



Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board

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Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board Meeting Mackenzie Hotel Conference Room February 27-28, 2008 Inuvik, NT

Board Members:

Robert Charlie, Chair
James Firth, GTC
Liz Hansen, ENR
Eugene Pascal, GTC
Dan Topolniski, DFO
Paul Latour, CWS
Robert Alexie Sr., GTC
Johnnie Charlie, ENR (Alt)
Joel Ingram, CWS (Alt)

Staff: Melody Nice Paul, Executive Director
Tanya Andre, Office Manager
Amy Thompson, Environmental Biologist
Nathan Millar, Fisheries Biologist
Kristine Callaghan, Wildlife Biologist
Brian Dokum, Technician

RRC:

Absent

Guests:

Ron Morrison, ENR
Mike Gravel, ENR
Marsha Branigan, ENR
Ed Debruyne, DFO
Larry Dow, DFO
Ruth Errington, (CFS)

Craig Dockrill, CWS
Karen Petkau, DU
Brenda Parlee, U of A
Kristine Wray, Graduate Student

Wednesday February 27, 2008

1. **Meeting Called to order:** 9:10am

Opening Prayer: by Liz Hansen

Chair Robert Charlie welcomes all to the GRRB Winter meeting.

2. **Discussion and Approval of the Agenda**

Motion 08-01 Accept the agenda as presented.

Moved by: James Firth
All in Favor: Carried

Seconded by: Robert Alexie Sr.

No additions to the agenda.

3. **Conflicts of Interest:** As it arises

4. **Discussion and Approval of Minutes**

Paul Latour requested a correction – the common night hawk is a new listing and peregrine falcon has been down listed from Endangered to Threatened under SARA.

Motion 08-02 Accept the meeting minutes from the October 4-5, 2007 GRRB Board Meeting.

Moved: James Firth
All in favor: Carried

Seconded: Dan Topolinski

Action Item # 01-08
Include Investment Policy in the GRRB Policy and Procedure Manual for the Fall Board meeting.

Action Item # 02-08
Include a Communications Policy in the GRRB Policy and Procedure Manual for the Fall Board meeting.

Action Item # 03-08
Seek a legal or professional opinion on Trade and Barter (commercial use).

Action Item # 04-08

Follow-up on the Land Claim Liaison position in Inuvik.

5. **Chair's Update**

Robert Charlie presented a report on his activities during the past five months. Since the fall Board meeting Robert has participated in the following: Ecosystem and Status Trends Report meeting, Board Forum, Caribou Summit meeting (Dene Nation), Caribou meeting hosted by Nihtat RRC and Inuvik HTC, Arctic Borderlands Ecological Co-op and day to day operations.

Robert's written update is included in the meeting binder.

Action Item # 05-08

Follow-up on scholarship with Kelly Hougen.

6. **Executive Director's Update**

Melody Nice-Paul presented her written update which was included in the meeting binder. Melody also presented a financial summary for both general operations and activities/projects undertaken by the Board for the current (2007-08) fiscal year.

Melody offered a brief report on staff turnover and reassignments. Since the fall Board meeting two staff members have resigned: the Communications Coordinator and Fisheries Biologist. The process for hiring a Communications Coordinator is now underway and the position is expected to be filled in April. Amy Thompson was offered the Fisheries Biologist position, which she accepted, leaving the Environmental Biologist position vacant. Since the fall Board meeting a casual biologist was hired to address wildlife management issues. (Catherine Lambert our Wildlife Biologist is on maternity leave until August 2008.)

7. **Staff Updates**

Tanya Andre, Office Manager

Tanya gave a written update. Tanya explained to the Board how she, under the direction of the ED, made numerous improvements to the Board's financial books and office procedures. Tanya expects that there will be little or no future problems with financial monitoring or book keeping.

Nathan Millar, Fisheries Biologist

Nathan gave an in-depth review of his work activities for the last few months. His Fall was very busy as he conducted and recorded information from the Travaillant Lake fish monitoring project. He also attended meetings and teleconference calls. Nathan continued to look after the website as the cost of hiring an outside agency to maintain and update it is very expensive.

Since the last Board meeting, Nathan also provided the ED with a summary of all the aquatic research activities undertaken or sponsored by the Board since 1995. Finally, Nathan provided in-kind support to Prof. Lesack, Simon Fraser University.

A copy of Nathan's report is included in the binder.

Break for Lunch at 11:45 to 1:00 pm

7. Staff Updates continued...

Amy Thompson, Environmental Biologist

Amy provided a brief update on her work activities. Amy has been busy attending meetings with Nathan as well as conducting interviews and researching Loche livers.

A copy of Amy's report is included in the binder.

Brian Dokum, Renewable Resource Technician

Brian took part in the Travaillant Lake fish monitoring project collecting fish samples and recording information. Brian also worked with Larry Dow to select and purchase equipment for the GRRB in addition to researching and ordering promotional items for the GRRB. Finally, Brian supervised the collection of information for the Fur-Bearer Monitoring project.

A copy of Brian's report is included in the binder.

8. Board Member Updates & Presentations

Dan Topolniski (DFO)

In early February Dan received a call from INAC advising him of his appointment to the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board. George Low was also identified as a DFO alternate member to the GRRB.

Re: Winnipeg Meeting - Dan expressed the importance of having the ED and Chair interact with senior federal officials and encourages this to continue.

There will be a Rat River Char meeting Mar 17-19 in Inuvik. This regional peer review would be a good chance to get science and TK included in the integrated Rat Char management plan.

Aboriginal Liaison officer - the message was delivered loud and clear by Robert Charlie that there is a vital need to address this vacancy.

Finally, Dan hopes a good relationship can be built with the Regional Director General.

Liz Hansen (ENR)

Liz continues to participate in a lot of meetings as President of Nihtat RRC. She continues to have a close relationship with ENR through the traditional arts certificate program. In her role as an RRC President she has had a lot of guests at RRCs meetings and thus receives updates from Land Use Planning projects, GRRB staff updates regarding fish, and wildlife. She also participated in Forest Products workshop where she talked about traditional medicine.

Liz would like to be kept updated on everything.

Robert Alexie (GTC)

Robert stated that he hardly attends meetings but does go to very important ones, such as RRC meetings in McPherson. He is keeping up to date on Peel Watershed. Robert stated that things are still up in the air regarding where things will go from here (Peel River). Robert continues to have a lot of questions regarding caribou and water sampling. Mostly he would like to know about the caribou and what's happening. Is there going to be a caribou meeting?

Ron Morrison – ENR has been successful in getting additional funding and ENR is planning to have a caribou meeting prior to year end.

Robert Alexie – It would be good to invite Gwich'in from Alaska to get information from there. Robert would like to include Gwich'in from other areas (YK, Alaska).

Action Item # 06-08

Send Joe Tetfichi an email and get him to advise if there is a meeting so we can possibly send someone from the Board as an observer.

James Firth (GTC)

James has not been participating in GRRB meetings for a few months but he is catching up from reports as well as participating in the Strategic Planning meeting. Concern was always getting information from RRCs and getting information out. He sees that is still a little problem, but there is a process for improving the situation. James acknowledged that the GRRB is going in the right direction. He will be talking to the Gwich'in Tribal Council to find out who the alternate member will be. In conclusion, James continues to see positive things happening with new and old members.

Eugene Pascal (GTC)

Eugene has received very positive feedback from the youth regarding GRRB visits to local schools. They enjoy seeing people from GRRB and Parks Canada. Eugene supports future visits and encourages staff to continue to work with partners to present activities like learning about fish. Eugene is impressed by the progress of the office and staff, and based on the reports, he sees positive things happening.

Paul Latour (EC/CWS)

Paul offered to provide a presentation on Incidental Take of Migratory Birds later in the day.

The situation regarding the budget freeze has not changed much since the fall and as a result CWS is still in a semi-freeze mode. Next year may return to pre-freeze levels.

CWS is still waiting for a response from Ottawa regarding Joel Ingram's Order in Council appointment. Joel will provide an office update later in the Agenda.

Johnny Charlie (ENR/AM)

Since he is an alternate to Liz he comes to meetings once a year to keep up. He also gets information from the GRRB newsletter.

Robert Charlie – Thank you for the member updates

9. RRC Updates

The GRRB received only one written report and it was from the Ehdiiitat Renewable Resource Council, Aklavik.

GRRB must continue to encourage the relationship with the RRCs to make sure that they have effective communications and participation in future meetings.

10. Local Agency Updates

Mary Ann Ross (GTC) - Absent

Ron Morrison (ENR)

ENR did not get the written report to the ED on time, so copies of the written report were passed out during the meeting. Ron commented on issues that Johnny Charlie and Robert Alexie pointed out earlier. Seems like we are starting to see some responses to climate change. Climate change will have a significant impact on staff work-loads.

Ron reported that there has been good compliance with the closed areas for the caribou. Communication beforehand seems to have worked on this project. With regards to community hunts and subsidizing meat, some communities are not supporting that kind of activity.

ENR helped McPherson and Tuktoyaktuk by funding a helicopter to look for caribou and ENR has been directed not to release satellite data. Ron asked the GRRB to provide direction on whether ENR should continue this practice.

The Minister has asked for an independent agency to review all caribou data. The Alberta Research Centre will be doing a peer review of all the data, analysis, and processing to come up with estimates. Contract has just started.

Warehouses on Veterans Way (Distributor) are being demolished so the GRRB will have to find another storage facility.

Yukon NWT Trans-boundary Water Agreement - In that Agreement all players (Federal government, Yukon Government, NWT, Gwich'in Tribal Council) meet to get updated every 2 years. Meeting will be in August some time in Fort McPherson – a suggestion was made to hold at Tloondih and coordinate with music festival dates. Fort McPherson will be coordinating logistics and the main issue will be the Peel River.

In the ISR, IBC 06 was re-designated to create IBC 07 & 08. GBC 02 (Cape Bathurst and Bluenose West) and IBC 07 are closed to all harvesting. IBC 08 has no restrictions. In IBC 06 the Inuvialuit requested that any caribou taken in that area require a tag. Distribution was 48% for Inuvialuit, 48% Sahtu, 3% for Gwich'in. This decision was based on harvest data. Tag requirements apply to the ISR and only in IBC-06.

The recommendation was made for GBC 02 to be closed for Barren Ground Caribou hunting.

BREAK

Mike Gravel (ENR-Forestry)

Mike handed out a written report.

The Forestry Management Plan Working Group (Steering Committee) includes Mike Gravel, (ENR), Jozef Carnogursky (GTC) and Amy Thompson (GRRB).

Mike hopes to have a document for approval by the next Board meeting.

Mike will be visiting the RRCs to discuss fire management and values at risk such as cabins and other structures that communities would want to have protected. ENR has been fighting fewer fires because of limited resources, therefore we need to identify what areas are of prime importance to the communities.

Joel Ingram (EC/CWS)

Staff Update - Erin Marshall has accepted a position in Whitehorse – the position is now vacant. Not clear if it will be re-staffed. Kevin McCormack announced his retirement.

Last meeting and this meeting CWS has been dealing with a reduced budget and therefore limited capacity to attend meetings. Membership appointment to this Board is still outstanding. Hopefully CWS/GRRB will receive a response before the next meeting.

Currently, CWS office is working on program planning for next fiscal year. Actual budget allocations have not been finalized. There are some indications that CWS will continue to operate under reduced funding, therefore by knowing ahead of time we can plan accordingly. Program plans have not been finalized but a report can be provided for the next meeting. The local office is focused on wrapping up Mackenzie Gas Pipeline projects. CWS office is actively involved in the Protected Areas Strategy. JRP will be coming out with their report soon and CWS will be involved in preparing a government response on that. Next fiscal year will be the last year of Mackenzie Gas Project directed funding, therefore we need to determine future capacity of Inuvik office.

Ed Debruyne and Larry Dow (DFO)

Ed Debruyne – Opened by thanking the Board for the opportunity to attend. Ed referred to a September 7th breakfast meeting. In Inuvik, which included the Regional Director General, Melody Nice-Paul, Robert Charlie and Ed. At that meeting both Melody Nice-Paul and Bob Lamb emphasized that it was vital for DFO to work effectively with the Boards. Ed stated that it is possible to work effectively and that he thought DFO & GRRB were off to a good start. Ed also stated that he was only here with DFO until April 2nd then he would be passing the work on to Andrea Cyr, who will back in June.

Ed thought that there was a ball dropped with Bill C-32 and not just in the Gwich'in area. Ed believes that there was more work that could have been done. Alex Li has committed to come up to Inuvik to meet with the Board to speak to Bill C-32.

Ed sees that while it may have been effective to have an Aboriginal Liaison person in the Inuvik area, it left DFO exposed for how they would deal with these issues in other areas. After discussing this with Andrea, it was decided to change the internal structure and as a result the District Manager North and District Manager South will be given the authority to deal with local Land Claims Agreements. They will be the first point of contact. The Area Directors office will have a Liaison Officer who works with industry in addition to policy and program coordination, while also maintaining an Aboriginal Liaison role. DFO will also be looking for an Aboriginal Consultation Specialist. That person's responsibility will be to become the effective engager on how DFO undertakes consultation. Ed stated that DFO is seeing consultation going on all the time to the point that it seems like that is all DFO is doing. This piece-meal work is creating consultation fatigue (people all arriving separately in communities and there is no coordination). DFO is trying to build a new structure to make sure it can do a better job consulting with aboriginal communities as well as the GRRB.

Trans-boundary issues (discussed at the February meeting in Winnipeg) The most vivid issue for the Gwich'in community is Dolly Varden Char. The population is declining for some reason. DFO is supportive of building a trans-boundary management plan which would include the Inuvialuit and Sahtu. DFO can play a role in brokering trans-boundary trust to build an acceptable management plan for the stock. This will take some trust on the part of the Gwich'in, Sahtu and Inuvialuit to achieve that too. There are some very good things about what is going on with the caribou for the shared resource and DFO would like to see the same thing happen with fisheries resources.

As a follow-up to the Winnipeg meeting, it was recognized that it would be useful for the GRRB to have annual meetings with senior level staff. There is

implementation funding for these types of meetings and there may also be money from the oil and gas fund.

Ed also supports a collaborative working relationship that may include sharing costs to build capacity. DFO is interested in mentoring and succession planning in order to address high turnover rate. These are the types of things that DFO has been encouraging managers to think of in order to increase capacity. DFO has to do a better job working with co-managers.

Larry Dow

The Gwich'in are invited to attend the Oceans Program meeting on March 11-13 in Inuvik. This is a Beaufort Sea Partnership meeting.

Re: Staffing - On April 1st Kevin Bill will fill Erin's position. Kevin has worked for Fisheries Joint Management Committee for a number of years. Jonathon Michele will be doing Kevin's old duties. DFO office is hoping to hire casual technicians this summer to work in the field.

Documentation for Rat River Fish Hole closure has been done and Larry will follow-up to see how that is going.

The Inuvik District office has provided the following contributions to the GRRB: \$5,000 for calendar, \$16,500 for the technician position, \$10,000 for website development.

The Rat River was flown and GIS information was collected and put into a program. DFO will have other habitat work done next summer (Vittrekwa, Rat River or another river).

Re: Capacity Building – DFO invites GRRB to contact them with a list of equipment which the GRRB may need purchased.

Re: Storage – DFO offered to rent a sea-can and put it on DFO property for GRRB storage use. The Board would only need to purchase a lock.

Paul Latour (EC/CWS)

Paul delivered a power point presentation on the 'New Approach to Managing the Incidental Take of Migratory Birds'. The goal of this presentation was to define the issues, outline the newly proposed regulation, identify timelines and finally determine the level of GRRB involvement in the process.

Meeting adjourned at 4:55 pm to reconvene at 9:00 am.

Thursday February 28, 2008

Call to Order and Recognition of Quorum at 9:10 am.

Today's agenda will include a number of presentations on research projects and Wildlife Studies Fund applications. Discussions regarding allocations will be held In Camera.

11. Wildlife Study Fund Presentations & Continuing Projects Updates

Modeling of Migratory Patterns – Melanie Ross (DFO)

Nathan Millar presented as Melanie Ross could not attend this meeting. Nathan Millar & Brian Dokum have been providing in-kind support to this project.

Travaillant Lake Fish Assessment – Kimberly Howland, Nathan Millar, Less Harris, Brian Dokum and Simon Wiley (DFO & GRRB)

Nathan Millar made the presentation on behalf of DFO. Proposal is now requesting support for the 5th and final year of study.

Rat River Char Monitoring (DFO)

Nathan Millar presented for Lois Harwood and Kim Howland.

Swimming Performance and Water Velocity Habitat Selection – Zoya Pawlychyn (DFO)

Zoya found research funding to undertake the project in 07/08. She was able to hire local people from Tsiigehtchic and was able to do work at the mouth of the Arctic Red River. Zoya was not present to provide a presentation.

Loche Liver Study – Amy Thompson (GRRB)

Amy Thompson delivered a power point presentation on her research activities.

Forest Bird Surveys - Establishing Baseline Density & Diversity of Forest Birds in the GSA – Craig Dockrill (CWS)

Craig presented his application based on a letter submitted to CWS regarding concerns from Gwich'in elders on songbirds and forest birds.

Breeding Ecology of Lesser Scaup (bluebills) and White Winged Scoters (black ducks-njaa) - Karen Petkau (DU)

Karen Petkau presented for Stuart Slattery of Ducks Unlimited Canada.

Stuart is attending a Scaup Action Team meeting this week in Louisiana. Karen Petkau delivered a power point presentation on past research outcomes and discussed the current application.

Barren Ground Caribou Monitoring – Marsha Branigan (ENR)

Marsha Branigan did not give a power presentation (she presented it on the 27th).

Marsha gave an oral presentation on her application and put all Barren Ground work into one proposal. It is massive, and at this point ENR does not have funding for all the work listed. The key item is that in 2005/06 ENR used VHF collars and needed to use flying time to locate collars, this is very expensive. Marsha is also looking into purchasing satellite imagery at the time of the photo-census for to comparison with the photo-census.

Re: Funding- There are multiple sources (ENR, Inuvialuit Implementation, Parks Canada, Sahtu and Conoco Phillips) for satellite collars and data. ENR is also looking at the International Polar Year for funding. Applications for collaring have been sent to RRCs and separate applications for other work will be sent later. Work will not go ahead before application approval is confirmed.

During Sahtu RRC hearings, ENR was asked to do modeling for Bluenose West caribou herd. ENR has been in contact with Craig Nickelson and John Belanger (worked on the Bathurst Caribou) but the problem is ENR does not have the same data set for Bluenose West as the Porcupine Caribou. ENR could look at what different scenarios would mean to the population. Marsha would like direction on how to do it. Perhaps the information could come from the communities. Marsha also wanted input from the GRRB.

Porcupine Caribou Composition – Dorothy Cooley (YT)

Dorothy Cooley was not available to provide a presentation regarding her application so Marsha Branigan spoke to the project.

BREAK for lunch at 11:52 am to 1:00 pm.

Recognition of quorum 1:09 p.m.
Presentations continued.

Analysis of Recent Historical and Future Vegetation Changes along the Mackenzie Valley: Baseline data collection – Ruth Errington (CFS)

Gave an update on past work and reviewed proposed work. Ruth delivered a power point presentation on her research activities. She was not requesting funding.

Assessing Changes in Terrestrial Ecosystems due to Recent Climatic Changes and Human Impacts in the Mackenzie Valley Region – Ruth Errington (CFS)

Ruth Errington gave an update on past work and reviewed proposed work. Ruth delivered a power point presentation on her research activities. She was not requesting funding.

Research Survey Draft results - Brenda Parlee & Kristine Wray (U of A)

Brenda and Kristine delivered a power point presentation on their research survey regarding caribou hunting. The final report will be available once they have finished going through interviews and recently gathered information.

Robert Charlie – Richardson Mountain Project application funding request for \$17,000. This is an ongoing project and the research activities are similar to 2007-08.

Robert Charlie - Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op – is requesting \$10,000 for the user communities in the Porcupine Caribou range. This is an ongoing project that provides good information on hunter and trapper observations such as wildlife sightings, weather, fall freeze up, spring break-up, fish, berries, etc.

That concludes the research updates and WSF application presentations.

Motion 08-03 To go in camera at 2:30 p.m.

Moved by: Dan Topolinski Seconded by: Robert Alexie
All in Favor: Carried

BREAK

In Camera Session

Next Meeting Date & Location

Adjournment at 5:30 pm

DRAFT