

Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board February 19th to 22nd, 2013 Inuvik, NT – Alex Moses Greenland Building

Attending:

Board: Jozef Carnogursky, Joel Ingram, Johnny Charlie, Cindy Allen, Charlie Snowshoe, Eugene Pascal, Charlie Snowshoe

Staff: Amy Thompson, Janet Boxwell, Kris Maier, Kristen Callaghan, Nick Westover **, Cheryl Greenland

Renewable Resources Council Members: John Norbert, Peter J. Kaye, Fanny Greenland, Barry Greenland, Juraj Carnogursky, Jeremy Mosher, Rita Carpenter, Kayla

Meeting notes: Mary Beckett

1. Call to Order / Opening Prayer / Introductions

Eugene Pascal called the meeting to order at 9:14 a.m.

Barry Greenland said the opening prayer.

Eugene Pascal asked everyone to introduce themselves.

2. Review & Approve Agenda

Motion #2013-01

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the agenda be approved as presented.

Moved by: Joel Ingram

Seconded by: Johnny Charlie

Question called: **CARRIED**

3. Review & Approve Minutes

Eugene Pascal commented there are three teleconference minutes and one Board meeting minutes.

It was decided to go through each one and then pass a motion to approve.

Amy Thompson commented that the meeting binder is now paperless. If anyone in the public would like copies of the items, staff can get things printed. After the meeting, each of the Renewable Resources Council Coordinators will have a copy of all the documents for you to have access at the Renewable Resources Council.

a. June 12, 2012 Teleconference Board Meeting

Motion #2013:02

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the minutes of the June 12, 2012, minutes be approved as presented.

Moved by: Joel Ingram

Seconded by: Jozef Carnogursky

Question called: **CARRIED**

Motion#2013:03

BE IT RESOLVED THAT August 8, 2012 minutes be approved as presented.

Moved by: Joel Ingram

Seconded by: Johnny Charlie

Question called: **CARRIED**

Motion #2013:04

BE IT RESOLVED THAT September 18, 2012, minutes be approved as presented.

Moved by: Cindy Allen

Seconded by: Jozef Carnogursky

Question called: **CARRIED**

Discussion:

Jozef Carnogursky on #7, the office lease update, that process has not completed yet. Nihtat Gwich'in Council is also still ongoing on the negotiations. Amy Thompson commented that Inuvik Commercial Properties has not approached us yet to sign a new lease, but it will likely be done soon as the existing one expires in March. Will continue under the old terms.

Cindy Allen asked about the Investment Policy, re Ethical Investments. This was a question that Cindy Allen asked at the last meeting. Will be asking the Financial Advisor when he is on the phone. Amy Thompson confirmed this will be in Agenda item 6 – after the break.

Motion #2013:05

BE IT RESOLVED THAT October 26, 2012, minutes be approved as presented.

Moved by: Johnny Charlie

Seconded by: Joel Ingram

Question called: **CARRIED**

Discussion:

Cindy Allen asked if we got more promotional items? Amy Thompson we are working on it.

Motion #2013:06

BE IT RESOLVED THAT November 23, 2012, minutes be approved as presented.

Moved by: Joel Ingram

Seconded by: Charlie Snowshoe

Question called: **CARRIED**

Discussion:

Jozef Carnogursky asked about the public hearings that were held in Yellowknife in January – did anyone attend? Eugene Pascal did attend. It was mainly geared towards land management. Some parts were good, some parts were dry for me.

Cindy Allen asked if there were lots of people there from other Boards? Representatives from each of the Renewable Resources Boards and Land & Water Boards attended.

4. Review Action Items

Amy Thompson reviewed the Action Items from past meetings. From 2008 to current, had all the Action Items collated into one document. Will continue to add to it, meet with staff to find out what items were completed but may still be listed as pending. This is how we will be reporting on action items.

Joel Ingram asked if these were motions from meetings as well as action items? Amy Thompson confirmed this list includes decisions made.

Amy Thompson reviewed from June 2012, line 157. Re the lease – we now have a lease. There were some items re the Porcupine Caribou Management Board Implementation Board – wrote a letter re this.

There were some action items for outside organizations, cannot speak to these. Will have to follow up.

Migratory Bird Assessment – Kristen shared a report that was done a couple of years ago.

Meat wastage – not sure if that was done or not.

Marsha Branigan was requesting support – sought support, provided comments to Environment & Natural Resources re Government of the NWT Wildlife Act and Caribou Strategy.

Have been really active on the Harvest Study.

Responses on the Implementation Plan – will be getting an update later.

Cindy Allen asked if they came back with funding? Amy Thompson will speak to that on the Operations Update.

Work with Renewable Resources Council on scholarship to recognize Liz Hansen – still ongoing.

Martin was to provide books and pamphlets to Ehdiiat Renewable Resources Council on birds and insects – he will be here later and can be followed up.

Wildlife Studies - internal

Will continue to work with Nihtat Renewable Resources Council re the Harvest Study concerns.

Letter re Barrenland Caribou Management Plan was done.

Jozef Carnogursky and Eugene Pascal are the leads on the ACCWM.

Work with Inuvialuit Fisheries Joint Management Committee – there has been discussions and discussions will continue.

Work with Department of Fisheries & Oceans to identify funds re communities – Sam Stevenson went with Kris Maier to the communities re the listing. Board made a motion to approve the listing.

Write a letter to implementation director re workplan and strategic planning workshop – will be talking about the plan later on the agenda and that

Follow-up with Board Members on all upcoming meetings – members can let Amy Thompson know if that update is helping.

There were quite a few actions from line 185 to 207 re the Working Groups for outfitting and the Grizzly Bear working groups. Some of those have been done, but Amy Thompson needs to sit down with Kristen Callaghan re this. At the last day on community topics, Board can talk with Renewable Resources Councils on this. Has been a challenge for staff, need more direction re where to focus our time and efforts. Some things have been done and others are pending.

Draft Barrenland Caribou plans – Board reviewed the plans, comments were provided, Eugene Pascal and Jozef Carnogursky are active on the ACCWM and Kristen Callaghan is on the working group.

Will follow up on providing the investment policy to Board members.

Need to select another member for the Finance Committee now that Dan Topolniski is no longer on the Board.

Sign Memorandum of Understanding and Terms of Reference re draft Bluenose and Cape Bathurst Management Plans – suggestions for wording changes were made and the Memorandum of Understanding has now been signed.

Need to finalize the laptop contract. Have done sign-out sheets for those that have laptops.

Closed the office during Christmas. Discussed winter meeting dates.

Re Bill C45 – Board sent a letter concerning relevant issues. Cindy Allen asked if there was a response? Amy Thompson explained a response is supposed to be coming. Day 3 there is a person from the policy department on the agenda. Concerns can be addressed. There was some discussion of a legal review of that bill. Were going to approach Gwich'in Tribal Council with the concerns.

Questions & Discussion:

Charlie Snowshoe asked about Bill C45. Would like to get a bit more information on what that is about. That is something that has come up and a lot of people do not understand what it is about. Amy Thompson explained on the third day of the meeting, there will be someone calling in that we can ask questions to.

5. Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board Operations

a. Executive Director Progress Report

Amy Thompson gave an activities update. Have advised staff to just give a bulleted list of activities rather than a really detailed report. After the activities update, will have a financial item to approve.

Lawrence Norbert hired as the technician trainee. Nick Westover has been working on key files re communications.

Nick Westover has been helping put out some of the main communications stuff, conservation calendar, posters. Species At Risk Act poster that illustrates the Species At Risk Act process for Fed and Territorial government and where the communities have input. Those went out to the Renewable Resources Councils.

We have a web-tracking addition to the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board website – Google Analytics will collect baseline data re where and how people are accessing the website and what people are getting out of it. Not really useful because the smaller communities are not differentiated at the present time, but as networks are upgraded by NWTel, will be able to see who is using the website and be able to adjust the website based on that. Have been liaising with Chelsea to put updates on the website, put up the Forest Management Plan up there. Printed the calendar and Forest Management Plan and distributed those to all the communities.

Working on internal communications and Information Technology work – getting laptops working. Working with Lawrence Norbert to order some promotional items.

Amy Thompson we are planning to have a newsletter out this month – highlighting major activities and outcomes from this meeting. Hope to have it out in the next two weeks.

Lawrence Norbert is doing database entries, Traditional Knowledge project, mapping project – particularly on otters, but also other species and putting it into a mapping program.

Amy Thompson sits on a number of committees. Attended seminar on HR training in December. Helped with the Traditional Knowledge project re Species At Risk.

With Arctic Borderlands Cooperative, there have been discussions with Michael Svoboda, re making sure some of the work is not duplicated. Looking at having a local organization coordinate the meetings rather than doing it out of Whitehorse.

Cindy Allen asked if there is a financial component for that? Amy Thompson they would prepare all the discussions, invitations, etc. Then we would do the expense claims. Gets complicated when plans change. Was an idea rather than have cheques done in Whitehorse.

Two Board Conference Calls since September. There is a lot of work on the shared office arrangement – now sharing with Land Use Planning and Land & Water Board. There was a lot of work, but we are now sharing expenses. It was a lot of work to free up the space.

Have a staff meeting every month when possible. Listed all the meetings attended.

Questions & Discussion:

Jozef Carnogursky asked for a quick update on the Regional Renewable Resources Council meeting. Amy Thompson commented that the 4th day of this meeting will be for Renewable Resources Council issues. Janet Boxwell attended the first day, Amy Thompson, Kristen Callaghan & Kris Maier, Nick Westover were all there for the entire meeting. There is a strong interest from Aklavik on outfitting. That will be a topic for looking at on day four of this meeting.

Charlie Snowshoe brought to the attention of the Board – Species At Risk funding has been in the news. Important that we look into it. Find out what kind of funding they have, might be something we can use. We know what is around this area, we do not need to bring people up, we have good technical people that can write about what they know about and the changes. A couple of years ago, they brought someone up from Yellowknife to look at mud slides, but we see what is going on. We should think about hiring the community people because they know what is going on. We can do something like Arctic Borderlands Cooperative with the information there, rather than getting people from Universities and groups from Yellowknife, get our own people to do the job. We should try and use that money to hire someone within our area. We have some people with university degrees, college degrees that are not doing anything right now.

b. Financial Update

Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board Forecast Quarter 4 2012: Amy Thompson we did a financial variance report up to the end of December. Were projecting a surplus at mid-year, so got some direction re that. After that, we are still projecting a surplus. We have to use the surplus – the government has changed how they fund boards. We have been assessed by the government as “low risk”. With the surplus, we have flexible transfer payments, and could use the same funds by the end of this year. Used funds for the laptops and Amy Thompson's Professional Development. That should use last year's surplus. This year's surplus can be carried over based on the conversations we have had, but have not received the letter confirming that at this point.

Have included in here staff attendance at Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Program. Plan to send Cheryl Greenland to Whitehorse for some training in March.

Joel Ingram commented we have a budget surplus in rent, so is the surplus only usable for rent? Amy Thompson answered the total is only in the bottom, not on the individual line items. We can use it for office supplies, or whatever. If the Board wanted to use it for a workshop or something different, would have to write a letter to Implementation for permission before doing that. You may want to add some additional lines to the budget re lines to use the surplus. Told them that we would give them the budget and workplan for next year by the end of next week.

Cindy Allen asked what we are providing them information for? Amy Thompson answered for April 1 to March 31. There is nothing that says we have to provide it by that time, but they like to have the operating budget and workplan by February 15th, so told them we might be able to submit after this meeting. Cindy Allen commented we want to keep the good financial rating.

Kristen Callaghan asked if you are changing line items for next year – do you need a research line item for spending for the coming year? Amy Thompson doesn't have a line in the budget saying research, but there is a workplan item. The budget item would be staff salaries, so that would cover it.

Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board Project Schedule: An update of projects to the end of January. Have the Traditional Knowledge project for Species At Risk, Bluenose Caribou, CARMA communications, Government of the NWT – includes Forest Management Plan, Gwich'in Harvest Study, Integrated Fisheries Management Plan – Dolly Varden Char, Strategic Planning, Traditional Knowledge Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Program – to cover travel costs for a person in Fort McPherson, Wildlife Act meetings, Wildlife Studies.

The projects list revenues and expenses. Brackets mean they are in a deficit and without is a surplus. Any deficits would be out of general operations. CARMA should be covered for all expenses. Wildlife Act meeting – got an amendment for the Contribution Agreement to capture that.

Research Priority & Strategic Planning Workshop – got some money from outside organizations, but in the final audit, there will be a line item saying whatever is shown as a deficit on this project will come from core funding.

Wildlife Act meetings – get \$10 thousand per year for 3 years, have only received \$5 thousand so far, but have asked for the additional \$5 thousand, so there will not be a deficit on the Wildlife Act meeting.

Joel Ingram asked about tracking all the funding agreements – would be good to have the dates for each recorded – some are one year agreements, some are multi-year agreements, to ensure that all invoicing is done, renewals are made on time. Amy Thompson responded most are renewed from year to year, some are being deferred. Can add that to the spreadsheet. Whenever an agreement comes in, add it to my calendar for a reminder, inviting Cheryl Greenland to that as well, so we both get a reminder.

Need a motion from the Board to support the Budget and Workplan

c. Operating Budget & Workplan

Amy Thompson this year, since we have a surplus, added a line for a financial advisor. Angela Adler used to work for us, now is a CGA, and provides financial advice from time to time. Had a big pot for the Interim Chair and Board Members to travel that was not being used every month because often meetings attend with funding. In the past, when Robert Charlie was chair, there was a lot of work he was doing and money was set aside for that. Also now saving a lot on rent. Asked Angela Adler to look at these items and consider options for the Board to consider. Angela Adler also provided a Briefing Note to provide to you.

There was a proposal submitted to Implementation for the next 10 year plan. Have not heard if we are going to get increased funding or not. Have heard there is a delay – was supposed to be April 1st, but no update is available and Gwich'in Tribal Council do not have information either.

Cindy Allen commented with the Minister leaving, they are likely scrambling.

Amy Thompson reviewed the Briefing Note and Budget.

Cindy Allen asked if the technician position has been filled yet? Amy Thompson answered the position Lawrence Norbert is in is a trainee position. If this budget is approved, there will be an opportunity to hire a technician for 6 months.

Amy Thompson commented that with longer term staff – many has been here for at least two years. Offering RRSPs is a way of looking at staff retention policies. Cindy Allen asked if this is similar to government benefits. Amy Thompson commented that the RRSP benefit proposed is 5.5% with employee being required to make a matching contribution. Cindy Allen commented we want staff to stay.

Table shows current year, past year and increases/decreases in the budget.

Staff salary scale is incorporate in this budget. Casual staff budget is for hiring people like Angela Adler or Chelsea doing website updates, sometimes previous staff come on to help out as needed or a casual position in the office.

Example of workshop that does not provide funding – Cumulative Impacts Monitoring Program workshop.

Winter meeting – has been reduced from 3 days to 2 days. A projected surplus would allow the meeting length to be increased.

Cindy Allen asked how long is the lease agreement? Amy Thompson proposed the sublease would run the same length as the full lease. The ownership of the building is being negotiated, so do not know if we are going to enter into the new lease with the old landlord or the new one. Think we may have written the sublease with no expiry, did the calculations based on the space allocations. Once a new lease is determined, the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board will have a lease, the Land Use Planning will have one and the Land & Water Board will also have one.

Jozef Carnogursky commented there is some concern that the Land & Water Board might not continue to exist, so they may not be able to sign a new lease.

Barry Greenland asked how much is spent on attendance at the Petroleum Show? Amy Thompson answered \$1 thousand.

Amy Thompson asked for a motion to support the Operating Budget, if the Board is supportive.

Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board Workplan - Amy Thompson reviewed the workplan proposed for the next fiscal year.

Based on the discussions we have over the next few days, hope to get some priorities for staff to work on in the next year. Based on the staff discussions, these are areas that are likely to be priorities.

Questions & Discussion:

Joel Ingram commented for the surplus that carries over, we can only use it in areas we have a line item – does it have to be in the spreadsheet, or can it just be in the workplan? Research is in the workplan, but not the budget spreadsheet. Amy Thompson will check. Joel Ingram suggested it would add flexibility to have a line on the spreadsheet.

Joel Ingram for line items for recruitment and hiring – we do not plan to spend money on that item, but leave the item at zero? Amy Thompson that is how it has been handled in the past.

Joel Ingram re the meeting allocation – since we only meet twice a year, think we should plan for the 3 day meeting, and find the \$5,500 item somewhere else and then use surplus for that if necessary. i.e. the Technician Term Position – we can take it out of there, knowing we have surplus available and other funding sources, so we can keep the meeting a 3 day meeting.

Jozef Carnogursky commented in the workplan, we are putting new money towards research, but there are still outstanding management plans that need to be completed – Dall Sheep, Grizzly Bear.

Joel Ingram asked for the other expenditures, can we add a line item in the spreadsheet that covers implementing management plans? That would give us the flexibility to move surplus funding or find other funding sources. Amy Thompson agreed.

Cindy Allen suggested we can come back to this later in the week, because we can add items later in the week? Amy Thompson needs a motion by the end of the meeting, and they like it signed by Eugene Pascal with a motion number.

Amy Thompson suggested she can do the suggested amendments today and then bring it back later in the day.

Joel Ingram agreed since it is a major issue, we can bring it back at the end, or do it now subject to the amendments discussed.

BREAK

6. Review of Current Investments –Geoff Anselmo, RBC Wealth Management

Geoff Anselmo called into the meeting. Amy Thompson explained the set up for the meeting.

Geoff reviewed his presentation. Phil is not able to participate today because he is in Calgary.

Have had a portfolio with Royal Bank since mid-2007. Management was designed to preserve capital and provide income to fund projects annually. Communication with the Board has been helpful over the past few years as the world economy has been challenging.

Bulk of the portfolio is made up of TSX 60 stocks, short term bonds and T-Bills. Still dealing with record low interest rates as world governments are trying to get their economies moving. Your portfolio did 4.16% overall.

Showed portfolio withdrawals since 2008. Each year we have managed to continue to make withdrawals, based on what is happening in the market and your needs. Anticipate another \$82 thousand withdrawal based on what has been going on. Have not been spending any capital, just the income/growth.

Asset mix – 60% bonds, 40% stocks. A bit over the benchmark on stocks at the moment based on how the market is recovering in the US and Europe. Looks like things are getting better. Royal Bank is recommending to be continuing the overweight in stock benchmark. Still continue to focus on Canadian stocks, companies that pay dividends. Over time, have increased foreign stocks from 3-6%, can see it might be going to 7%. As we see the global economy recover, US companies will do better. Over time, will bring US exposure up while maintaining a strong Canadian.

Bonds – anyone who is a bondholder has taken a 50% cut in pay, will continue to see that. Even if rates go up $\frac{3}{4}$ of a point, they will still be very low. Expect this portfolio to generate about \$75K in income, with about \$80K in annual redemption.

Asset Mix Policy – gives you an idea of the ranges we are dealing with. If everything is great, recommend you to be at benchmark. We are approaching the US benchmark, waiting for the Europe market to stabilize before getting to benchmark on the international side.

Last year, the market was in a tough spot in June because of concerns about Europe. Two things happened to change the course of the year: Europe said they would do whatever to stay together, US said they would continue quantitative easing. Canada and Asian markets responded well. A lot of progress was made in 3rd and 4th quarter.

Try to maintain discipline in investing – those that did that in June did well.

One of the issues with having 60% of the fund in the market, suggest you be short term in focus because interest rates are going up. When rates go up, bond rates tend to fall. On a statement basis bonds lose their value, although we tend to hold them to maturity, ladder them so that they don't all come due at once. Anything corporate will have to be on something strong. Interest rates will continue to be low.

Conclusions:

Interest rates will rise slowly.

Think most of the US fiscal situation will be noise, with recognition they need to fix the problem.

Canada will continue to recover. Big issue in Canada is housing prices – lending situations at the banks tend to be good.

Forecast is for returns to be negative – 10 year bonds to fall by 5-6% - recommend maintaining a ladder of 5 years or less.

Like how you are sitting right now, and recommend you will be fine to take the \$82 thousand based on how things are sitting now.

Questions & Discussion:

Cindy Allen asked about ethical investing and whether or not the bonds and investments made are ethical. We are a renewable resources board here to protect land and water. Uncomfortable making investments in oil sands in Alberta that might be poisoning the environment for our neighbours.

Geoff Anselmo answered from a bond perspective – mostly invested in Government of Canada, some in Province of Alberta, one in Ontario, corporate bonds are in the banks. Nothing from the fixed income side in the oil sands. On the equity side – there is exposure in Alta Gas, Canadian Oilsands – about 3.8% is in the energy business in Canada and all of those have some exposure in the oil sands. Canadian Oilsands – 0.4% is Syncrude – pays a dividend, but we have to look at that based on what you would like in your portfolio. We can entertain making changes to the investment policy to change these investments. Is this something we should be discussing? Cindy Allen commented for herself, she is uncomfortable earning a portion of our income on the wrecking of the environment for another indigenous group. Is positive there are other investments we could use. It is up to the Board, but thinks that is something we could change.

Geoff Anselmo responded we are flexible and open to accommodate specific requests. As a Board, if you tell us you want to amend your policy, we can look for investments outside of the oil sands.

Joel Ingram asked what do we need to do to consider amending the policy? We can put the steps in motion then to amend the policy and consider issues at that point. Do we involve you directly or do it ourselves?

Geoff Anselmo responded it comes down to what works. Many Boards we work with have an investment committee and they ask what we would replace the investments with – sometimes the Investment Committee makes the decision, sometimes it is more the Board itself. We can come to you with suggestions re what you could do. Question is how many of you participate in the discussion re what would be better for you. Generally, you ask what would it look like, we come up with recommendations, then get together on a call like this to implement the changes.

Geoff Anselmo asked is that something I should be contacting Amy Thompson on? Joel Ingram agreed it is something we can work through as a Board, and then come to you. Geoff Anselmo there are different types of ethical investing, so we can bring those ideas to you.

Will send you information on the policy decision and how we can accommodate your request.

Eugene Pascal thanked Geoff for participating.

Action item: To work on a process for the investment policy.

Joel Ingram asked if it was the investment committee? Amy Thompson at the time the investment policy was developed, a call for proposals was sent out for banks to respond to. Was done under Melody Nice-Paul and Amy Thompson was not involved.

Cindy Allen commented this is a positive message we can send to members that we are making our investments not on the backs of other indigenous people.

Investment Committee Volunteers: Cindy Allen, Joel Ingram

7. Agency Updates

a. Environment & Natural Resources – Stephen Charlie

Stephen Charlie gave a departmental update. Marsha Branigan is doing the wildlife update tomorrow. Martin Callaghan will be doing updates.

Want to bring forward Ernie Francis is the Forestry Officer in Inuvik – first time there has been an aboriginal person in this position. He worked up through the department, was appointed to this position in January.

As of beginning of March, Doug Villeneuve will be returning in a transfer assignment as the Manager of Wildlife and Environment Enforcement – was previously held by Norm Snowshoe.

Department of Environment is really recognized in the Government of the NWT for aboriginal hiring. Is being promoted by leadership, Premier, Minister and regular MLAs that aboriginal people need to be brought up in the workforce and be promoted. The department has been recognized because they are above the recommended numbers. Good to see young people going out and getting education.

Paul Voudrach – Environmental Protection Officer – has been with the department for about 30 years. Because the downturn in exploration, have amalgamated Regional Assessment – by combining both, will be able to do more. With devolution coming along, this division will likely grow and will have Paul at the head, who has experience in Wildlife Officer and in environmental protection. That is a direction that the department is heading for. One day, will hired as an officer and might be asked to enforce any area – wildlife, forestry, environmental protection, assessments on land, etc, people will be more generalized with specialists.

Wayne Gully hired in Sachs Harbour to replace someone going to Aurora College. Great that young people in the region see the opportunity to gain employment, education and move forward.

New Financial Services in the region – before had shared services with Environment & Natural Resources and Industry Tourism & Investment. They have taken resources from the department and created efficiencies in paying bills, etc., but has deteriorated some reception office duties. Inuvik was a test run for this program – when issues came up, it was not as much of a concern, now it is being rolled out in other regions and are starting to see new resources to flow into the administrative deficiencies. There may be some shortfalls re deliveries at the front desk, but please be patient.

The report on the Wildlife Research Updates will be circulated. The Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board works with Environment & Natural Resources on a collaborative, co-management process. Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board staff will make presentations re what is being done with Government of the NWT and Yukon Government. Can answer questions re Porcupine Caribou Management Board – see a real empowerment of the aboriginal participants. Government of the NWT and Canada has always been open, but there were some challenges working with Yukon Government. See a real improvement in working with the Yukon Government – a sense this co-management process, decisions cannot be made without proper consultation. See it as positive – positive working relationships with Porcupine Caribou Management Board and the parties.

Field Operations – talking about enforcement compliance. Dempster Highway Caribou harvest was high priority. Porcupine Caribou Herd does not mass migrate on the highway – mostly on the Yukon side of the border. There were issues with letting the leaders pass, gut piles, grizzlies – issues centered around harvesting on the Dempster Highway. There have been some decisions by the Porcupine Caribou Management Board that have not been released yet – discussions are being held between the parties. Any recommendations must be agreed to by the parties before they can move forward.

With the herd going by, my officers were not instructed to go into the Yukon. We had issues with how the Yukon Government was enforcing legislation on their side of the highway – they had legislation on the books they were not enforcing. We felt the legislation was on the books and no one was being charged, but they were doing preliminary actions re stopping, questioning, searching. When you do those types of activities, there must be an end re enforcement. Our officers do not stop someone without having reasonable grounds. Did not agree with what was happening – i.e. they were staying charges. That means they are not being dropped, but could be brought up later. An officer cannot decide when or when not to enforce the law. If we see a violation, we do not lay the charges, we collect the information and they decide – same as them with us. Do not see the point of collecting the information when they are not going to lay the charges. If we send our officers in, they have to enforce the law, so they are staying out of the Yukon.

We cannot develop a regulation regime that does not work. If the First Nations do not buy into it, it will not work. Suggest should use the Native Use Agreements to decide how to manage the resource and how it will be enforced on the citizens. Once it is created as a by-law, we make a regulation, then we can enforce it. Think that is the new way of thinking, new way with co-management, government working more closely with co-management partners will see a lot of these things move forward.

i.e. If the First Nation says we want a one week closure when the caribou come in great numbers, we can enforce that.

We are criticized as a department that we were not out on the highway patrolling – we were out from Ft McPherson to the border, but there were no caribou. Were criticized that the caribou check station was set up when there were no caribou, but it is part of the co-management plan. It is a cost to meeting our obligations. We can say we are making efforts to get the harvest data. The thing about the check station – the Harvest Management Plan is the envy of all Canada because there is nothing like it all across Canada. They are having issues with barren grounds caribou in other provinces, and they wish they had something like it.

Patrols in the Delta – focussing on IBC-06 – a closed zone on the south side of Husky Lakes. We have conducted motoring patrols, instigated several investigation files. Will provide updates if charges are laid or go to court. There are no active enforcement files in the Gwich'in Settlement Area at this time. These patrols are not just done by officers in Inuvik, also Aklavik, Ft McPherson, Tuktoyaktuk, fixed wing and rotor wing patrols.

Had some bear situations – Tsiigehtchic defensive kill bear was in poor shape.

Complaints about wolves in Tsiigehtchic – dealing with that today. Working with patrolman Sam Lennie.

Price of fur has increased for some species – encourage trappers to take advantage of this. Holding a workshop in Ft McPherson for wolves – guy is very skilled in trapping and snaring wolves. Will bring in interested harvesters from Tsiigehtchic for that. Had a workshop on deadfalls and stretchers – 40 participants in Aklavik. Once you set up a deadfall, they can be very effective and do not cost anything.

Incident command training – getting majority of staff trained re hierarchy of command in an emergency situation.

Ernie will also attend ecological assessment course. Securing helicopter support for forestry – just had a meeting yesterday re that.

Increase in the number of timber cutting permits. Working with the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board to try work with the Gwich'in Forest Management Plan and assist the Gwich'in in the delivery and implementation of that plan.

Filling all casual position under Forestry Management this year – think will have enough work to offer full-time seasonal positions. There will be quite a number of openings.

Environmental Protection – will be amalgamating the officer and assessment coordinator into one.

Have worked with Municipal & Community Affairs re hazardous wastes and landfill operations presentations.

Stephen Charlie is the alternate for the Government of the NWT on the Porcupine Caribou Management Board. Also the party representative for the Government of the NWT at the Porcupine Caribou Management Board. Can answer re the party decisions or process of the Porcupine Caribou Management Board if there are any questions.

Questions & Discussion:

John Norbert asked do you handle forest crews? Will there be a crew in Tsiigehtchic? Stephen Charlie responded we lost half the crews in the region. The Tsiigehtchic crew will not be replaced at this time based on the budget and projections. That issue can be moved up through the Renewable Resources Council and Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board to be asked to the department formally in writing.

Charlie Snowshoe asked about getting people together on education re hunting on the Dempster Highway. We have Renewable Resources Council members here now – should be seriously looking into that. Caribou have been chased away and people are having a hard time concerning caribou. Next year, before the caribou come to the Dempster Highway, should be having a meeting. Mentioned it to the Renewable Resources Council in McPherson, because the caribou should not be in Alaska, they should be in the Peel River area now. That is based on my caribou knowledge from the last 40 years. People are always chasing them back, so the people need to be educated so the caribou can stay in this region.

Stephen Charlie thanked Charlie Snowshoe for his comments. The department will commit resources to a workshop. Will work with Amy Thompson and the Renewable Resources Councils. This is very important. Believe the message for harvesting and the methods used has to come from the Elders, from the harvesters in the

community. We can help with posters, etc. They have to come up with their own solutions on things like this. It is a co-management responsibility. Government is committed to getting the partners to make their rules and step up. The government funds the check station but the Renewable Resources Council runs it. It builds confidence and capacity. We could make regulations, but the First Nations can make their own rules for what happens on their private lands. This is a big issue – responsible harvesting, responsible care of the meat. Need to bring practices not only for care of the meat, but also letting them come to you so you can shoot without disturbing the animals. Will include that in our budget.

Joel Ingram asked about User to User Agreements – is the Porcupine Caribou Management Board looking at ways to get those discussions going? Stephen Charlie responded it has been looked at for some time, the announcements coming from the Porcupine Caribou Management Board will give greater emphasis to those agreements for how harvesting on the Dempster Highway is regulated. It will have to come from this table. Something has to be done before the caribou show up in July.

Charlie Snowshoe commented this is something serious with Porcupine Caribou Herd, it not only happens in the Dempster Highway, but also for your community. The young people are harassing the caribou. There is no need for that. There is a law against harassing animals, and when it comes to that, it is the job for the Renewable Resources Officer to look into that.

Cindy Allen asked about the Yukon Government not enforcing and you mentioned there is some progress, do you see some changes coming? Stephen Charlie responded the Yukon has some laws on the books, and they say it takes time to remove them. They have laws on the books re corridor and vehicle and habitat. They are enforcing it by checking and talking to people, asking them questions, etc, but they are not going to charge you with anything. The First Nations and Inuvialuit have made recommendations to the Porcupine Caribou Management Board. Because of the recommendations, there have to be changes that will come from the First Nation groups. The User Agreements will have some momentum now. These User Agreements are between the Yukon First Nations, Gwich'in, Inuvialuit and Canada.

Cindy Allen so the Gwich'in Tribal Council would have to lobby the Gwich'in in Yukon and other user groups and then the Yukon First Nations would ask the Yukon Government to make the changes.

Joel Ingram commented the parties that need to be involved in User Agreements all belong to the Porcupine Caribou Management Board, so the discussion need to be at that table. Stephen Charlie responded there is a definite separation between the Porcupine Caribou Management Board and the parties. If this could be moved forward, it will be a great avenue for moving forward the co-management process, responsibility, power, authority. There might be a user agreement for the Trondek, Nacho Nyak Dunn, Vuntut, etc. If everyone agrees what will be done in each area, then it will be a law.

Cindy Allen commented we need to work with Yukon First Nations to ensure that the regulations get changed in the Yukon.

Stephen Charlie commented if you agree re how the laws have been done in your area, then the consultation would have already been done. With the new Wildlife Act and the formulation of user agreements, you will have more say in your area.

Johnny Charlie commented the only way it will work, it has to be the law. You can't stop people from hunting unless it is law. There were lots of consultations and meetings about it, but as soon as there is caribou, there are trucks heading up the Dempster Highway.

Stephen Charlie responded under the new Wildlife Act, there are mechanisms for the parties, Renewable Resources Councils, user groups, to say what will happen on their own lands. On the Dempster Highway, there is a special management area on one side of the highway and private lands on the other side – it is rare to have an aboriginal group have exclusive control along both sides of a highway like that.

Stephen Charlie thanked everyone. Marsha Branigan will be doing her presentation later. Thank you for Amy Thompson's leadership and staff working with us.

LUNCH BREAK 12:12 TO 1:20 P.M.

8. Update of NWT Species At Risk Committee Activities – James B. Firth

James Firth explained in February 2010, the NWT Government and Fed Government came up with a new Species At Risk Act. A presentation was given by Joanne Wilson at the Gwich'in Camp at that time, James Firth was chosen as the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board rep to the Species At Risk Committee.

Out of the Act came the Species At Risk Committee and the Conference of Management Authorities. The Species At Risk Committee is an independent committee, not political, we assess species put in front of us. If there is a problem where the species may be threatened, we do an assessment.

Species we have looked at so far are from the COSEWIC list. Have asked for people to provide information about species that might be threatened. The Species At Risk Committee do not look at birds or fish, but do everything else from insects to plants.

For the last two years, have been coming up with ways of how the committee will operate. We have come up with rules on how to assess a species that comes to our desk, how to address letters re species that people may feel are at risk. Once it comes to the committee, it is our job to assess it.

The committee is made up of members of First Nations, governments, - Have Akaitcho, Dehcho and Métis represented by the Government of the NWT because they do not have a Land Claims Agreement. They still sit at the table and have input at the table re assessments of species.

James Firth has become the Chair of the Species At Risk Committee. In the last meeting, in Behchoko in December, we are finally now at the point that we are assessing species. We have looked at Peary Caribou, Boreal Woodland Caribou and the hairy rock cress.

We are not responsible for listing, managing or recovery.

The poster that was up at the meeting in Aklavik spells out how the process goes. At the Conference of Management Authorities meeting they were glad that someone took the initiative to do it. Will be asking each group to do one, so people know.

Once the assessment has been done, it goes to the Conference of Management Authorities, they work with Parks, Environment & Natural Resources to come up with a recovery strategy.

Once we do the assessment of a species, we do a call for proposals for traditional and scientific knowledge. Then we put together the best available information. Based on that at the last meeting, said the hairy rock cress, the Peary Caribou and the Boreal Woodland Caribou was threatened.

December 2012 – Boreal Caribou were discussed. Said it was likely to become endangered in the NWT if nothing is done now. Found that global warming is changing everything really fast. There are more forest fires and faster permafrost melt, more cut lines which all contribute to less habitat.

Polar Bear – because there was not enough information – there are borders they cross. We put them as a special concern if certain things are not done. Main suggestion was more work needs to be done re numbers that cross borders.

Peary Caribou – status is threatened because of climate change. Because of climate change they cannot cross to more islands, more rain in the fall covers their food. Want to do more studies on it. On the big island in NU, there is not enough information re population.

Hairy Braya – threatened because more storms cause the habitat to fall into the ocean. One of the ways it expands its territory is when the caribou walk through and spread the seeds.

What happens next, we pass our information to the Conference of Management Authorities. Attended their meeting in Yellowknife last month. There will be a few more questions from Species At Risk Committee – they will then decide what to do re the management.

Have taken the COSEWIC species list and have prioritized just about all of them – about 900 altogether. Have broken it into categories and come up with an assessment schedule for 2013-2017. The assessment schedule will be reviewed every year and could change depending on new information.

2013 Assessments: Barren-ground Caribou will come up next year. Requests for traditional knowledge and scientific knowledge have gone out.

If people notice there are things to be dealt with – i.e.

James Firth noted that there is an overlap on some of the birds – do songbirds such as the Rusty Blackbird.

Questions & Discussion:

John Norbert asked if there is more than one committee for Species At Risk? James Firth explained there is only one committee that represents everyone in the NWT.

Joel Ingram commented they bring in different people re scientific knowledge, there are different opportunities to provide information. James Firth commented for Traditional Knowledge side, will see people going into the communities to get information from the Elders. My role is to represent the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board for another 6 months or so. Then it will be up to the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board to review my

appointment. This Act opens up different ways to make sure that species out there are looked after. Because of the Oil & Gas development in the Sahtu, there are all kinds of concerns. People are not really following the process. You will see lots of work next year on assessing the Barren Ground Caribou.

Cindy Allen is concerned we are doing good work here, but the Federal Government is not following through with plans for recovery, listing, etc.

James Firth responded that is why the NWT has their own Species At Risk Act. COSEWIC is a really complicated process. It is so long and it not only for Canada but international. Main reason for the act, in the NWT if the wolverine is threatened, we can recover it faster. There is still a lot of overlap between our act and the federal one. i.e. Boreal Woodland Caribou – we are both working on that.

There is overlap between the Conference of Management Authorities and COSEWIC.

Joel Ingram commented at the national level it is broader and more complicated. Ideally, there are plans in place at Territorial and Provincial levels, then the national plan just adopts the regional ones to feed the basis for it.

John Norbert asked about a new name that has recently come up – Mountain Woodland Caribou. Don't understand what that is? Maybe it comes from Arctic Red River mountains? There used to be caribou in the mountains. Don't know where the name comes from.

James Firth explained we have a biologist in the Dehcho. We call it Woodland Caribou – they call it Boreal Woodland Caribou. Know there are mountain caribou and then Boreal Woodland Caribou in the valleys and in the trees. The mountain caribou are different. Kristen Callaghan explained the Bonnetplume Herd in the Arctic Red River headwaters are mountain caribou.

Charlie Snowshoe commented on the char decline – nobody really knows what happened to them. Scientists are supposed to know. We find out different things about why the rats are disappearing. Now hearing from the trappers, hear the otters are the ones killing off the rats. A couple of trappers went out to stake rat camps in the fall, but in the spring there was nothing left. With the rabbits – why are the rabbits all gone? Have been asking for a long time. When you go down the river on the ice road, you don't see any rabbit tracks. Why is it disappearing in one area, but in the Norman Wells area, they say there are lots. That is really funny. I am concerned and want to know why it is gone. They have a biologist for everything, why don't they have any for rabbits? Want to bring it to the attention of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board to find out why the rabbits are gone. Know there are a lot of otters killing off the beaver and the rats. There used to be a lot of spring birds. There was a lot of talk about the oil companies killing them off, now hear about the cancer killing them off. Went hunting in two days in the foothills one time and got 75 rabbits in one little spot, now you don't even see one. There are lots of them around here.

Johnny Charlie agreed Charlie Snowshoe is right, there are some places where there are no rabbits. In our area there is lots of damage from erosion and that affects things – lose lakes, lose muskrats. When you get beavers coming in and damning things up, the muskrats come back, but that takes about 20 years.

James Firth enjoys sitting on this committee. Not sure when my term ends, but will keep getting information to you and the Renewable Resources Councils and enjoy working with you.

9. Agency Updates (continued)

a. Department of Fisheries & Oceans

Amy Thompson commented that the Department of Fisheries & Oceans Agency Update information was sent because Larry Dow could not attend this meeting. Nick Westover printed off the email to provide copies to Board Members.

Will come back to this item after everyone has a copy to refer to.

b. Environment Canada – Canadian Wildlife Service

Joel Ingram was based in Inuvik for a few years, then a couple of years ago, relocated to Winnipeg. Still involved in Prairie and Northern Programs, mainly Nunavut. Work for the Mackenzie Delta is run out of the Yellowknife office.

Joel Ingram reviewed the update provided in the meeting package.

Snow Goose populations were designated as over-abundant and were causing damage to the habitat. A spring hunting season was started to target taking more birds to bring the population down to a level that would reverse the habitat damage. That was in the mid-90s. They have recently re-evaluated. Some populations have stabilized, some continue to increase because there is a lower interest in hunting in some areas. Primarily populations in the Western Arctic are on Banks Island – talking about designating snow geese as overabundant in the Western Arctic to prevent damage in this region. Want to be more proactive. Will be on the agenda tomorrow.

Annual Survey – generates population estimates, establish trends, used to set bag limits and hunting seasons for species.

There is a request for the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board's support for the research permit for this survey.

Annual reports from Environment Canada – Annual report on status and trends of ducks and geese in Canada – based on the surveys done with US Fish & Wildlife Services; Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations – these are amended each year. December 2012 report came out for 2013. There are no proposed changes to bag limits for NWT or Yukon.

There is a proposal to move to a three year hunting regulation review cycle rather than an annual one. Would provide more time to review information. The number of waterfowl hunters has decreased to about 1/3 of what it was in the 70s and the numbers harvested are much less as well. There have been lots of wet years lately. Populations are as high as they have been since the 70s. Risks are felt to be low, reduces the burden of an annual cycle. If there was a sudden change in the population or harvest, could be changed at anytime.

Charlie Snowshoe asked about the Dead Migratory Birds item – the only place you will find that is around the oil sands. Understand at High Level a couple of years ago had a bunch of dead ducks in a tailings pond. How many

of these are in Alberta? Joel Ingram responded the tailings ponds where birds have died, in the oil sands, have been working with the provinces to improve monitoring and improve bird deterrents to keep them from landing there. Most of the incidents involve storms where birds are forced down there.

Joel Ingram explained under the Federal Species At Risk Act – Proposed listings: Grizzly Bear, Collared Pika – will be a separate presentation after this.

Implementation Funding – in the last few fiscal years funding has gone to consultations for species at risk. Primarily work has been tied to Species At Risk program in the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

As part of the package, they provided an organizational chart. Joel Ingram reviewed each position listed. Also provided an updated contact list.

Questions & Discussion:

Amy Thompson thanked Canadian Wildlife Service for the information sheet including the organizational chart and contact information – is useful when there are so many people moving around.

10. Federal Species At Risk Act update – Joel Ingram

Jozef Carnogursky asked if there will be funds available for this? Joel Ingram responded it depends on what the Board recommends for steps. There are two species proposed for listing, so can talk about the steps and how Environment Canada can work with the Board. Typically if there is consultation work, that would be where there is government funding available.

The Federal Species At Risk Act works at a national level and engages Territorial representation. Review species and provide recommendations re how they should be considered.

Grizzly Bear (Western population) and Collared Pika have been listed as proposed for listing in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. COSEWIC has them listed as special concern. There was a PowerPoint package sent out with narration sent out in January, along with consultation document and response sheet – sent to all the Renewable Resources Councils. Under the Land Claim Agreement, the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board has the power to approve the designation.

If a species is listed as a Special Concern – it flags that the species needs attention not to become endangered or threatened. A management plan needs to be developed. No prohibitions for hunting or habitat development.

COSEWIC assessed Grizzly Bear in 1991, 2002 and recently. Has not changed in the last 20 years. In 2004, Species At Risk Act came into effect. In 2006, the NWT co-management boards supported the listing, but the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board do not support the listing. The May 2012 assessment shows it continues to be of concern.

Range has been restricted from its traditional range in the prairies – shows they are increasing their presence in the northern part of the range. Estimated population is around 26,000, in the NWT 3,500-4,000.

Reasons for designation: Disappeared from 50% of its original range since the 1800s due to agriculture. Appears that population trends are stable and expanding in the North, but there is increased fragmentation of habitat in the south.

Cindy Allen asked when you are looking at the Grizzly Bear, with the “Grolar” what is happening there? Joel Ingram explained it comes from the overlap of areas. It is relatively recently that the Grizzly occurs on Banks Island, but there has always been some overlap in their ranges. Don’t know if it is happening more.

John Norbert asked if the Grizzly Bear population is stable? Joel Ingram responded the concern is more in the Southern range where there is a lot of fragmentation of the habitat. John Norbert commented that is not our problem, we are more concerned with the bears in our area. Asked about outfitters – how many bears do they take? Joel Ingram does not know those numbers. Kristen Callaghan commented that outfitters in the south do not take bears. John Norbert does not think there is not much concern. Joel Ingram hears from the Inuvialuit and Gwich’in there are more bears in the Delta – don’t think it is much concern here.

Charlie Snowshoe commented in the Eastern Arctic, they are having problems with the polar bears now – making sure that people are there to chase away the bears when the kids are going to school, using rubber shells to chase them away. On the Dempster Highway, we’re lucky no one gets hurt – there are quite a few up there. There must be some kind of shortage for the bears, because had to fly a polar bear from McPherson and it came back. Joel Ingram the sea ice is a problem.

Jozef Carnogursky commented it looks like there will be a requirement for a management plan if they are listed? Joel Ingram agreed. Jozef Carnogursky wondered how that would work with the work we have already done on the Grizzly Bear management plan. Amy Thompson commented there is a provision in the Species At Risk Act to adopt existing plans providing they have certain components in them. It would depend on whether certain headings and components were included – i.e. recovery strategy. They would be respectful of what we have already adopted. Joel Ingram commented where there is a plan with the Gwich’in Renewable Resources Board or an NWT plan under their Species At Risk Act, then those plans would become part of the national management plan, rather than repeating those processes.

Jozef Carnogursky wonders if should have a listing of the headings that will be required. Joel Ingram agreed that if we are developing Wildlife management plans, it will be good to keep those things in mind. NWT will also have some components required.

John Norbert would like to see more reports from the big game hunters on what they kill, and what they see. Joel Ingram explained the guided hunts are all tag based. Jeremy Mosher commented all sport hunts have mandatory tags and reporting.

Collared Pika – proposed listing as species for special concern. Range is primarily in Yukon. Occurs in the western and southern edge of the Gwich’in Settlement Area. Reason is primarily due to climate change – very susceptible to weather changes re exposure, meadow forage availability. More information is in the package.

Rusty Blackbird – Draft management plan. Was listed as a species of special concern in 2009. Process started to draft a management plan that will need to be approved by the Gwich’in Renewable Resources Board.

Environment Canada is looking for best way to engage the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board to seek approval.

Current draft is considered incomplete, has been sent out for comment. Then complete draft will be sent out for comment and support and will be posted to the Federal Registry for public comment. Then will finalize the plan. Was sent out in November to the Wildlife management boards. Would like direction from the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board and Renewable Resources Councils re the level of interest. Could send out a package similar to the Grizzly Bear package to the Renewable Resources Councils and work with the Board in collating the comments. Management plan must be prepared within 3 years of listing, include measures for the conservations of the species and habitat, approved in consultation with the co-management boards.

Cindy Allen asked about the Federal commitment to follow-up on the management plans? Joel Ingram responded it is an ongoing challenge to meet the process deadlines. Cannot comment on the specifics. Cindy Allen commented it is a concern that we do this work and then it languishes at the Fed level, then if the government is pro-development, and there is no habitat, what is the point. Joel Ingram it has been a complicated process for some species, it can be daunting when you are dealing with 12 or 13 jurisdictions for a single species across Canada. It is a learning curve because the Act is fairly new. NWT is finding some of the same issues.

85% decline in population between 1966 and 2003 – primary threats are in the wintering range in the US. They have blackbird control programs there to eradicate the threat. They breed all across the NWT. Threats in Canada are related to habitat re wetlands, climate change.

Draft plan has four strategies – better identify and understand threats; mitigate threats; gain better understanding of population sizes, trends, distributions; encourage collaboration with other jurisdictions – primarily the US.

Request to the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board:

How the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board would like to be involved in the review process?

Amy Thompson asked if there is any timeline re the guidance request? Is there a deadline for the management plan to be developed?

Amy Thompson with Grizzly Bears – there has been interest in surveys for bears in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. Would there be federal money to assist and not only money but resources? Joel Ingram if there isn't good information re distribution and population for the species, maybe there could be money available. To apply for recovery funding – it is typically for threatened and endangered. If it is part of the management plan, there may be more opportunities than otherwise.

BREAK

Amy Thompson during the break we posted the Species At Risk Act Process poster that we developed. It compares how the two acts work and shows how the communities get input to the process, what it means if a listing is approve, what is the Board's role re Species At Risk.

We have heard the Federal and Territorial Species At Risk request for the Board's input. At the recent Conference of Management Authorities meeting, Amy Thompson attended as well as Johnny Charlie. They know that now the NWT Species At Risk Committee has provided status reports and proposed listing status, for us it is the Boreal Woodland Caribou. They want all the parties responsible for managing that species to come together and sign an agreement, and before that for each Board to hold consultation to determine if they support the listing, will want to know after that if the Board has enough information to make a decision at the Conference of Management Authorities meeting i.e. would arrive with a motion passed. At the Conference of Management Authorities meeting, reviewed our Consultation Policy. There are clear steps re a management plan, but not as clear steps for a Species At Risk listing. Went through a similar process for other things, so told them those are the steps we need to make a decision:

1. Need full information provided ASAP on a listing.
2. Should be prepared by the Government of the NWT in plain language – why, what does it mean to harvesters, frequently asked questions. Renewable Resources Councils need to be informed and understand the material. After the materials are provided to the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, if there is funding available, can do a full round of consultations or with limited funding, would be relying more on the Renewable Resources Councils. Need more than just the material for the Renewable Resources Councils – someone has to engage with them. Have asked for more money in the Implementation Plan, but in the interim could ask for supplementary funding.
3. Renewable Resources Councils provide advice to the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board. This could potentially happen for the September Board meeting.
4. Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board would have the summary of advice from the communities, make a decision.

Need to know if the Board feels this is realistic. They will need to know if there will be further delays. Have told them there is the issue with funding – may have to simply use our money.

Cindy Allen would be hesitant to use our surplus money to do things for the Conference of Management Authorities or Government of the NWT because it sets up an expectation for when there are 4 or more species to be assessed. It does sound kind of rushed to get things done for September.

Amy Thompson responded if they were able to get us the information in plain language by March, we would then immediately share it with the Renewable Resources Councils. Then we would go to the community meetings or have a bigger meeting for a consultation – if having the bigger meeting would need time for the staff to review the Act, etc. In the 10 year plan, have said we would hire a Species At Risk biologist. That is the difficult part at this point, we can just handle it at Renewable Resources Council meetings until we have information on that money.

Jozef Carnogursky asked if our participation is covered re the Conference of Management Authorities meetings? Amy Thompson we have a Contribution Agreement re up to 3 Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board members to attend Conference of Management Authorities meetings, James Firth to attend Species At Risk Committee meetings, James Firth as chair also gets funding for his committee work. There is nothing in the funding about community engagements, it is just to attend meetings.

Jozef Carnogursky asked if the Conference of Management Authorities has been reflected in the new Wildlife Act or has it been removed? Eugene Pascal explained the Conference of Management Authorities was removed from the Wildlife Act, but it is separate from the Conference of Management Authorities for the Species At Risk Act. The same organizations, but for a different act.

Amy Thompson commented the Species At Risk Act was approved with the Conference of Management Authorities. The Wildlife Act is still not approved and have decided to remove that for the time being, but there is a clause that they will hold an annual meeting and may be able to create a conference in the future if they want. Eugene Pascal added, or if everyone can agree to the terms. Jozef Carnogursky was wondering what their financial obligation is. Amy Thompson commented the NWT Species At Risk Act wrote a letter on behalf of the organizations under the Conference of Management Authorities to fully implement the consultations. Amy Thompson sent them the information on our consultation policy. They sent a letter to the Federal Government relaying that need. The Federal Government said they would negotiate that with each Aboriginal government as part of their Implementation Plan. Have included it in our proposal, but have not received any information back.

Jozef Carnogursky echoes Cindy Allen's concerns about not using our surplus money on this.

Amy Thompson commented the Conference of Management Authorities Workplan lists meetings for this fiscal year. It looks like every year, there will be a meeting in January or February where the groups will give timelines to complete obligations, then a check in mid year, and then finalize at the end of the year.

Jozef Carnogursky asked about the Conference of Management Authorities Contribution agreement expiry? Amy Thompson thinks it is a multi-year.

Eugene Pascal asked if we are all in agreement that we should not use our own resources to carry out this responsibility. Joel Ingram commented this is in our existing mandate, but it is expanding the demand on resources. Amy Thompson commented with the current workload, staff are already fully utilized. Cannot complete the additional work without either changes in priorities or the additional staff position. Tried to incorporate the additional staff person with the existing budget. Think we could write a letter to hire a Species At Risk biologist, but that may delay our timelines, or we can do the regular engagement at Renewable Resources Council meetings and put more responsibility on the Government of the NWT to do the consultations. We have the responsibility to approve the listing, to provide the consultation policy.

Joel Ingram suggested should work with the Government of the NWT to move this ahead.

Amy Thompson commented the point is, what does the Board need to be able to make a decision next December? There is an expectation that the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board will be able to come to the table at the end of the year with a yes or no.

Cindy Allen asked if the other Boards are on track for this process? Amy Thompson was not able to get that information. Was weathered in, so called into the meeting. I had a hard time hearing on the call, but it sounded like there were similar steps from the other Boards.

Joel Ingram commented the steps you identified are right, but informing and engaging the Renewable Resources Councils is what takes time and money. It will be an ongoing demand. From a Territorial Government standpoint, do they have people available? Amy Thompson responded they don't have anyone locally in Inuvik that sits at the table. Was thinking that since I go to the Conference of Management Authorities meetings, it would fall to me to attend the Renewable Resources Councils if we do not have the Species At Risk biologist.

Cindy Allen asked if we need a motion on this?

Amy Thompson does not think so, but maybe can do some correspondence re more specific details. We have a budget for a fulltime Species At Risk biologist, can ask for implementing a fulltime position. If they approve it, they will give us the money for a year only, and by then should have heard back from the Implementation Committee. Have heard a number of times from the contact at the Implementation Committee that we can request supplementary funding.

11. Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board Strategic Plan

Amy Thompson we are behind on the agenda, and proposed an hour for this discussion. Do not have any suggestions re how to get through it. From the workshop in the fall, there was a workshop report re the conversations, advice and the results and from that the facilitator drafted the Strategic Plan. The handout is the table from the back of that plan – there are a number of blanks that needs to be completed.

Joel Ingram suggested we could do this on a conference call.

Amy Thompson commented the Board needs to be able to say this is our strategic plan. Staff have done a review. There were some comments on the workshop document. Joel Ingram also sent comments. All of those changes have been incorporated.

Jozef Carnogursky commented that the Forest Management Plan has been approved now. (Page 4 of the draft strategic plan.)

Jozef Carnogursky volunteered to work with Amy Thompson on the table.

Will have a discussion and presentation on Research Priorities next.

BREAK

12. Research Priorities – Process & Analysis

Jozef Carnogursky took over as Chair while Eugene Pascal left the meeting.

Amy Thompson explained we had a Research Priority Workshop with our partners last fall in Inuvik. All 68 interests were shown on flip charts and all were assessed using criteria developed. Would like to know now how to apply this for work planning. We have a list of things that we need to get done. We have the Dall Sheep Management Plan, Grizzly Bear Management Plan, etc. As a manager, how do we make decisions for staff allocations. Seeing the information collected – screening that against the Board's mandate is easy, but need to prioritize to a workplan for the coming year. Got Nicole to pull out the commitments from each of the management plans to help identify what we have already committed to.

The presentation outlines the process, the workshop, what came out of the workshop and a proposed new process to incorporate this. The meeting binder has the database, the presentation, the proposed 2013 priorities which are more internal work priorities.

Janet Boxwell reviewed the PowerPoint presentation on research priorities.

Last week there was a water stewardship meeting and they committed to expanding some of their work on water quality monitoring to Tsiigehtchic and Arctic Red River as well. That is an example of how we can work with partners to get our interests dealt with.

Board Decision – whether or not we can approve this priority setting process and the 2013 priorities outlined in the presentation.

Amy Thompson reviewed the 2013 Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board Proposed Research Priorities document provided in the meeting package. Still looking for ways to incorporate the research priorities information given to how the Board staff works and also how research funding should be spent.

The top of this list is priorities that have been identified for staff work: have community support or commitments from existing management plans. Anything from those six would be priorities for staff. The next ones would be items to be supported either through letters of support or referring to other organizations.

Charlie Snowshoe asked about otters? They don't go around in singles, they go around in a bunch.

Jozef Carnogursky agreed that might be a hard one to get done, but can direct outside interest to that.

Cindy Allen commented if someone approaches us and if they want to do a different project, the way that is worded, if no outside party is interested in the research then it will not get done. Janet Boxwell responded with water quality as an example – told them we had a community interest in water quality monitoring. Some of these groups are responsive but need a little nudging. This list is sent to research leaders at Department of Fisheries & Oceans, Environment & Natural Resources, others. They are organized in priorities and are sent out. Some of these people have come to us and said they want to do research in the Gwich'in Settlement Area and that it will meet something from the list. Haven't heard of anyone doing an otter study, but is in contact with someone doing research in Old Crow re muskrats. So needs some work on our part to find out who is doing what – to see what research is being done that may be applicable or could be expanded. They may have funding available re the muskrat research – it is not specifically on otters, but it is related.

Kristen Callaghan asked if this document is still in draft form? Suggest maybe the wording could be more active – the Board is interested in promoting projects... Cindy Allen agreed that the way it is drafted now, putting this out on the website, research would not be done.

Kristen Callaghan suggested "Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board is interested in the outcomes of research in the following areas and will consider support of projects." Can do further word-smithing later.

Amy Thompson commented the full list will not be lost – it is still posted on the website, shared with partners, researchers, Universities, etc. with a caveat saying this do not assume you will receive funding from the Gwich'in

Renewable Resources Board, but that you would likely receive community support. See there is a lot of things that have community interest, but there are things that are reflective of the Board mandate. i.e. water quality is not necessarily part of the Board's mandate, but it is important and we can share the information that it is important.

Joel Ingram commented when it comes to a comprehensive review of the research priorities, that should only happen every 3-5 years. Each year, we should just look at last year's 6 priorities, see what was accomplished, maybe push one off the list, or add another. Like the idea of teasing out what can be accomplished by Board staff in a given year.

John Norbert thinks that Airport Lake is very important because there is fish in there and 42 cabins on the lake. Would like to know what is being done on that one? Amy Thompson in respect to fish management, there is an annual variance orders for sport fishing. During the time when they are spawning, they won't allow any sport fishers to fish in Airport Lake. It is on the list for something to look at something being done in house. Kris Maier can talk about that, will not necessarily be too intensive. Also something that Department of Fisheries & Oceans can assist with – they have a management biologist on staff there. Could maybe take the lead with Kris Maier's assistance.

Amy Thompson commented if that is the case, we would not be making major changes other than reporting changes, the Dall Sheep need to be put on there for surveys. That is a commitment that the Board will likely allocate funds for.

Joel Ingram commented with the management plans, there is a need for population surveys every few years. If you can identify over the next five years the surveys required.

Amy Thompson explained there is an excel document that is the research priorities which includes management plan commitments for years for different surveys.

Jozef Carnogursky commented with some of the management plans that are outstanding, rather than us initiating the process, we can approach Environment & Natural Resources to help start the process so it do not have to fall on our staff. A lot of them only have a few minor things to get them approve. When we are allocated time, it will be based on an approved management plan.

Charlie Snowshoe commented there never used to be any otters in the Delta. In the 50s was the first time heard of an otter in the preserve – a couple of guys trapping ran into an otter. In 1960, moved to 35 miles above Ft McPherson we started seeing otters. Reason I am bringing this up, they are up in that area at all times, how come they are coming through the Delta and cleaning up the rats. Talking about doing research. Need to research where they come from. This is something big that happened. They are cleaning out rats, fish and beaver.

Jozef Carnogursky confirmed it is on the list.

Amy Thompson confirmed she can work with what has been discussed. At the next conference call, can work on this a bit more. Need to work with what came out of the workshop, to focus what we will work on internally and

externally. Have a bit more active language in the priorities to be encouraged. With a 3-5 year review of priorities with a research priority workshop. If we are only doing this on a 3-5 year basis, need to identify things that will come up in those timeframes from the management plans i.e. Dall Sheep survey.

Cindy Allen commented the way we have it set up here, with the 6 priorities. That means Kris Maier would focus on Dolly Varden Char and Lake Trout, Kristen Callaghan would focus on Grizzly Bear and Bluenose Caribou? Amy Thompson responded it is confusing – have been struggling with the long list, the internal workplan for staff, letters of support or financial support, or directions for other people to direct research.

The way this is now – Kristen Callaghan will be working on Bluenose Caribou, Grizzly Bears; Janet Boxwell on Research Priorities and Harvest Study; Kris Maier on Lake Trout and Dolly Varden Char. Joel Ingram commented some things will be dependent on funding that comes available, partnerships that come up. Some of it is still going to be dependent on opportunity.

Kristen Callaghan as a staff member, a 3-5 year cycle would be helpful because with funding, you almost have to plan a year ahead to get funding for things they will work on. So longer term planning is more helpful.

Amy Thompson commented as a product, so you have information to help make decisions. In the coming year, will work on the Excel document that lists the years, we can list the commitments coming up in looking ahead, with notes of consideration of things that may be potentially of interest.

Jozef Carnogursky asked how would the approval of some of the outstanding management plans fall in here? In terms of asking other organizations to take the lead on finalizing these plans? There are important thresholds that everyone has agreed to, but the plan have not been signed off? Kristen Callaghan asked would that be part of workplan or part of research priorities? Joel Ingram suggested we should have a discussion on workplan activities as well and maybe more general discussion on management plans.

Amy Thompson will be talking about the operating budget and workplan for the coming year. Can talk there about engaging partners in getting the draft plans approve. The Dall Sheep plan commitments have been included in our list – regardless of whether or not it has been approved or not. Some things like community monitoring have not been happening. That could come out of that workplan discussion.

Jozef Carnogursky commented those management plans generate so many commitments.

Amy Thompson commented it is sometimes challenging when we go to meetings, there are a lot of things coming to us as staff asking why aren't we working on things. Want the Board to be aware and help with direction. That is the beginning of doing that review every year.

Kristen Callaghan agrees that we have draft management plans that need to be completed, but saw that the research coming out of the plans was what we were discussing here.

Joel Ingram see there is a need for another list. Management plan, status, what needs to be done to finish it. That is a big topic.

Jozef Carnogursky confirmed whether or not the Board is good with this focus for Research Priorities for this year?

John Norbert asked about Department of Fisheries & Oceans and fish stuff.

Kris Maier commented Vittrekwa stock assessment has been done already. Dolly Varden Char implementation of the management plan – habitat is the big gap. Could work on trout this year.

Amy Thompson commented we will have proposals that reflect these priorities. Next year, will have more forward looking priority setting analysis. Will take the information from the criteria identified and refine it.

Re #5 – to refine the wording, should be with Department of Fisheries & Oceans and Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board.

Jozef Carnogursky thanked everyone for coming for the day. Tomorrow will start again at 9:00 a.m.

Motion #2013:06

To go in camera at 4:40 p.m.

Moved by: Joel Ingram

Seconded by: Johnny Charlie

Question called: **CARRIED**

Motion #2013:07

To leave in camera session at 5:15 p.m.

Moved by: Charlie Snowshoe

Seconded by: Johnny Charlie

Question called: **CARRIED**

Meeting adjourned for the day at 5:15 p.m.

February 20th, 2013

Eugene Pascal welcomed everyone to the meeting and called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

13. Norman Snowshoe, Vice-President Gwich'in Tribal Council

Norman Snowshoe introduced himself. He was elected to his position in June 2012.

Attended Fort Smith in Resource Management – have lot of experience in resource management – was an employee of Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, a Board member, a staff member at Gwich'in Tribal Council, a staff member at Environment & Natural Resources and a member of the NRRC. One of the most important things that I feel we need to do for effective resource management is to work together and share common goals

so we can achieve it. There are lots of resources in our area. We have lots of water, Porcupine Caribou Herd, Bluenose East caribou. Management in those herds should be maintained. Another thing we are managing is the Forest, with the Forest Management Plan signed after almost 30 years.

An important component of resource management is community buy-in. We have tags for the Bluenose East and hunters abide by that.

Some of the programs we will have to continue to work on: Wildlife Act has been in progress since the 90s. It is near completion. We have had a drafter at the table working on behalf of the Gwich'in and we also have legal counsel. Think the modern and historic treaty rights have all been included in that.

We signed the Forest Management Plan this summer and are now going into the implementation phase. Need to develop roles and responsibilities together under that agreement.

We are fortunate to have two caribou herds in our area – one east and one west. As managers of those herds, if we continue to work on that, we will have herds for the future.

Those are programs I will be concentrating on in the near future and will be working in collaboration with the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board on these files.

Joel Ingram commented that he is glad to see the progress on the Forest Management Plan and that the relationships are pos for working together.

Norman Snowshoe thanked everyone.

14. Wildlife Introduction

Kristen Callaghan explained that her work is with wildlife – working with Environment & Natural Resources, doing sampling, surveys, analyzing data.

Today will be hearing from folks on research that has been supported by the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board. Will be hearing from Catherine Lambert Koizumi re her project, Mike Sutor on research he has been doing, Marsha Branigan, Arctic Borderlands, Kristen Callaghan re project on human and bear conflict on the Dempster Highway, Janet Boxwell will talk about the Harvest Study. Will talk with Myra Robertson about hunting regulations and migratory game birds that was mentioned yesterday.

Please feel free to ask questions for the proposals.

Questions & Discussion:

Cindy Allen asked Kristen Callaghan how much time she gets to spend in the field? Kristen Callaghan for the caribou surveys in the summer – about 5 days, for small mammals 2-3 days for hair pellet count and ½ day on the survey, then a few days in the lab. It was great to participate in the caribou surveys – it was great to experience. It was nice to be involved – helped with telemetry and also with the photo counts in the lab afterwards.

Kristen Callaghan also did a number of reviews for the Board – technical reviews that were sent out to the Board. Helped to review the draft status report for the Boreal Caribou. Noted that there was a concern about the habitat region defined. The intent was to define a region that may be negatively impacted by developed. Seemed like the region was designed by the management regime and not by the biology and geography of the animals.

John Norbert commented on the reports from the meetings – like last fall. People were asking about the meeting, I gave a verbal report, but thought there would be a written report to give out. Kristen Callaghan asked is there something that we should give to you? Joel Ingram clarified it was the Research Priorities and the Strategic Planning workshops. Amy Thompson sent reports to the Coordinator by email, but can follow up with a report by mail to John Norbert.

15. Revised Operating Budget

Amy Thompson explained the direction heard yesterday was to add the line items:

- Management Plan Development and Implementation
- Research Planning & Monitoring
- Research re Legislation
- Winter Meeting should remain as a 3 day meeting
- Surplus should be used to fund the additional position, or use money from Education Culture & Employment and Industry Tourism & Investment.

Asked Angela Adler to help with these changes. Asked her, if we made the position more senior, how long could we hire them (i.e. to work on Species At Risk). She did an analysis – if we hire a technician, we could hire 22 weeks, junior biologist 4.7 months, senior biologist 18 weeks – would have to ask for about \$50 thousand to make the position year round. If we do not get the funding, we could hire someone for a few months, but that will be challenging to hire someone at that level. Angela Adler incorporated the Human Resources policies re Northern Benefits, etc., in the calculations. Would need to make a decision on the level of position required and then the budget can be adjusted.

Joel Ingram asked what Amy Thompson recommends. Amy Thompson thinks the areas we need the most help is in the reviewing of the status reports coming in and providing comments. That takes a lot of time. Think it would be helpful to have technical staff. A technician would also be helpful, but would have to look at what they would do?

Cindy Allen asked about the Senior vs. Junior biologist? Senior would have a Masters with 8-10 years experience, but the Junior would be fresh out of University. It is difficult to see where the two overlap – the end of the Junior scale is higher than the Senior. Cindy Allen was wondering re duties? Amy Thompson explained it may be better to define it better than that. Could see someone with a more senior level to come in and take more on without training.

Eugene Pascal asked how soon you need to know? Amy Thompson the sooner we get it in the better. In my conversations with the Implementation staff, they say send it in and the sooner the better.

Joel Ingram commented the budget now has technician? Amy Thompson yes, it is balanced. Joel Ingram suggested that could be held as it is and the supplemented as the opportunity arises. Amy Thompson will rename it as a Term Position – can determine it as funding is approved.

Motion #2013:08

BE IT RESOLVED THAT to approve the amended operated budget and workplan for 2013/2014.

Moved by: Jozef Carnogursky

Seconded by: Johnny Charlie

Question called: **CARRIED**

John Norbert commented you have a poster with having youth involved. The youth that are coming up now are going to be our next leaders and we really have to pay attention and get them involved now.

16. Richardson Mountain Project – Catherine Lambert Koizumi

Presenting the results of the Richardson Project

Started this PhD in 2006 while working with the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board. There were concerns re decline of Dall Sheep in the Richardson Mountains and concerns re the role of Grizzly Bears and Wolves. These three species were all important to Gwich'in culture and traditions.

Catherine reviewed the PowerPoint presentation provided.

Questions & Discussion:

Cindy Allen asked where the Traditional Knowledge is housed? Are they with the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board or do you have copies? Catherine Lambert Koizumi explained that all the original tapes and copies of interviews are at the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board and at the Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute. After the transcription of the interviews, all the participants were sent copies for verification. The research has been reviewed by Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute and University of Alberta, but before publication, there will be a formal verification workshop.

Charlie Snowshoe asked what is the population – is it stable? Catherine Lambert Koizumi confirmed Dall Sheep – it appears until 2010 it appears fairly stable. Since 2003, population has been around 700 individuals. Not sure when the next survey will be. It seems like the population has stabilized.

Charlie Snowshoe commented there are the Black Mountain and then the Dempster Highway one – did you do one or two? Catherine Lambert Koizumi responded this is the Black Mountain information, the study was about the Black Mountain group, collected information in the Traditional Knowledge from Dempster Highway group, but most information is about the Northern group.

Charlie Snowshoe asked what information did you get on from the lab? Catherine Lambert Koizumi explained we collected information about the diet of the grizzly bears from the analysis. Can you explain the question? Charlie Snowshoe commented there are so many chemicals around – wondered what you found? Catherine Lambert

Koizumi found they are quite carnivorous – less than 1/3 of the diet from vegetation, also had important part of diet from moose and beavers, caribou, ground squirrels and fish were also part of the diet with the sheep. Was interesting to see the composition of their diet. Would be interesting to do more analysis on the data for the grizzly bear and wolf data. Was limited by the amount of time for the PhD. There is a door open to work with Kristen Callaghan on that. Would be interested in that data as well.

Eugene Pascal thanked Catherine Lambert Koizumi. If anyone has any questions, you can contact Catherine Lambert Koizumi directly or through Kristen Callaghan. Thank you for welcoming her to the meeting today.

BREAK

Eugene Pascal acknowledged Tommy Wright – a long time member of the Renewable Resources Council from Inuvik and Aklavik.

17. Porcupine Caribou Rut Count – Wildlife Studies Fund Proposal, Mike Suitor

Mike Suitor introduced himself. He has taken over Dorothy Cooley's position. Has a proposal for work that will be done in the coming year. The Richardson Moose survey that was funded last year is coming up next month, so do not have any results to report yet.

Mike Suitor reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the results from 2012 and the proposal for 2013.

Last year did not get a photo survey for various reasons. Planning to do one again in the coming summer. A rut count should be completed in the same years that a photo survey is completed.

Rut count feeds in the bull to cow ratio – this is going to be used in a “herd estimator” model along with several other sources of information.

Charlie Snowshoe asked if this was the latest information? Mike Suitor this is the information from October rut. Mike Suitor showed on the map where the collars are now located. They are kind of scattered at the present time – some in Alaska, some in Yukon, lots around Old Crow. They have been there all winter and seem to be still there.

John Norbert asked if you have any problems with collaring? Do you damage any of the caribou? There was a meeting a while ago, and there were people who had problems with it. To me it is okay, because we need to know the numbers, but people think it damages the necks. Mike Suitor explained that Martin Ginsler is one of the most experienced people for working with collars. There have been some problems with animals experiencing chafing on the neck. We tend to collar individuals when they are about 1 year old, then go out and re-capture them – have done about 67. With about 95% the guard hairs are broken and matted, but no damage to the fur underneath. Acknowledge the concerns, but have only seen one animal that experienced the damages. Would not have been able to complete the survey without the aid of collars this year.

Kris Maier asked about the ratio of bulls to cows? 46:100 observed this year. Ideal is considered 60 to 100. Not a major concern at 46 to 100. If we were very confident of that number, it is a big change in the ratio. Thinking of the bull oriented harvest, that might be a concern if we were confident of the numbers, but we are not.

Tommy Wright asked about finding 60% of the collar. Mike Sutor explained they found all but 5 of the collars, but only sampled 60% of the total number.

The data shows a bias based on where the sample came from. Shows a healthy herd, but from the standpoint of using the data for estimating, it shows the data is not reliable.

Charlie Snowshoe commented there was supposed to be a meeting concerning collars on animals? Mike Sutor responded that was on Sunday and Monday – John Norbert and Marsha Branigan was there as well as Mike Sutor. Charlie Snowshoe asked if they want to do away with collars? Mike Sutor didn't take that from it. There are challenges with doing the work, need to be up front with it. A large proportion of people support continuing to collar, but we need to continue to improve things. That was my perspective.

John Norbert commented from day 1, I agree with it. Both sides, people doing the work with the collaring are doing hard work, and by that we know where the caribou are going. Most people were against it on the first day, but by the time we were finished the meeting, they were able to agree with it. We need something to manage our animals and right now that is the best way we have got. Mike Sutor responded what I took from the workshop is we need to do a better job about talking about the issues, and successes we have had. With the Porcupine Caribou Management Board, the mechanism would be if the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board had a problem, they would bring it to that Board and the Porcupine Caribou Management Board would direct our department. The Porcupine Caribou Management Board gives us direction now to put out 80-100 collars, but it comes down to a community based decision.

Charlie Snowshoe commented the old-timers are concerned about collaring animals. Technical knowledge should have a better way than putting a collar on an animal for the rest of their life. A lot of Elders talk about it. There was the story of finding a caribou on Great Slave Lake, said the caribou was sick and poor. Has any hunters returned a collar to you? Mike Sutor collars get returned by hunters. In other cases, collars get left in a tree. Charlie Snowshoe have never heard anyone talking about shooting a caribou with a collar on it. Think they are too poor to shoot. Mike Sutor have had collars returned. Conditions of the animals do vary. There continue to be questions on collaring, but it is difficult to summarize the workshop of two days really quickly.

Charlie Snowshoe is concerned about collaring as an Elder. Young people do not listen about how to care for the animals. The collaring may be good for you, but it is not good for me. Mike Sutor appreciate the comment. If this becomes a greater community concern, the mechanism is there to change the practice.

Tommy Wright commented any time you have a study like that, things happen. Someone has to sacrifice. If you want to know where the caribou are, some are going to die. Out of 100 thousand, you may lose 10 and that is the way it is. With the collars, you have more information than without. You talk about 100s of years ago, but those times are gone. You don't like when an animal is hurt in an experiment, but you have to have sacrifice. If you want to have money, you have to work, that's a sacrifice. Charlie Snowshoe commented that he thinks the technical people could do better than these collars.

Mike Sutor during the collar workshop covered a lot of information. Technical people have to inform people. John Norbert commented we have to go back and report to our community.

Johnny Charlie asked the total number of caribou collared now? Mike Sutor will be doing some work in the next 2-3 weeks. Have 80-100 collars. Predict 20-30 collars are lost when animals die each year, more if more bulls are collared because they don't live as long.

Request for the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board funding is for \$7,500.00 out of a budget of \$41,413.

Cindy Allen asked if the primary cost is helicopter time? Mike Sutor responded the helicopters are the main, with fuel costs being high as well. Used the Jet Ranger last year, to save on fuel. Had good luck last year as exploration has gone down in the area. US Fish & Wildlife contribute as well in kind – they mobilized quickly and got out there and worked with us last year.

Also doing calving distributions in June – would like to request the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board biologist to support that. Will be coming out of Inuvik for this one. Would like to work partners here rather than wasting money having Mike Sutor fly from Dawson.

US Fish & Wildlife will also be doing some flying and would request some biologist time for that as well.

If the Renewable Resources Councils or Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board would like Mike Sutor to come to meet on a particular issue, he is always available and interested in working with you.

Cindy Allen asked if you have any aboriginal staff that work with you? Mike Sutor responded in my office in Dawson, only have two people. Dorothy Cooley is now the Harvest Coordinator position and there is a trainee Donna Hope from Mayo that works with us as well. With this project, hope to have more local observers as well. Kristen Callaghan will be presenting another project Mike Sutor is involved in that will get some students involved. Usually try to have one or two seats available for local spotters – they have good abilities.

John Norbert asked where did the caribou in Old Crow come from? Mike Sutor explained during the rut survey, they went from Alaska to North Yukon, missing Old Crow and have been circling Old Crow all winter. Talking to people there they have been able to meet their harvest needs.

Charlie Snowshoe asked if it is possible to get a copy of the map of where the caribou are now? People are low on meat. Mike Sutor responded this week they are moving a lot right now – moving North and West. Generally don't give out satellite locations based on Porcupine Caribou Management Board direction. Charlie Snowshoe thinks we should be entitled to it. Mike Sutor explained we listen to what the Porcupine Caribou Management Board says on that. Joel Ingram commented the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board supported that. Kristen Callaghan is a technical member of the Porcupine Caribou Management Board committee, so gets that information but do not give it out further without direction of the Board.

Charlie Snowshoe thanked Mike Sutor for his presentation. He was able to hear it very well and appreciated it, so he could ask good questions afterwards.

18. Grizzly Bear Monitoring in the Gwich'in Settlement Area – Kristen Callaghan

Kristen Callaghan reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on a project proposal to deal with the issue of reducing human and bear conflicts on the Dempster Highway.

Have worked with Mike Sutor in developing this proposal.

Barry Greenland asked about the education on human behaviour with Grizzlies – it is noticed there are a lot of grizzlies on the highway when caribou are around and the bears are not scared. There are a lot of people taking pictures. Are there going to be community sessions held on it? A lot of people are getting closer and they aren't scared?

Kristen Callaghan doesn't know if I have budgeted for community workshops in this project, but there are educational products budgeted. There is money for a youth to travel to Renewable Resources Councils, so might be able to have a meeting in one community and in another use the radio to communicate. Can move some of the money around if that is felt to be important. Messaging will be what people can do to be safe, and what kind of behaviour is safe. Barry Greenland commented dropping and playing dead is not safe. Kristen Callaghan searched the internet for Dempster Highway grizzly bears and saw a lot of interesting stories about cyclists having to hide behind vehicles or people driving along beside bears while they take video. Barry Greenland is concerned about Elders that are going out on the Dempster Highway to pick berries and these innocent people might be affected by the grizzlies.

John Norbert asked if there are problems in other places than the Dempster Highway? Kristen Callaghan anywhere there are people and bears. John Norbert what about Old Crow and places people hunt caribou? Kristen Callaghan don't know. Mike Sutor has spoken with people from Old Crow – in some years there are problems along the river, but not as much of an issue as the Dempster Highway. Maybe because it is a more spread out harvest, gut piles go into the river which washes the attractant away. That may reduce the conflict relative to here where you are stuck leaving the gut pile in a visible area.

Marsha Branigan commented with cabins, have been working on a program with electric fencing, making sure your cabin is clear.

Funding request for \$13,942 from Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board on total budget of \$35,442.

Jozef Carnogursky asked if will be asking for cash from Government of the NWT? Kristen Callaghan that will be up to them what they could contribute, but would be getting help in distributing materials and possible use of freezers.

Charlie Snowshoe asked if anyone did a count on the bears on the Dempster Highway? Kristen Callaghan responded not recently. Charlie Snowshoe commented about 4-5 years ago, I counted from Arctic Circle to James Creek 9 grizzlies with cubs. Those cubs will be grown now and having young ones, too. With the pictures you are showing, when the Dempster Highway first opened, you would be lucky to see a grizzly bear. They are pretty well trained, every shot they hear, they head for there. The hunters watch them, too. Wonder how many are up there now? Kristen Callaghan that is a shared concern. Community members have said they felt the bear population has increased in size. That is part of what this project could help to do.

Cindy Allen asked are you going to be in contact – looks like you are going to work with Yukon Government and communities, will you be in contact with Parks Canada? Worked for Kluane National Park – distributed grizzly bear information. They have a wealth of grizzly bear information and knowledge. You might want to talk to them

about tips that could be helpful. The biologists there have been out in the field doing this for decades. With regards to other community spin-offs, regarding messaging. Agree with the messaging re radio, posters, etc. One of the things when I was a guide at the Park, everyone came to my campfire talk on grizzly bears. Tried to make it fun and interactive for the public – had 30 people a night listening to stories about the bears, safety, the bears' eco-system around food, etc. See that as a potential spin-off in the Delta, if the community wants to have a tourism opportunity, they could do something more interactive than putting a poster on the wall, could have youth or other people trained to give messaging in campfire talks. Something the community could consider. There is a lot of valuable information that can be gained in the research and could be passed on beyond two dimensional messaging.

Charlie Snowshoe talked about safety on the Dempster Highway – true story – there was a woman living at Mackenzie. Trying to make dry fish and the grizzly bear came around and cleaned up. A bunch of Good Hope people were heading for Aklavik and they stopped for tea. Complained she couldn't make dry fish with the bear around. An old man told her there was an old stump – told him if you put that on the fire, the bear won't come back. If you put rotten wood on the fire, they don't like it. Should try that as test for the hunters to use where they are going to clean caribou.

Tommy Wright suggested giving an incentive – pay the hunters to bring the guts back. Gas costs a lot, so if you give an incentive you would have lots of people bringing the guts back.

John Norbert at times, you don't even get a chance to skin your caribou because the bears are bothering so much. It's not safe. When the caribou come, should send the army out there.

Kristen Callaghan commented the timing of the gut pile removal and survey is short – targeting at the peak harvesting season to see if we can detect a change in bear behaviour with a small budget. This is a short term look at a trial way of addressing the solution.

Joel Ingram asked, ideally, would you do the survey first? Kristen Callaghan responded a bit before and during. Joel Ingram wants to know the population before and after.

Fanny Greenland commented looking at biologist and youth assistant. Ft McPherson and Inuvik have a link to the highway. In Aklavik we have a lot of youth go to the mountains and coast. If you hire an assistant, hope you will have a fair share for our community because we are the one community not linked to the highway. Kristen Callaghan responded the Board has a youth work experience program, plus the summer student. This is a separate budget, so it is an opportunity to have more youth involvement or different youth involved. Will keep that comment in mind.

BREAK 11:50 to 12:45 p.m.

19. Environment & Natural Resources Wildlife Update

Marsha Branigan and Tracy Davison.

There is a joint aerial survey for Moose in the Richardsons that will happen this March.

Wolf harvest and wolverine harvest – carcass collections are ongoing. A harvester can decide to either bring in the carcass or get a kit. Hope after the spring, the harvesters will just bring in kits.

Have a bit of data from the stomach contents from those collections.

Also started a muskrat and otter collection from Aklavik Renewable Resources Officer – want to send them off to see if there are any problems with the population. With otters, collecting information on the otters.

Porcupine Caribou Management Board circulated the strategic framework draft. Will forward a copy to the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board. It is a 3 year outline of what the Board plans to do. Hope to finalize it in March. Dorothy Cooley is now in Whitehorse in the Harvest Coordinator position. Have created an Access Database, trying to get it in the communities to allow you to enter the harvest data collection directly into that. Will allow the agency to also have their membership list in there. It will then allow you to create the survey forms, let you enter the data, and will have some pre-done reporting needed for the Porcupine Caribou Management Board Management Plan. Other reports can be developed. We have purchased some copies of the Access program. Have to get copies of the database out there. There are some glitches being worked on.

Just had the Porcupine Caribou Management Board Harvest Management meeting – will forward recommendations to the Board. There is a 15 day period when the parties have them, then they become public. Each party has 30 days to respond – could be a response that you need more time. Last year the Board made recommendations on the issues that came up at the meeting such as the grizzly bear.

Had a wildlife handling and collaring workshop. Had 2 days with the Renewable Resources Councils to have a dialogue to talk about concerns and present information that we have. To ensure everyone understands the risks of handling and collaring wildlife and why we do it. It has to be decided at the management board level whether or not to proceed with the programs. There will be proceedings report from that meeting. Held it in a breakout groups first, then dealt with the questions that came up. Tried to relate the information presented to the concerns and needs of the groups. Hope it was helpful for everyone.

There have not been many wildlife research permits out. Did a denning survey on behalf of Department of Transportation, Hamlet of Tuktoyaktuk, Town of Inuvik re the new highway. Also have a permit for collection of wildlife samples – samples are shipped out to Saskatoon when cannot be diagnosed locally.

Stephen talked about field operations yesterday.

Jozef Carnogursky asked if Marsha Branigan will do something on the Porcupine Caribou Management Board after? Marsha Branigan threw it all together, but can answer questions.

Jozef Carnogursky commented re the caribou estimator. Mike Sutor mentioned there is being work done on it. Marsha Branigan explained the guy that developed the caribou calculator has been contracted to develop a new program that will take into account not only the point estimates, but also the confidence intervals for the data. This will give a population estimate with confidence intervals that will get wider as you get further from a count. The caribou calculator was not used properly – it was used as the worst case scenario calculation – it was only

intended as a tool, but was taken as being different from what it did. Everyone will get a workshop with a copy of the estimator. It is only a tool, and it was misrepresented what it was.

Joel Ingram commented the plan is good because it uses a variety of information and not just one source. Marsha Branigan responded according to the Harvest Management Plan, we are supposed to use a computer model to estimate where we are, but we don't have it yet, so that is why we want to encourage information to come to that meeting. We had a list of things we wanted to get from the parties, but do not get it again. Want to hear from community hunters re how many cows and calves are being seen – what you are seeing is important. It is easy now because we are in the green zone, but if we ever go down again, it would be easier to make collective decisions re where we are if we are getting the information we need.

Jozef Carnogursky commented the last time around, some parties took those numbers and ran with them. Marsha Branigan agreed. That is why we are trying to get that model updated and explain what that model does. One component is the estimator to give a rough number, the other will help project what impact various harvest management models would have on the herd population.

Was really enthusiastic about the harvest data that came in this year. The bull harvest was at 95%. Used to be 40-60% cows. We have been saying to people that the voluntary actions were working, but now we have the data to put on the table. That will be important data to put into the model. Not having the information about how many cows are being harvested impacts the model – if you put in 60% cows rather than 5%, it makes a huge difference in the numbers from the model. That should be coming out shortly – the recommendations from the Board to the Parties. We forward the recommendations that come into the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board right away because we consider you a partner, but they aren't supposed to be public.

Amy Thompson commented yesterday there was a comment from one of the Renewable Resources Councils re the numbers taken on sport hunting tags – providing the information to the Renewable Resources Councils for their interest. Marsha Branigan responded that was captured in the meeting. There weren't any on our side. Amy Thompson the interest isn't just for caribou. Marsha Branigan there is no sport hunting in caribou or Gwich'in Settlement Area. In Inuvialuit Settlement Region there is sport hunting for bear, moose, muskox. We do a report every year on the grizzly bear numbers. Forgot to bring that today. We do a report for Inuvialuit re all species under quota. The question that came up at the annual harvest meeting was about Porcupine Caribou Herd and how much was happening on the Porcupine Caribou Herd. Yukon Government provided an answer. They mentioned there was one special guided hunt – 100 allowed territory wide in the Yukon for all species. Last year, one caribou was taken on those. The Yukon Government committed to doing up a report on the licences they have and the activity each year. There is some outfitting of Porcupine Caribou Herd that was grandfathered before these agreements were done. Will provide a report on that.

Kristen Callaghan commented residents can get tags for hunting in the NWT. Marsha Branigan responded about 90 tags are sold annually, but not necessarily that many are used. Usually the estimate is around 30. It is easier to tell what is going on because we are the only area that has hunting. Our numbers include Inuvik and Sahtu region because that keeps the numbers comparable with historic. Last year, there were 23 tags for the Porcupine Caribou Herd used by residents in the NWT. There are only two areas residents can hunt in. They are not supposed to be hunting on private lands. Hope the new Wildlife Act will give us the ability to deal with that.

Johnny Charlie asked how they get the tag for private land? Marsha Branigan responded the tags are for the NWT in a given year. You have to know where to hunt.

Kris Maier commented it do not say where the hunting areas are on the tag. I had to go out and find that information myself. Marsha Branigan responded once we get the new Wildlife Act, it will be better and the signage on the highway tells you when you enter different zones. We are supposed to be dealing with that issue. Heard about residents hunting on the Yukon side, so if you hear about that, let us know. Technically, you can't camp at Rock River, then go back and forth across the border if you are a NWT resident without an export tag.

Marsha Branigan and Tracy Davison gave a PowerPoint presentation on the Barren Ground Caribou survey done this summer. Also on analysis of stomach contents on carcasses received from wolves and wolverines.

Joel Ingram asked if they didn't get a cow/bull ratio from the photo survey for the Barren-ground caribou? Tracy explained you can't do it from the photos – you can't tell cows from young bulls.

There were plans to run the check station in the spring, but the caribou haven't hit the highway yet.

Charlie Snowshoe the harvest data collection, the check station. You have the check station at the ferry crossing. People are smart and use the Midway Lake campground and stop there to work with their caribou there rather than crossing the river with them. Maybe people can do something – any road for gravel has a system with locked gates – maybe we can do something like that because people aren't reporting the caribou. Midway was only supposed to be for the year round use. Marsha Branigan commented from our perspective, the check station isn't to collect harvest data – we collect data, hand out sample kits, hand out information on bears. The check station could be more pro-active, but it is more public education and monitoring on the highway rather than how we get harvest data. Think there is room to work with the Renewable Resources Councils to get better harvest data.

Charlie Snowshoe thinks the best place is to have it at the gorge. They have to stop at the ferry, too. Marsha Branigan suggested the check station people could even ride the ferry. They could also put up information on grizzly bears. Heard when they had a fire set up outside, they had lots of people stopping for tea.

Barry Greenland asked if it is going to keep going if it isn't working? Marsha Branigan responded it is giving us what we wanted. The names are provided to the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board to see if they are on the harvester lists, can also check what is reported at the check station is less than the harvest data reporting because might not be all a hunters' trips. We provide money, check station and forms, but the program is up to the Renewable Resources Council.

Barry Greenland commented maybe the Renewable Resources Council Coordinators can get together to work on the data collection. Marsha Branigan this year tried to implement the bear survey observation forms. Think there is room for improvement, but it isn't a total waste. The data is given to the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board on an annual basis.

Johnny Charlie commented when you have the check station there, everyone sees it and knows it's there, but do not think it is getting enough information. Think those guys are sleeping up there or not there. Marsha Branigan

commented if that is happening, they should be reporting it to the Renewable Resources Council. It is supposed to be open whenever the ferry is open. Sometimes they don't run it when no one is traveling because of weather or if the ferry is closed. We need more samples for the Caribou Sampling Initiative. That is one point of contact we were hoping would work – possibly because people are not being proactive enough. Hand out sample kits on the ferry, tell people to stop back.

Barry Greenland suggested for things to work, we have to work together and take a team approach. The hunters will have to provide the information required if they want the system to work. If it is not working, we need to look at this. Marsha Branigan responded maybe we should have a teleconference with the Renewable Resources Councils to talk about what changes might be necessary.

Joel Ingram can look at the objectives for doing it and evaluate how it is working.

Johnny Charlie before the check station we had workers going door to door. Marsha Branigan we are still doing that for the harvest data. Johnny Charlie commented people are more comfortable giving information from their house. Marsha Branigan have talked about bringing in heads and things that people do not use and someone else could pick it up and eat it. Could have a freezer and a generator out there anyway.

Amy Thompson asked re the request for in-kind support – what things do you want Kristen Callaghan's assistance? Marsha Branigan responded to help write the paper on the Barren-Ground Caribou survey, she helped with ground data based logistics in Aklavik. May have one more teleconference before that, will be good if she was involved in this. Want to thank Kristen Callaghan for facilitating the collaring workshop with Steve Baryluk. Would not have gone off as well as it did without support from everyone.

Kristen Callaghan commented that Janet Boxwell did the Harvest Study report. Looked at the Check Station data compared to the Harvest Data – we looked at that program effectiveness. Found that there were a lot of people that reported both ways and some only used one way. There was some unique information gathered from the check station.

Marsha Branigan commented the problem with the check station for harvest data, so it is only on the highway for a short time. Don't have a way to estimate how many people are not stopping. With the door to door survey, we have an active hunter list and interview a sample of them, then can estimate the entire harvest based on those statistics. The check station does not allow us complete the harvest data we have committed to the Harvest Management Plan, but we have also committed to the check station in the Harvest Management Plan.

Johnny Charlie commented there were four of us out for 10 days – saw there were lots of caribou, but they never hit the highway – must have headed between Rat River and the border. Marsha Branigan commented Mike Sutor showed on the map there were caribou in that area during July. They were tracking on radio collars – in the end, they called the photo survey off because they were not aggregating enough. We work collaboratively with Yukon and Alaska. Some hit the highway but not a lot. Johnny Charlie also saw muskox and lots of sheep around Long Stick River area. Saw lots of caribou in that area. Was out there with Rangers. Saw lots caribou going North.

Juraj Carnogursky commented one of your slides showed there were a few mortalities. Is there any knowledge re the cause of those? Marsha Branigan responded these are collars that are stationery. With the releases on them, we cannot tell the difference between a dropped collar and a mortality. Two were bear mortalities and one was a wolf. If you don't get on them right away, it is really hard to tell. The ones we didn't get to right away, we will pick up in the spring, but won't be able to tell the reason.

Juraj Carnogursky asked if all the collars have releases? Marsha Branigan confirmed have been using them for a while. The collars last about 3.5 years.

Charlie Snowshoe asked if the Barren Ground caribou are using their calving ground in the park? Tracy explained that usually the caribou use the park for calving and post calving. This year quite a few calved in the Park, but after quite a few moved more east, which was unusual. It is a big Park and there is an extension of it into the Sahtu.

Marsha Branigan commented one of the thing we didn't touch on was the Tuktoyaktuk/Inuvik highway. It has a potential to impact the caribou in the area. The Environmental Impact Review Board has issued a report which recommends the highway can go ahead with 51 recommendations to be taken into account. Tuktoyaktuk and Town of Inuvik have committed to wildlife protection plan and a wildlife monitoring plan. The protection plan includes mitigation if they are going to do work, the monitoring plan – draft plans were put in to the Environmental Impact Review Board and some of the recommendations put that draft in like they want it to be done. Some of the recommendations involve collaring, but there is not total support for the collaring in the wildlife protection monitoring – they were okay re the photo survey collaring, but not for the bear effects. There are some concerns re the wildlife effects monitoring plan – to test the effects of the mitigation for the construction on the highway. We are working on that process.

John Norbert asked about the Gwich'in Settlement Area? Marsha Branigan explained the road doesn't go through the Gwich'in Settlement Area. There has been some work done on the Dempster Highway with Boreal Caribou which shows the caribou avoid the highway and seismic lines. That is part of the recovery plan for the Boreal Woodland Caribou. You have to keep disturbance down in an area to

John Norbert commented the Mackenzie Valley Highway is coming so we will have to look at that, too. Marsha Branigan commented the Gwich'in may want to do more work on the Boreal caribou and then if the highway is approved could look at impacts on the Boreal caribou.

Kristen Callaghan asked what is your perspective re your ability to measure impacts using the collars you have for the photo survey? Is it possible? Marsha Branigan responded we have a statistician looking at it for base line. The highway goes through the wintering area. Historically, the collars are not for that season, we wanted to know where the caribou would be in the spring. We are now collecting 3 points per day because of the improved batteries. Now can have VHF, Satellite and GPS information on the same size collar. Caribou don't do the same thing every year – no matter what is happening. Will be difficult to say if they avoid an area, whether it has anything to do with construction.

Tracy Davison commented, in 2012, the deployment for the photo-survey we put out 10 collars with a geo-fence feature. If they enter that area, we get more data in the Tuktoyaktuk/Inuvik highway corridor. Only one has come back into that area this winter. If they actually use the area will be able to get data.

John Norbert asked the difference between Hunters & Trappers Committee and Renewable Resources Council? Marsha Branigan explained Hunters & Trappers Committees are in the Inuvialuit area, different claim.

20. Migratory Game Birds – Myra Robertson

Management of Western Arctic Lesser Snow Geese

Myra introduced herself. She works out of Yellowknife on waterfowl issues. She reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on Western Arctic Snow Geese.

Questions for the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board:

1. On increasing daily bag limits for Snow Geese for sport hunters in Alberta, Saskatchewan and NWT?
2. On the removal of possession limits for Snow Geese for sport hunters in Canada?
3. On designating western arctic Snow Geese as overabundant and establishing a spring harvest in Alberta and possibly NWT?

Jozef Carnogursky asked if you are planning on doing all three? Myra Robertson answered they are considering all three options. Liberalizing the fall harvest will be easy, but may not be that effective because the harvest regulations for fall are already liberal. The most delicate one is whether to designate the western arctic population as overabundant and establish a spring harvest in the NWT and Alberta – could do it just in Alberta, or both. Third is whether or not the US liberalizes harvest – it is mainly up to them.

Cindy Allen asked how realistic is it – would a harvester go out and shoot 50 geese? Joel Ingram there is a small percentage of goose hunters that do that.

Joel Ingram declared that he is in conflict on this subject.

We did designate the species as overabundant over 10 years ago. Just saw a report on that. Declaring it overabundant and liberalizing bag limits and spring harvest did double the harvest, but has had a small effect on the population. May have slowed population growth. Some of the other things discussed it to take direct action through culling in the Eastern Arctic.

Myra commented that taking 50 geese in one day – on the prairies, they get a day with no geese, no geese, no geese, and then they get a day with a bunch of geese, so it would not be a lot of hunters, but some have said it will be useful. Joel Ingram there are a lot of people that make sausage with the meat as well, debone it and use it for different products.

Barry Greenland commented when they take that amount, it isn't usually for one individual, it goes to the community.

Eugene Pascal commented there is only a certain period you can hunt in the spring and in the fall – people go out and get a couple hundred, but it gets shared. Joel Ingram explained the majority of people that buy a sport hunting permit only get 20 or so geese, but some will take more.

Jozef Carnogursky does not have any issues with any of the proposed options put forward. Would want to include the NWT as well in the liberalized harvest rules.

Amy Thompson asked about logistics, you listed the questions that you would like the Board to respond to. Do you have a deadline? If it's a regulation change you are looking at, do you also need a motion at some point? Myra responded the good news is we have a fair amount of time. Our notice of intent was out in the regulatory reports released now. We are also talking to people now. If it looks like we want to continue to move forward, it will come out in the November/December Migratory reports in a year from now that we are going forward with the proposal. We have a fair amount of time. Joel Ingram commented if we had it by October, would be able to put it in the next cycle. It is a regulation change, so would like a motion of support from the Board, to have that documented. Myra added that if there are more comments or advice, you could provide that to us and help us.

Amy Thompson commented in one of the earlier slides, you talked about Northern Aboriginal harvest? How do you get the numbers? Myra answered from the Harvest Study – 270 for the Gwich'in, mostly in Inuvik and Aklavik. This is where your harvest surveys are becoming important, Inuvialuit and Alaska have something similar.

Amy Thompson should note that the harvest study is not collecting something on this now. Myra realized that the information may be dated, but it is good enough.

Charlie Snowshoe asked if Myra could explain the question 3 for the Board. Myra explained with the hunting regulations for non-aboriginal in the regulations, there is only a certain time when you can buy a hunting licence or duck stamp. If I want to hunt waterfowl, you can hunt from September 1 to December. That is set in regulations. We cannot have hunting for the sport hunters for snow geese in the spring. If we designate a population as overabundant, it means they are causing damage or destruction to habitat or other species or there is a threat of damage, then we can move beyond the regular sport hunting regulations to allow them to harvest in the spring. Myra explained this do not affect the aboriginal hunt at all.

Kristen Callaghan as a clarification, there has been some localized loss of habitat, but not large scale like in Nunavut. There may be some conflict with shore birds – are the populations becoming overabundant, or is a new definition of overabundant? Joel Ingram explained there is signs of impact and there is concerns of increasing impact if something is not done. On Banks Island, there is concern, even with the current population, there may be continued degradation because of the experience in the Eastern Arctic. The regulations is “showing impact to the environment or threat of the impact”. Myra explained the designation overabundant is a legal term.

Kristen Callaghan asked re the fall harvest periods is from September to December – wonder if that is for here? It seems late because of freeze up – is there a thought of shifting the harvest period to accommodate

an earlier harvest period? Myra responded with the overabundance designation could add a harvest season, without that designation, there is the possibility of adding to that season, but there is a concern.

Kris Maier asked re the legal definition of overabundant – does that automatically remove restriction re limits? Myra answered it is not automatic, but if a species is overabundant, we can change magazine restrictions, rules re decoys, electronic goose calls are allowed in spring hunts in Canada. Joel Ingram considering allowing extra shells in shotguns. Myra answered in terms of what would have the biggest impact is the spring harvest in Alberta – electronic calls, unplugged shotguns may not have the biggest impact.

Jeremy Mosher commented as a sport harvester that resides in Aklavik. Likes the idea of a spring hunt, part of the duck hunting thing is being out with the aboriginal harvesters. Get questions re why I don't go out with the aboriginal harvesters. The spring hunt would be a good idea. Might want to have a look at bringing the sport hunt date to mid-August which is when people here go out to harvest here. Joel Ingram there is a concern in the NWT for ducks, but for Snow Geese is okay. Jeremy commented that the hunt is for anything flying over – they aren't going to the lakes to shoot. Myra would it add a complication to say the harvest is only for Snow Geese until September 1st – would that cause complications.

Jeremy commented if you are out and they know what you are there for, they will help you out. It will get a few more people out that have not hunted before. It is hard to get them in the fall, in September or October, we are freezing and the birds are mostly gone by then. Myra answered they have done that in NU for snow geese. Their season starts mid-August.

Cindy Allen asked would you be revisiting this at a future date if the changes are made? Would you be doing population surveys to ensure the populations are not wiped out? Myra answered one thing she do not touch on, if we go forward with increased harvest regulations, we have to have monitoring to see if it is effective and not too effective. That is still under discussion re what monitoring we would need and how often. Joel Ingram we do photo surveys every 3-5 years and then banding gives estimate of survival. Myra will be looking at whether or not we have to ramp up the monitoring to be sure we are getting the outcome we want.

Charlie Snowshoe commented there is an old saying the Dene Nation – when you have to make a decision. Have to take it to my community to find out what people really want. Geese do not go my way in Ft McPherson. Joel Ingram there is a public meeting planned for Aklavik, so there is an opportunity for public comment. Myra March 12 in Aklavik and in Inuvik with the HTC. If the Board has other suggestions re reaching other people in the Gwich'in Settlement Area, we would be interested in hearing it as well.

Charlie Snowshoe explained the geese go down the Mackenzie, so that is where people have to go to harvest them.

Eugene Pascal thanked Myra.

BREAK

21. Arctic Borderland Cooperative

Will be handled in the funding allocation.

22. Gwich'in Harvest Study

Amy Thompson the report that was submitted to the Porcupine Caribou Management Board and the Technical Committee – there are copies available for people in the audience and a copy is included in the meeting package. It goes over the results for the data collection for this year.

Eugene Pascal commented if it okay with the Board, will skip these two items and go onto the next item.

23. Status Update on the Draft Cape Bathurst, Bluenose West, Bluenose East Management Plan – Kristen Callaghan

Since the last meeting of the working group and the co-chairs' committee in August, read all the comments from the co-management board and consultation. Working group was given direction to deal with the comments. A technical writer was hired to continue with revisions of the draft. Some key direction was to add more detail into the plan – the working group had intentionally left it shorter to make it more easily read, but it left more questions. The technical writer's term ends in June – hope to have the draft complete by then. Will be helping out on that on behalf of the Board. Will be looking at Traditional Knowledge collected in the past, to ensure it is adequately addressed in the plan. As a member of the working group, may have to attend at least two more meetings in this fiscal year. Have prepared a short presentation to the Board. There was deferred revenue from last year of about \$4,000 from last year, if applied all expenses including the working group meeting, will have a balance of about \$900 to roll over.

If there were two more working group meetings, would cost about \$4714 for airfares, etc. re travel costs. For these revisions, will likely need to meet in person to help the writer with the revisions.

There has been a sharing of the co-Chairs' meeting costs between the co-management boards. Might be asked to host a meeting in this fiscal year – would be catering and room rental costs.

Depending on how substantial the revisions are to the management plan, it would be your call whether or not to go out to another round of consultations. Budgeted for that based on at least 24 Renewable Resources Council members participating in those with honoraria covered. There is a possibility of Board member participation that might be considered as future expenses in this next fiscal year.

To make the Board aware – consultations have been rolling along and asked all co-management boards to go out and review the draft. Inuvialuit Game Council sent a letter re their concerns with the plan. Wildlife Management Advisory Committee sent a letter to the co-Chairs Committee late in January. Both letters have suggested there is a major issue – they are not comfortable managing the three caribou herds as three herds, they consider them as one herd. By grouping the herds together as one, it would allow reduction of the restrictions – particularly the Cape Bathurst and the community of Paulatuk where tags are required. We did have a long discussion at the co-Chairs Committee on that.

Jozef Carnogursky added to Kristen Callaghan's comments. They came to the meeting, put their position forward, then left. Not sure if they will be back. Kristen Callaghan explained it was Wildlife Management Advisory Committee that left – equivalent to the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board for the Inuvialuit.

Eugene Pascal they indicated they wanted to seek community input. Time permitting they will do that and re-affirm their position or confirm or see what the people want re the direction they will go. Basically, they are saying they want the caribou managed as one herd.

Joel Ingram they believe there are movements between? Jozef Carnogursky agreed.

Eugene Pascal we signed the Memorandum of Understanding for the management of this herd, the same as the other parties, saying we would come up with a management plan for the 3 herds. We are still doing that, but there is one party not there.

Kristen Callaghan explained there was a lot of discussion about this after they left the table because we need to have them involved in a shared herd. The committee has drafted a letter to Wildlife Management Advisory Committee and Fisheries Joint Management Committee as a response and would like to have comments from the Boards.

They were going to go back out to the communities in April to see how much mixing is seen going on. They were open to posing questions about this.

Kristen Callaghan read out the letter.

Jozef Carnogursky it is important to note that under their regime, they can make by-laws that are in place now. We are concerned that those may be lifted to allow hunting to resume.

Kristen Callaghan the Cape Bathurst is just under 2000, the Tuktoyaktuk herd is in decline, the Bluenose herd has stabilized. Tracy confirmed Cape Bathurst is slightly up.

Kristen Callaghan showed the Board members the letter that has been drafted.

Eugene Pascal asked who drafted the letter? Kristen Callaghan answered Tom Nesbitt helped to draft it with Jody Snordland from Wee'keezhii Board.

Amy Thompson commented that timeline wise, would need an answer by the end of the week whether or not the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board will support this letter.

Kristen Callaghan we talked a lot about how we just had a Memorandum of Understanding to help develop a management plan of the three herds. It is a tough issue, but we can go forward on it.

Cindy Allen would like to understand a bit more. This is relating to the caribou in the NWT – is this the herd that the Yellowknives Dene and Akaitcho have unlimited harvesting on? Tracy gave a response from the Environment & Natural Resources point of view. The Bluenose West, Bluenose East, Cape Bathurst herd were once considered one herd, before we knew about movements and calving. Because across North America we manage on calving grounds, we discovered there were 3 calving grounds. The herd around Inuvik was harvested quite

heavily, Bluenose West from Sahtu to Tuktu Nogait, Bluenose East did not get a population estimate in 2012, but in 2010 it was close to 200 thousand. Herd east of Bluenose East is Cape Bathurst herd – winters North of Yellowknife. That herd has not been doing as well. There is no limit on aboriginal harvest on Bluenose East, but there are on Bluenose West and Cape Bathurst.

Cindy Allen confirmed that they were once considered one herd, now with more scientific information considered 3 populations – one doing well, some not. We have a Memorandum of Understanding to manage the herds with the groups across the NWT. Now at the recent meeting, the Inuvialuit have said they want it to be one herd, so they can manage it as they want, which causes concerns that they could change their by-laws that restrict hunting, which may negatively impact the herd. So now we have to respond to the Inuvialuit re their concern and also to the overall Co-Chairs Committee re the co-management planning.

Eugene Pascal commented we already have a relationship with the co-management committee on the Memorandum of Understanding. Jozef Carnogursky confirmed we are only looking for one response as a co-management board. Kristen Callaghan commented this does not preclude the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board from writing their own letter, but right now there is one letter being drafted from the committee together.

Jozef Carnogursky as you mentioned, it is late in the game, four years ago we signed the Memorandum of Understanding to take a precautionary approach. It is concerning because our membership in the Gwich'in Settlement Area cannot hunt there. Joel Ingram commented that there is nothing in their letter saying they will change their by-laws. Jozef Carnogursky that was more a concern from comments in the room.

Kristen Callaghan explained what came out of the last meeting with the Co-Chairs Committee and the Working Group, we decided to continue to revise the draft. Thought it was important to be timely in finishing it up and there were a lot of comments that needs to be addressed in any case. Will be looking at all the Traditional Knowledge re herd movements to be sure it is included in the draft.

Jozef Carnogursky thinks that we decided to continue to move forward as 3 herds. Kristen Callaghan commented once Wildlife Management Advisory Committee had left the table, the rest of the group decided the best thing was to move forward and try to get them back to the table.

Joel Ingram asked if there is much evidence re mixing vs. separate herds? Kristen Callaghan explained right now, the scientific evidence suggests there are 3 separate herds that calve in 3 areas. There is some mixing, but it is minimal. Looking at the practicality of managing. Wildlife Management Advisory Committee referred to a letter from John Nagy re a meta population. The problem of that interpretation of what John said, is that all herds are slightly connected across Canada. There is some genetic work done to suggest there is some differentiation.

Joel Ingram so there is no new genetic information? Tracy asked if she could provide information. We as Wildlife managers, manage on a herd basis because it makes things neat and organized. Scientifically, we do recognize there is movement between the herds, there is some overlap in the wintering ground, but that has contracted since their numbers have declined. The problem with what the Inuvialuit have talked about – over time, caribou can change their movements quite a bit. At some point, there wasn't a Cape Bathurst herd back in time, but now, there are 3 distinct calving grounds and that is what we are managing on.

Jozef Carnogursky asked if everyone is okay with the letter? Cindy Allen cannot read it on her computer. (Nick Westover will get a copy for her.)

Kristen Callaghan commented that Tab 22 has John Nagy's email in it. Can print it out if anyone is interested.

Eugene Pascal suggested that the Board can review the letter and make a decision in the next couple of days.

Motion #2013:09

To go in camera at 3:53 p.m.

Moved by: Cindy Allen

Seconded by: Johnny Charlie

Question called: **CARRIED**

Motion #2013:10

To leave in camera session at 5:09 p.m.

Moved by: Jozef Carnogursky

Seconded by: Cindy Allen

Question called: **CARRIED**

Meeting adjourned for the day.

February 21st, 2013

Eugene Pascal called the meeting to order at 9:07 a.m.

24. Fish and Forestry Introduction

Kris Maier reviewed a PowerPoint presentation to give a background of what has been going on since the last meeting for Fisheries & Forestry.

Jozef Carnogursky asked re increased enforcement on Forestry? Kris Maier increased patrols and ticketing people that are not following the rules – that is what the Renewable Resources Councils wanted although they are not sure how ticketing would be received by people. Soft enforcement is where we are now.

Cindy Allen asked what are the numbers for the sustainable harvests? Kris Maier 15% was unsustainable and 5% was conservative.

Joel Ingram asked for the amount of the harvest? Kris Maier explained it is based on population levels – was 375 last year based on 5%. This was actually a bit less than 5%.

Jozef Carnogursky asked if Kris Maier will be involved with all of the things listed for 2013 Research on DV Char? Kris Maier hope to run it similarly to how the Rat River Char operates. Haven't tagged since 2010. Stream

temperature relates the information back to weather data to see if changes in climate affect stream variables and also back to salmon colonization – are the stream temperatures allowing the salmon to colonize.

Amy Thompson when you are talking about the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan and Species At Risk legislation, there were discussions that by the time the Species At Risk Act process takes place, the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan would be up for revision. There was discussion that at that point Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board and Fisheries Joint Management Committee would be interested in incorporating populations outside of the Gwich'in Settlement Region including populations down into the Yukon. Kris Maier do not seem like Department of Fisheries & Oceans was open to that the last time he talked to Species At Risk Act people.

John Norbert asked are we better in the population today than two years ago? Kris Maier answered possibly.

Fanny Greenland asked if the fish shown is a char? Kris Maier confirmed it was a fish from John Carmichael's net. Fanny Greenland commented it was skinny – Kris Maier said not the ones this year.

Johnny Charlie commented when the char come from Fish Hole, they are flat and skinny – their skin is almost loose, that's how starving they are.

Peter Kay is concerned about the amount of people in the last 10 years have died of stomach cancer? How are the fish? Kris Maier responded we have not had any studies on what causes cancer, but do not know of any problems. With their diet and migration, they are not getting into anything that would cause problems, but can get back to you on that.

Fanny Greenland commented when the Forest Management Plan came to our community, you came by yourself. When you do consultation, you should not come by yourself and had to answer for other parties. If they cannot make it, it should be cancelled to another day. With nobody showing up, which community do you mean? Kris Maier explained there was one participant in Aklavik, 3 in Inuvik, nobody in McPherson or Tsiigehtchic.

Fanny Greenland commented we are the main users of the forests, especially in the overlap with the Inuvialuit, get worried because I see a lot of people getting a lot of wood, mainly at night time. They should be getting more enforcement – concerned about the forest management and not cutting too much wood.

Martin Callaghan responded that the Forest Management Plan is new. Know that some activities have been done for many years or decades. It is hard to get our point across, especially when there are few people at the meetings. We will not give up. It will take years to get the information out and get full compliance. The plan was written in full consultation with everyone, it took years, but will keep working on it. Apologized for not going to Aklavik – had the flu. Will go out there again, but it will take years for the plan to be fully implemented.

John Norbert commented we had one person in Tsiigehtchic – Georgie Niditchie. Kris Maier explained he didn't stick around. John Norbert when we started talking about the plan, he didn't agree, said that was the way he was born and do not agree. He does not understand why you can cut on one side of the river, but not on the

other. Do not agree with him, we are here to manage our land, and whatever comes around we have to live with it. There is all kinds of driftwood around Arctic Red River. It is still there.

Amy Thompson gave background on conversations with Kris Maier on these meetings. Environment & Natural Resources gave us money for Forest Management Plan implementation activities. Recommended that Kris Maier work with the other groups and go to the communities to go and have working meetings with the Renewable Resources Councils. Don't know if consultation was the right word. It was an opportunity for Kris Maier and some people that work with the Renewable Resources Councils to go over the contents of the Action Plan to make sure it made sense and help with the priority setting. The public part was for Kris Maier to do some education when he was in the community. Seeing not many people show up for the public part show that we need to do more with communication and engagement in the process.

John Norbert commented at some point in time, all the coordinators should go for a workshop. We have a new coordinator right now and they need to know their role as a coordinator and the changes that have been made in the past few years, harvesting with GHAP and how to handle those things. Think a workshop for them with the Gwich'in Tribal Council would help them.

Kris Maier with Forest Management Plan, that is a possibility because there is a bit of money left in the budget, could sit down with Martin and set something up.

25. Department of Fisheries & Oceans Update – Nicholas Winfield

Amy Thompson explained the person we were supposed to speak with is no longer available. The Fisheries representative was contacted by telephone for this part of the meeting.

Nicolas Winfield introduced himself – Director of Habitat Policy, Department of Fisheries & Oceans Ottawa

Glen Hopky – Manager of Regulatory Affairs in my group

Have been asked to provide an update re amendments to the Fisheries Act, follow up to presentation from Steve Burgess, his director re bill C38 amendments to the Fisheries Act.

Do not have a presentation, but have information to provide. Understand there is about an hour for discussion.

Eugene Pascal explained during our meeting, in our discussion in November, did Department of Fisheries & Oceans work out a schedule for consultation?

Nicolas Winfield answered our intent is to come to this table and provide with information as we move forward with implementing changes to the Fisheries Act. This group has been identified as a group we will provide information to as requested. Have been recognized that the Fisheries Act changes – several have not come into affect yet. The implementation issue re when the date will occur the reason we would provide you information on the state of the changes and get your views re how it will be applied within your area.

In terms of a consultation plan, we are at your request re coming to your table. We intend to provide more documents for you to think about and think through. In November, were mainly providing information rather than getting feedback on concepts in your Settlement Area.

Amy Thompson introduced herself. She was the one beginning conversations asking Department of Fisheries & Oceans to give an update on this legislation. The letter that was sent to the Ministers that included concerns including Bill C38. We have not received the response at this point, although we understand there will be one. Part of the concerns, in the Land Claim Agreement, it says the government shall seek the timely advice of the Board when drafting changes to legislation. The concern is that was not done. Looking forward, this should not be considered a consultation, but the beginning of a long term working relationship, to strengthen it so that the Board is included in the process rather than informing us later.

Nicolas Winfield commented we are committed to engaging you. The consultation is not part of my purview, changes were made with Government of Canada. Have been tasked with ensuring engagement with partners – of which your organization is key. Unfortunately, Larry Dow is travelling and not at the meeting. Cannot speak to the relationship between Department of Fisheries & Oceans and your organization re day to day. Agree re meaningful engagement and collaboration moving forward. That is what we would like to do from now in, not respective of concerns re the consultation issue.

To warm us up and get your side thinking of questions for me. Since November, Bill C45 was passed on December 19, this means there were additional changes to the Fisheries Act that have not come into force. Direction we have been provided is to be prepared for implementation in July 2014. At the back of the bill, it lists all of the sections that come into force at a later date based on the direction of the governor in Council. Director to provide information re how to implement these changes. My department has been working on what these terms mean – commercial, recreational and aboriginal fisheries. Will still have a prohibition and are still a significant regulator to threats to fisheries, need to work on efficient means to provide effective enforcement. Needs to be more clear about how that prohibition will work, how the fisheries will be identified, how to work on sustainability. Have been working on a discussion document that we want to provide for comments and views, that will be the content for you to provide input and questions re how this will work in your Settlement Area.

Have been working on the discussion paper, which moves forward what the changes to the act are. Can give you this document and you can contemplate re how to respond and how to engage on providing those responses.

Does that give you what you were asking for?

Amy Thompson responded, a bit. Re your previous comments, was not referring to day to day relationships, speaking to the government's responsibility to seek timely advice on legislation regarding fish, etc. For those types of changes, the government need to respect the Land Claim Agreement and work with the Board before things like this happen in the future.

Nicolas Winfield does not have a good answer, but appreciate the comments.

Amy Thompson commented re Implementation – you are talking about July 2013, and you are talking about questions re engagement. Have not seen anything.

Nicolas Winfield responded there is a document near completion – were hoping to get it to you today.

Amy Thompson commented you are speaking to this document as a discussion document. As the administrator to the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, I make sure the Board has the information with what they need to get information. If there is a discussion document they can review, but would expect an accompanying document re questions and the timeline. If implementation is in July, the Board only meets twice a year and the next meeting is in September. We have teleconferences, but things like this lose something when they are not face to face.

Cindy Allen introduced herself. We have a full a room. You are in Ottawa, we are in Inuvik, the Board is here, the Renewable Resources Councils are here, regional staff are here listening to the conversation, and we are very disappointed that there is no Department of Fisheries & Oceans person here to talk to us. Want to know what the meaningful engagement means for Department of Fisheries & Oceans. Heard the government will decide what these terms mean – that is not meaningful engagement to me. We would like Department of Fisheries & Oceans staff here to answer our questions in person. I'm picking up the feeling of the people in the room here. We want to hear more about what meaningful engagement is and when we will be seeing Department of Fisheries & Oceans staff come around. We only meet twice a year, so we have timelines to meet and make decisions to manage resources in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. We are planning for the next year and a half by making decisions now. September we will be reviewing and preparing for the following year. Would like to hear what you have to say.

Nicolas Winfield responded I am humbled by what you are saying. Don't have a good response. Nothing I can say will make you feel better, was asked to attend this call two days ago. Do not feel I am in the position to respond on behalf of the Government of Canada re a better way of doing things at this time. Wish to acknowledge that. What you say is compelling and I understand where you are coming from. Re changes to the Fisheries Act – re government deciding on language – that is exactly what has happened. In the Department, trying to make the language in the Act usable and understandable in the context of the Land Claim Agreement and also for proponents to be compliant with terms of the Fisheries Act – intent is to preserve commercial, recreational and aboriginal fisheries. The system that is in place is the same system that has been in place since 1987. There have not been changes made up to today. Am learning about the Land Claim Agreements and Boards. Understand you only meet twice per year. In a better circumstance, we will be prepared, there and meet face to face.

I understand your concerns, not here to sugar coat, but give information that I can.

Jozef Carnogursky is wondering when we can expect to receive the discussion paper? Nicolas Winfield responded within the next two weeks.

Amy Thompson asked if we receive the discussion document within 2 weeks, and you spoke of the July 2013 implementation date, when do you need to receive comments to incorporate that into implementation in July? Nicolas Winfield by the end of April.

Amy Thompson commented we have a fulltime staff of 5 including myself, including a fisheries biologist. Also have fulltime activities we are working on. In order to review and provide the technical comments for documents like this, it takes time and sacrifices the activities that the biologist is working on. The legislation is difficult to work through if you are not used to working with it. These are difficulties we face.

Nicolas Winfield is open to working on that. Recognize that providing a document and asking for comments is a most basic request. Willing to work with whoever is working on the document to help provide the information – through a phone call or conversation so people can think through how they will write their comments.

Amy Thompson commented both will be helpful. Nicolas Winfield sent contact details to Nick Westover.

Charlie Snowshoe doesn't know how much power is in talking – if you are going to do this over the phone. There is a lot of talking going on, but the Board is concerned about Department of Fisheries & Oceans not coming to the meeting, sound like you are a new guy. Be expecting a letter from us in order to get this right. Can hear you talking, but you might just walk away from this and that is my concern.

Joel Ingram point of clarification, by implementation in July, is that implementing the Act or are you planning to implement the regulations to implement the Act? Nicolas Winfield commented that is a separate process. The changes to the Fisheries Act will change the actual Act – this is what the proponents will need to comply with. There is one regulation change re time limits – there is an information regulation that standardizes how information from proponents need to flow. That will be coming out through the Canada Gazette process in late March or early April. Re Implementation, it is turning the Fisheries Act into the new language of the Act. One regulation for the next period. There are no new regulations by July. The ability to make regulations under the act will come in the next steps over the years. There are no other regulations developed at this time.

Within the Federal Government, many may be aware of reductions of staff within Department of Fisheries & Oceans. Department of Fisheries & Oceans in the habitat program is being reduced by 30% across the country and there will be a reduction of staff that implements this work. Will be also talking about changes to how things will be delivered across the country and changes in your area. There are program level changes that will have a significant on Department of Fisheries & Oceans at the same time.

Cindy Allen commented I am concerned about the protection of water and the land the resources. How will this legislation actually protect the water and the fish. It is not clear to me how that will actually happen?

Nicolas Winfield responded under the current fisheries act and the one changing in July – there is a key section – Section 35 – a prohibition, so developers that want to extract resources around water bodies, cannot cause harm to fish or fish habitat without permission from the Minister. When we are talking about regulatory reviews, the lens will be if the project will cause harm. The change in that section is the language. There is a more specific reference to commercial, recreation and aboriginal fisheries. Those are acknowledged in the act and that you cannot damage those is a powerful tool – particularly re habitat or projects that directly kill fish – spawning eggs, migration of fish. There is still a powerful part of the Fisheries Act that protects fish. That is what the habitat section will continue to do in the future. Need to ensure that we are aware of the objectives of those fisheries and that proponents make linkages that those fisheries will be sustainable in the future. Proponents must do the studies to ensure risks to fisheries are well defined and that there measures to offset and mitigate the damage. Links to the Resource Protection and Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act – that act is still in place and those linkages will still be in full effect and

Cindy Allen will look at the legislation myself. Re the Environmental Auditor of Canada slammed Canada for poor environmental protection. In particular, not having good financial safeguards in place for big projects.

Wondering – see a linkage – the Minister can say yes to a project even though there are harms to the environment and if something happens...

Nicolas Winfield commented there are two things that I want to let you know about – the Auditor General was referring to financial instruments – that there was sufficient money on the table from proponents to fix a problem should it occur across the Fed Government. Re the Section 35 authorization scheme – for the last 10 years, we have required for a project that requires an authorization, there is a letter of credit for sufficient funds to be drawn by Department of Fisheries & Oceans if they fail to comply with any conditions of the authorizations. If a project is authorized, there will be conditions to offset, monitor and mitigate any affects of the project. On the one hand, there is a letter of credit from a bank to ensure that Department of Fisheries & Oceans can get money to ensure compliance and protect fisheries. The changes to the Fisheries Act make conditions of an authorization enforceable, so could take a proponent to court more easily to penalize a company for not following a measure. We have built into the Fisheries Act means and methods to ensure when an authorization is issued, there are 2-3 ways to deal with non-compliance – letters of credit, enforceable meaning of the authorization, ability to take them to court. The comment from the Auditor Gen was addressed specifically in the changes to the Fisheries Act.

Eugene Pascal thinks maybe the point we want to bring across, the Gwich'in have signed a Land Claim Agreement with Canada and the NWT. Under the wildlife section, objects we have agreed to with the government, one says to directly involve the Gwich'in in a meaningful manner in management of wildlife and wildlife habitat. We were not involved in a direct and meaningful manner in the legislation that was drafted by the government. That is something we are very concerned about. There have been some big changes to the Act. It categorizes different fisheries – commercial, recreational and aboriginal. Within each of these categories, it has different ways of managing the habitat, ways of managing the fish and has words to weaken the current act. It is something we are really concerned about. We have participated in the past in discussions of fisheries act renewal and all of a sudden, this act, which is totally different than what we were discussing in the renewal process. We are very concerned about that. Putting different concepts in the Act that we have not heard, been able to discuss or look at. It is even more disturbing that we are the mechanism for managing wildlife in the Gwich'in Settlement Area and we have not been given the courtesy of a person coming here that could have a meaningful discussion on this relationship. This is something that disturbs us and because if you guys are going to come back to consult – that was one of the things Department of Fisheries & Oceans mentioned they will be doing a consultation round with the parties. So far that has not happened. For us to get back together to be properly and meaningfully consulted is a pretty expensive thing to have. We have adopted – it is our responsibility to consult with the Gwich'in on changes in law and legislation and management plans that affect wildlife in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. We have a process that has been developed and implemented – a certain way that the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Councils and our partners helped us develop that consultation policy. We have to go through that process in order to be meaningfully consulted. It is disturbing to us it has not happened.

Nicolas Winfield hears what you are saying, as I said, do not have a good answer for you. It is fair and respect the position and views as totally valid. Wish I was in the position to answer the comments, but am not. Can note the concerns and advise within the department of your views, which are valid. I am here to listen.

Eugene Pascal commented we have a consultation policy that we follow management plans, on possible changes to legislation. On the consultation of the implementation and all that other – will Department of Fisheries & Oceans be willing to follow the process we use to consult with our membership?

Nicolas Winfield asked are you asking whether or not we would? I do not know the policy in question. Can review the consultation policy and make sure we are familiar with it and answer if we are willing to follow it. Not sure exactly what the action you are asking for – review the document or come out and do the consultation as per the policy.

Amy Thompson explained the consultation policy is on the website, there is a section re advice to government. There is a procedure the Board has agreed to follow when providing advice to government. That is why I asked for specific timelines. For the Board to make a decision, they need to hear what the Renewable Resources Councils say about a topic. You say you would like to talk to us and walk us through the document. We would prefer to have someone come and do a round to explain the to the Renewable Resources Councils in the four communities, so they can make comments before the Board can make a decision. If there is a way that the Department of Fisheries & Oceans can help with the process, financially, by coming to the region, by calling in to walk us through the document. That need to happen pretty quickly because you want a response by April, the document will come in two weeks and we have to plan, so that concerns me.

Nicolas Winfield responded re the issue re being present to do this in person or by phone. Is there a time, notwithstanding the date of July, to support the consultation of the Board, is there a time that you would meet with the four communities – is there a broader initiative that we could link to? Would this occur within the next few months – or would the Board need to think about how to make this dialogue more meaningful?

Amy Thompson thinks this is the question that we want an answer to today. Need to come out with information that the Board needs to provide advice. The Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board has a limited budget which includes going to Renewable Resources Council meetings. Usually, when you go to a Renewable Resources Council meeting, they have a full agenda and we would take 15 minutes or so. Something like this would require a separate meeting for consultation – that would take money that is not in the budget. Would require money to travel to the communities, for the Renewable Resources Council member honoraria for their time, and materials to go through to get the feedback they need. For Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board staff to help get the board the information they need, we need to do this groundwork and I do not have the budget to do the consultation.

Nicolas Winfield understands what will be needed and what will be needed re costing and timing. Will go through the document with you re the costing and timing. This could be one of the things put forward re next steps to achieve the goal.

Eugene Pascal thanked Nicolas Winfield for participating.

Nicolas Winfield thanked the Board for their honesty and patience. Respect the comments re consultation. Will work with Amy Thompson re options going forward re engagement.

Nicolas Winfield left the call.

BREAK

26. Environment & Natural Resources Update – Martin Callaghan

Martin Callaghan commented the forest is more than just trees, it is called a dynamic, complex, interdependent community of plants. They have the ability to extract carbon dioxide and water to produce sugars eaten by all the wildlife species that we like to eat in this region. Everything is dependent on the forest, not just the trees, so like to say forestry is the most important division in Environment & Natural Resources.

We still have money for an observation tower to go up outside of Fort McPherson. Have contacted the Gwich'in Tribal Council as the landowner for the Gwich'in Settlement Area, but have not had a response. In order to put up the tower where we have planned, need to send out a geo-technologist to test ground. That tower will employ a person. The old tower at Shiltee Rock is derelict and unsafe. Want to find a new location with road access. There is a job waiting, and as soon as get permission, will act on it. Need to get moving before the end of the fiscal year.

Project re the old fuel brake around Inuvik – do not know how much money or how many people will be employed. Will likely do it in sections. Proposed it to Yellowknife HQ, but they do not have any money, so will do it ourselves. Have a method in mind that will allow us to employ a few people this winter and get it done piecemeal. Important to cut the fuel brake, because there were fire events close to Inuvik and discovered the 1968 burn is not an adequate brake. You have the ravine and valley with the mature spruce that were untouched by the 1968 burn that leads right up to the hospital. Were concerned with the fire being within 6 miles of Inuvik and then the possibility of getting those spruce burning leading the fire up to the hospital and losing that for our region. A fuel brake on that side will not be perfect and will not protect it 100%, but would be one step in the protection plan we have. Will work with Ernie Francis, community, but will do something. Protecting the communities are of primary importance.

Have the phenology study to correlate the budding of the trees with temperature, rainfall and snow cover. Have been working with Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada re snow cover for the last 30 years along 3 sites along the highway. This snow cover information allows you to calculate the snow/water equivalency is and fire indices.

Up the Peel and Arctic Red River, do not set up the traps last year because of the fire season. Have a person on board and a person in Aklavik interested in spruce bud worm infections. Set sticky pheromone strips within the trap and that attracts the spruce bud worm at moth stage and they get trapped and die. We count the moths in the fall. There has been some small evidence of spruce bud worm in the Arctic Red River area way up past Martin House. It may be inhibited by the cold winters, by the duration of the winter.

Forest Ecology Project – for the past two years, has been very interesting. Initial project by Travaillant Lake. Was interesting to see what occurs on the landscape once a fire goes through and how that correlates to how the caribou use the area. You could see the caribou were entering the old burns after a period of 25 years. Think this is imp – there is a lot at stake, the Boreal Woodland Caribou are stable in our area – the only place.

Working around the Lynx Creek area, you have an old burn there, with a fixed date of when the vegetation was burnt. Regeneration starts almost immediately once the ground cools. The forest starts rejuvenating itself

relatively quickly. Considering where we are, the forest comes back more rapidly than I had anticipated and more rapidly than reports from Alaska indicate. They had reports of 200 years, but we have reports showing 25 years is enough for the lichen to feed the caribou. When you have a mature forest with tall trees, there is very little lichen for the caribou, there are mosses there that out-compete the lichens. At Travaillant Lake, we found mosses, and the lichens were out in the burn because they need a lot of sunshine to grow. They weren't found that frequently in the unburned forest.

We also have the Forest Management Plan Implementation which we tried to get out to all the communities. It is just Ernie and myself – I was sick and Ernie was off doing other things. Was able to come to the local one, but turnout was not that great. Need to focus on getting the word out to the community. Tomorrow morning, Ernie will be going out to the school. Talking to kids is a great way to introduce forest management policies – kids are eager to learn and that is a great way to get the message out.

Re Forest Management – Ernie has been on several patrols, by snow machine and helicopter. This summer will be in the fire season again, but hope to get out by boat. Used to go out quite a bit by snow machine to look at each cutting site in the Inuvik area, but when I took over as Manager, my work involves me in administration and do not have time for that. Now with more complete staff, will be out there.

Re soft enforcement and hard enforcement – have caught a few people along the river cutting wood and have asked people to come in and get a permit. They always say they do not know they needed a permit. I have all the permits on Google Earth. I have all the overlays of the Gwich'in Land parcels as well and can show them directly where they can cut and where they cannot. I can steer them into an area where there are very few people and can get trees. Having told them that information, it is hard to monitor what they do. We can say stumps should be 30 cm or shorter and that we want all the brush cleared out, and they can agree in the office, but then they go out and do not do it. What do we do about that? It is hard to make a case against people cutting timber illegally. It's not like having a caribou. It is harder to trace to a person that has it. Have done a lot of travels around town and see there is more firewood being burned than there are permits. Maybe they are buying from people with commercial licences. We have to rely on the ethics of people, because we cannot accompany them. If it comes to someone breaking the rules repeatedly, where they refuse to come into the office, where they are belligerent to our people, we will enforce on people like that and will be very heavy handed. There is no reason to be belligerent to our officers who are representing the government and the desires of the people. These are modern times, we need to get on board with the changes that are taking place, or we can sit on the sidelines and say this how we have done it for 50 years. We have gone to all the communities and have addressed the concerns of many people in the Forest Management Plan. Amy Thompson, I and Jozef Carnogursky have gone out to the communities and held consultations. They should be aware of what the plan states, but there are still those that have said they want to do it the way they always have. The time to say that was during the consultations. Now the plan is signed and we have to work with it. It has a one-year period to re-asses what is working and what isn't. It is a working document, but how can we get into writing what is in the plan. How do we manage to get the word out to people in the community. We have to do our best to communicate the information to the people in the plan.

Barry Greenland commented we have always worked together as a team. Over the past couple of years, have been seeing people getting wood because of the high cost of fuel – there are more people getting wood and

selling wood. Suggest that you work more with Renewable Resources Councils – we have people that can assist you. If there is a problem, we can work together to fix it. People have their own ways of doing things, and they don't like change, but let's try to prevent it from getting to charges being laid. Martin Callaghan is hoping it won't come to that. Generally speaking, people are more than willing to comply. During the meeting last week, Alan Firth asked about involving the Renewable Resources Councils and I was more than willing to say yes. We are all in this together, we all have a vested interest in what happens on the land, no matter where we are from. We are all affected in the Town of Inuvik by the natural gas situation. Have noticed there has been a record number of permits out there. There have been a record number of commercial permits out there. Most of the people cutting firewood for sale have permits. We are working on that. The plan states clearly what needs to be done re permitting.

Aklavik is a bit of an exception because of the Inuvialuit land that is close. That will cause a bit of concern. The fault is not solely with the people that refuse to change. The officers that refuse to change are more of a problem – our officers are our eyes and ears, and they are supposed to enforce the plan. The plan is new. It took 10 years to get signed, it will take 10 years to get full compliance. Do not want to be charging people, willing to work on this, think conservation education is the best way to get the word out.

John Norbert asked about these so-called patrolmen – how much authority do they have? Can they stop someone from cutting wood where they are not supposed to? Martin Callaghan the patrolmen are four hours only, they cannot do enforcement, they cannot charge people. John Norbert can they stop them? Martin Callaghan yes, but anyone can. The patrolman has a job to do to check on what is going on and bringing it to the attention of their immediate supervisor and the process goes from there to the officers and charges are considered. The patrolmen themselves cannot charge a person, they ht notify us, but they should be out there.

John Norbert had a person at our meeting saying I was born this way, this is my country and this is how I do things. Martin Callaghan but we need some kind of management, if the Gwich'in are going to have Self Government, they need to show they have taken charge of the resources on their land. There is no other plan like this in the NWT or across Canada. This is a big step towards Self Government – you cannot govern what you do not manage. There are still hard-nosed people that will not change and cannot see the benefits of this plan. There is a distinct benefit of following along with this plan for all of the people.

Cindy Allen was looking through the Forest Management Plan, in the latest News North, Cece was commenting that people got charged for picking driftwood. Do not see that covered in the plan? Martin Callaghan commented I'm collecting drift wood. Drift wood is a non-permittable wood source. You do not need a permit for getting driftwood. It is uprooted and in a state of decay, floating down the river or along shore. Always advise they get a permit anyway because a free timber cutting permit doubles as a transport permit. If you bring driftwood into town, you need a transport permit. A transport permit costs money, so why do that when you can get a free timber cutting permit. Then if you see some dead standing trees along the shore, the permit will allow you to take those and it's free.

Joel Ingram asked so any transportation of firewood requires a permit? Martin Callaghan responded if you are transporting wood over public land.

Cindy Allen commented re the education component in the schools – wondering how the messaging will go for that. This Forest Management Plan is fairly technical, are there props, is there fun interactive? Martin Callaghan responded interactive is always best with kids, make it fun and show them forestry can be fun. That is how we want to do it. This is Ernie's first time in the school in this capacity. Martin Callaghan used to go into the schools, go into the camps around town and bring props, show what the forest is all about – it isn't just about the trees, it's about everything. Hoping that is what Ernie will be able to talk about – Forestry on a broader level. Wish more officers could be involved, but there do not seem to be much incentive. We will become a permanent fixture in the schools, teaching kids about forestry and it will be dynamic.

Jozef Carnogursky following up re Cindy Allen's concern. Was in Norman Wells when that person was charged. It was like someone died or killed someone. Reading those regulations, it seems like the intent was more for commercial activities. That is why we were talking about soft enforcement before. Those issues are new and people need to learn. Martin Callaghan commented coming down heavy handed is the wrong way to go initially. Have never had any problem with people. Why would I want to come down hard on my friends? It is not my style and it is not a style that do not work. Think I know the people involved in Norman Wells – they have their own way of doing things and we have ours, and we should pride ourselves.

Jozef Carnogursky commented we do not capture the item on driftwood. Martin Callaghan responded there should be a brief update of the plan after 1 year and that could be incorporated into it.

Jozef Carnogursky next on the agenda after Wildlife Act is Forest Management regulations. Re the PSPs in the Delta – are those finished? Martin Callaghan we do not go out to the site by Aklavik, but we did the year before. The main site is by Aklavik, another past the dump and one by Schooner Channel. We are still monitoring those and think it is significant data coming from them. Did notice one year, one of the sites by Aklavik was flooded and cannot get out to them. Told Alan Firth at the previous meeting concerning the plan, I am in the process of having a map made which will have all the cutting and permit sites on it – won't release names, but will also have the PSPs on there. Not only for educational purposes but for your own purposes when you are out patrolling, you will know where the sites are – and there are a lot. A record over the past 15 years. We are getting a lot of recognition re how we want this done. We have two ads for the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board and Environment & Natural Resources for cutting on private and public lands. We also posted it around at the Post Office. Everyone or most people drop by the Post Office and look at the ad board. We are getting the message out there.

Martin Callaghan commented we want to hire some people – have positions open in Inuvik and Ft McPherson on the fire crew, also have two fire clerk positions. In the past, have been getting by with casual and student positions. Want to fill the positions with permanent, seasonal employees. There should be no shortage of trained personnel. Fire fighting has changed a lot. There are pre-requisites to get the job, we have to do due diligence re fitness training, there are liability concerns. There are strict physical components to fire fighting, but encourage every able bodied man and woman to come out. Will be working with Human Resources to get these jobs filled. Over the last 5 years, there have been retirements and other people are moving up. Ernie is an example of moving up from fire fighter to the permanent position. Another way to move up is the college position. Have 6 positions in all – want to fill them with permanent staff.

Martin Callaghan is always available in the office – you can call any time, ask a question or drop by, send an email.

Johnny Charlie thanked Martin Callaghan for the presentation. You talked about patrolling – it is a good way to know the country. What is the longest patrol you ever did? Martin Callaghan here patrols are pretty short. We have liability issues – days are gone when you could throw a bag of flour and some tea into a sled and be gone for a month. We go usually for the day or stay overnight in the cabins. Johnny Charlie thought of the trip with Martin Callaghan, Johnny Charlie and Ernie. Would be good to see Martin Callaghan and Ernie in McPherson. Martin Callaghan we will get out to your area. Johnny Charlie that is good because Ernie knows the country fairly well.

27. Wildlife Studies Fund Proposal – Population Abundance and Index of Demographics of Dolly Varden from the Peel River – Colin Gallagher & Kim Howland

Colin Gallagher and Kim Howland called in to the meeting. Eugene Pascal introduced who is in the room.

Colin Gallagher has some methods and results re what was done last fall at Fish Hole and then what we intend to do this fall.

Colin Gallagher reviewed a PowerPoint presentation.

Questions & Discussion:

Charlie Snowshoe asked if you are working at Fish Hole? Yes Charlie Snowshoe How deep is the water? Colin Gallagher we have chest waders, we generally sweep up to above the fish cache area and also the off-ice area. Can get into some spots up to my neck, but most are thigh to waist deep.

Charlie Snowshoe explained the reason I ask, is we only work on one spot. You know where the landslide is above Fish Hole. In 53-54, that water was above the waders, I worked there sweeping net. The water level is way down as you know, is that harming the char? See you have some injuries on the fish – have not been up that way since that time, but know the water is low in the area now. To go 100 miles above McPherson, you cannot go on the Peel River. Colin Gallagher agreed there are lots of observations that the water levels are down. We sweep above the rock slide and it is just above our knees there. Not having as much overwintering habitat will affect the population. Kris Maier and Neil McNaught will be working on that. Hard to say what is causing the marks on the fish – possibly eagles, seals or wolves. Trying to figure out what is causing the marks to see what they are encountering on their way up to the Fish Hole.

Eugene Pascal thanked Colin Gallagher for his presentation. Colin Gallagher thanked everyone for the opportunity to speak. If there are any questions can be reached by email and would be willing to respond.

Amy Thompson commented after lunch will be doing in camera re the Wildlife Studies Fund.

LUNCH BREAK 12:00

Motion #2013:11

*Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
February 19th to 22nd, 2013 – Inuvik, NT
APPROVED Minutes – Public Sessions*

To go in camera at 12:40 p.m.

Moved by: Jozef Carnogursky

Seconded by: Johnny Charlie

Question called: **CARRIED**

Motion #2013:12

To leave in camera session at 2:05 p.m.

Moved by: Jozef Carnogursky

Seconded by: Cindy Allen

Question called: **CARRIED**

GRRB FUNDING ALLOCATIONS FOR 2013-14 WILDLIFE STUDIES FUND PROPOSALS					
Project Name	Contact	Status	Total project budget	Requested to GRRB	GRRB APPROVED
Porcupine caribou herd rut count	YTG (Cooley)	Ongoing	\$41,413	\$7,500	\$7,500
Grizzly bear monitoring in the GSA	GRRB (Callaghan)	New	\$35,442	\$14,000	\$14,000
Dolly Varden population abundance in at the Rat River	DFO (Gallagher/Howland)	Ongoing	\$35,150	\$10,000	\$10,000
Community monitoring & interviews+ youth workshop	ArcticBorderlands (Svoboda)	Ongoing	\$33,000	\$10,000	\$10,000
Gwich'in Harvest Study	GRRB (Boxwell)	Ongoing	\$31,486	\$20,000	\$20,000
Youth & Communications Program	GRRB (Thompson)	Ongoing		\$5,000	\$5,000
Scholarship application from Ashton McLeod	Ashton McLeod	2nd year of ENR	\$1,000	\$1,000	\$1,000
barrenground caribou consultations / WG costs - \$714 for WG meetings, 6845 for consultations in GSA, 1100 for host ACCWM meeting, 6682 for chair costs (dependent on level of involvement)	GRRB (Callaghan)	Ongoing		\$15,341	\$15,500
		Grand Total	\$177,491	\$82,841	\$83,000
		Total WSF		\$100,000	\$100,000
		Difference		\$17,159	\$17,000

Motion #2013:13

To approve the Wildlife Studies fund allocations as described in the table for a total of \$83,000.

Moved by: Jozef Carnogursky

Seconded by: Johnny Charlie

Question called: **CARRIED**

Motion #2013:14

To approve the withdrawal of \$65,000 from the Wildlife Studies Fund investments as at the beginning of the fiscal year.

Moved by: Jozef Carnogursky

Seconded by: Joel Ingram

Question called: **CARRIED**

The meeting adjourned for the day at 2:08 p.m.

February 22nd, 2013

Eugene Pascal called the meeting to order at 9:09 a.m. and introduced the agenda for the morning's session. Will ask for a Co-Chair for this session.

Alan Firth Nominated Barry Greenland. He declined and nominated Jeremy Mosher, who accepted.

28. Renewable Resources Council Updates

a. Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resources Council

John Norbert is the Vice President of the Renewable Resources Council in Tsiigehtchic.

Concerns:

There are all kinds of fish up there. People are really learning to fish, not to overfish, just to get as much as they need for the winter. They only put their nets in in the daytime during the summer, not the night. At the headwaters of the Arctic Red River, there is some walleye, grayling and in the spring the Coneys and whitefish go up there to spawn, then they come back in the fall. We do get a Mackenzie Whitefish run which happens at the end of October up to the first part of December. This year it came a bit early or later, so kind of missed it. They like the Mackenzie whitefish for the egg fish.

The headwaters is where our old people used to go to get their caribou from. About 300 miles. Now people don't go up there, so we don't know what is happening there, other than that there is staking there. Don't know what kind of protection we have up there. Right now, the Peel River Watershed is a big issue. We have to get ready for some kind of protection up there, to protect the land and what is in it. Know there is caribou up there, but do not know if there have been any studies up there since people have stopped using the caribou in the headwaters.

Ferry Landing: It is really destroying all the eddies where people set the nets for the fish. All three of them are where the ferry landings are. Where people used to set nets, they can't anymore because it is now too shallow. There is some kind of study going on about it right now, but people are really concerned about it.

Sometimes our own people, who live in Whitehorse, and come to fish in the summer, when they leave, they just leave their camp with garbage, tents, etc. We send letters and report it, but nothing happens. When we were

young, we were taught to keep our camp clean and to clean it up before we leave. When the snow goes, looking at that place, it looks awful.

Otters – know everyone is tired about hearing about otters, but around Arctic Red River, there are quite a bit of otters destroying the rat houses and the rats. Long ago, you never used to hear about otters. I trapped at Frog Creek when I was a kid and there were some there at that time. The lakes around there were all fish lakes and rat lakes.

This fall, we are getting a few **caribou** around Tsiigehtchic. They are good with whatever they kill, they share with the people. About 20-30 have been killed in that area. Hope they are coming back. Have been seen on the highway, so that is a good sign.

Moose – they had a moose survey last year or the year before. One of the guys from Tsiigehtchic was on there and said there wasn't much around the Arctic Red River area.

Grizzly Bears – there are a couple around George Town – across from Tsiigehtchic. Last spring, George had quite a bit of trouble with Grizzly Bears coming into his camp.

Eugene Pascal thanked John Norbert. We are taking notes re the issues that you brought up. Will discuss it a bit later this morning.

b. Tetlit Renewable Resources Council

Peter Kaye – Vice President for Tetlit Renewable Resources Council gave a report.

Ongoing issue of the Porcupine Caribou Herd – in the last five years, the caribou have been coming early. This year, they showed up in July. In McPherson, as soon as we know there are caribou, we try our best to inform the people to really respect the herd and let the leaders pass. In the past, in the late 90s, we used to do a closure on that herd at that time, in September. In McPherson, we are the ones that get desperate, we are on the highway. Think we should go back to the closure we used to have. I think that coming from our Tribal group and Environment & Natural Resources, that the people would respect that coming from our leadership. Right now, this fall, there is no caribou on the highway after the ferry shut down, so people are asking us to look for caribou. We do that, but I really believe that we have to try our best to look after that herd. We have a management plan in place and have to report every year to see how many animals we are taking and where the herd is going.

Today, most of the people eat out of the stores. 20 years ago, there used to be lots of caribou on the highway. I find if you get one or two in the fall, my dad always said that to me – in the 90s we always got 5-10 and shared what we got because some of my brothers and sisters lived in Inuvik. My dad told me, you have a small family, all you need is two caribou until February. He explained that to me, because he knows that we don't live on meat every day. Our children don't eat as much as we used to. Think if we all work together, somehow we can let a couple of thousand past that border. Need to educate the people, that if you let them pass in the fall, there will be caribou around at Christmas time.

Bear, Otter are on your list.

The other concern I have is the rat population is low, beaver population is high in our area.

Renewable Resources Council contributions to the school – we work well with the school. This year, we were contributing to snack program – high school and junior high kids were making traditional food and handing them out as snacks. As an employee of the school, see that as a positive. Also with traditional knowledge with the 20-35 year olds – speaking from experience, I have none, so we are focussing on that. They will be making shoes pretty soon.

One of our big concerns is the Peel River Watershed. The Renewable Resources Council did an amazing job with the Peel Consultation. The Yukon Government said we were the most moving, we had speakers from 8-80 – it was a really good turnout.

Would like better methods of collecting harvest data. The check station is there, but it is not really effective. Heard suggestions re having a fire, going up to vehicles or standing on the ferry – will try that next year.

Have heard about people harvesting on people's property. Need more clarification on that from Gwich'in Tribal Council.

Deep Water Lake is our water source. Concern is how it is affecting the aquatic life in the lake.

Otters and beavers is an issue.

Sewage system – 25% of the population is on the utilidor system and rest have sewage taken to another place. The utilidor empties directly into the Peel River.

Need to get more understandings on the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement.

Ferry landings – gravel is a concern.

Climate change affects are being noticed.

Caribou – there are so many people not harvesting properly and just leaving stuff out. When we were out at Midway with students from the school, hunters were coming up to there with their caribou and leaving a mess. Need to tell not only the Gwich'in, but also the Inuvialuit. If we are going to continue the cultural camp at Midway, we had a scare with a bear this year, if we are trying to implement Traditional Knowledge in the school. Others need to be aware of how and where they are harvesting.

Jozef Carnogursky asked if we would comment on this. Amy Thompson answered she is taking notes, so once we have all the issues, we can have a discussion on the points raised.

c. Nihtat Renewable Resources Council

Alan Firth – introduced who is in the Renewable Resources Council.

Commend the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board for having a good relationship with all of the communities. You attend all of the meetings and do not duck the questions, the communities appreciate that.

At the Porcupine Caribou Management Board annual harvest meeting, last year they do not have any data on population numbers, so they are basing their decisions on computer estimates. In the past, these estimates have not been accurate, so if this continues, they may put restrictions on aboriginal harvesters based on inaccurate data.

We have had some council turnover, so may need to pick some new names for the Board Working Group.

Barry Greenland commented when we have consultations on some of these things, there are only one or two. So the question is, do we go ahead with that? We need to find a different way of doing it. Think it can be frustrating. Need to find a different way of getting people involved and of contacting them. Maybe could use newsletters. Do you continue with only one person or do you cancel it? Have to find a different approach.

Don't know if you remember the Elders Traditional Knowledge workshop – with Elders and Youth sponsored by Gwich'in Tribal Council and Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute. Showed ways of cutting meat, skinning beaver and rat, the tools that came out of the moose, etc. It was interesting to see the different styles and techniques. Found it very useful. We are losing our traditions and values – we are losing our Elders – like Mary Kendi and PJ's parents are very old. Caroline Kay went on the land into her 90s. It is an ideal time to have a workshop with the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board. You are doing an excellent job. The information and work coming out of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, you are doing a lot of work. To put on such a workshop, we could do that this new fiscal year, because the Elders are going. Would like to see this workshop happening, because it is so interesting. Even different techniques of skinning a rabbit or a muskrat. Suggest the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board could take this on and talk to Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Industry Tourism & Investment and put on a workshop, maybe even with the Inuvialuit. Would help keep culture and tradition alive.

d. Ehditat Renewable Resources Council

Jeremy Mosher – Coordinator. Fanny Greenland went home early because she wasn't feeling well.

Likes working with the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, you are helpful and always there when we need you.

The big push in Aklavik is outfitting. Get a lot of questions from guys who took a guiding course a couple of years ago. You may have seen motions from the Renewable Resources Council and Regional Renewable Resources Council. There was a letter this year from people on the project. We get a lot of questions on this. Have told people that they also have to talk to Industry Tourism & Investment and Environment & Natural Resources.

Echo the comments on Traditional Knowledge. We should look at doing something as soon as possible. We have been losing a lot of the Elders. There is a wealth of information and stories.

Anything we get from Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, i.e. on the Wildlife Act, we need plain language, really simple language. Have a tough time getting councillors to read things to provide feedback. Councillors take a look at something, see a couple of big words, and then don't go further.

Might be interesting to do a mapping workshop re slumping, seeing where there have been mass kills, to see if the caribou are avoiding these areas. Something is changing the migration route. There are some stories out

there, lots of data re slumps, where people have reported the mass kills. See if we can see what is causing the route change. Know that Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board is loaded, but maybe if someone coming from South is interested in that.

Like the Harvest Study. Have had some issues with interviewers, but are keeping up on it. We would like to increase it, because it is hard to remember what happened 6 months ago, so suggest having them come in monthly to report to the coordinator, with the 6 month push to get the rest of the information. Councillors are asking us to track more information – rabbits, whitefish.

Would be nice to get Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board's help to tell Department of Fisheries & Oceans, Environment & Natural Resources and Gwich'in Tribal Council that we are important and they should show up at our meetings. We have no Environment & Natural Resources at this year, no Department of Fisheries & Oceans. Need the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board to help emphasize that the Renewable Resources Councils are important and help create policy.

e. General Discussion of Renewable Resources Council Issues

Charlie Snowshoe asked John Norbert about a complaint at Tsiigehtchic re Land Use Planning and someone building a house in that area. John Norbert explained the person's partner is allowed to build in the area, and they got permission from the Renewable Resources Council.

Charlie Snowshoe commented we had a meeting with the community with the Land & Water Board. Had a complaint re someone building a cabin in that area. That is the job of the Renewable Resources Council to try and watch what is happening. President of the Tribal Council at the time warned that if people who are not a member of the Land Claim Agreement are building on private land, they should be warned not to.

When we talk about caribou, we are talking blind. When we say the caribou are trying to migrate to a different area, people do not understand what we are talking about. The Dempster Highway is a lot of problems. We need a big map showing people where the caribou are trying to go. Whenever we are talking about caribou, there should be a big map showing where they want to migrate. The caribou like to have a good walking trail. Have seen where the caribou walk on the highway, seen them settle down for 3 days, they get tired out when the snow is deep. The people that are going up there should be charged for harassment. A few years ago, crawling through deep snow, caribou lost 15,000 calves. People need to be educated on that, re how the caribou are crossing the Dempster Highway. We haven't got too many elders left with the knowledge about caribou. Suggest to the Renewable Resources Councils that we get a meeting together to accomplish something, make people realize it not right to fool with the caribou on the Dempster Highway. People were not in that area before the Dempster Highway, now they go as soon as the caribou are there. Bring this to the attention of the Renewable Resources Council – want to see a big map.

People have to buy meat from the store when there are no caribou. People who have fish are lucky.

Eugene Pascal suggested taking a break now and continuing the discussion of what we have heard after the break.

BREAK

Amy Thompson has passed out notes she took during the discussion this morning.

Can start some discussion on some of these items.

Jozef Carnogursky commented that concerns have been raised with Porcupine Caribou Herd and people hunting. There are provisions in the new Wildlife Act that will allow local communities to have more control on what goes on up there. Right now, we do not have the legislation to do much with it.

Peter Kay commented when he was talking about closure, he was talking about a voluntary closure of 1-2 weeks. Don't think people would really miss that. Maybe after the first ones show, could close it for a couple of weeks, then it will give them a chance.

Charlie Snowshoe is talking about not only about education for the young people, but get some people together to get the message out to the people that are causing a problem on the Dempster Highway. If they let the first group cross, there will be thousands and thousands. We need to get hold of them now, before the caribou start migrating again. Suggest to the Renewable Resources Councils that we need to do something now, before the migration starts again. Don't know how long the Wildlife Act will really take. Talked to Stephen Charlie about it last fall, but he says he needs information from the Renewable Resources Councils to start doing something.

Jozef Carnogursky thinks that we can work more closely with Porcupine Caribou Management Board to get more information out there.

Joel Ingram asked if there are other ways to get the message out – we have heard that people do not show up to meetings. We have a harvester database for the Harvest Study. Could we send out a newsletter?

Barry Greenland if we take a different approach – everyone has a list of the harvesters in the community, so we could write them specific invites to come out to the meetings. Maybe Gina has some suggestions from McPherson.

Gina encounters the same problems, we almost need to put the Renewable Resources Council meetings on the radio so people can call in. Flyers don't work either, they just go in the garbage without being read. If you want people to come to a meeting, you need door prizes – lunch is not enough. The Board comes to a meeting and Renewable Resources Council has said you have to go on the radio. If they do not want to go on the radio, you can write reports and leave them at the Band Office and people will come in and read it.

Other groups that came into McPherson and gave information on the radio – people listened.

Kayla commented when doing the Peel River Watershed consultation, we talked about how to get the information out. Went into the school and asked students to tell their parents, also went on the radio, also said would come to your house, offered rides for people that needed them. We had the complex packed with people, with artwork on the walls and that would not have happened if we hadn't figured out how to do it. A poster does not help necessarily. If your 5 year old comes home and talks about it, the parents come and check out what it was about. Gave concrete examples to the kids about what would happen. Suggest going into the school to talk about what will happen if we don't take care of the caribou. Can tell the principal that we need 15

minutes with each grade, and that works. May not work the same for other communities, but that worked for us.

Charlie Snowshoe when the caribou are up in the Gorge, the hunters stop at Midway Lake, so suggest we lock that up when the caribou are migrating so they can't go in there. In Aklavik, they go crazy when the caribou go there as well, so they need education just like everyone else. They go way down to the coast, see caribou and bother it, when they come near Aklavik, they do the same, chase it away. Have been around for many years hunting, the last time that people walked on the summer trails up to the Mountain, after freeze-up got a message to come up there, then everyone had the chance to get caribou, because the old-timers knew to let the caribou pass. We have to do something.

Another question I have is does the Regional Renewable Resources Council have a coordinator like they had at one time? Are they still talking about it? Jeremy Mosher commented we are still talking about it. Getting after Gwich'in Tribal Council to get that position filled like it was in the past.

John Norbert was wondering if there was a resolution passed at the Regional meeting on that? Jeremy Mosher passed a resolution to set up a regional committee with members from each community to follow up on current and past resolutions. Especially to concentrate on GHAP and Regional Coordinator.

John Norbert commented re meetings, in Tsiigehtchic, have trouble getting quorum. These guys are elected to work for the people. Do not know, but these guys do not seem to have interest. After the election, they need to be trained to know their role as a Councillor. Don't think many of them have been trained or orientated.

Jeremy Mosher agreed we have the same issues. Trying to get governance training for our council, to help them understand the difference between Coordinator duties and Council duties. Suggest Gwich'in Tribal Council needs to give a hand on this.

Joel Ingram commented you mention the demonstrations – was that in one location? Barry Greenland explained that was in Johnny Kay Hall back in 1998. They brought in about 5 Elders from each community. Joel Ingram suggest it might be more attractive to bring people in to a demonstration than to a meeting, could try to use that.

Eugene Pascal under the new Wildlife Act, for a youth that is non-aboriginal, will have to take hunter training to get a hunting licence. All non-aboriginals who want a hunting licence in the future, will have to take a hunter training. If you are charged with anything, you would have to take that course to get a licence back. These aren't for aboriginal hunters, but we could consider something of that nature for our hunters. The knowledge of our Elders, like letting the leaders pass, should be getting told to the youth, so that in the future, they would understand. These are some concept that we should be concentrating on in the future.

Kayla re the Traditional Knowledge training, in Old Crow, every May long weekend, they have caribou days – all the kids in the school, all the people in the community leave their work and then are shown by the Elders how to handle the meat. In the fall, they have another step to show how to tan hides, etc. We could look for the tapes from 1998 and talk to people from over there – would be a good place to start.

Barry Greenland asked re the Wildlife Act, will the government go out to the communities and have meetings on the Wildlife Act? Eugene Pascal usually after 2nd reading, the standing committee will hold public consultations. Amy Thompson the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board has money in the next fiscal year, will be starting on regulation development and Government of the NWT will be working with Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board.

John Norbert there should be youth involvement in everything we do – all the meetings and workshops we go to. They will be the future leaders, so we have to start somewhere.

Charlie Snowshoe knows there is a good discussion, had a big meeting in Hay River concerning meetings. Talked about youth and young people. When we have a meeting, we are talking over them. We need to pay attention to them, involve them in the meeting. We need to meet with the young people and know what they want. It is their future we are talking about. They are talking about jobs – we have no jobs, no minerals, nothing. Met someone coming back from Sahtu, lots of people from here are working over there. The Chief sent 8 young people over there. Nobody ever approaches them to find out what they think. Know they support us on the Peel River Watershed, we have to get to them. We are doing research on the animals.

Janet Boxwell commented we are hearing interesting discussion re education and involving the youth to find out what they want. Sounds like it would be of interest to non-aboriginal as well as aboriginal, and potential topics for the curriculum at the schools. Could be almost like a youth parliament re biology, wildlife issues, geography, could engage the teachers to find out how this could be a curriculum component. Could involve the youth to explain the importance of participating in meetings. Would be interesting to go into the school – opening up these ideas with youth. They may then decide to be more involved at this type of a meeting as well. Sounds like there are some interesting possibilities.

Amy Thompson commented the last time the Board Forum met in Inuvik, they had youth make a presentation to the regulatory boards. They had strong words and strong ideas to present. They already have this group formed in the school. We already have a section of the meeting for the Renewable Resources Councils, it will not be much more work to invite students to participate in the meeting as well. If the Board is interested, we can work on it for the next agenda, then as part of the agenda process, in each community we hold the meeting in, we could send invitations to the schools to participate.

Eugene Pascal commented another item that was brought up was Otters and the concern about otters doing damage to muskrat and fish populations. Is there any work being done on that field?

Amy Thompson commented for otters, the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board has Lawrence Norbert hired to the end of March. There should be some correspondence from him to speak to people to identify where otters or other unusual species are being seen. Will put the information on the map as a first step. If any research is to be done, where the problem areas are would be an issue. Make sure that you keep in contact with him and communicate that request to the community, so he knows who to talk to.

Gina commented at their last meeting brought the letter forward from Lawrence Norbert. The Board said to forward him onto Arctic Borderlands Cooperative because they might have a lot of information, too. If Gwich'in

Renewable Resources Board is trying to do this, they may have problems getting information from people because they look for something in return.

Amy Thompson it is not intended to be a formal, hour long interview, more like the Harvest Study, where you spend 5 minutes and put marks on the maps. Would be door prizes for participation like the Harvest Study. If you don't think that will work, need to know. It is not a full Traditional Knowledge interview process.

Gina commented had 4 interviewers doing the study this year, and they had a problem getting some of the interviews because people want to be compensated and they wondered what are the odds of winning in a draw. These things need to be worked out. We tell people that get CHAP funding, they will be asked for information – sometimes that works, sometimes it do not.

Peter Kaye on the otter issue. We put up a trappers' training. Try to do it every year. Believe while we are on the subject of otters, we need to bring someone in to show us how to trap them and work with them because they are an animal around us winter and summer. I trap up the Peel about 100 miles up. When I go to trap, they are there. Even at 40 below, they are there. The rats are disappearing and that has something to do with it. We will have to bring people in to have lessons on trapping them because it is year round.

Gina this coming March, Environment & Natural Resources from Whitehorse is coming in to do a four day course on trapping. For people in McPherson to trap in the Yukon, they need a Yukon licence so they can sell their fur. On this course, he does snaring, trapping, skinning the animals, and on the 7th and 8th of March, Environment & Natural Resources is hosting a workshop for 2 days. Because young people do not know how to set snares and traps, skin animals, that is why the Renewable Resources Councils need to bring these people in to show them. We have another proposal for Industry Tourism & Investment to go into the school to give basic training re how to get ready to go out on the land with the youth. Trying to get these things going and will continue on in the next year.

Alan Firth asked what the technician from Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board is planning to do with the information. There are otters everywhere in the Delta. This issue was brought up a few years ago by Liz Hansen.

Kristen Callaghan commented that Kris Maier and Kristen Callaghan were chatting with Lawrence Norbert re this project. Will give the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board biologists some information re where they are now and where they were before. There was concern re different prey species and concerns about feeding on char. This information will help in the future. The otter latrines locations are helpful to figure out what species of fish they are eating, etc. This is intended to be a jumping off point, so we can tease out more information at the Board's direction.

Eugene Pascal another concern that was heard this morning – population of muskrats. There is a concern it is low. The Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board has expressed that concern, but are still working on what kind of questions to ask.

Barry Greenland asked what is the population count on muskrats? Johnny Charlie it is on the low side.

Eugene Pascal I go out at least once every spring, and if there are lots of muskrats, I go out again. Lately have only been going once, see more beavers than muskrats.

John Norbert early this fall, there were a few muskrat houses around the lakes. Always talk to George Niditchie and he said after the overflow came, there was so much snow, everything was covered.

Eugene Pascal around Aklavik, in the fall, we see lots of push-ups, but in the spring when it comes to trapping, a lot of them are frozen – some places all of them, some places, only one or two left. The changes in climate seem to be affecting them.

Charlie Snowshoe wonders how many lakes are drying out with the water being low?

Eugene Pascal noticed when flying back between Aklavik and Inuvik. There used to be one big lake, and it is now just grass, it has drained. There are chain lakes, so one affects another.

Charlie Snowshoe was told all those grassy and dry lakes are now nothing but willows. That is a big place, with willows all over, it is part of the problem.

Peter Kaye commented the big change he has noticed is when the ice moves, the lakes get flooded with water. It has been a big change. In the 60s to the 90s – people used to spend a month on the lakes.

Barry Greenland asked how many muskrats do people get a year now? Eugene Pascal commented it takes a lot of work to get a couple of hundred. Barry Greenland commented that is a big drop – people used to get a couple of thousand. Is there a study going into the big decrease.

Peter Kay commented in the last 20 years, there are less people going out trapping, so they are not being killed. If they were around, people would be out there a month in May and June.

John Norbert in Tsiigehtchic we have a big area up to Travaillant Lake and past, there are lots of good rat lakes, and nobody has been out there in the last 20 years, since Gabe was out there. There are lots of good fish lakes there, too. Young people now have no interest in going out. There is rats out there, but nobody knows how much is out there on the mainland.

Gina does not think youth have no interest, but they need to be taught how to go out and harvest these animals. They can't hunt muskrat if they don't know what to do, they have to be taught.

John Norbert we try as hard as we can as leaders to get youth out heavy equipment operating, but they wouldn't go. What is happening now in Tsiigehtchic, we have people from around Inuvik working for us and our own people are not working because they have no training. Think we need to start training girls and women. Once they see the girls and women working, they'll start smarting up.

Charlie Snowshoe one of our guys that lives on the land, was in McPherson a couple of years ago, when people asked him why, he said there is nothing to do on the land when there are no rats.

Cindy Allen commented on the youth. Can only speak from my own experience. My boy used to be up here with his Dad. He loves to go out there, and once he is out, he loves it, but he do not know where to go or how to do

it. But if you keep taking him out, he will do it. He would be out there the whole summer, if he was allowed. Education for the young people is really important. I'm still learning and I would love to learn more about the animals and the land up here. Think education is a good way to go because kids are like sponges. You have to teach them the right way. Stephen Charlie commented that the Elders know how to cut up an animal so there is no blood everywhere. Need to get Elders and youth interacting and out on the land together to help teach the future generations.

Janet Boxwell there is a researcher doing work on Porcupine Flats at Old Crow re muskrats. He is working with harvesters there on a mapping project and he has indicated he could stop here on his way back in March. Will get in contact with him re his schedule.

BREAK

Amy Thompson commented that the last day of the meeting was intended to give the Renewable Resources Councils, the Board and the public the opportunity to talk about things that are of interest, things that are working, concerns, etc. From the things that were said this morning, Amy Thompson put together her own notes of what was said.

Propose that she will take that information and give a status update in a discussion document similarly to what happened in the January 2012 meeting. If that is of interest to the Renewable Resources Councils, could have that out next week as well.

There were a number of similar themes. In the document, will include where staff are doing work or identify where there are gaps – areas we are not working on at the present, so we can share that information with other organizations so they can take the lead.

Think today went really well – good to hear the comments coming. Good to hear the Renewable Resources Councils acknowledging the work of the staff.

Eugene Pascal we will be responding to the things that were discussed this morning. Have talked about the top concerns. Know there are a lot of issues, but with the amount of staff and funding we have, the staff is doing a good job with what we are here for, what we do and how we respond to the communities. As Board and staff, we rely on the Renewable Resources Councils a lot and try to assist them as best we can. The Renewable Resources Councils are our eyes and ears in the region. We are very busy and cannot hear and see everything ourselves, so it is important to keep this dialogue and working relationship. We receive a lot of good information from the Renewable Resources Councils. Most of our work originates from the Renewable Resources Council concerns – it becomes research projects and management plans. Keep the concerns and ideas coming our way and we can all as Gwich'in work to make the region a better place for Wildlife and our people.

Barry Greenland commended the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board. Being involved in the Renewable Resources Council for the past couple of years, having the Board and Staff such as this, efficient, on time, professional with what you do in the community. With more people like you, the Renewable Resources Councils will be able to do more. It is good to have a good working relationship with the communities.

John Norbert agreed with Barry Greenland. Thanked the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board staff and Board for the work they are doing. Barry Greenland is right, we have to as Renewable Resources Council councillors, we have to give out more information and do more work. The Councillors have to get trained, that is where one lack is.

Asked where is the group trapping area right now? Amy Thompson from what I remember from the meeting last year, there was a working group struck that do not involve the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board. Jeremy Mosher commented out of the meeting this year, set up the working group and will be working on the group trapping area, but will need to know where for Tsiigehtchic.

John Norbert the way I am looking at it, it involves everybody, we cannot just draw a line, we have to all agree together. Jeremy Mosher but we need to have a starting point of where people want to use, then can get back and forth on it. It is kind of like the outfitting – you have to tell us where, when, how many, so that people can move forward. The group supports Tsiigehtchic moving forward, but Tsiigehtchic need to identify the area they would like, then can move forward.

Kristen Callaghan asked about the working group topics – will that be discussed this afternoon? Heard people say they weren't going to comment on a couple of topics that were already on the agenda. Eugene Pascal commented this morning was the open forum to bring up anything that have not been covered earlier in the meeting.

Eugene Pascal asked for feedback on how the forum went this morning? This is a new way of doing it, we have always just met with the Renewable Resources Councils individually rather than having discussions with all the Renewable Resources Councils and the public. Would you like to carry this on at least once a year?

Gina enjoyed it. Like to hear all the Renewable Resources Council concerns – it is good to know that we all have the same concerns and that we can work together. Think it should be continued.

Jozef Carnogursky thanked everyone for coming out. Good discussions give us directions on what we need to do. Thanked Joel Ingram – he will be missed at this Board. It is his last meeting, and want to thank him for the work over the last few years. Joel Ingram enjoyed his work in the last few years. This is his fifth year, his term expires in May, so this is his last face to face meeting.

John Norbert thanked Joel Ingram as well.

Charlie Snowshoe it is good to have meetings like this. Everyone has issues that are important to us. Would like to mention – when we first got into Renewable Resources Councils, Robert Alexie told us we were the people that will be taking care of everything in the Land Claim. We are the Renewable Resources Officers for the Gwich'in people. It seems like we are the ones with the power to work on that area. When they get together, we talk about different issues, but we have the problem of dealing with the government in every way. One of the biggest problems is the Peel River Watershed. At this meeting, like to speak out, don't like to talk about myself, but has been around for a long time. Remember things that has been talked about and like to bring things to your attention. Listening to Elders is the way you learn. Next meeting hope to hear every word – getting a new

hearing aide. Thank you for bearing with me as I try to hear what you are talking about. As we have more meetings together it will get better.

Eugene Pascal commented we want to hear all of your concerns, want to be sure that we are all thinking in the same direction, that we are all hearing the same things. If you have a question, do not be afraid to ask. We discuss things out, and then come out saying the same words at the end. Do not be afraid to ask questions and do not be afraid to slap our wrists once in a while – that is the way we will understand and learn as individuals.

29. Closing Prayer

Barry Greenland

Motion #2013:15

Motion to adjourn at 12:18 p.m.

Moved by: Joel Ingram

Minutes approved by Motion #13-29, September 20th, 2013.

Eugene Pascal, Acting Chair