number of wolves harvested is low and Bathurst caribou herd is in one area (limited mixing) so now is the time to do aerial shooting. Therefore, agree with separating out the 2020 management actions as a pilot project and conducting a Level 1 review, request resubmission of management proposal for 2021-2024, express dissatisfaction, make it clear that this cannot happen again, and that communication is essential moving ahead.

**Motion #701-09-03-2020**

*To amend WRRB Motion #692 to review the 2020 wolf management actions as proposed in the "Joint Proposal on Management Actions for Wolves (diga) on the Bathurst and Bluenose-East Barren-ground Caribou (ᑕᑦᓄᓄᑦ) Herd Winter Ranges: 2020 – 2025" as a level one review and, as such, approve the 2020 diga management actions as*

*proposed in the Proposal. Further, the Board requests that the 2021-2025 wolf management actions proposed in the “Joint Proposal on Management Actions for Wolves (diga) on the Bathurst and Bluenose-East Barren-ground Caribou (ᑭᑭᑭᑭ) Herd Winter Ranges: 2020 – 2025” be resubmitted for a Level 2 review with lessons learned from the implementation of the 2020 management actions*

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

Stu Niven  
Charlie Jeremick'ca

**Motion Approved**

**ACTION #504-09-03-2020 (ED):** To write letter to TG and ENR-GNWT informing of the Board's decision for a Level 1 review of the 2020 diga management actions pilot project and the request for a revised joint management proposal for 2021-2025 diga management actions by August 21, 2020 with the addition of a plain language summary, technical report and lessons learned assessment.

**3.0 Financial**

**4.0 Operations**

**5.0 Information Items**

**6.0 Other Items**

6.1 Round Table

Discussion about holding a combined Tłıchǵ Agreement Workshop with WLWB on May 14, 2020. Decision made to hold a separate workshop in 2020.

6.2 Next Meeting

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

**Closing Prayer: Joseph Judas**

**Adjournment: 4:13 p.m. (Motion #702-09-03-2020)**

Minutes Approved:

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**ORIGINALS SIGNED**

**August 26, 2020**

Chairperson

Date