



Board Meeting Minutes

Date: 8-9 February 2022

Location: WRRB Boardroom, Denendeh Manor, Yellowknife, NT

Board Members:

Eddie Erasmus (Tłıchq̓ Appointee)
Stu Niven (Federal Appointee)
Steve Matthews (GNWT Appointee)
Charlie Jeremick'ca (Tłıchq̓ Appointee)
Suzanne Carrière (GNWT Appointee) (Zoom)
Isabelle Duclos (Federal Appointee) (Zoom)

Staff:

Jody Pellissey
Aimee Guile
Randi Mousseau
Shalyn Norrish (Feb 9 only)

Interpreters/PIDO:

James Rabesca
Violet Mackenzie
Ryan

Regrets:

Joseph Judas (Chair)
Chris Football (Tłıchq̓ Appointee)
Eddie Chocolate (Tłıchq̓ Appointee)

Guests (via Zoom):

Petter Jacobsen, TG
Alicia Kelly, ENR, GNWT
Terry Armstrong, ENR, GNWT

Appoint Meeting Chair

Motion #801-08-02-2022

To appoint Charlie Jeremick'a as Chair for the February 8-9, 2022 meeting

Moved:

Steve Matthews

Second:

Stu Niven

Motion Approved

Call to Order: 9:10 a.m.

Opening Prayer & Comments: Charlie Jeremick'ca

1.0 Agenda and Previous Minutes

1.1 Approval of Agenda

Motion #802-08-02-2022

To approve the 8-9 February 2022 agenda as presented

Moved:

Suzanne Carrière

Second:

Eddie Erasmus

Motion Approved

1.2 Approval of Minutes

7-8 December 2021

Tabled until next meeting.

1.3 Review of Action Items

Outstanding action items list was tabled and reviewed.

2.0 Business

2.1 Review of Joint Management Proposal Submission - Bathurst

PowerPoint Presentation, entitled "*Kòk'èeti ekwò Joint Management Proposal Summary*", tabled

Questions/comments included: some Members appreciate that radio collar numbers are being kept higher, confidence intervals have shrunk meaning less variability and less unknowns, better data makes for better decision-making.

Motion #803-08-02-2022 *To conduct a modified Level 1 review of the Bathurst caribou joint management proposal submission*

Moved:	Stu Niven
Second:	Eddie Erasmus

Motion Approved

2.2 Review of Joint Management Proposal Submission – Bluenose-East

PowerPoint Presentation, entitled "*Sahti ekwò Joint Management Proposal Summary*", tabled

Questions/comments included: NWMB TAH of 170 differs from TAH identified on Slide #12, how to manage discrepancy? (determination within Wek'èezhìi only, participation in NWMB processes when they are making their determination); table notes harvest by region (Wek'èezhìi, Deline, Kugluktuk), is Kugluktuk a region or a community? (in the Sahtu and Nunavut, these are the communities that harvest from the Bluenose-East caribou herd, table is unclear); need to be provided with information about the Beverly herd in addition to Bathurst and Bluenose-East herds, what are the overall trends of Beverly caribou in Wek'èezhìi, when will the next population estimate be for Bathurst and Beverly herds? (BQCMB annual report provides extra data, all the uncertainties relate to the Bathurst cows moving to the Beverly herd, is the BEV herd going up or down? Next population estimates planned for 2023, may try to conduct another estimate in 2022); we need to inform people about this information, if people are requesting information from the WRRB, can we provide information to the public? (anything presented during a WRRB meeting, can share with community, encourage to do so, one of the items proposed is for GNWT and TG to go into

born but die within the first month of being born, harsh winter conditions that may impact on pregnant cow, puzzled, healthy caribou and land but not seeing the reproduction); eagle nest looks fairly old, typically reuse nest, just add new vegetation every year, observe eagles at Daring Lake quite often (nest really secure on the rock, well built, lots of fish bones and lichens and moss, there have been bald eagle observations but first time finding a nest, the fish bones were a part of the nest, looked for other signs of food but as the nest is in the middle of the lake, were washed away); noted that the nest does not look like an eagle nest, but may be used by the eagle, typically bald eagle would be messier than the photo suggests (found in September and no eggs), share photo with Canadian experts on raptors to get their opinion, provide data to Suzanne to add to raptor database.

2.5 Review & Approval of Tłıchq Highway Fisheries Management Plan

Through the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board's Environmental Assessment and Reasons for Decision Report for the Tłıchq Highway (formerly the Tłıchq All-Season Road), Measure 8-1 requires the creation and implementation of a Fisheries Management Plan (FMP). The Government of the Northwest Territories Department of Infrastructure, in collaboration with the Tłıchq Government, the Government of Canada's Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) and the WRRB, created the FMP as the increased accessibility from the highway may result in impacts to fish populations due to an increase in fishing pressure on the lakes and rivers beside the highway, and accessible by the highway.

The GNWT-INF submitted the completed the Fisheries Management Plan to the WRRB on January 24, 2022. The FMP is divided into two parts. Part 1 concerns the recreational and domestic fisheries along the highway corridor and the La Martre River. Part 2 concerns fisheries (including recreational, domestic, and potential commercial) on Lac la Martre. The two parts are required as there are higher levels of valued fish species within Lac la Martre.

The Tłıchq Government is planning to develop a community-based monitoring program (Fishery Guardians) to patrol the road and advise fishers of the new restrictions, oversee the angler diary program, and document any violations they see. A workshop in Whatì is being organized to show community members the FMP and discuss changes to the regulations.

Include in response: inform Whatì about ongoing projects, ensure program is operational on the ground this spring, ensure increased presence/regular patrols by DFO Fishery Officers, request that an appendix be added to include fish species in Wek'èezhì.

Motion #805-08-02-2022 *To approve the Tłıchq Highway Fisheries Management Plan as presented*

Moved:
Second:

Eddie Erasmus
Stu Niven

Motion Approved

ACTION #585-08-02-2022 (ED): To write letter to INF to approve the Tłıchq̄ Highway Fisheries Management Plan.

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

The Environment & Natural Resources' (ENR) Wildlife Division has submitted a Wildlife Research Permit (WRP) Application regarding the monitoring of the K̄q̄k'èetì (Bathurst), Sahtì (Bluenose-East), and Beverly Ekw̄ (caribou) herds; this is an ongoing program. The application is for May 1, 2022, to April 30, 2023.

The WRP application requests support for the following monitoring actions: 1) Continued use of satellite collars to monitor the movement and distribution of migrating ʔekw̄. Approximately 45 collars for all three herds will be deployed in spring 2023 to replace collars that have dropped, in hopes of maintaining the collar numbers on each herd; 2) Composition surveys (July 2022) to provide an estimate of calf:cow ratios in the three herds approximately one-month post-calving; 3) Late-winter calf survival/spring recruitment surveys (spring 2023) to measure calf survival, provide an index of recruitment, and provide a long-term trend assessment of calf productivity for the three herds; and 4) Fall sex ratio survey (October 2022) 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.

Questions included: two independent studies (ENR scientific study and BOTG study), any work being done to look at how the results from one study reflects on the other? (not one specific project that is working to bring the two together, adaptative management framework includes both monitoring data indicators from ENR and TG, as well as ACCWM and BCAC decisions).

Motion #806-08-02-2022 *To approve the Wildlife Research Permit Application, entitled "Monitoring of the Bathurst, Bluenose-East, and Beverly Caribou Herds", as presented*

Moved: Steve Matthews
Second: Stu Niven

Motion Approved

ACTION #586-08-02-2022 (ED): To write letter to ENR to approve the the Wildlife Research Permit Application, entitled "Monitoring of the Bathurst, Bluenose-East, and Beverly Caribou Herds".

2.7 Review & Approval of Kugluktuk Angoniatit Associations Special Harvester's Licence Request

A Special Harvesting Licence is the only way for Nunavut harvesters to come into Wek'èezhì to harvest d̄iga in the Enhanced Incentive Area. Harvesters in Wek'èezhì have exclusive rights to trap so the Licence allows others to be given permission. Special harvesting licenses can be issued for any species. The

licence was granted in 2020 and 2021 and resulted in 38 and 87 diga harvested, respectively, in the incentive area contributing to the diga management program.

The Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association is looking to obtain a Special Harvesting License for Nunavummiut to allow them to hunt diga in the Northwest Territories. This will allow them to contribute to the efforts of the GNWT in increasing adult survival rates in ᐱᓃᓂᓂᓂ while receiving the incentives from the Enhanced Incentive Program. It is thought that they will issue 20-30 licences with each harvester expected to get at least two diga each, and a hope to harvest over 100 diga total.

Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association is also looking for permission to harvest ᓂᓃᓂᓂ (wolverine) in the enhanced incentive area as they are a prized fur and predator of ᐱᓃᓂᓂ. However, they acknowledge that this will be an opportunistic harvest and not the purpose of travel to the area.

Motion #807-08-02-2022 *To approve the Kugluktuk Angoniatit Association's request for a special harvesting licence for wolf and wolverine as presented*

Moved:
Second:

Isabelle Duclos
Eddie Erasmus

Motion Approved

ACTION #587-08-02-2022 (ED): To write letter to KAA to approve request for a special harvesting licence for wolf and wolverine.

2.8 Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (ACCWM) Decisions

The ACCWM met in November 2021 to discuss community-based monitoring and scientific information for the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose-West and Sahti Ekwò (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 Sahti Ekwò herd is in the YELLOW zone.

In December 2021, the Board reviewed the proposed statuses along with the community-based and scientific monitoring information. As such, the Board approved the statuses as follows: Cape Bathurst herd is in the YELLOW zone, the Bluenose-West herd is in the ORANGE zone and the Sahti Ekwò herd is in the RED zone. To date the following decisions have been made:
KRWB – Sahti Ekwò: YELLOW; WMAC (NWT) – Cape Bathurst: YELLOW; Bluenose-West: ORANGE; Sahti Ekwò: RED; TNNPMB – Bluenose-West: ORANGE; GRRB – Cape Bathurst: YELLOW; Bluenose-West: ORANGE; Sahti Ekwò: YELLOW; WRRB – Cape Bathurst: YELLOW; Bluenose-West: ORANGE; Sahti Ekwò: RED.

The SRRB has not provided its decisions yet. As there is no consensus for the Sahti Ekwò herd, the ACCWM Member Boards will need to hold a conference call to come up with a final consensus.

Board Members want the Bluenose-East status to remain at RED. Both knowledge systems have value to the Board, but the precautionary approach says that the most cautious management option must be taken, i.e., stick with the actions that are most beneficial to the caribou.

2.9 Conference of Management Authorities Items

a. Summary of Implementation Activities – Amphibians, Boreal Caribou, Wood Bison, Barren-ground Caribou, Bats

Tabled for Board Member review and comment.

3.0 Financial

3.1 Review & Approval of 2022/2023 Budget & Work Plan

Motion #808-09-02-2022 *To approve the 2022/2023 budget and work plan as presented*

Moved: Steve Matthews
Second: Eddie Erasmus

Motion Approved

ACTION #588-09-02-2022 (ED): To write letter to CIRNAC to forward the approved 2022/2023 budget and work plan.

3.2 Review & Approval of Financial Statements as of 31 December 2021

Motion #809-09-22-2022 *To approve the financial statement as of 31 December 2021 as presented*

Moved: Suzanne Carrière
Second: Stu Niven

Motion Approved

4.0 Operations

4.1 RBC Account & Credit Card

Currently, the RBC account consists of a Visa card and a GIC. To make a monthly payment on the Visa, until recently, a cheque was issued and taken to the RBC branch. However, as the cheque is issued from CIBC, the RBC will no longer take payment at the branch. As such, payment must be mailed or made through online banking. This results in interest charges to the credit card as the Board does not have online banking.

In order to close the accounts, a letter of direction to RBC with two signing authorities is required. The CIBC requires the Board's recent audited financial statement to issue a credit card with a limit of \$15,000. The GIC would be cashed and deposited into the regular CIBC chequing account. Board Members requested to ensure that there will be no penalty to cash the GIC.

Motion #810-09-02-2022 *To approve the closure of the RBC credit card and GIC, open a CIBC credit card, and deposit the RBC GIC into the CIBC chequing account*

Moved: Steve Matthews
Second: Eddie Erasmus

Motion Approved

ACTION #589-09-02-2022 (ED): To write letter to RBC to close credit card and GIC and write letter to CIBC to open credit card.

4.2 In-Camera Session

Motion #811-09-02-2022 *To go in-camera at 11:19am MDT*

Moved: Eddie Erasmus
Second: Stu Niven

Motion Approved

Motion #812-09-02-2022 *To come out-of-camera at 11:41am MDT*

Moved: Steve Matthews
Second: Suzanne Carrière

Motion Approved

Board Members reluctantly accepted Randi's resignation. Happy to provide a letter of recommendation for future work. Agreed to request for salary increase for Jody Pellissey, based on performance appraisal. Human Resources Committee to conduct the appraisal, membership to be determined.

Motion #813-09-02-2022 *To approve a 2% salary increase for Jody Pellissey, retroactive to January 1, 2022*

Moved: Stu Niven
Second: Steve Matthews

Motion Approved

ACTION #590-09-02-2022 (ED): To write letter of recommendation for Randi Mousseau.

ACTION #591-09-02-2022 (HR Committee): To undertake a 2020/2021 performance appraisal for Jody Pellissey.

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, Shalyn Norrish

Report entitled, "*Communications Officer Update – February 2022*", tabled

Comments regarding 2023 calendar theme: "connections", geography, rivers, skidoo trails, Tłıchǫ Highway, focus on resource management from a community perspective, fish, recipes that tie back to resource management, skies, landscapes, culture and nature together (reflect culture and nature in each of the 12 months, baskets and trees, use of gum, decoration on baskets, use of roots, talk about the connections, dig deep into the relationships between trees and people), things that are made to enable time spent on the land (clothing, jewelry, hats, baskets, fishing nets).

6.0 Other Items

6.1 Round Table

Board Members thanked one another, interpreters, sound engineer, and staff for a good meeting, work well together and learn from one another about issues of importance, look forward to meeting again in-person (next meeting to be at the Explorer).

6.2 Next Meeting

The next meeting is for May 10-11, 2022, combined in-person (Yellowknife) and Zoom meeting.

Closing Prayer: Eddie Erasmus

Adjournment: 12:03 p.m. (Motion #814-09-02-2022)

Minutes Approved:

ORIGINAL SIGNED

May 10, 2022

Chairperson

Date