

Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board
February 25 to 27, 2009
Mackenzie Hotel Conference Room, Inuvik, NT

Attendance:

Board Members: Joel Ingram, Liz Hansen, Dan Topolniski, James Firth, Eugene Pascal, Robert Alexie, Robert Charlie, Johnnie P. Charlie (alternate)

Staff: Amy Thompson, Kristen Callaghan, Cheryl Greenland

Observers:

Jerome Gordon	Ehdiitat RRC
Anna May MacLeod	Tsiigehtchic Gwichya RRC
Eileen M. Koe	Tetlit Gwich'in RRC
Georgina Neyando	Tetlit Gwich'in RRC
John Norbert	Tsiigehtchic Gwichya RRC
Steve Sandstrom	Researcher
Georgie Blake	Tetlit Gwich'in RRC
Abe Wilson	Tetlit Gwich'in RRC
Peter J Kaye	Tetlit Gwich'in RRC
Wanda Pascal	Tetlit Gwich'in RRC
Neil Firth	Nihtat RRC
James Edwards	Ehdiitat RRC
John Carmichael	Ehdiitat RRC
Danny Greenland	Ehdiitat RRC
Jozef Carnogursky	Gwich'in Tribal Council
Allen Firth	Nihtat RRC
Angela Horbatch	Gwich'in Tribal Council
Ron Morrison	ENR
Marsha Branigan	ENR
Cal Wenghofer	DFO
Jonathon Michel	DFO
Wade Norman	DFO
Norman Snowshoe	GNWT
Eva Patton	Arctic Net
Neil Mochnacz	DFO
Louie Porta	FJMC
Ruth Errington	CFS/NRCan
Catherine Lambert Koizumi	Researcher
Herbert Blake	Chief, Inuvik Native Band
Dorothy Cooley	Yukon Government

Minutes: Mary Beckett

Call to Order

Robert Charlie called the meeting to order at 9:00

Robert Alexie said an opening prayer.

Robert Charlie welcomed everyone to the meeting. Today will be mainly updates from Board staff and members. Following will be updates for programs. End of Friday will be an in camera session for Board members.

Thank you to Kristen Callaghan and Amy Thompson for putting together the meeting information.

Introductions – everyone around the room introduced themselves.

Robert Charlie commented that most of the discussion items will relate to the Board members around the table. RRC members and alternates also attend this meeting.

Discussion & Approval of Agenda

Sue Mackenzie will not be able to make it to this meeting, so that item will be deleted.

Motion #01:02/09

To approve the agenda with the amendment suggested.

Moved by: James Firth
All in favour: CARRIED.

Seconded by: Robert Alexie

Conflict of Interest

If there are any conflicts can be declared now or as the item arises.

None declared.

Discussion & Approval of Minutes – September 2008

Minutes were approved in principle at a teleconference.

Motion #02:02/09

To approve the minutes of September 11 & 12, 2008, as presented.

Moved by: Dan Topolniski
All in favour: CARRIED.

Seconded by: Joel Ingram

Discussion

Action item to check on appointment status for GRRB – Tab R gives a list of Board members and their terms. 2010 will be the year a lot of appointments are due. Process will start soon for various appointing bodies to start putting names forward so when the positions come due will have members in place.

Barry Greenland had submitted his resignation after joining the JRP, but INAC has not updated their listing as of yet.

Item 2 – Melody as Executive Director was going to provide binders for members – that was done.

Item 3 – Use traditional names for fish – was done.

Motion #03:02/09

To approve the minutes of the November 10, 2008, teleconference as presented.

Moved by: Eugene Pascal
All in favour: CARRIED.

Seconded by: James Firth

Dan Topolniski commented on the workshop in Winnipeg. Should be careful to emphasize that this was a DFO pre COSEWIC workshop – and not a COSEWIC process which is independent of government.

Robert Charlie will amend the minutes with that change.

Teleconference was held to follow up on items that required action between Board meetings.

Motion in the Teleconference minutes to approve the plan should have been motion to approve the plan in principle – if Eugene Pascal and Robert Alexie agree, Robert Charlie will make that change to the motion in the minutes of the teleconference.

Business Arising:

Liz Hansen asked about item on page 6 of the minutes “anyone accessing the Gwich’in Tribal Council lands... should be addressed now” would like to know what means. *Should read contact Gwich’in Tribal Council/RRCs rather than “us”. The process is that people should be contacting Gwich’in Tribal Council for permission along with the RRC. Can follow up on this item – to find out process. There was supposed to be specific routes established.*

Liz Hansen asked about the Forest Management Plan (page 9) – wondering if you have started monitoring Gwich’in lands. *Amy Thompson replied the plan has not been officially approved, but has been used as a guide. There has been consultation with ENR re issuing of load tickets for harvesting on Gwich’in lands by the RRCs to monitor wood cutting.*

Liz Hansen asked for clarification re Grizzly Management Agreement (page 10) – says the plan is getting dated. *The plan was for a period of five years, but due to staffing issues was not reviewed. It is time to start the process now to update the plan and move it forward with the concerns that are being heard in the communities. Need to do the work re a management plan including a population survey.*

Liz Hansen asked re New Business (page 15) ENR was to find funding for the Blue Nose Herd – did they find funding? *ENR has contributed funds to a working group to begin a management plan. There is an advisory committee as well.*

Liz Hansen re the Fisheries Act (page 13) Did the Fisheries Act die on the table? *Dan Topolniski commented that it had. He reported that the staff at DFO have informed him there is no indication of when the Fisheries Act renewal will be attempted again. With political issues at the present, this is not something being looked at right now.*

Liz Hansen asked for clarification re the comment “...Tagging will be replaced with netting...” *This may refer to the population assessment re Rat Charr – there was a concern re tagging the fish so they said they would try setting a net to confine the fish and count them that way.*

Liz Hansen – What about the check station on Scrapper Hill (page 17 1/3 way up from the bottom) who can we expect the report from for the RRCs? *Will have to action that again – Amy Thompson will check with George Lennie on the work done at Scrapper Hill. Think those stations are mainly for water flow and quantity. Concern was we need to check contaminant levels and turbidity as well. With upcoming problems coming down river from the mines – need to know what is being done. So we can follow up without wasting time and duplicating work already done.*

Liz Hansen asked about Outward Bound (page 20) and accessing money. *They are a group from the East have been working with IRC. Gwich'in Tribal Council was going to approach them to set up something on the Three Rivers (Peel). Think there were some youth that travelled down the Snake River last year, but don't know if Outward Bound was involved. They are a group that funds those types of activities, giving skills to youth such as leadership, outdoor skills.*

Neil Firth asked who is the new director for DFO? *Dan Topolniski replied that the Area Director in Yellowknife is Mike Hecimovich.*

It was noted that some names were spelled incorrectly in the minutes – to be corrected.

Chair's Update

Robert Charlie made an oral report. Has been a very busy time. With resignation of the Executive Director has made more of a work load for staff.

Following Board meeting in September in McPherson, had a quick teleconference re DFO research priorities. DFO had not talked to RRCs re their priorities prior to setting their list. Agreed to try and come up with a list of priorities with the RRCs that will reflect community concerns. Don't know if the office ever followed up to DFO with a letter stating their priorities should follow community concerns.

Have a pot of money re Pipeline. Have accessed some of that money. Know that the Dolly Varden, Rat River Charr are a priority – also Inconnu, Broad Whitefish in the Mackenzie River. We do a lot of research re the wildlife, but don't always look at habitat. Have to look at that in future. We did get some money to do a gap

analysis of research done since the Board was formed – hired Ken Weagle to do the gap analysis. He was here last week. Will be coming up with a report.

Dan Topolniski and Robert Charlie attended Pre COSEWIC meeting in Winnipeg – 3 days – mainly on Rat Charr. Dan Topolniski will talk about the meeting in his report. There were a lot of presentations – not really interactive.

The other process is Integrated Fisheries Management Plan for Dolly Varden. Pre-COSEWIC is longer plan. Integrated Fisheries Management Plan is a two year plan. Dan Topolniski will speak to that later in his report.

November 12, was a kick off meeting of the Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management. Turned out to be Advisory Committee for the Blue Nose Caribou Herd. In the 90's a management plan was developed, but was not acted on because we were in a good situation. Are now bringing the plan up to date with new information. Inuvialuit, Gwich'in, Sahtu, and Nunavut Wildlife Board, also We'ekeesi RRB (established under Tlicho), trying to involve the Deh Cho group from Simpson. Would like to involve all the groups that harvest Blue Nose Caribou – to develop a management plan for the Blue Nose Herd.

Was invited to a FJMC meeting – Inuvialuit joint management board. Was invited to observe and give comments re Pre COSEWIC. Starting to develop joint ties with other groups who work on the same populations.

Board Forum – was mainly the Land & Water Boards initially, now includes the Renewable Resource Boards. Was hosted by WMAC and GRRB. Meets two times per year. Have only been involved for past two years, but Board Forum has existed for 8-10 years. Some issues include – Min. Stral had appointed McCrank to write a report on the regulatory regime in the NWT. Developed a position on that. His function was to streamline the process, but don't know what the status of his work is at the present.

December 2 – a lot of you were at the Consultation Workshop. Nicole Thomas and Bob Gross developed some Rules and Procedures from that re Public Hearings.

Have revived regular staff meetings. January 9 minutes are included in the package. Also held meetings Jan 30, Feb 20. Have been meeting regularly to address items from the Board meetings and staff concerns.

January 20 – Blue Nose Management Plan – developed the Terms Of Reference for the management plan. Hired Kevin McCormack (used to sit on the GRRB), ran the CWS office, now retired. Will be forming a working group – Advisory Committee is Board Chairs. Kristen Callaghan will be sitting on that working group from the GRRB.

January 15/16 – During the last session of the GNWT, they committed to doing a review of the Wildlife Act. They formed a Wildlife Aboriginal Advisory group. Norm Snowshoe was sitting on that. Min. Miltenberger has committed funding to help the process along. Would like to complete it by the end of this Assembly. The Board Chairs, legal counsel at the table – trying to involve all the groups, but some have decided not to participate so far – Akaitcho, Deh Cho. Wildlife Act does not reflect current realities such as Land Claim Agreements. In the past Aboriginal people managed wild life, Wild Life Act was originally done without any consultation. The way aboriginal people operated in the past will now be incorporated.

January 19-22 – was invited to a FJMC meeting in Winnipeg. To bridge ties with those groups. Attended the meeting to observe and listen to their research allocation process. They have the same process as ours. There is a lot of trans-boundary species – such as Rat Charr – they are trying to work together with us for a plan for management – there is a lot of harvesting done on the North Slope, will be doing some research to find out how much of that is Rat Charr.

Past week was a meeting in Yellowknife re Wildlife Act. Had all co-management boards present what their responsibilities are. Next meeting will be here in Inuvik in April.

Has been busy. Because we don't have an Executive Director at this time, I am attending a lot of these meetings, but with more staff on board, will get them to attend. Know that in the past, we have said will have to get Board members more involved in some of these activities rather than always having the Chair attending all the meetings.

Questions & Discussion

Liz Hansen asked what is Robert Charlie's schedule like for the next while? *Rat River Working Group March 10, Blue Nose Caribou Herd meeting is in Yellowknife April, Wildlife Act Inuvik in April. Between meetings I am at the office quite a bit to keep up with what the Executive Director would normally handle.*

Liz Hansen commented we have an acting Executive Director, is she travelling as well? *Amy Thompson is very busy with projects relating to her position as Fisheries biologist, so she does not have time for travel. Will speak about staffing in camera.*

Liz Hansen suggested that RRCs would like to be more involved in meetings re management plans and reviews of the Acts, etc. *Robert Charlie commented that the GRRB is the main body for wildlife management – meetings are often at a high level with Board Chairs only. Can bring forward concerns at meetings. Will follow up with Linda and Susan re getting observers from the RRCs.*

Neil Firth asked what happened to the information from the consultation meeting for the Wildlife Act. *As we go through the different sections, will be using that information. Jozef Carnogursky, Norm Snowshoe is now working for the government and will have all that knowledge.*

Dan Topolniski complimented Robert Charlie, Amy Thompson and Kristen Callaghan for the work done putting together the meeting.

Robert Charlie commented that Cheryl Greenland has been hired as Office Manager. She will be in the meeting tomorrow and Friday. Other positions have been advertised – have received resumes and done some interviews. Will be discussing the Executive Director position in camera.

BREAK

Executive Update

Amy Thompson reviewed the update in the meeting package. Angela Horbatch attended the meeting today to review the financial information (Tab D).

Angela Horbatch reviewed the Variance Report – although some expenses were substantially over budget, these were offset by a surplus created by a staff shortage over the year.

Budget for 2009/2010 – Angela has prepared a budget for what she feels will be the actual costs to run the GRRB which leaves a shortfall of \$48,140 – suggested that the GRRB submit a request for additional funding as the current allocations do not allow for operational costs in Inuvik with full staff.

Amy Thompson commented that Kristen Callaghan has taken on responding to one of the letters to roll over funds for consultations. One of the meetings was not feasible with the short staff situation. INAC said they would consider this. In reviewing this year's budget, noted that the Renewable Resource Manager position was not included in the budget with INAC, but the position is important to the operation of the GRRB.

Kristen Callaghan commented that the budget also does not account for having a technician on staff – would be needed if we want to work on projects.

Amy Thompson distributed a copy of INAC Implementation Workplan – due March 1. Intent is to have the letter strongly worded that we need the extra money to operate.

Dan Topolniski suggested that as well as making an effort to secure additional funding, should also have a plan B if this funding request is not approved.

Allan Firth asked if trainee positions were included in the budget. *In the past have received funding from other organizations such as DFO or Gwich'in Tribal Council for these positions.*

Eugene Pascal asked about the rent increase. *The amounts listed in the budget are based on invoices received and include occupancy charges for utilities, etc. Paul Tehoe has suggested that GRRB ask Inuvik Commercial Properties if they can provide statements backing up the invoices. GRRB is tied into a lease and since ICP owns a lot of the commercial space in Inuvik, it is difficult to find competing rates.*

Liz Hansen suggested the GRRB invite Paul Tehoe to a meeting.

Amy Thompson thanked Angela Horbatch – since she came to the GRRB there were a lot of improvements in office systems, organization, financials, etc. Since she started her new position, she has made herself available evenings and weekends to do payroll and office manager orientation. She also prepared an office manager's manual.

Wildlife Studies Fund (Tab D)

Robert Charlie reported on his meeting with Jeff Anselmo of the RBC group. The one year return up to the end of January was a loss of 0.71%. Current balance \$2,377,000 – still maintaining the \$2,030,000 principle. The mix has changed – selling off stocks to give us a cash position to allow us to purchase bonds to get a higher return

than we have been getting. In a good position with government bonds. We are now receiving twice the rate than what is on the market now. The challenge will be to try and invest money as it matures to get a good return on bonds we buy. This year we have about \$80,000 that we will use to fund Wildlife studies.

Questions & Discussion

Liz Hansen asked who looks after this fund? *RBC Investments, Phil and Jeff Anselmo manage the portfolio. That group also manages some of the money for Gwich'in Tribal Council.*

Liz Hansen asked about the maturity dates for the bonds we hold? *Information is included in tab D, on the projected income statement from RBC.*

Insurance

Amy Thompson reported that group coverage on disability and health benefits packages lapsed due to staff turnover and not maintaining the minimum number of employees within the plan. Will be following up to reinstate this coverage and possibly will consider joining with other organizations such as the Land Use Planning Board to get a better deal with a larger number of staff covered.

Equipment insurance – we need to look into coverage for locations other than the office, we have equipment stored at other locations. Have included an email re the conditions for our office contents.

Liz Hansen asked about writing off older equipment, possibly not insuring it any longer. *We write off things with depreciation, but it doesn't affect insurance, Depreciation shows on the financial statements.*

Staff Updates

Amy Thompson – Acting Executive Director / Fisheries Biologist

A report was provided in the meeting package covering both of the positions. Amy Thompson reviewed the highlights in the report.

Tab T includes a couple of courses that the Board might be interested in – Board Development and Financial Management. Have been contacted recently re meeting re Demographics and Hunter Harvest Models – first day will be technical, second day will be re Board involvement. There may be a possibility for Board members to attend – depending on money for travel.

Questions & Discussion:

Liz Hansen asked which schools was Amy in contact with (under Communications). Amy Thompson reported she had talked to the Inuvik Biology teacher and was working with BDEC to make a schedule to reduce the amount of time it takes to contact each of the schools.

Liz Hansen suggested contacting ECE re text development. John Stuart and Steve Daniels – Science and Social Studies people. *The person that Amy Thompson was in contact with had mentioned Steve Daniels.*

Liz Hansen asked how far south do Loche go? *They have had reports at Fort Good Hope, but haven't heard of them further south.*

Kristen Callaghan – GRRB Biologist

Kristen Callaghan reviewed the report provided in the meeting package.

Questions & Discussion

Liz Hansen asked where the We'ekeesi RRB is from. *From Yellowknife, out of the Tlicho Land Claim Agreement. Have been working with them re how the Gwich'in Harvest Study was done, so they can design their own.*

Jerome Gordon asked who was following up on the bones found in the mountains. *This is not a responsibility of our Board to follow it up. Have made a report to RCMP and Gwich'in Tribal Council. Possibly they should be reminded. If community members know of a family member that has gone missing, they should follow up with the RCMP. GSCI was interested in sending an archaeologist, but the issue is funding.*

Johnny Charlie asked if they found out how old the bones were? Were there clothes or anything? *There were just bones, which implies it is quite an old site.*

Jozef Carnogursky asked if the Board has a procedure that they follow if they come upon remains. *That is something that comes from the Gwich'in Tribal Council office. That was the reason we contacted the Gwich'in Tribal Council office within a day or so of the find.*

Robert Charlie thanked Kristen Callaghan for her report and all the hard work she is doing.

Julie Ann Andre – Fisheries Research Assistant

Julie Ann Andre prepared a written report which was read out by Amy Thompson.

Angela Horbatch – Office Manager

Angela Horbatch provided a written report which was read out by Amy Thompson

Nicole Lights Thomas – Renewable Resource Manager

Nicole Thomas provided a written report which was read out by Amy Thompson.

Questions & Discussion for above written reports

Liz Hansen commented there are lots of to do items. *Staff has been spread fairly thin – once we have full staff will be better able to address action items.*

LUNCH BREAK – 11:40 to 1:05 p.m.

Introductions of people that have joined the meeting.

Member Updates

Joel Ingram (CWS)

Have been attending the meetings for the last couple of years. This is my first official meeting as an appointed member – an alternate for Paul Latour. It has been agreed that will be in regular attendance since Joel Ingram works out of Inuvik. Paul was unable to attend this meeting.

Dan Topolniski (DFO)

Always emphasize that was appointed and recommended by DFO, but am not currently working for DFO. My job is to foster good relations between the Board and the Department.

Since the last full meeting, had a DFO Pre-COSEWIC meeting which attended with Robert, also attended conference call on Integrated Management Plan on Dolly Varden, also attended Consultations Workshop. Trying to keep up on 3 things – Fisheries Act renewal, research plans and priorities. Important thing that Robert Charlie did was meeting with Bob Lamb, most Sr. person for Central and Arctic last year. Bob Lamb is very influential and supportive of co-management and finding opportunities to work with the Board. Am watching how we are doing with that. Last year we were lucky – got a good amount of money for research projects almost \$100K. Fisheries Act renewal – my understanding is not only did it stop, there is no prospect of it in the short term. Will watch and bring the information back to the Board to ensure concerns are addressed. Fan of Management plans. Have been keen to see how the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan – troubled that I'm hearing that some of the Gwich'in process and concerns may not be fully addressed with the management plan. With science and research- we heard from Larry Dowe that DFO would be trying to get a position in Inuvik dedicated to Gwich'in needs for next year. This would help the Gwich'in and DFO work together. At the fall meeting, was troubled when saw the DFO Priorities for Fisheries – real concern was to get a message back to DFO that the Gwich'in process and perspective has to be reflected and the Priorities have to reflect Gwich'in views. With the local office, it's not as much of an issue, but a bigger issue with National programs.

Re the Pre-COSEWIC Science meeting November 5. Under the DFO structure, they have a requirement for any COSEWIC assessment (not just with Dolly Varden), they are required to compile, synthesize and peer review everything they hold as a department. The meeting in November brought together everything they have done over the years – reports were tabled. Was very scientific content at times. GRRB co-managed projects for the river was very impressive and provided the most information for populations that were considered. Pleased that Steve Sandstrom is here – had made notes on his presentation for the GRRB, RRWG. Looking forward to hearing about your work and its implications for the GRRB and the fishery. Talked about the population estimate for 2007. The new information allowed for a more positive view, although the trends for environmental factors particularly habitat were very troubling. Conclusion I reached is that the management plan is very important and working on it is the best way for the Gwich'in to get their input for the future of the Rat River fishery. The COSEWIC process is long and will not have as much input for the Gwich'in. The COSEWIC report is due for 2010. The recommendation for listing through SARA would be in 2012. The opportunity for the management plan is to get ahead of the COSEWIC, SARA process, to get our input into the plan. Have to think of ways to make the plan work for us, otherwise will be at the mercy of the COSEWIC and Minister to make decisions for us.

Elizabeth Hansen

Have been involved in a lot of activities that are RRC related. Keep up with activities in the GSA. Assist verbally in the management plans. Nihtat RRC council refuses plans that do not include monitors. Nice to see new recruits in the RRC – commend them for their interest.

Concern re fish habitats. Lois Harwood mentioned a few years ago that some fish habitats were drying up. Have not heard anything further about this. With global warming, contaminants from the Athabasca River, lower water levels.

Our staffing shortfalls are causing stress on the rest of the staff. Don't want to cause burn outs.

Johnny Charlie

Like to thank the GRRB for inviting me to this meeting, to keep me more informed.

Robert Alexie

Fish habitats – was out on the land a few days ago. Think about landslides, wonder if anything was done on the Rat River. There have been less fish the last few years, like caribou, they know. See a lot of landslides in the Yukon, wonder if the big changes affect fish. Different chemicals in mud – sulphur and iron – wonder if any research has been done on slides. On the Rat River, what goes on in Fish Creek – wonder if there is anything that can be done. There is hardly any water in the spawning area – do they look in the head waters.

Climate change – was up there many moons ago. Take different routes through the mountains. A big change of that area of landslides – made me wonder if I was in a different area. Slide both sides of the river. Not just there, a lot of places. Wonder if can be done – water sampling and that to find out what is coming down the rivers.

James Firth

Good to see all the RRCs here. Will get a good update on what is happening in the communities. There was a motion passed in Aklavik re wildlife monitors. Will need from the RRCs who the environmental monitors are. The Wildlife Act – will have to understand that and put our input into it.

Eugene Pascal

Went to a few meetings in Aklavik re Dall Sheep, Rat River Charr, Regional RRC. Have to deal with concerns brought up there – concerns re Dall Sheep drop in population estimates, recommendation to look at the Grizzly Bear again a lot more incentive to harvest wolves and other predators. Those are the issues along with the ones already brought up.

Questions & Discussion re Board Member Updates:

Robert Charlie commented that he and Dan Topolniski have been work closely with DFO re fisheries issues. Habitat – have been looking at river system, taking pictures to see changes. If people observe things on the land, they should let us know. It does affect water quality, quantity. Need to go to the next step and do an analysis of the river system – will have to follow up and see who we can work with on water quality, see if there are chemicals, metals or other contaminants in the system. Mackenzie River system – lots of talk about the impact

of the tar sands – water is not our things, but it affects the fish we work with. Understand there will be a water conference held in Inuvik in the next while.

Climate change – really important all the stories you hear from people out on the land. Have to keep track of that activity.

A lot of the items you have raised, the Board is working on, will have to look at research applications and then make decisions during the in camera re directions the Board will take.

RRC Updates

Ehdiitat RRC

Jerome Gordon reviewed the report provided in Tab G.

Re Environmental Monitors – we have a list of 24 people trained in the community. Don't know why people don't use this.

Robert Charlie commented the Regional RRC did pass a motion that anyone doing activity within the GSA must ensure they have environmental and wildlife monitors. Gwich'in Tribal Council is aware of it. They would be the ones that hold the list of people trained as environmental monitors. Wanda McDonald may have that list as well for business use.

Kristen Callaghan asked for clarification whether or not the RRCs are seeking certified environmental monitors or community monitors. Also skill differences may exist between industry and research. There would be differences in salary. *Robert Charlie commented his understanding was that any activity whether it is business or research would have a monitor.* There is a difference in qualification requirements between certified monitors or community monitors.

Norm Snowshoe suggested that a letter be written to whoever is in charge of the monitors to clarify the issue rather than just discussing it in a meeting.

Eugene Pascal suggested it might be easier for researchers coming in if a standard set of rates were developed for wildlife/environmental monitors.

Robert Charlie commented it is not the responsibility of GRRB, but would work with whoever is responsible to come up with a policy. GRRB abides by Gwich'in Tribal Council policies on monitors at the present time.

Liz Hansen suggested we send a letter not only to Gwich'in Tribal Council, but also to Tlicho, to see if we can have a standardized policy so that our monitors can be trained to work in other areas.

Tetlit RRC

Wanda Pascal reviewed the written report provided in Tab G.

One of the things that always comes up in RRC meetings is monitors. When construction is being done, there have been complaints, but nothing is being done about it.

Robert Charlie commented that the GRRB will be working on it in conjunction with Gwich'in Tribal Council – they would be the ones taking the lead on it. Suggest the RRCs work with Gwich'in Tribal Council to come up with a policy on monitors.

James Firth suggested we need a motion from the RRCs to the Gwich'in Development Corporation – so we know what the qualifications and cost will be. If the environmental/wildlife monitor is one person. Can hire individuals or deal with the RRCs if they have a business arm – need the information right away so can include the cost in negotiations with the government.

Gwichya RRC

Anna May MacLeod reviewed the written report.

Gwichya RRC has a list of monitors. Will be having a meeting with Gwich'in Tribal Council.

John Norbert added comments to the report. Want to bring out a few things that happened in the past. Have the Land Claim Agreement and the RRC manual – we all know that we have an RRC office in every community. We are there to protect the land and manage it. Noticed last year, there were people going out who were not registered going out to collect logs – we know areas that have been cut already, can direct people to better places to cut. Have to work harder to manage our lands – even trapping areas, it's not hard to ask permission to do that.

If you know a certain place where cutting has been overdone – how would you stop that and get them to move to another place? *Amy Thompson answered if it is on Crown Lands, the RRC can send a letter to ENR saying they don't want permits issued in a certain area. In the Gwich'in Private lands, timber load permits are issued by the RRCs themselves now.*

Robert Charlie commented the Forest Management Plan directs how we manage the resources in the GSA and it is almost ready to be approved now.

Nihtat RRC

Neil Firth provided a written report which was reviewed by Liz Hansen.

This weekend, we are holding a workshop to restructure because with new funding and new people on council, want to go through and build the council. Realize that if the pipeline goes through, will need a strong council that understands the technology. Think as outgoing president, would like list of meetings that members could travel to as observers, hands on learning is very important. One of the questions that comes to my mind re the decline of the Charr, seems to happen at the same time as the increase in population of beavers, you see dams in the mountains, it must be affecting water.

Enjoyed our time in Aklavik, was a very productive RRC meeting – the first time we ran our own show. Did not need any assistance.

Robert Charlie commented that Amy Thompson was asked to attend the meeting and go through the minutes of the Regional RRC. The management plans are supposed to be living documents – will try to do that. Grizzly

Management Plan was a concern we will deal with. The motion on monitors was to the Gwich'in Tribal Council. Have invited Nihtat and Gwichya RRCs to the Peel River and Rat River Working Group meetings. Other issues raised were Dall Sheep management plan and Peel River Watershed Plan. Will be following up on the meeting.

PJ Kaye commented there will be another meeting in McPherson April 23 on the Peel River Watershed Land Use Plan. Just got the information five days ago – wanted to let the communities know so they can plan to attend.

Robert Alexie commented the Peel River is a big concern for Aklavik and the whole Delta. The HTC's should also be invited, because that way will have a strong representation – a lot of the water goes into the Mackenzie and affects Tuktoyaktuk. My thinking is, we should invite our neighbours as this is a big concern for future. Any meetings re water on the Mackenzie, they should be invited, too, because they are affected as well.

Amy Thompson mentioned that she was contacted by CPAWS – gave a questionnaire on the Peel River Watershed that is at the back of the room. Anyone can complete this.

Robert Charlie commented the Peel River Watershed are public meetings, anyone that is interested or concerned can attend the meeting. This covers the Peel River in the Yukon up to the Border.

Joel Ingram suggested that it could be a regular agenda item to list all the meetings that are upcoming so that the Board can assign who will participate. Robert Charlie agreed this was a good idea.

Liz Hansen asked if we can do something through David Krutko re funding for water issues – want to do training, be proactive rather than reacting to situations. With what is happening in Alberta, because it is trans-boundary agreement, it was said that the Peel River Watershed plan is non-binding. *Robert Charlie suggested that political organizations bring that to the government because we don't have jurisdiction for water in the GRRB. Water is where the fish live, what about the habitat concerns? Think that GRRB has to be pretty concerned about the connection – you hear about deformed fish coming out of the Athabasca.*

Kristen Callaghan commented re the Nihtat report – wonder if Neil prepared the report after the RRC meeting. All RRCs have now received their tags – Inuvik would have gotten there at the end of January.

BREAK

Local Agency Updates

GC – CWS

Joel Ingram reviewed a PowerPoint presentation.

Jim Hinds has retired. Kevin McCormack Manager of Northern Section also retired last year. Jessica Baubier left in December for Dublin, Ireland. Sarah Mackenzie left and is now working with NWT Water Board. Craig Dockerhill is leaving for Falkland Island. Quite short staffed in Inuvik and Yellowknife – will be going through staffing those positions over the next six months.

Questions & Discussion:

Liz Hansen asked what size of collar you are using? How heavy are they? *Some are leg bands, some are plastic collars that go around the neck. Collars are only used on geese, not used on ducks. Collars allow you to get information from the collars when they are sighted – there is a colour on it and lettering to tell where and when the goose was banded.*

Liz Hansen asked if harvest limits would not only affect aboriginal people? *It is all across North America – part of the hunting season bag limits.*

John Norbert commented that we are seeing less and less song birds in the spring. Don't know if it is all over or just around Arctic Red River. *That was brought up before, that was one of the reasons the survey was done last year. Can go back in a few years to compare the results and see changes.*

Norm Snowshoe asked re the Black Duck population, what numbers are you looking at before putting more limits on them? *There are already bag limits in Southern Canada and US. Don't know what level would be required before limits are set in the GSA. If it is ever listed, takes forever to get off that list. Definitely better to be proactive. The population is still in the millions, but there has been a population decline, seems to be specific to certain areas. Have not had to deal with the issue of a population re restricting harvest in the Land Claim areas.*

Liz Hansen asked how long are these staging areas used? *In the spring, they stop to feed or wait for the ice to melt as they move to breeding grounds. In fall they stop to feed where there is abundant food such as in the prairies where they feed on "waste" grain.*

Government of Canada – Department of Fisheries & Oceans

Cal Wenghofer made an oral presentation.

Acting for Larry Dowe who is on holiday. He will be back in a couple of weeks.

Won't go into updates on projects that will be covered later in the meeting.

Re office – have been fairly stable. Trying to get a biologist position to help with stock assessment, need to find the resources to do that. Colin Gallagher will be helping out while staff member is on leave.

Writing team met last week, early draft expected in March or April. Consultations will follow. More detailed update will follow.

Rat River Charr – will be funding charr monitoring again. Rat River Working Group meeting March 10. Report on 2007 season will be available. Report on infectious pancreatitis virus will be available.

Work on the Vittrekwa, Lake Trout in Airport Lake, Sittigi Lake – dependent on funds available.

Gwich'in have been involved in Integrated Ocean Management Plan for Beaufort Sea. Plan has been sent out for comments. Will be a meeting at the end of March to look at final version of the plan – hope to get it accepted. Have sent a letter to the Gwich'in to attend the meeting as an observer. That process, once we have the plan in

place, through the summer and into next year, will be starting to look at workplans, strategies and actions from the plan. Once we get to that planning stage, will be coming to all participants for input.

Hope to be able to gazette the regulations re the Marine Protected Area – has been a long process. Located in the beluga management zone 1a – Shallow Bay – section there, Pelly, Kittigazuit. Input into that process is always appreciated.

Right now Fisheries & Oceans, IRC, Game Council and FJMC are looking at establishing another Marine Protected Area in the Coast area – working with communities to see where that area would be. Would be second area in the Western Arctic.

Had written to the Gwich'in asking for a representative on the TK Working Group set up for the Integrated Ocean Management Planning process. They are inputting how TK should be used. Key objectives for TK. Met with Gwich'in in Aklavik and Inuvik and there was good discussion re joint priorities and objectives that need to be in the plan. If you do have a member, it would be good. The TK Working Group will likely meet shortly after the RCC meeting in March or April.

Working on Oceans Day at Shingle Point.

Heard a number of discussions this morning. If there are things you want DFO to focus on, a letter from the Gwich'in would be appreciated.

Questions & Discussion

Liz Hansen asked if you are considering the sovereignty issue when dealing with the Marine Protected Areas? *Does not come up to much in the Marine Protected Areas re their location, does come up in the Integrated Oceans Management Plan, does come up also in the Beaufort Sea Action Plan – was mentioned recently.*

Liz Hansen suggested for the representative on the working group, Annie B. Gordon would be good. Think a TK person has to be a land-user familiar with the area. She is a Gwich'in elder from the area. *That is the approach that the Inuvialuit take as well. Would be appropriate to have a member from Aklavik and Inuvik.*

Dan Topolniski commented the idea of a biologist in the Inuvik office gives a face to activities that otherwise tends to be absent. Hope that there is some careful consideration from DFO, because if we aren't careful, things don't work out well between Gwich'in and DFO – especially if there isn't a face that people can trust to work on fishery matters. It's really important to the relationship. *Hoped to come here with that news. Have to take it to Bob Lamb. Think he realizes the importance with what will be happening here over the next few years.*

Norm Snowshoe asked about the observer status on the Management Plan – why do the Gwich'in have an observer status when the resource goes through the GSA and comes back? *Within the Gwich'in there is that feeling. Initially when it was started, it was an Ocean Management Plan and scope was the Beaufort Sea. With stocks migrating, that is key. If a letter was written to the Regional Coordinating Committee, then the question would have to be dealt with. National Energy Board is also asking for membership.*

Wade Norman made an oral presentation. He is from the Conservation Protection side of DFO.

Issues from last year: Re the Rat River, there is a voluntary closure, were out twice – during the patrol there were ten nets set – one by Husky Channel. One individual was there and had caught a charr, so there is some fishing there. Another time there were 8 nets. Majority were being set out in front of Aklavik.

Re Airport Lake – there is quite a bit of sport pressure. There were quite a few out fishing the Lake Trout in the fall when they are getting ready to spawn.

Received complaints re fish wastage at Tsiigehtchic – left on the shoreline. Got complaint after it happened, so could not see anything.

This year looking for areas of concern, to try and build these into our workplan. Want to focus efforts where there is a concern – such as Airport Lake where there is a lot of sport pressure, Rat River.

Talked to Amy Thompson about it – don't need answers today – if the GRRB has ideas, pass it on through Amy Thompson so we can look at it.

Wade Norman showed PowerPoint slides on School Presentations – done with Amy Thompson as a DFO/GRRB initiative. Did dissections of fish with the kids. Was good for presenting ecology information, conservation ideas, recognition of staff. Hope to increase the scope of the program this year. Want to change the presentations so that every year the kids get something new. Want to get educational licences to include on the land, possibly overnight trips into the Delta. Will help with logistics in getting fish for the program – last year used about 100 fish which were donated to dog teams afterwards.

If you have any ideas, please bring them forward re educational programs or conservation patrols.

Dan Topolniski asked about the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan, update we have is Terry is completing the drafting of the section in the plan to be done by February 27. Normally the compliance and enforcement activities would follow a harvesting plan and harvesting strategy. How is it being done before the other activities take place? *Think he is looking for ideas to develop a plan.* The actual write up says the compliance plan will be completed by February. Don't think that is the sequence you want. *Not involved in that, so don't want to speak out of turn.*

Amy Thompson commented from the writing group level. Think Terry had already drafted it quite a while ago, the information he was writing on was more relating to the NWT Fisheries regulations and not on the future outcomes of the plan, but on things that are already in place.

Dan Topolniski commented it is important that we don't get too far ahead with compliance plans before decisions re restrictions are made.

Wade Norman stated what we are trying to do is bringing it to a more formal process, so that issues are brought forward. Cal Wenghofer commented there was a meeting last week, think it is enforcement re what is in place today and not re what may come up in the future.

Johnny Charlie asked if you come up with nets with ID tags? Or without? *We find both. We try to leave notes for people to get ID tags. Hard to get compliance, some people don't want to put tags on their nets.*

Robert Charlie thanked Wade and Cal for the presentation. Rather than focusing on enforcement, education is key, not just with little kids, but also the big ones – possibly signage out at Airport Lake may help. The work you are doing in the schools is really good.

Wade Norman commented education is the key.

Georgie Blake commented sometimes guys say they don't have time to go to the RRC office for a tag because they are on the land, so have suggested they put a piece of wood with their initials so we can identify the nets, since that is the purpose of the tags.

BREAK

Government of NWT – Environment & Natural Resources

Ron Morrison – There is a hand out in the binder (Tab H)

Staffing is pretty good, have vacancies Sachs and Ulukhaktok. Do have a vacancy coming up because Mike Gravel has accepted a position in Hay River and will be leaving April 1. He has spent a lot of time in the region, and will be missed by ENR and the Gwich'in. Will be with ENR in Hay River, Forest Resource Division. He is out of town right now, or he would have been at this meeting.

Ron Morrison reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the challenges and opportunities for ENR over the coming year.

Questions & Discussion

Liz Hansen asked about resident moose hunting that is to be closed in the ISR? What area is that? *There are a couple of areas open – the east shore of the east branch – no resident hunting in the Delta, must be on the mainland. Goes back to the mid-80s when they were putting some of the moose management zones, they wanted islands put aside for harvesting, with the Delta that is the whole area, those restrictions have just stayed.*

Ron Morrison commented that it is necessary for the Renewable Resource Officers to enforce legislation and be out there. Sometimes you get chastised for being there because of land claim rights. Guys were up on the highway and stopped some hunters and were chastised. Second time, found a skidoo in the bush along with some caribou left there. They left it and went to Eagle Plains, on the way back, saw the caribou were still there and so picked them up and brought the caribou into town to do the hunter(s) a favour. Again they were chastised for doing it. Ron Morrison passed out pictures of what was found by the Renewable Resource Officers.

Robert Alexie said he had heard about it. Can't understand, there are some people that listen, some don't. Same as the RCMP have a job to do, and they are doing it, you are doing your job. Young people don't pay attention. Last year, a lot of caribou went past Arctic Circle and went past. There was about a ¼ inch of ice in Dall River.

There are caribou live in there. I didn't see anything. My nephew shot a caribou, you could see the rips on their legs. There wasn't any cow or bull caribous where we went.

Ron Morrison commented that looking at the caribou collar information, there are a lot in Alaska, only one or two in the Hart River.

Robert Alexie – A lot of people think there are caribou at Caribou Mountain, but where else. It's really poor, we have to think about down the road.

Monitoring and Research Programs

Marsha Branigan reviewed a PowerPoint presentation.

Questions & Discussion:

Robert Alexie commented there might be a couple of guys going back to that area. If they get caribou, what do you study? *There are kits available from the RRC. What we are asking for the lower jaw – for age, one lower leg bone with the skin still attached – for body condition, looking for fat and parasites, back fat measurement, filter papers to suck up blood. Takes a bit of time for the hunter to collect. Talking about doing an intensive collection process for some animals – weigh everything, etc. They did about 15 animals in Old Crow. Was thinking about taking one from up there. Then you can take a sample and take a full picture.*

Marsha Branigan commented that Grizzly Bear poop samples should be submitted frozen in plastic. Hair samples do not have to be frozen and should be folded into a piece of paper or in an envelope.

Ron Morrison commented there is a payment of \$100 for a wolf carcass plus you also get money for the furs. There is fairly good money involved depending on what you get for the fur. Encourage people to go out and get carcasses for the study. Are looking at diet analysis, the number of young they are having. \$75 per carcass is offered for wolverines.

Questions & Discussion

Liz Hansen asked when you are using the satellite collars, what kind of information do you get back? Do you know what caribou it is? *Satellite collar gives a location +/- a kilometre. The GPS collar is +/- 5 meters. When we go out to find the collars, each one has a unique frequency. If the collar falls off, it changes its frequency so we know it is a stationary collar.*

Liz Hansen commented one of the things we have difficulty with is getting aboriginal students to take degrees. Do you have a record of how many students you have helped? *If our department is involved, we won't get involved unless there is a management issue involved. Right now there have been 3 grad students involved in the Grizzly Bear research, some in the Polar Bear, some in Porcupine Caribou. Generally they bring funding and work we wouldn't get without them. Generally we require copies of the data they collect.*

Ron Morrison commented re water and water management. Towards the end of January, had a meeting in Fort McPherson. A few years ago the Mackenzie River Basin Board was created to create trans-boundary water agreements. What they were asking for was something more formal re Alberta re the effluents and discharges – what the reporter and the person interviewed was looking for was something more enforceable. Had the bilateral meeting with Government of Canada, GNWT, Yukon Government, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Inuvialuit Game Council. Will leave a copy of the binder which includes the trans-boundary water agreement, GNWT activity report re what we have done to date. Contains information re GNWT and Yukon Government activities. In the water agreement, there are several different objectives and actions to take to ensure water quality and quantity. Purpose of meeting was to establish what everyone is doing to meet those objectives. Will provide a copy of the final report when it is ready.

Marsha Branigan was recently was appointed to the Porcupine Caribou Management Board, being new to the Board, seems like not everyone is totally happy with knowing what is going on. See myself as representing the Gwich'in and Inuvialuit, was considering faxing out the agenda of the meeting to RRCs beforehand, don't know if people think that is a good idea. Seems like we need to figure out a better way to keep communication flowing. Is this a concern for the Board?

Robert Charlie replied there are a lot of concerns for the Porcupine Caribou, so the more information you can get to the communities and vice versa is better. Suggest working with the Gwich'in representative to get information out.

Meeting adjourned for the day at 4:30 p.m.

Will reconvene at 9:00 a.m. tomorrow.

February 26, 2009

Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Robert Charlie.

Introductions. Will continue with the agenda left from yesterday.

Gwich'in Tribal Council

Jozef Carnogursky gave an update from Lands, Resources & Implementation.

Norm Snowshoe has left the Gwich'in Tribal Council – we wish him well.

Working on Dall Sheep Plan, Forest Management Plan, Wild Life Act amendments, Porcupine Caribou Management Plan comments. Has been a good experience working with GRRB staff. Gwich'in Tribal Council is committed to working closely with co-management partners.

Regional RRC meeting in January – there were some resolutions passed that the Gwich'in Tribal Council would like the GRRB to be aware of.

- Grizzly Bear Management Agreement – Bear tags – (Jozef Carnogursky read out the motion text)
- Forest Management Plan (Jozef Carnogursky read out the motion text)
- Management Plans (Jozef Carnogursky read out the motion text)

Dempster Highway regulations continue to be a concern. Yukon Government is not enforcing these, so GNWT is not enforcing either. Motor vehicle regulations make it really unfair – a person checking nets with an ATV, or a person using a motorized vehicle to haul things can be charged. Participants of land claims agreements can be charged, but GNWT contracts businesses to use motorized vehicles off the Dempster Highway. Consider that discrimination.

Another concern we had – looked over the Agenda and there is not a place from the Gwich'in Tribal Council perspective for participants to voice concerns. Hopefully that can be included in the future.

Robert Charlie thanked Jozef Carnogursky for the presentation.

Questions & Discussion

Liz Hansen wondered if GRRB has a process in place for taking an issue such as ATV use. *Robert Charlie replied in 1995, there was a big concern re hunting and hunting practices on the Dempster Highway. At that time, the GRRB took the lead and worked with partner agencies to come up with some recommendations from the communities that were put into place on a voluntary basis. Land Claim Agreement was settled in 1992, but the Porcupine Caribou Management Act came into existence in 1988 – takes precedence. In 2003, workshop held by Gwich'in Tribal Council and RRCs which reaffirmed the earlier recommendations. Working with Gwich'in Tribal Council will come up with a position after the Board meeting. Although the GRRB has jurisdiction over wildlife, the Porcupine Caribou Management Act takes precedent, we will work with Jozef Carnogursky to review the recommendations. Over the last couple of years, those recommendations have been voluntary. There are still concerns re hunter safety, grizzly bears and use of ATVs. Dempster Highway is not the only corridor, Porcupine River, by Aklavik is also a corridor – should not concentrate on one only.*

Jozef Carnogursky commented the regulations are not specifically re ATV's, it's anything with a motor. We are of the opinion regulations like this should be Territory wide and not just on small strip.

Robert Alexie commented that it is not just ATVs, have also seen trucks off the highway. The company that works at James Creek, you see trucks way up at the North side of the Border. If we allow that, will have trucks all over. Need restrictions on going off the road. We are there for the future – if we don't say anything, it will happen.

John Norbert asked who enforces these laws? Know we have had a couple of incidents in Tsiigehtchic where someone went to cut logs with a four wheeler, same guy took a snow cat to a lake somewhere. Don't know if anything happened. As long as you are a beneficiary people think you can do anything on the land, doesn't look like it is working. *Robert Charlie replied there are procedures for people to access the land, there are permits for wood cutting. Using motorized vehicles is access so Lands Department would be involved. Gwich'in Tribal Council needs to be sure that community members are aware of the rules they need to follow.*

Jozef Carnogursky commented these regulations also have economic impacts. People are quick to enforce re hunting, but wording in the regulations would require GNWT to enforce on their own people as well.

Robert Charlie commented we have copies of the Regional RRC resolutions. The Grizzly Bear Management Plan will be under review, the way it was set up in the past was to prevent overharvesting in specific areas. In Aklavik one time there was a high harvest. Will be reviewing that plan and doing consultations with the communities.

Eileen Koe asked when you talk about Grizzly Bear Management, how much does the Yukon Government come over and check on their side? There have been some very close calls. They should be monitoring Grizzly Bears. They are getting closer to the communities. Around 8 Miles have been seeing more Grizzly and Black bears. Want to see something happen, the bears are starting to chase people. *Robert Charlie replied we are aware of that issue. Will be in contact with Yukon Government to have a presence and ask them what their action plan is for that area.*

Wild Life Act

Robert Charlie gave a status update.

January 15 – kick off meeting to bring the interest groups together. Wildlife Advisory Group formed last government – Inuvialuit Game Council, Gwich'in Tribal Council, Sahtu Secretariat, South Slave Métis, North Slave Métis, plus GNWT did the review at the last session of government. Reviewed the existing material. Will use the same process as with Species At Risk Act. Most of the same people are involved. Hired a contractor to write a draft based on discussions that have taken place. Have 1000 days to complete the Wild Life Act.

Meeting last weekend was to hear presentations from all Land Claim groups and Métis to hear their perspectives, harvesting and management rights. GNWT what role they play. Treaty rights, Land Claim Rights. Legal counsel gave perspective on Wild Life management – did a thesis on how we got to where we are. There is a lot of work to be done to reflect Land Claim Agreements, Aboriginal rights, harvesting rights.

Next meeting April 21. There will be more to come on that. At some point, there will be consultation with the communities re a draft.

Questions & Discussion

Kristen Callaghan asked for minutes from those meetings.

Species At Risk

Joel Ingram reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on two proposed listings of birds under the Species at Risk Act. Short Eared Owl and Olive Sided Flycatcher.

Environment Canada is looking for a letter from the Board indicating support or non-support.

Questions & Discussion

Dan Topolniski asked about COSEWIC – trying to get better understanding, they have a process on the website to involve management boards in the status assessment process. Was anything done to consult with the Board in the status assessment? There are a number of steps outlined. How did COSEWIC interact with GRRB for these two projects? *Kristen Callaghan commented we received a letter re Short Eared Owl asking for comment. Reviewed a status report and gave comments to Robert Charlie and Melody Nice-Paul. Cannot speak to other species. Robert Charlie will have to follow up with that.*

Dan Topolniski commented there is one species that I am interested in with fish. Have to be vigilant with COSEWIC and the work they do. *Joel Ingram stated he was not aware in this instance. Have seen draft reports circulated.*

Robert Charlie commented will put that as an action item to follow up if there was notification.

Liz Hansen asked if a bird is put in the listing and recorded as threatened, what regulations are put in place? Does it go to the States or South America? *Only applicable to Canada. There is the Migratory Bird Convention Act where we work across jurisdictions. Not aware of their status in the US. Can check. Restrictions are re taking individuals as in migratory bird act. There are traditional harvesting rights. For the threatened species there is a need to put in habitat protection.*

John Norbert commented that from the elders long ago, every animal in the NWT goes up and down at some time. Ptarmigans were low, same with rabbits. *Wildlife and bird populations have cycles. Some of these have long term losses over 30-40 years and there has been habitat loss.*

Liz Hansen commented our elders always used to talk about how numerous they were.

Robert Charlie suggested having discussion in camera re support based on Dan Topolniski's comments. Even though the GRRB has jurisdiction for wildlife including birds. Have to discuss process with COSEWIC, and we also have a duty to consult. If we do decide to list it, we'll draft up those letters, but may have to follow up with some of the concerns that have been raised.

Liz Hansen commented there are so many Acts and so many different groups with different responsibilities – wonder if someone could compile them all and show who does what. That way people can have a better understanding. *Robert Charlie commented we can get that and share with RRCs. Joel Ingram commented there might already be a good summary somewhere. Ron Morrison suggested checking with NRTP program because they teach that.*

Consultation Rules & Public Hearing Rules

Amy Thompson gave a status update.

Had a workshop in early December. Out of the meeting Robert Gross was hired and worked with Nicole Lights to draft documents re Public Hearings Rules & Procedures along with Consultation Rules & Procedures. Have been posted on the website. Comment deadline was February 15. Have not had time to collate the comments yet due to staff restrictions – need direction from the Board if staff should do this or if will hire a contractor. Have not

had comments from RRCs yet. Recommend extending the deadline. Board will have to decide on the process of which comments to include and how you will move forward with that.

Funding from INAC was to be spent by March 31. Have verbal indication that we can defer the revenue, but need to send a letter. Kristen Callaghan has drafted the letter and is waiting for backup invoice for funds spent before sending letter out.

There were a lot of comments re timelines – passed out a draft prepared by Robert Gross to illustrate the timelines.

Liz Hansen asked about the contract with Mr. Gross, was it for the beginning to end? *Kristen Callaghan replied that funding to support the process has a limited amount of time. We can use the funds in the coming year, provided they agree to it.*

Robert Charlie commented the GRRB will continue to follow up with this. Will discuss in camera how to continue.

Dan Topolniski commented that Ron Morrison from ENR stated they would be commenting. RRC comments would be really important. DFO is also important – re management plans – consultation will be important if there is limitations for harvesting. Hope there will be some response. Would encourage everyone to do that.

Amy Thompson reminded everyone these documents are still available for download on the website.

BREAK

Management Plans and Updates

Amy Thompson – Integrated Fisheries Management Plan

In the binders there is an update from Ron Allen, along with information about the Writing Group from Amy Thompson.

Amy Thompson reviewed the information provided in the reports.

Questions & Discussion

Liz Hansen asked do you have guiding principles for writing this? Is the facilitator on contract or has a full time job? *Ron Allen is a contractor.*

Liz Hansen wondered with the DFO Fisheries Act dying on the table, does that take away some of your intent? *Dan Topolniski replied that The Fisheries Act that is in place is the one that has been in place for a long time. Proposals for Fisheries Act renewal were to move to the kind of structures that exist here. Biggest changes would have been on the East coast if they decided to move to a co-management style.*

Eugene Pascal asked how the FJMC worked on this? *They have structured some Table Of Contents based on the National Guidelines. There were some guiding principles for each section.*

Louis Porta commented there are no harvest plans for the other stocks. Started with the Federal guidelines, but they are geared towards large scale commercial fisheries – do not apply to aboriginal subsistence. FJMC tried to do that a year ago – take out things that don't make sense, leave things that need to be there. Thought we should look at plans that were written in a similar context. This plan is hoping to at least be a good portion of a recovery strategy – if COSEWIC does a listing, the integrated management plan would be a process for stock recovery. From the FJMC perspective, the process has been very disorganized – there's a steering committee, and working groups – in this process, communications have not been well established – slows down progress. FJMC has made promises to West Side Working Group and DFO Winnipeg re timelines. Think a realistic timeline from people doing the work would be helpful. Not each person's organization has made the same priority for them to work on the project.

Dan Topolniski commented he is wondering if we are taking a step backwards. The experience that I have with the GRRB started with the Rat River Working Group tabling its fishing plan and voluntary restrictions. That was a significant effort that the group provided and includes all the things we want to do under a management plan. If we are confused about what we are doing, we have already done what we want. Maybe should tell DFO that, so people involved don't get frustrated and lose focus. Hope Cal will take back the message that this is not working perfectly – needs a tune-up.

Second comment was that my idea was not to form another layer of bureaucracy. Would be willing to help, also George Low from Hay River. There are things we can do – if there are specific things you need let us know.

Cal Wenghofer commented it sounds like we need a bit of a tune up in the process. Can Amy Thompson and Louis Porta make comments on communication and where improvements need to be made so we can address it?

Robert Charlie commented he would like to see things move along. Have not seen much progress, not directing these comments at the Writing Team. Will discuss in camera re a letter to the person guiding this plan.

Liz Hansen wondered about the TK portion of this. Refer to the GSCI as the cultural arm. It's listed as GRRB, not only has to do with fish, but also habitat. Opening up the Vittrekwa – people always knew about it. Interest in that area, don't know how original users will feel about it. TK should be there because they knew the area.

Robert Charlie commented we have tapes of interviews that were done so we have a report that we can include in the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan and the COSEWIC assessment. Larry had indicated that he would try and revive the work that has been done there.

Liz Hansen asked if there is going to be a book like More Words About the Land specific to fish. Would be interesting to see something like that in that area with a lot of pictures. *Robert Charlie commented it is a costly item to do a TK book. First one cost about \$2 million. We need to do additional work to ensure we collect all the information that people have. Can talk about it in camera, funds are limited so will have to task someone to start looking for funds, but with staffing as it is today, will not happen right away. Can talk in camera about activities between now and next Board meeting.*

Pre-COSEWIC Process

Amy Thompson requested information from Jim Reist. His email is included in Tab L.

Amy Thompson reviewed the information provided.

Questions & Discussion

Neil Mochnacz commented this is important for our department. COSEWIC is assessing the process, DFO is providing information to the committee so they can do the best assessment possible. Some might feel that DFO is not allowing community groups to have input. Once we get the report on the assessment, COSEWIC will ask for comments on the assessment report. There seems to have been some confusion on COSEWIC and DFO's role – they are independent here. Jim is commenting as a member of the COSEWIC sub-committee and not as DFO.

Joel Ingram asked if Jim has been contracted to develop the status assessment report? Has anybody? *Neil Mochnacz replied a contractor has been hired for that. At pre-COSEWIC meeting identified that TK had not been included in the pre-assessment information gathering, so this contract is to gather the information.*

Robert Charlie commented there are two different processes – one the Integrated Management Plan and the other COSEWIC.

Wildlife Study Fund Presentations

Neil Mochnacz, DFO – Dolly Varden Char Habitat Research

Neil Mochnacz reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on research done last year and what they are planning for the coming year. Funding request \$10,000.

Last year had direction from communities and from Rat River Working Group that there should be no handling fish. If you think we should not capture, we won't. If we capture, we get better data, but we can do it with observational data.

Questions & Discussion

Liz Hansen asked about physical changes – are you studying algae as well as willow growth? Willows take a lot of water. *That is a good point, not something we have looked at, but we have to keep in mind that vegetation can have an effect.*

Dan Topolniski asked if there are indications of support from the RRCs? *Just from last year, are going through the process. The GRRB would not look at the application without those. Is it a multi-year program? 3 to 5 year process. Dependent on funding received and the projects we can run. Assuming the funds will be there, there is a good chance to continue the work.*

Abe Wilson commented water level has a lot to do with it. In '69 and '70, used to go up Rat River to hunt caribou, used to drive a boat up from summer trail, now can't even take a scow because water level really dropped. Concern was brought up to follow the river and look at water levels all the way along. *We looked at*

Fish Hole, but also upstream and downstream. Same would hold true for looking further downstream along the Rat, would have to think about where to put a gauge along the Rat and Fish Creek – will be something important to consider for the future.

Project Update

Steve Sandstrom – Rat River Charr Assessment 2007

Steve Sandstrom reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the Rat River Assessment & Monitoring Program 1995-2008.

Recommendations to the Board

- Allow a controlled and monitored harvest in 2009
- 500 to 1500 fish harvest
- Encourage the release of large males
- Share and enjoy the harvest!
- Implement annual one day fall seine survey to monitor population and critical habitat changes. Revisit the harvest allocation annually.

Robert Charlie thanked Steve for coming up and giving perspective on the whole story. Will be having a Rat River Working Group meeting soon to discuss the coming season. A good news story for community management.

Questions & Discussion

Norm Snowshoe asked if harvesting by other groups is being monitored? Is it taken into consideration in the harvest levels? *Cal Wenghofer replied there are a few projects where that data is being collected.*

Robert Charlie commented Kevin Bill has been doing a harvest study of the North Slope. Gave out booklets to fisherman, but have not got all the information yet. Still waiting for that information – think that part of that harvest is Rat River Charr.

Norm Snowshoe asked how Global Warming trends especially in the Beaufort Sea will be accommodated? *There is time to work on a plan for that, but don't have any ideas at this time.*

Liz Hansen asked John Carmichael if he noticed the fish getting soft – they're not as firm. Warm water usually makes them watery and soft? Tape worms? *No worms and the fish are very healthy the last couple of years. Can tell a fish when you take it out of the net if it is healthy. We also take water temps and weather every day. Water was fairly cool last season from 9 to 12. Keep a data-book to show worms or whatever.*

Steve Sandstrom showed the data at a conference – received a lot of compliments on the data and the quality of information that the GRRB has from this project.

Robert Alexie asked if there are any slides in the head waters? *More in the areas where we have mud. In the Rat River there were huge slides 3000 years ago. The area where the fish overwinter, there isn't anything much, but*

further down. Headwaters could have. Not much in the Fish Creek area – that area has faults crossing it. Have not observed any large slides where the fish live.

Neil Mochnacz commented re precipitation – there is a downward trend with pulses of high water years. Do you see a correlation? *The thing we see is that in the low water cycles there have been problems. Don't see a connection, if there is a low water year the next year is bad.*

John Norbert asked if Steve Sandstrom does any checking with the lodges in Great Slave Lake, know they go to Coppermine to get their charr, they lose a lot of charr with lures on them from not using the right size lines. *One thing about charr, they are extremely resilient. When we did the weir studies in the 90's, we'd get char with hooks hanging off them, have seen charr with 5 of Diamonds in their stomach. Have even caught them where a bear has eaten part of their tail.*

Marg Bailey commented she was curious where they go to? *Don't really know. Obviously probably go down North Slope, not sure. Migrate on near-shore. Have tagged thousands of fish, but have not had any tag recaptures on the Alaska side. As the fish get to sea earlier, they may range further with climate change. That could be another consequence of climate change that harvest increases from Alaska.*

Robert Charlie stated the Board will try to accommodate people that have to leave early by moving around the agenda. Will also have tomorrow as well for people to make presentations. If you have to leave, let me know or if you will be available tomorrow.

LUNCH BREAK 11:50 to 1:00 p.m.

Wildlife Study Fund Presentations

Marsha Branigan – Photo census

Collaring due to start March 9. Recon survey – fixed wing every 10 km. Where we find caribou will try to deploy collars on male and female caribou. First couple weeks of July will try to photograph caribou as they gather in the hot weather.

All we put in the application is the census – there are other things going on re caribou, but asking GRRB for money re photo census.

Marsha Branigan - Harvest Data Collection

Already in the process of hiring field workers to hand out calendars and collect harvest data. Working with all the RRCs. We give them the money, provide training to field workers and maps. RRCs hire the field workers and do that part of it. Tried this before and did not get enough contact – will try to make sure that field workers go back if no one is home. Also trying to collect information on other species such as moose. Up to RRCs to decide what things are important. Find specific questions are better than just what did you harvest.

Open to suggestions, GRRB or ENR can be the lead. Trying to coordinate between RRCs and HTC's so that data can be put together. Another thing we might consider is joining the two calendars together – creating one harvest calendar for both purposes.

At this point will try to go twice per year. Maybe do phone contact to ask if they have harvested, then go face to face if they have.

Will do a mail drop to notify residents what will be happening – will have RRC and ENR logo, could also have GRRB logo.

Questions & Discussion

Liz Hansen asked do you ever go to the community and ask what is the best method of doing the survey? *We have worked this out with the communities. If it doesn't work this time, will have to try something else out. Will require members of RRCs to encourage people to provide data, a fieldworker that is dedicated, some organization. Have split the communities between two biologists so Tracy or Brian will be in contact the RRCs. If anyone has any ideas, we are all ears. One of the key things we are interested in is the sex ratio of the harvest.*

Management Plans and Updates

Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management Plan – Marsha Branigan

Marsha Branigan, Jozef Carnogursky, Dorothy Cooley are on the group. Made a first draft of the management plan, did a community engagement tour – it was full of questions. Put together a report after the tour for the working group. Tells what people said in the meetings, what meetings were held where. Never got to meet with the Gwich'in Tribal Council. If everyone wants a copy of the report, can make more copies.

Now have a new draft – a copy of the draft plan is in the meeting package (Tab L)

Marsha Branigan reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the Porcupine Caribou Management Plan

Looking for direction from the GRRB and Gwich'in Tribal Council whether or not the flowchart re allocation of the Total Allowable Harvest within the NWT is on the right track.

Issue – need to develop a tag recognized on both sides of the border. GRRB and WMAC would implement recommendations from Total Allowable Harvest decision.

Issue – if you have a public hearing for the GRRB, is that sufficient consultation for the GNWT?

On the ISR side, the HTC's write bylaws, then they are included in the Wildlife Act.

Looking for input from the GRRB re the process. Might be worthwhile to attach the flowchart as an appendix to the plan, then Yukon could do the same thing.

GRRB might want to identify commitments for the Gwich'in Tribal Council or other parties.

This second draft is out for comment. Looking for direction re what should happen – more community meetings?

What would be the approval process under this land claim?

Native user agreements would be necessary – particular need for split between Inuvialuit and Gwich'in of Total Allowable Harvest.

Yukon is considering taking action until the Plan has been approved. Possibly should make the Bull Only harvest official in the NWT. Concerned that unilateral action by Yukon would undermine the process.

Question of the Technical Committee was also raised by Gwich'in Tribal Council – who is on it, etc.

Questions & Discussion

Liz Hansen commented there are too many pieces to be agreed on before we can agree to the whole plan, Total Allowable Harvest, Bull Harvest, Dempster Highway regulations. First thing comes to mind Inuvialuit already have the Cape Bathurst and Blue Nose West in their area, hard to agree to share. *Robert Charlie commented that is a discussion we will have to have with the Inuvialuit.*

Marsha Branigan commented based on historic data, in the NWT Gwich'in took 45% and Inuvialuit took 20% of the Porcupine Caribou Harvest.

Norm Snowshoe commented this is the first time we will have something to work with on the Harvest Management Strategy. Will be a requirement to have the native user agreements, unless you have facilitation at these meetings, it will never get done. *That is another reason to split Yukon and NWT – have a better chance of getting agreements that way. Some things like Dempster Highway and Sale & Barter may have to be worked out with all groups.*

Norm Snowshoe asked what is the role and responsibility for the Gwich'in Tribal Council and GRRB in this strategy? *That is why we put together the flowchart, and suggested that the GRRB come up with commitments.*

Robert Charlie commented that the Board will have a discussion in camera session. Have been lucky that we have gone through the consultation process with the Blue Nose Herd already. Can build on the system we have in place to address how we manage the harvest. Will provide you with the Board's perspective on this.

Marsha Branigan commented the Yukon Government said, if we don't come to an agreement by mid-fall, they will come up with interim measures. Should try to work on the strategy to get it finalized if we can.

Welcome Chief Herbert Blake, Catherine Lambert, Cheryl Greenland

Dorothy Cooley, Yukon Government

Project Update – Priority Research & Management for Porcupine Caribou Herd

Dorothy Cooley presented a PowerPoint on the Status of the Porcupine Caribou Herd. Additional information in Tab M.

Research priorities

- Updated herd size
- Document annual herd dynamics
- Document annual range use and migration
- Monitor range condition
- Monitor body condition of harvested caribou
- Continue to collect and summarize available harvest data
- Hunter education
- Manage hunting to minimize effects on caribou
- Support Cumulative Effects assessment

Questions & Discussion

Liz Hansen asked if there is any concern over potential development by oil in Alaska? *There is a lot of concern. Support people that are actively lobbying. Porcupine Caribou Management Board has been commenting a lot on leases that the Yukon Government has let in the Eagle Plains and Peel basin.*

Liz Hansen asked do you allow your information to be given to the lobby groups when they are travelling? *Pretty much all of it is public information. Radio collar information looking at calving ranges has been critical in keeping development out of the calving ranges.*

Robert Charlie asked what is the hunting pressure on the other herds you mentioned vs. Porcupine Caribou? *Have not seen the hunting numbers, but they are less accessible, so hunting pressure is less with exception of Western Arctic herd. So that could be a reason the Porcupine Caribou are going down? Would like to do a really effective assessment on hunting but am missing some information.*

Robert Charlie asked what about adult female survival? *It is higher than you might see in other herds.*

Liz Hansen asked if the growth of willows in Alaska are encroaching on the feedings grounds? When Dempster Highway first opened didn't really have any willows in the Rock River area – think the dust flying helps the willows to grow. *There has been some work re how climate change affects vegetation on the North Slope and how that would affect caribou. Some studies show shrubs are moving northwards and would affect plants. Change in habitat could be really big.*

Robert Alexie asked how the caribou go by the pipeline? *Trans Alaska pipeline is outside their range in most years. Some cross, but most times in most years they don't. Central Arctic herd is there – it changed where they calve.*

Robert Alexie asked if Porcupine Caribou and Hart River Caribou mix? *Started monitoring them closely less than 10 years ago, they have changed their range. Interesting management problem because that herd only has 2200 animals, so want to be careful about harvest on that herd. Overlap with Central Arctic in winter.*

Robert Alexie commented he is interested in Hart River, have been there since way back. Some caribou up Wind River – are they the same group or different? *Hart River can go over that far, but there is another herd – Bonnetplume Herd – also a woodland herd.*

Norm Snowshoe asked re collars, not sure which is more expensive, satellite or VHF. Airtime is expensive. Wonder if will go towards more satellite collars over the next few years. *Depends on objectives – if you want lots of locations. Satellite \$3700 each vs. \$300 each. Plus pay for satellite time. Would like to go to satellite or GPS rather than VHF.*

Norm Snowshoe commented at a couple of Assemblies there has been concern re collars. With VHF there are more disturbances with flying. *There is really good reasons for doing this, we don't do it lightly. It gives good information that provides protection for calving grounds, etc.*

Wildlife Study Fund Presentation – Porcupine Caribou Herd Rut Composition Count

Asking for contribution for composition count during the rut. Have only done bull ratio estimate once in 1980. Want to do it again before going to bull only harvest. Requesting \$10,000 out of \$35,000 budget with about \$10,000 contribution in kind from US Fish & Wildlife.

Arctic Borderlands Cooperative

Dorothy Cooley reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the Arctic Borderlands Cooperative database analysis done by Don Russell. Information about the Co-op and database is available at www.taiga.net/coop

Borderlands meeting will be in Aklavik weekend of March 21, 22.

BREAK

Jonathon Michel

Wildlife Study Fund Presentation – Identification and Description of Spawning and Overwintering Habitats of Anadromous Fish Species in the Mackenzie Valley

Presenting information for Melanie VerGerwen Toyne – DFO. Her report on 2008 results has been sent out to the RRCs. Budget for the project \$225,500 – requesting \$10,000.

Questions & Discussion

Liz Hansen asked if the nano tags float? *In slow moving water they sink, with faster moving water, they could float away.*

Liz Hansen asked if you are trying to find the spawning areas? *The more we know about spawning areas, the better the information about the species will be. It will be a baseline for any potential development. One thing*

about the ground truthing, water quality information collected can be pretty useful. If the species has needs for those water qualities at that location, pretty likely they need that condition in other parts of the river.

Liz Hansen commented that some will only release their eggs after freeze-up. *Robert Charlie commented that is why they are using the tags.*

Robert Alexie asked if there is much water survey being done in that area? *Sure there must be water quality information throughout the river, but I don't know. This is what is needed. Can ask Melanie if she has that information already.*

Dan Topolniski commented that yesterday heard from Cal Wenghofer that DFO would be seeking support from Gwich'in for projects in the area. Would think that the GRRB would be considering that – would like to know from DFO overall where you are headed.

Ruth Errington – NRCan

Project Update – Vegetation Changes along the Mackenzie Valley

Ruth Errington reviewed a PowerPoint presentation. Information in Tab M of the meeting binder.

Questions & Discussion

Liz Hansen asked if you hire any Gwich'in youth? *Only worked in the GSA for about 3 days. No monitors.*

Liz Hansen asked if you see the permafrost zone creeping? *There are some photo records of that. Hoping to look at a smaller scale – have a number of plots on the outside of collapse scars – to see if the permafrost collapse is spreading.*

Amy Thompson asked have you noticed any invasive / new species in your plots? *Have not identified all of the moss species yet. Have one sample that is well outside the range – may not have been documented before.*

Project Update – Assessing Changes in Terrestrial ecosystems due to recent climatic changes and human impacts in the Mackenzie Valley region

Ruth Errington reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the study.

Would like to get a letter of support for the project licence application.

Questions & Discussion

Liz Hansen asked what is the affect of 24 hour sunlight compared to Alberta where they don't have it? *Have shown only two months of measurements. Have to model that. Have measured light, temperature and water levels – so can look what causes differences.*

Catherine Lambert Koizumi

Project Update – Dall’s Sheep, Grizzly Bear and Wolf Interactions in the Richardson Mountains

Catherine Lambert Koizumi reviewed a PowerPoint presentation. Information included in Tab M.

Catherine was a former employee of the GRRB. Now attending University to complete her PhD on this project.

Is not requesting new funds this year. Would like to take a portion of the funds that were not used from the Richardson project last year to complete the field work this year.

Questions & Discussion

Kristen Callaghan asked if she is also doing a status update for the Dall Sheep? *Contracted by Yukon Government to complete that.*

Amy Thompson thanked Catherine Lambert Koizumi for her participation with the GRRB and made her a presentation.

Amy Thompson

Management Plan Update – Gwich’in Forest Management Plan

Amy Thompson reviewed a PowerPoint presentation on the Gwich’in Forest Management Plan. Copies are available on the website.

Hope to have the draft finalized by April/May for approval by the GRRB at their September meeting (or before).

Kristen Callaghan

Management Plan Update – Dall Sheep Management Plan

Kristen Callaghan reviewed a planning update distributed at the meeting.

Would be good for the GRRB to hear comments from RRCs whether or not they support the plan.

Letter to the Yukon government re the Sheep hunt open season has not been sent by GRRB. Can be followed up on.

Robert Charlie – This plan has been around for a while. Kristen Callaghan will be at the meetings to answer additional questions.

Suggest that we draft a letter to the RRCs to ask if they have any concerns with the plan. That will give us confidence to move ahead with the plan.

Grizzly Bear Management Plan

RRCs would like a review of the plan. Once we know about a request for a review of the plan, have 30 days to reply and 60 days to organize meetings.

Would be interested in participating in that process.

Copies of the presentation from the September meeting are available.

Meeting adjourned for the day at 4:45 p.m. Will reconvene at 9:00 a.m.

February 27, 2009

Call to order at 9:03 a.m.

Quorum recognized.

Wildlife Study Fund Presentations

Julia Krizan, IMG Golder – Peregrine Falcon Monitoring in Campbell Hills

Julia Krizan reviewed PowerPoint on the project. Budget \$70,300. In-Kind \$4750, Cash contributions \$11,600

Questions & Discussion

Liz Hansen asked what will the training consist of? You have local resource people, field technicians that the biologists will give the education to or train. What kind of training? Operating equipment, recording, technical? *Both, in the field doing the observations, identifying occupied nest sites, observing the nest sites, progress of young, recording of the data in the protocols, field notes, entering everything into the computer consistently, maintaining and using the database. Once the biologist is trained, they will be able to train field technicians to assist.*

Liz Hansen asked what grade level would be required for students to participate? *First season plan is to train GRRB biologists, RRCs could observe. In future, they could provide training to summer students.*

Liz Hansen commented for continuity sake, once a person leaves the training needs to be passed on. Robert Charlie replied the plan is to have Amy Thompson and Kristen Callaghan trained, then field technicians trained as summer students every year.

Liz Hansen commented this is a good project to give students the incentive to stay in school.

Robert Charlie commented the presentation said there was no information collected since the 1980's but recall when the GRRB was established in 95 or 96, we did participate in a study that identified nest sites. *Saw the information about monitored nest sites, but none were in Campbell Hills.*

June 1 – biologist would have to be out there. At the beginning is more labour intensive to identify nest sites – a one week, 10 day period that may have to go daily. Once we have identified them, would be every 10 days – either from accessible trails or the lake – observation from a distance.

Eva Patton, Arctic Net – Adaptation in a Changing Arctic: Communities, Natural Resources and Institutions

Eva Patton gave an overview of her proposal to receive feedback from the GRRB. (Tab N)

Based on feedback will develop the proposal further and submit it to the GRRB for approval. Products of the research that would be useful for the Board or communities are open for development as well.

Questions & Discussion

Dan Topolniski commented this is potentially very useful for the GRRB and looking at things like the Fisheries Management Plan and how it can be better adapted to deal with our realities. From what I understand, you aren't really looking for funding, just looking for support to carry this out. *We have a grant through Arctic Net. It has some flexibility within it. Looking for guidance re what would be useful for the Board and the community.* Would be interested in knowing if there are specific questions re the project or what you would be doing.

Liz Hansen – Think it's a good project, but there is no mention of working with GSCI which is our cultural arm, using traditional language, use of traditional knowledge. Think there are likely other things that need to be looked at. *Will be working with them and the ethics review process in developing the proposal.*

Liz Hansen asked if this project is a onetime thing? *This research proposal grant runs for about a two year period, from consulting with the communities. If the Board is interested, would be drafting a formal proposal to be submitted prior to May. Research period would be August through November for working with the communities. There is funding for about 3 months of field research.*

Joel Ingram asked if the project is fairly strongly tied to the advancement of the Fisheries Management Plan, COSEWIC? *That was the advice from the FJMC, could be other issues as well.* Timing may be an issue. *Travel back and forth would be limited, but there is an opportunity to take part in teleconferences.*

Dan Topolniski commented it is really not clear, what can you do with COSEWIC that we can't – and we can't do very much. They seem to go ahead and do their thing and give advice and directions. It's an arm's length from government and boards, although there is a process, it doesn't always happen. *Two things, can work with the community in documenting information that they would like to see included in the process. The other level is more of an investigation and review of the process that hopefully would be helpful of what the community experience is. More be a formal assessment of the process that perhaps they would consider.*

Robert Charlie commented we can expect to see some sort of proposal based on your discussions with our staff, board and FJMC. *Also met with members of the Aklavik HTC, so they would be involved as well. Time frame in the next month or so to combine that.* Would like to see something more formal re the goal and objectives of what you want to achieve and what you will be doing, the methods you propose to use.

Eva Patton asked for submission of the proposal what would be the process? *Robert Charlie replied you could contact Amy Thompson and she could guide you.*

Jozef Carnogursky, Gwich'in Tribal Council

Re concerns with the Dall Sheep Plan yesterday. The plan does not call for Total Allowable Harvest, a concern of the Gwich'in Tribal Council and should be a concern of the GRRB as well. Had a discussion with Amy Thompson and Marsha Branigan with regard to that issue.

Robert Charlie commented will bring that to the in camera discussion.

Amy Thompson, GRRB – Loche Update

Amy Thompson reported that this is the last year of the project. There is now someone interested in looking at the pathology of the livers re parasites. Collected other samples during the study – will use the money that is left in the project to do further analysis.

For the contaminants only got the results in January for 2007.

Questions & Discussion.

John Norbert asked if so far all the livers are okay? *There weren't too many that looked bad. Only 5-8 for each community out of 50. Study results for contaminants look promising, talking to the person in Environment Canada, they didn't think the levels were too high.*

Amy Thompson, GRRB – Youth Work Experience Program, School Outreach

Amy Thompson reviewed the proposal. Asking for \$5,000. Gives opportunity to collaborate with other organizations in the community such as DFO. Will give money for travel to communities, Nature Day, getting Youth involved in research projects and in the field.

Amy Thompson/Kristen Callaghan, GRRB – GIS Training

Kristen Callaghan reviewed the proposal. Updates in software have made it difficult to proceed. Training will be done by Wendy Wright, ENR, so application will be for \$2600 for software only. May be cheaper to collaborate with Land Use Planning Board for an additional user licence. There are other maintenance costs.

Liz Hansen asked why can't we purchase this in capital? *Robert Charlie replied there is a limited budget.*

Kristen Callaghan, GRRB

There are fences in the area left from a long term project that need to be removed. Have been pairing it with existing projects, but priority always has to be for the project that is providing the funding.

If use a helicopter, would need \$8-9,000

Joel Ingram asked if you could prepare the material in the summer, package it up, then leave them for retrieval in the winter with snow machine. *Have done that before, but is problematic to coordinate. 7 foot t-bar fencing. One has been bundled. The rest have to be taken out of the ground. If community members have ideas, would be open to it.*

Robert Charlie asked have we approached Polar Continental Shelf for helicopter time? *Problematic because there is no results except equipment removal. Catherine may have some funding in her project.*

Johnny Charlie commented the posts are put in very solidly, would be difficult to remove, but need to be moved before sheep or something gets caught in it.

Research Priorities

Amy Thompson – Gap Analysis

Information in Tab O. Amy Thompson gave an overview of the project.

A matrices has been developed for the gap analysis. Amy Thompson distributed copies of this and explained how it will work.

The contract ends March 31, 2009, but from conversations, will be available before that date.

Liz Hansen commented he could use Words about the Land. *He did use that to identify species that are important as well as community input.*

A bibliography of references will be provided.

Amy Thompson – Fisheries & Forestry Priorities, DFO National Priorities

From the last Board meeting, there was an action item to make a list of staff/Board priorities, along with lists from community consultation. Distributed the request by email.

The list is for the Board to consider when making allocations.

Listed the priorities – sorted using her own

Kristen Callaghan – Wild Life Priorities

Formatting change moving from the aquatic priorities to wild life priorities. Looking at RRC vs. CWS priorities were not short term vs. long term – were high vs. low. We didn't have a specified format for identifying priorities. It was much more informal. Would be important for the Board to consider how we request these so that they are structured in a way that is useful

Robert Charlie commented that once we adopt our Process for Consultation, it will help us identify how we get priorities. It was a good exercise to get information that we can use as we go through deliberations.

Amy Thompson commented putting in information from meetings that attended over the past few years – this falls under what Nicole had mentioned out of the consultation rules, putting together a research committee.

Joel Ingram commented the initial step of identifying priorities has identified a need for a format – short term vs. long term, species specific or whatever. Will give us something to evaluate to plan for future.

Robert Charlie commented in the past we have targeted subsistence species that were important for cultural values or food to the communities. Moving to a more formal process to get priorities from all our partners.

Gwich'in Harvest Study

Kristen Callaghan – all board members should have received copies of the Harvest Study and pamphlet. Need to consider how to release them. Copies by ground \$12 each copy or by air \$14. Not sure about the logistics, if we would require recipients to pay for shipping on their copies.

Amy Thompson reported that Nicole Lights Thomas made suggestions for distribution – summary to put into each mailbox within the GSA/ISR. Total cost on that is not too much. \$0.12 each approx. Would leave 2000 remaining. 20 to be delivered to co-management partners. The rest would remain in the office. Could then have those copies available on request.

Liz Hansen commented she would like to see the libraries, Aurora College as well receive copies.

Joel Ingram asked how many copies of the report are there? 300. Is there a distribution list? *Kristen Callaghan replied that she could write up a list for review by the Board and then figure out what it would cost.*

Once the board has made a motion to approve distribution, can correct the link and then people would be able to download .

Motion #04:02/09

Be it resolved that the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board accept the Gwich'in Harvest Study and begin distribution of the summary and full report.

Moved by: Liz Hansen
All in favour: CARRIED.

Seconded by: Dan Topolniski

Kristen Callaghan commented the office will keep track of who picks up report copies so we don't duplicate distribution.

BREAK

Documents for Board Approval

Photo Release form

Amy Thompson commented that this was put together for when people request use of photos taken by the GRRB and its staff.

General Information Request form

Amy Thompson commented that people sometimes contact the GRRB for reports that have not been formally released.

GHS Data Release policy and Data Request Form

Under Tab P. This was developed by Nicole Lights Thomas, reviewed by Melody Nice-Paul and Robert Charlie, based on some examples used in the Sahtu.

Questions & Discussion:

Liz Hansen asked about release of photos with children? *We have a waiver for the youth to come out with us. Will have to get a consent form to be signed by parents for consent by parents.*

Kristen Callaghan commented that there was a form developed by Linda Wright for Get Wild About Nature website. That can be submitted to the Board for additional review.

Dan Topolniski commented on the data release policy – does it reflect the practice we've had for years? *Kristen Callaghan replied this is pretty much what we have done. Generally requests were handled by the Executive Director. Robert Charlie commented this policy formalizes our past practice.*

Liz Hansen asked do we have a TK release policy? *Robert Charlie replied we have worked with GSCI to use their policy. Amy Thompson commented even within ourselves, we have to get permission from GSCI. If anyone asked for information would have to get permission from GSCI unless it was previously published.*

Liz Hansen commented if someone is working on a Masters with us, all their photos would belong to the Board. Do they give us credit? *Operating procedures state that if the staff take pictures on staff time, they belong to the GRRB.*

Motion #05:02/09

Be it resolved that the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board approves the following: Photo release form, General Information Release form, Gwich'in Harvest Study Data Release Policy.

Moved by: Dan Topolniski
All in favour: CARRIED.

Seconded by: Eugene Pascal

GRRB Brochure

Linda Wright developed this brochure. Was suggested that it be approved before distribution. Amy Thompson commented that the information is mainly what is on the website.

Cost of printing in house is almost \$1 each because of the cost for printing on the colour copier.

Consensus to go ahead and release the brochure.

10 Year Report & discuss future reports

Amy Thompson looked at the document before the meeting. May have been approved in the past. Was not posted on the website, printed or distributed. Now kind of dated but full of good information.

Next step – should we look at a 15 year report? Or wait and do a 20 year report?

Robert Charlie commented it fell between the cracks with staff changes.

Amy Thompson tried to find a motion approving it, but couldn't find anything. Talked to Barb about it, and she said it was approved, but didn't know how we were going to go about printing it.

Dan Topolniski thinks we should go about producing the report. See that the data for a period in the Harvest Study is contained in the report, should put a footnote that this is preliminary data, as the final data may not match it.

Amy Thompson can make sure that it is noted that it is preliminary data (page 89 of App 4). Also have to follow up on the Dall Sheep harvest number – the numbers don't match Ian's number. Will have to look at the background data to confirm.

Robert Charlie commented we'll produce it and put a foot note that this is an example of the work of the Board.

Joel Ingram suggested we can post it on the website.

Robert Charlie suggested maybe can look for funding to produce say 100 copies of the colour document.

Amy Thompson asked about next steps / next report date – last one was 93-2003. Would staff do it or would it be contracted out?

Dan Topolniski suggested 5 year rotation. Like the format.

Amy Thompson commented we could use this as a template to do a report for the 15 year report.

Robert Charlie agreed maybe a 5 year report would be easier to do rather than 10.

Joel Ingram the report represents a lot of time.

Amy Thompson commented it was likely a staff combined effort – wonder if it would be in the job description of one person to take the lead.

Catherine Lambert Koizumi commented it was Mari-Anick that took the lead when she was Communications Coordinator.

Robert Charlie commented we don't need a motion, have given direction to staff.

Robert Charlie thanked community members, RRCs, agencies that have attended our meeting. Good opportunity for the RRCs to see what research proposals come forward to the Board. Agencies are an important partner as well.

In camera

Motion #06:02/09

To go in camera at 11:05 a.m.

Moved by: Eugene Pascal
All in favour: CARRIED.

Seconded by: Robert Alexie

John Carmichael thanked GRRB and staff. Enjoyed sitting and listening to what happened. Thank you to RRCs. See you on March 10 at the Rat River Working Group meeting.

Door prizes were given out.

BREAK

Motion #07:02/09

To end in camera session at 3:20 p.m.

Moved by: Liz Hansen
All in favour: CARRIED.

Seconded by: Eugene Pascal

Motions from In Camera Discussions:

Motion # 08:02/09

Be is resolved that the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board agrees with the listing of the Short Eared Owl as a Species of Special Concern, but want to be kept apprised of the development of management plans or actions.

Moved by: Liz Hansen
All in favour: CARRIED.

Seconded by: Eugene Pascal

Motion # 09:02/09

Be is resolved that the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board agrees with the listing of the Olive Sided Flycatcher, but want to be kept apprised of the development of management plans or actions.

Moved by: Liz Hansen
All in favour: CARRIED.

Seconded by: Eugene Pascal

Motion # 10:02/09

Be it resolved that the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board Budget for 2009 / 2010 be approved as presented.

Moved by: Liz Hansen
All in favour: CARRIED

Seconded by: Dan Topolniski

Motion # 11:02/09

Be it resolved that Amy Thompson be added to the signing authorities for the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board bank accounts.

Moved by: James Firth
All in favour: CARRIED

Seconded by: Joel Ingram

Motion # 12:02/09

Be it resolved that the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board accept the allocations of the Wild Life Fund as presented on

the spreadsheet, but that the Chair and Acting Executive Director will discuss the Rat Char projects with Larry Dow at Department of Fisheries & Oceans.

Moved by: James Firth
All in favour: CARRIED

Seconded by: Dan Topolniski

Robert Charlie thanked staff and board. Have been really busy. Have a lot of action items to follow up on. Will call teleconference meeting to keep board members updated as necessary.

Next meeting date and location

September meeting date will be selected. Next meeting in Tsiigehtchic.

Motion # 13:02/09

To adjourn the meeting at 3:25 p.m.

Moved by: Joel Ingram
All in favour: CARRIED

Seconded by: Robert Alexie