



## Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board February 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 – Inuvik, NT

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### Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board Board Meeting February 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 Inuvik Native Band Board Room, Inuvik, NT

#### **Attending:**

**Board:** Johnny Charlie, Bobby Jo Greenland-Morgan, Charlie Snowshoe, Eugene Pascal – Chair, Cindy Allen (by telephone from Vancouver)

**Renewable Resources Councils:** James Andre – Tetlit Gwich'in Renewable Resources Council, John Norbert – Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resources Council, Neil Firth – Nihtat Renewable Resources Council, Barry Greenland – Nihtat Renewable Resources Council, Fanny Greenland – Ehdiiat Renewable Resources Council, Corrine Dillon – Ehdiiat Renewable Resources Council, Leighanne Lennie – Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resources Council, Steven Gruben – Ehdiiat Renewable Resources Council Youth, Danieka Lennie – Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resources Council Youth,

**Government Agencies/Public:** Eugene Rees – Industry Tourism & Investment; Tracy Davison – Environment & Natural Resources, Wildlife; Martin Callaghan – Environment & Natural Resources, Forestry; Charlie Furlong – Aklavik, Mike Gravel – Environment & Natural Resources, Forestry; Brandy Wilson – Environment & Natural Resources; Ernie Francis – Environment & Natural Resources, Stephen Charlie – Environment & Natural Resources

**Staff:** Amy Amos – Executive Director; Kristen Callaghan – Wildlife Biologist; Janet Boxwell – Renewable Resources Manager; Kris Maier – Fisheries Biologist; Natalka Melnycky – Special Projects Biologist; Nick Westover - Photographer; Cheryl Greenland – Office Manager

**Meeting Notes:** Mary Beckett

#### **1. Call to Order / Opening Prayer / Introductions**

Everyone was welcomed to the meeting at 9:22 by Eugene Pascal.

John Norbert lead the opening prayer.

Eugene Pascal welcomed the new Board member – Bobby Jo Greenland-Morgan.

Eugene Rees, a Commissioner of Oaths, swore in Eugene Pascal as the Chair of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, and Bobby Jo Greenland as a member of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board.

The meeting was called to order at 9:26 a.m. Everyone around the room introduced themselves.

Eugene Pascal welcomed everyone to the Winter Meeting and explained there are two meetings held per year.



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### 2. Review & Approve the Draft Agenda

No additions or changes were made to the agenda.

The following items were discussed:

- Does the Board deal with issues like slumping? When there are decisions to be made on that. There are no applications for funding this year.
- How decisions are made re research proposals – they will require Renewable Resources Council approval prior to funds being released.

#### **Motion #14-01 GRRB**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board approves the agenda for the February 18<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014, Board meeting as presented/amended.

Moved by: Charlie Snowshoe

Seconded by: Bobby Jo Greenland-Morgan

**CARRIED** unanimously

### 3. Review & Approve the Draft Minutes

Draft Minutes from September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013, were included in the meeting package.

Page 5 – last pp on Dolly Varden Char, change “project habitat” to “protect habitat”.

#### **Motion #14-02 GRRB**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board approves the minutes from September 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013, as amended.

Moved by: Charlie Snowshoe

Seconded by: Johnny Charlie

**CARRIED** unanimously

October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013, Teleconference Minutes were included in the meeting package.

#### **Motion #14-03 GRRB**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board approves the minutes of the October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013, meeting as presented.

Moved by: Charlie Snowshoe

Seconded by: Bobby Jo Greenland-Morgan

**CARRIED** unanimously



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### 4. Review Action Items Outstanding

Amy Amos reviewed the Action Items from the September Board meeting and October Teleconference.

The Action list was included in the meeting package.

#### Discussion:

The following items came up in the discussion:

- Agencies were provided with notes from the September meeting minutes re issues that came up. However, there is no space on this agenda for agency updates, so may not hear the results until next fall.
- Concerns were raised re activity in the headwaters of the Arctic Red River. The Board is looking for funding for char habitat work in the headwaters of the Arctic Red River. Activities like staking are the responsibility of the Gwich'in Tribal Council.
- There is a need for more hunter education re caribou.
- Disposal of hides from problem bear kills – there was an extensive discussion re options and what is currently happening with both the hides and the meat.
- Grizzly Bear Management Plan – not all Renewable Resources Councils have responded with comments on how to move forward after the September 2009 workshop. Some small wording changes may be required. Staff can look into this.
- Caribou hunting rules – Letting the Leaders Pass. This is also an education issue.
- Commercial Outfitting of muskox – the Board is working with Environment & Natural Resources to collect the information on the species required to move the process ahead so a decision can be made.
- Suggestion to make Educational Videos for YouTube, aimed at kids.
- PCMB is also working on Education as a priority. Will look for opportunities to collaborate with partners. i.e. Beaufort Delta Education Council is working on a Gwich'in curriculum, Wildlife Act Working Group re regulations.

### 5. Updates by Chair & Board Members

**Eugene Pascal** reported has been involved in the drafting of the Wildlife Act, which has now been passed, so now working on the drafting of the regulations. Next meeting is March. Also working with other management groups on the Blue Nose West caribou, following the direction of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, that we do support the plan and the implementation of it. Have meetings in the next couple of weeks with the Rat River Working Group and the West Side Working Group.

**Johnny Charlie** explained has been attending meetings and teleconferences. Missed a meeting in October because he was on the land. Usually go out September and October, then May and June. When he first went out, it was very warm. October 25<sup>th</sup>, he pulled his boat out. The next day, the ice started and the boat was floating because the water came up. Then it got warm again and he pulled the boat out October 28<sup>th</sup>. This was the latest for pulling his boat out. He found his propeller was getting into the mud a lot because the river was very shallow.



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**Cindy Allen** reported she spent a lot of her time on the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act changes. This is not on the agenda this meeting. Within days of our September meeting, we got funding for all the Renewable Resources Councils and NWT to participate on the consultations re the legislative changes the Federal Government is making to the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act. Commented to them that this does not just affect the Land & Water Boards because it affects all of the resource management boards. Participated in consultations in Yellowknife with NWT Board Forum, then had two weeks to submit the comments re the proposed legislative changes. These changes have been in the works for three years, but we only got two weeks to submit our comments. It was a lot of work, worked with Amy Amos and legal counsel, in collaboration with Sahtu Renewable Resources Board and submitted comments. In November, went with Amy Amos to the NWT Board Forum in Calgary. Was not able to participate in the fracking site visit, but participated in one day of the discussions which were focussed on sustainable mining – basically extending the life of mines in the NWT so jobs are protected. Asked about how mining will be done so that it is not harmful to the land. There were several teleconferences that she participated in with Amy Amos. Had the opportunity in December to attend the Administrative Law course in Yellowknife – was impressed with the course. This course was focussed on what people need to know as a decision maker in a Board structure with Renewable Resource climate in the North. Look forward to working on more things for the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board.

**Bobby Jo Greenland-Morgan** received her letter of appointment in November. Thanked Amy Amos for a very professional welcome and getting me into the Administrative Law course. It prepared you well for roles and obligations as a Board member. Look forward to working with the Board. Have spent a lot of time reading since December to get up to speed on the Management Plans and what is happening. It is nice to see Youth attending this meeting.

**Charlie Snowshoe** commented the staff of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board are doing a very good job taking care of doing the research. Have been to a few meetings with staff, Species at Risk, etc. The Dall Sheep they take care of that, too. When they produce the work they have done to the Government of Yukon and Vuntut Gwich'in, they came back and said they want to do changes in that area. His comment is we should take care of the Sheep in the NWT and they can handle the ones in their area because they are stalling. People are wondering why the river is drying up – it is the Bennett Dam. Anytime they make a dam, there is a lot of water behind it. After they built the Bennett Dam, they made a 600 km lake behind the dam. There was a young guy in the meeting in Whitehorse that said his dad told him there were a lot of dead animals floating down, but nobody said anything about it. They are planning to put in more dams. Another thing is the oil sands, they are using a lot of water – takes 10 or 11 drums of water to get one drum of gas. Millions of litres of dirty water went into the river just before Christmas. Under our land claim, it states we have to protect the quality and quantity of the water, but we aren't saying anything. The staff are taking good care of their job, and am happy to work with them.

**BREAK**

### 6. Executive Update

Amy Amos reviewed her report from the meeting package. All staff follow a similar format for their reports, which follows the items listed on their job descriptions.



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In the meeting binder, there is a supplemental folder showing internal variance report and information re project that are outstanding and funded.

Tab X has an update on Board appointments – there is no real information except the appointments are in the system, but know that it can take more than a year between the nomination and the appointment.

The Board Forum is under Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada and there is some uncertainty if it will continue after devolution.

### **Discussion:**

The following items were discussed:

- Fracking Tour during the Board Forum meeting. Fracking takes a lot of water – some is reused, some is processed and cleaned. There is a concern not all of the water will be cleaned, that there could be a spill.
- There are a lot of unknowns re Fracking and some areas are kept secret regarding the process.

## **7. Staff Updates**

### **a. Kristen Callaghan – Wildlife Biologist**

Kristen Callaghan reviewed the update that was included in the meeting package.

### **Discussion:**

The following items were discussed:

- **Grizzly Bear Project** – the survey was not designed to get a count, just to see when and where bears were being spotted. Was not close enough to the bears to identify size, sex. There were some cubs seen.
- Suggested that a report from the monitor's point of view might be useful.
- Funding came from the Wildlife Studies Fund, Aurora Research Institute and Environment & Natural Resources.
- This program could continue in the coming year with funds remaining in the budget.
- Goal of the project was to reduce negative interaction between bears and humans. Will help the Board and governments make better decisions.
- Suggestion for a study to tag bears – to find out size and number as well as where they go.
- Moving gut piles – to see if the bears would change their behaviour.
- Report will be distributed as soon as it is ready.
- Traditional knowledge interviews done in the past were about the Richardson Mountains, but not near the border.

### **b. Kris Maier – Fisheries and Forestry Biologist**

Kris Maier reviewed the report that was provided in the meeting package.



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### Discussion:

The following items were discussed:

- Caribou were spotted at Fish Hole early in September.
- 5 grizzlies were spotted – some were very close.
- This was the first year for the Lake Trout study. There were no concerns identified, but it should be followed up.
- Grayling along the Dempster Highway.

### LUNCH BREAK 12:12 to 1:15 p.m.

Eugene Pascal recognized quorum and called the meeting back to order at 1:26 p.m.

#### c. Janet Boxwell – Renewable Resources Manager

Janet Boxwell reviewed her report which was included in the meeting package.

She suggested the Board consider the following motion:

To support research with the objective of obtaining baseline data.

### Discussion:

The following items were discussed:

- Aurora Research Institute submits research applications, Environment & Natural Resources submits wildlife applications, Department of Fisheries & Oceans submits fisheries applications and there are also quarrying permits and other things.
- Suggestion for a caribou check station at Aklavik.
- Staff attending Renewable Resources Council meetings.
- Research priorities – otters are not such a concern now, beavers continue to be a concern.
- Career and Health Fairs are held in most communities – another good opportunity to get information out, can coordinate with Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute.

#### d. Natalka Melnycky – Special Projects Biologist (term)

Natalka Melnycky reviewed the update provided in the meeting package.

Question will be going out to the Board whether or not to consider the wolverine as one overall population in Canada or one Western and one Eastern.

Have some easy to use templates for consultation posters if anyone wants to use them.

### Discussion:

The following issues were discussed:



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- Time frames for the Boreal Caribou listing were explained.
- Species At Risk – anyone can submit listings to be considered by the committee.
- Polar Bear listing on the Federal Species at Risk.
- NWT Species At Risk allows the NWT to treat listed species differently in the NWT than the rest of Canada.
- Some species listed are not a concern in NWT – but may be in the rest of Canada, where the majority of information is coming from. Once an animal is listed, research is one of the strategies for isolated areas.
- Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board is working with Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute to gather Traditional Knowledge re the species being assessed. That gives the local information that can be combined into the Federal Assessments.
- Can include survey questions on the Harvest Monitoring program re species that are being considered. Suggestion to add photos with the survey to avoid confusion re unfamiliar names.
- Migratory birds travel south and back again – lots can happen to them outside of this area.
- Muskrats – should be looked at.
- There aren't as many people hunting and trapping as in the past – harder to get information about what is happening on the land.
- Wolverine numbers – asked for the fur numbers from this area which was not included in the meeting package.
- Herring were brought up as an interest for further information.

Eugene Pascal commented will be having a session on Thursday morning with the Renewable Resources Councils and can have a longer discussion there.

### **e. Cheryl Greenland – Office Manager**

Cheryl Greenland reviewed her report which was included in the meeting package.

#### **Discussion:**

Cheryl enjoys working for the Board and with the staff. Everyone works together.

Eugene Pascal commented before Christmas, there was recognition given to one of the Board members for all of the work he has done with the Environment, an award was given in Ottawa to Charlie Snowshoe. Charlie Snowshoe explained he went to Ottawa and they showed them how they were going to go about giving out the award. Stayed about 3 days and they took us to the Ottawa building to listen to them talking about the Senate. There were about 7-8 people getting the award. They wanted to take pictures for the TV – they made him wear makeup and everything. Will go back March 18 to receive award. First Nation people don't look forward whatever we do, to getting an award. The people that deserve the award are the Elders that got things started to where they are today – Jim Koe, Andrew Stewart, Nap Norbert, Edward Nazon, they started finding out our rights on the treaty. Government people couldn't answer our questions. With a lot of people that helped me get where I am today, and I learned lots from them. Feel really sad today when we are talking about everything that is going against us – Peel River Watershed, Devolution and talking about different animals. People that deserve the award are all gone.



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### f. Ryan Brooks – Technician (term)

Written report only.

## 8. Proposed Federal Recovery Strategy for Bank Swallow & Olive-Sided Flycatcher – Donna Bigelow

Donna Bigelow joined the meeting by telephone and reviewed her presentation which was included in the meeting package.

Over the years, have appreciated the work the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board and its staff have done on the Species At Risk work. Have been looking at how to make this process most effective for the NWT. Information was sent out to the Renewable Resources Councils and communities in early January.

### a. Bank Swallow

Asking for comments from the Board and a decision on proposed listing of Banks Swallow as Threatened under the Species At Risk Act.

Natasha Melynycky reviewed the results of Renewable Resources Council consultations re this listing. There were no major concerns with the listing, but there was a belief there should be more research done in the North and specifics re Northern populations. Tsiigehtchic will be having a public meeting re the decline in Banks Swallows and increase in Barn Swallows.

Natasha Melynycky recommends approval of the listing of Banks Swallows as Threatened under the Federal Species At Risk Act. Recommend waiting on this decision until after the public meeting in Tsiigehtchic February 26<sup>th</sup>.

### Discussion:

The following issues were discussed:

- Why are these birds declining so drastically? Causes are not known – likely due to a combination of factors.
- Are the birds numbers studied annually to record this decline? There is a breeding bird survey done annually across Canada, including the NWT.
- Pesticides – these are a known problem with other species, may affect Banks Swallows. The recovery strategy will consider all of the various threats identified in the assessment report.
- Predators – each of the Renewable Resources Councils has the ability to have input through the Wildlife management boards. This is an opportunity to identify gaps in local knowledge about the species. Asking for comments as well as approval of the listing.
- Decline in numbers for birds, affects of climate change on insects – these things are all very important.
- Requested follow-up on a question from the fall meeting re working with other parts of the world, including the United States, re international obligations for species that winter in warmer climates.
- There are multiple causes for declines in bird numbers. Hard to point to one cause. Once a species is listed, protections are put in place to protect them.





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- These birds travel as far as Peru in Central South America.
- Banks Swallows return to the same nesting sites each year.
- As a migratory bird, regulations are already in place to prevent destruction of nests. The listing will help to further identify what habitat is needed for recovery and survival of the species.

The phone system cut off the conversation.

### **BREAK**

Charlie Furlong was invited to speak since he had to leave the meeting soon.

Charlie Furlong has a concern from some of the community members in Aklavik and other communities re the decline in the muskrat population and the effects on their reproduction.

- At one time, the muskrat population supported a really big industry in the Mackenzie Delta.
- Past harvests, you could get over 100 muskrats in a night. On average people got between 50 and 100 when they were hunting. Now you are lucky to get 10 or 20.
- Believe the muskrat has been at risk and would like to know what is causing that. There is a theory some of the old hunters have. My dad saw the decline and he told me it was because they weren't harvested properly. By leaving the muskrats un-harvested, there is disease and they fight. By harvesting them, you limit the fighting between the species.
- Concerned that one of the largest economic factors in the Mackenzie Delta was the muskrat and wonder why the population is in such a decline and why it hasn't come back.
- Would appreciate if the Board would look into it and see if anything can be done.

Another concern is grizzly bear harvest in fall and spring.

- Think we need to do a study again to know how many mature bears are out there.
- Heard it was hard to find the large bears. Need to protect the species and their ability to reproduce and keep the species at a manageable level.
- Hear about lots of bears on the highway, but how many are mature.

Eugene Pascal commented we have heard a lot of these concerns. Johnny Charlie agreed that muskrats are a big concern.

### **b. Olive-Sided Flycatcher – Draft Recovery Strategy**

Donna Bigelow reviewed the presentation that was included in the meeting package.

The draft recovery strategy was sent out in January to all the Renewable Resources Councils and communities in the range of the species to get input from them as well as from the Board and staff.

Would like any feedback and whether or not you support the document as it is written.



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Natasha Melynycky reviewed the Renewable Resources Council Responses from the consultation meetings. There will be a public meeting held in Tsiigehtchic in February 26.

**Recommendation:** That the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board approve the Recovery Strategy for the threatened Olive-Sided Flycatchers under the Federal Species At Risk Act, to be done after the public meeting is completed in Tsiigehtchic in February 26 and potentially after more meetings in Aklavik re concerns recently raised.

**Discussion:**

The following issues were discussed:

- The Board has a teleconference meeting planned for March to discuss these approvals. This will be done after the Tsiigehtchic meeting is held and before the March 23<sup>rd</sup> deadline.
- This follows the consultation policy developed with our partners and government.

### **9. Forest Management Regulations – Mike Gravel, Environment & Natural Resources**

Mike Gravel reviewed his presentation which was included in the meeting package.

Brandy Wilson also came to the meeting to take notes about questions from the meeting. Both Brandy and Mike used to live in Inuvik but are based in Fort Smith.

Looking at Forest Management Regulation Amendments – doing some friendly changes now and will be coming back to do further consultation later on more major changes.

Mike passed out the proposed amendments document and highlighted what has been changed.

**Discussion:**

The following issues were discussed:

- Pine beetles – can come into an area when people import firewood from one area to another. Have not seen reports in this area.
- Overharvesting Charge –this is intended for cases where people are harvesting large quantities. Overharvesting on large scale operations can have a bigger impact. This mainly affects the southern NWT.
- Definition of timber re driftwood – when driftwood is in a lake or river, it is based on salvage laws. When you bring it to shore, you need a transport permit to bring it home on the road. Going forward when the new forest management regulations are developed will have the opportunity to discuss this type of regulation. Can discuss if there is a better way to manage it. Under the Act, you can't cut a tree without the authority to do so, so if you have wood at your house, you need proof that was obtained with proper approval.



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- With the high cost of gas and diesel, a lot of people are starting to heat with wood. If there will be major changes in regulations, it might have an impact. There are companies bringing in wood from BC for burning. Will have to really advertise the proposed changes, the consultation meetings and the regulations because a lot of people are using, buying and selling wood.
- We already have a Forest Management Plan – how do regulations work with our existing plan? Nothing in the regulations affects the existing plan. If the Forest Working Group is still working, they can discuss the import permit and incidental forest use permit and report any concerns, also with the Forest Renewal Fund.
- Changes need to be reflected in the existing Forest Management Plan which is the communication tool. The concern is that it is not going through the right channel. It will take time before these regulations are approved, probably a year or so, which will allow time for you to update the Forest Management Plan.
- When you are making these changes, there comes some opportunities. Hear that Forest Management Agreements are really focussed in the southern area re commercial interests. Suggest including an expanded definition around that.
- Would like a response to this document before April if possible.
- Forest is owned by Gwich'in on Gwich'in land and Crown lands are held by the public.
- Who made the regulations? Originally it was with the Federal Government and was turned over to the Government of the NWT in 1987, staff of the Government of the NWT put together these amendments. Will eventually have a new NWT Forest Management Act.
- Reforestation – Seed is collected locally so that local trees can be planted.
- Driftwood on shore - is yours when you start to cut it. You don't need a permit for traditional use for Gwich'in.
- Personal Timber Cutting Permit – have been used for the transport permit. Will still be the same.
- Highway right of ways – the government has existing rights – so they don't pay.
- People are cutting wood for sale using a personal cutting permit. Should have a commercial permit.
- Wood lot permits.
- Will come to all the communities to discuss changes to the Forest Management Act, when that happens.

### **10. Boreal Caribou Range Planning – Nicole McCutchen, Environment & Natural Resources**

Nicole McCutchen reviewed her presentation which was included in the meeting package.

Nicole requires feedback in the following areas under the Federal Species At Risk Act listing.

- Would like to know if splitting the Range plan into five regional sections would be acceptable, and if so, should they be based on land claim areas?
- Suggested goal for regional range plans maintain or achieve 65% undisturbed habitat. In regions with less than 65% undisturbed habitat, would want to see progress within 5 years and achieve goal within 50-100 years. Are these acceptable goals?
- Proposed process – to set up regional working groups with 5 year planning horizon.



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- Proposed composition of the Gwich'in Settlement Area Working Group – Environment & Natural Resources Wildlife Division; Environment & Natural Resources Inuvik; Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board; Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board; Gwich'in Tribal Council; Government of Yukon (Yukon portion of Boreal Caribou range was included in the NWT Range by Federal government); Environment & Natural Resources Forest Management Division; other aboriginal groups that may use caribou in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. Need to confirm if this is a good list for the working group – could add or reduce the size.
- Ranking of range areas.
- Would like to know if the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board agrees with the suggestions for development and fire management? The Gwich'in Settlement Area is at 66.1% undisturbed habitat which means that a large fire could have an impact on maintaining the 65% requirement.
- Suggest that Gwich'in Settlement Area be left to the end of the process as the potential for development impact in this area is less. Would mean tackling the regional range plan in April 2016. Need to know if this is appropriate?

Would like formal input by the end of the fiscal year, March 31, 2014. Can provide an extension if necessary.

### **Discussion:**

The following issues and concerns were discussed:

- Amy Amos does not have the guidance document referenced in the presentation. Nicole will resend now.
- With the changes to the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act, and Devolution, some boards will be removed and there has been a suggestion that the NWT Board Forum might be disbanded. How would there be a coordinated approach if these structures are not there? Even if there was a super-board, it would still be managed on a regional basis. There are a couple of other reasons to break it up into regions like that.
- How will the region that has no land claim handle this? That is a consideration, but there is no answer at this time.
- How will the Federal Recovery Strategy Range planning will feed into the NWT Species At Risk Act? The Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, when they commented on the Recovery Strategy, did not support it, but it was still approved. The Board is interested in the NWT process because there was the opportunity to handle things differently here. The CMA is trying to develop a recovery strategy for the Territorial Listing and don't know if it will be similar to the Federal one. Environment & Natural Resources are legally required to protect the required habitat or the Federal government could choose to invoke the Federal safety net.
- 66.1% shown as undisturbed in this area – how do you get that number? It is based on the Environment Canada database based on the land claim area.



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Eugene Pascal thanked Nicole. Will be reviewing the documents and should be able to meet the requested timeline. Nicole commented if there are any other questions or you require further information, she will try to provide them.

### **11. Mackenzie Valley Fiber Line Project**

Peter Clarkson reviewed a presentation provided in the meeting package.

The cable will be run from Fort Simpson to the Mackenzie Delta.

#### **Discussion:**

The following issues and concerns were discussed:

- How would service would be provided to each house? Could have a wireless transmission to each customer from a central tower. In Aklavik, McPherson and Tsiigehtchic, they would be able to feed directly into the fibre rather than using microwave service to Yukon first. Will be able to enhance service in Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic, McPherson, Colville and Deline as well with the current plans.
- Redundancy in the system may be available by building another line down the Dempster highway.
- System speed.
- Costs for consumers – will not be providing the last mile – will still be with SSI or Bell or whatever. Service is cheaper where there is fibre optic than where there is microwave service.
- The government will see savings with the health system, and education.
- Hackers – You have software to deal with that, this is hardware.
- The line will be a public private partnership because the contractor will have a contract to build and operate for 25 years. Government of the NWT will maintain ownership, but there will be a lease with the private company to get back their investment in design and construction.
- Re the 115 river crossings in the Gwich'in Settlement Area, will the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board have an input re how the river crossings are done to maintain and protect fish habitat? There are a few rivers, a lot of creeks and streams. The main way of crossing any stream or creek where there is water in it, would be directional drilling under the creek or river. There would be no disturbance to the fish habitat. There are close to 1000 water crossings over the entire line. Some are very seasonal. The main ones defined in the Mackenzie Valley Highway reports were about 450.
- Will other companies be able to come in such as Rogers, AT&T? Because the line will be owned by Government of the NWT, then companies will be able to buy space on it at a pre-determined price. Government of the NWT wants to make sure service to residents of the NWT is as fair and reasonable as possible.

Peter Clarkson commented if there are further questions, Amy Amos can send them to Peter Clarkson. There will be additional consultations likely after the contract has been awarded.

Meeting adjourned for the evening at 6:00 p.m.



## **February 19th, 2014**

Eugene Pascal Called the meeting to order at 9:07.

### **12. Wildlife Studies Fund Investment Update**

Phil & Geoffrey Anselmo joined the meeting by telephone and reviewed the presentation included in the meeting package.

Calculated the recommended withdrawal based on policy and history of the fund. Recommended withdrawal for 2014 is \$93,000.

#### **Discussion:**

The following issues and concerns were discussed:

- The investment portfolio looks good based on the presentation.

Amy Amos explained that the next items on the agenda are all Research Proposals for the Wildlife Studies Fund. She reviewed the spreadsheet she has created and advised the Board that in addition to the \$93,000 recommended to be withdrawn from the investment fund, there is \$7,500 left from a caribou rut count that was approved last year, but did not happen and approximately \$3,600 in accumulated revenue that is surplus from past years.

### **13. Wildlife Studies Fund Proposal – Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Cooperative Community Monitoring**

Michael Svoboda joined the meeting by telephone and reviewed the presentation from the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Cooperative that was included in the meeting package.

#### **Discussion:**

The following issues and concerns were discussed:

- Interest in development in the Caribou Calving grounds in the United States continues to be a concern. Cutbacks with their government has created challenges to maintaining links with the US partners.
- Arctic Council and Inuit Circumpolar Conference – potential partners and possible sources of funding for US partners in the future.
- The Co-op's age: the first monitoring was in 1996, about 18 years. Should not still be scrounging for money.
- Concerned that the local people have worked on collecting this information and are not recognized. Scientists use the information collected.
- This year, instead of the Gathering, will be touring each community so people will be able to get more information about what we do. Still trying to set up for March 10, starting in McPherson and coming this way.



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Eugene Pascal thanked Michael Svoboda for his presentation.

### **14. Wildlife Studies Fund Proposal – Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute Species at Risk Traditional Knowledge**

Kristi Benson joined the meeting by telephone. Her presentation included in the meeting package was played including the narration.

#### **Discussion:**

The following issues and concerns were discussed:

- It was good to see the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board and Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute are interested in the strengthening their relationship.
- Many people in the communities are interested in seeing work done on the muskrat. The muskrat is not currently on any listing.
- Is there funding available from Species At Risk for this work? There is aboriginal funding from Species At Risk, but the funding application for the coming year has already passed. There is a smaller pot from CMR between \$5-20,000.
- The NWT Species At Risk brochure on line, lists some plants – not sure if these are within the Gwich'in Settlement Area. Alestine Andre is an ethnobotanist and works with plants, and the Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute has a database on their website.
- Wolverine as a Species At Risk: is listed as of special concern, because it is sensitive to impacts such as development and has a low population. The population in the Gwich'in Settlement Area is not really of concern, but in the southern area of the NWT has areas where they have extirpated. Like with Grizzly Bears, people don't see a problem in our area, but it is important to gather that information for future planning purposes.

### **15. Wildlife Studies Fund Proposal – Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute Bison Skull**

Ingrid Kritsch joined the meeting by telephone.

In 2007, Shane Van Loon found a Steppe Bison. Have been working with the Museum closely on the project. The community was interested in having an exhibit in Tsiigehtchic including a cast of the skull. The original is quite fragile and needs to be kept in temperature and humidity controlled conditions. This display would include information about when the bison lived and that it was found during a period of climate change. We have an artist interested in producing a backdrop for the exhibit showing ice age animals. Hope to have a permanent exhibit, a traveling exhibit and a web exhibit. Looking at the cost for the bison skull cast and two teeth from a mammoth and mastodon also found in the area. Asking for a contribution of \$3000 to purchase those specimens to be included in the Tsiigehtchic exhibit.

Eugene Pascal thanked Ingrid Kritsch for her presentation.



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### 16. Wildlife Studies Fund Proposal – Breeding Bird Survey

Wayne Condon joined the meeting by telephone.

- Breeding bird surveys were done in the Gwich'in Settlement Area in 2012 and 2013. There is no one currently in the area that can conduct this survey.
- Have been done every year since the 60s continent wide.
- In the past two years, the Canadian Wildlife Service organizes the surveys and collects the data with the US Fish & Wildlife service.
- Have used 6 field assistants over the past two years. The idea is to train people who are locally based to carry on the surveys on an ongoing basis. Have been doing training for past two years, but it will take another 3 years before someone can do this on their own.
- There is a need for the breeding bird surveys in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. Funding was from Species At Risk and Aurora Research Institute in the past.
- Wayne is not working for Aurora Research Institute any longer, now based in Nanaimo.
- In order to hire the Field Assistants, requesting \$2,000 to pay the assistants, the Species At Risk would pick up the other costs associated including air fare, vehicle rental, food, honorarium.
- Will be in the area about 9 days, which will allow for bad weather and let us get all the sites surveyed. Were rained out on two routes last year. Hope to get data for all four routes this year.
- Aurora Research Institute has agreed to provide accommodation free of charge plus emergency field equipment. It will be a 3 way partnership with Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board Wildlife Studies Fund, Aurora Research Institute and Species At Risk study program.

#### Discussion:

The following issues and concerns were discussed:

- Potential for meeting with community members re songbirds.
- Procedures for doing the survey.
- Contact with the local Renewable Resources Councils.
- Use of Traditional Knowledge in conducting the survey.
- Age levels hired for the survey and presentations to involve youth.
- Use of monitors and equipment to put more money into the communities.
- Use of the PowerPoint presentation to help identify bird songs – can be used by people beyond the monitors to increase local knowledge.
- Purpose of the project – to identify trends in population, especially declines re Species at Risk.
- Reduction in the amount of bird song heard in the region and some of the factors that can be behind it.
- Monitors doing presentations – could use the PowerPoint presentation created by Wayne.

Eugene Pascal thanked Wayne Condon.

#### BREAK





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**17. Wildlife Studies Fund Proposal – Department of Fisheries & Oceans  
Dolly Varden Population Assessment**

Kim Howland joined the meeting by telephone and reviewed the presentation included in the meeting package.

**Discussion:**

The following issues and concerns were discussed:

- The rock slide near the Fish Hole – its affects on the stream and the traditional story of how it was created.
- Whitefish caught at Fish Hole.
- Traditional knowledge about the upper area of Fish Creek.
- Locating a cabin in the upper area of Fish Creek to allow people to stay in the area while doing more detailed work.
- Additional funding would be required to allow someone to stay longer to do more work in the area.

Eugene Pascal thanked Kim Howland.

Johnny Charlie commented re the cabin, every two years, the Renewable Resources Council gets four of us to build cabins on the land. They are talking about building one again this year, so maybe we can look at moving up into that area.

**LUNCH BREAK 12:05 to 1:15 p.m.**

Eugene Pascal called the meeting to order at 1:15 p.m.

**18. Wildlife Studies Fund Proposal – Gwich'in Renewable Resources  
Board/Department of Fisheries & Oceans Rat River Dolly Varden Habitat  
Assessment**

Kris Maier reviewed the presentation that was included in the meeting package. Neil Mochnacz, Department of Fisheries & Oceans.

Proposal includes work on both habitat and research on juvenile stage.

**Discussion:**

The following issues and concerns were discussed:

- Electro-fishing – how it works, where it is used, the history of its use in other locations. There is a lot of experience with this technique and it does not harm fish. There are a lot of studies concerning fish that have been captured this way and recaptured later.
- Timing for the surveys and on the land work.
- Temperature change in the ocean – there is not a lot of knowledge about Dolly Varden in the ocean.



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- Temperature change in the river system – affects on fish. King Salmon have been spotted/caught recently.
- The population of level for char in the past – it is important for youth to recognize the change that has occurred.
- There is a training budget item for Kris Maier to update his certificate in electro-fishing, including his travel to attend the course. Kris will provide training to community monitors.

### **19. Wildlife Studies Fund Proposal – Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board Youth/Communications**

Amy Amos explained this has been done by the Board for as long as she has been here.

- Funding is used for Nature Day, also piloting the education unit, mainly covers staff travel. Also covers going to schools for presentations and career fairs, bringing youth to the Board meetings.
- Youth work experience program – to bring youth out with researchers for a day or two.
- Communications – funds development of calendar and newsletters/brochures. This year, did calendar and newsletter.
- Still have some money left over in the current year's budget that can be deferred into next year.
- Request is for \$10,000. That would give quite a bit of money for youth and communications. \$5000 would mainly be for youth.
- Can also request assistance from Environment & Natural Resources and Department of Fisheries & Oceans for some of these projects, but it is not always 100% available, depending on what they have in their core budget.

#### **Discussion:**

The following issues and concerns were discussed:

- Videos – could be included in the communications project.
- Nature Day – use of local language teachers and Elders in the Classroom program.

Eugene Pascal thanked Amy Amos for the presentation

### **20. Wildlife Studies Fund Proposals – Environment & Natural Resources Dall Sheep Survey, Collaring BG Caribou, Monitoring BG Caribou**

Marsha Branigan and Tracy Davison reviewed a presentation for three projects which were included in the meeting package.

#### **a. Dall Sheep**

- This is long term population monitoring. Usually a joint project between Environment & Natural Resources, Government of Yukon and Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board.
- Asking for both financial and in-kind support with Kristen Callaghan's time for all stages of the survey – planning, executing and report writing, along with overall support for the project.



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The Draft Management Plan has not been approved, but it suggests the survey be done every 3-5 years.

- Proposing it for this year, because would be too busy to do it in the following year because of caribou work being proposed.

### Discussion:

The following issues and concerns were discussed:

- Timing for in-kind contributions of staff time.
- How the survey is broken down into blocks and where sheep have been found in the past.

#### **b. Monitoring Barren Ground Caribou – Cape Bathurst and Blue Nose West Herds**

- Would like to conduct recruitment survey in April. To get an idea of overwinter calf survival – done when they are just short of 1 year old. Gives an idea of growth potential of the herd.
- Would also like to do a fall composition survey in late October – to get a bull/cow ratio of the herd. Try to time it during rut, so the bulls and cows are mixed. Especially for the Blue Nose West, because we are recommending a bull dominated harvest, want to monitor the bulls in the herd.
- Would also be monitoring collars to pick up stationaries. Also pick up stationaries during surveys.
- Unlikely to do a Blue Nose West recruitment survey because cannot be done in Sahtu. Want to do in 2014 because 2013 numbers were a bit lower than usual. Would like to see the number above 30, because it is lower than that, are concerned about what may be happening. There can be a lot of variety year to year, so if it is strong this year, would be less concerned.
- Last fall composition survey was done in 2009. For Cape Bathurst there was weather issues and in 2009 the ratio was pretty high of bulls to cows.

### Discussion:

The following issues and concerns were discussed:

- No in-kind support is requested for this project.

#### **c. Collaring Barren Ground Caribou**

- Proposing to collar in March 2015.
- This would be a precursor for a post-calving survey to get a population estimate for Cape Bathurst, Tuk Peninsula and Blue Nose West herds.
- Need 30 collars on Tuk Peninsula and 30 in Cape Bathurst and 60 on Blue Nose West. Majority would be put out in March with a pilot project this fall putting out 15 collars at a river crossing.
- Will only start with 15 collars with the river crossing, because in March when doing the distribution survey, have to be sure have collars throughout the herd to ensure the entire herd is sampled.
- In March, the collars are put out by net-gunning. Have in-house Environment & Natural Resources net-gunners that have conducted most of the net-gunning – Kevin Allen and Ian Ellsworth.



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- For this project for in-kind, it might be necessary to ask for Kristen Callaghan's help on the distribution survey. Having Kristen Callaghan available is helpful because for the recon survey, we use community surveyors but also need someone to navigate using GPS and map.

### **Discussion:**

The following issues and concerns were discussed:

- Time involved for in-kind support from staff.
- The type of collars to be used – mostly GPS collars, tear-drop shaped with the point at the top. Both satellite and GPS have VHF tracking available. Moving away from pure VHF collars.

### **21. Gwich'in Settlement Area Harvest Data Collection**

Janet Boxwell reviewed the presentation included in the meeting package.

### **Discussion:**

The following issues and concerns were discussed:

- Caribou hunting was poor because they were not around. Some people got moose instead.
- The Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Cooperative agrees there are less otters this year.
- Population of muskrats – there is no survey available, but numbers are down for spring hunting. Discussed using the fur numbers to approximate the number taken.
- Muskrat research being done at Old Crow – may be possible to expand that study to this region. Can ask for a presentation to be done re work being done in Old Crow.
- Forest fires – may be killing young animals.
- Erosion – is causing lakes to dry out.
- Participation in the Harvest Study – may help to increase the amount given for gasoline, younger hunters may not be on the list.
- Interviews – in person is preferred over telephone interviews.
- Funding request has been submitted to the Tribal Council re Harvest Data required for the Porcupine Caribou Herd Management Plan.

### **22. Fisheries Act & Fisheries Protection Policy**

Thomas Hogarth attended the meeting in person and Kathy (last name not clear on phone connection) joined the meeting by telephone. Thomas Hogarth reviewed a presentation included in the meeting package.

### **Discussion:**

The following issues and concerns were discussed:

- Changes in regulations re protection for fewer water bodies and how they are looked at.
- Department of Fisheries & Oceans commitment to work with Aboriginal and Management groups – concern that it has not been followed through with in the development of the new Act or since then.



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- Active fishery – was previously discussed, but that is not how the Act is being applied.
- Travaillant Lake – would be protected, even though there is no active fishery there at this time.
- Impact on stream and river crossings for the Mackenzie Valley Highway proposed. This is being reviewed in Yellowknife by Stu Nevin, Department of Fisheries & Oceans.
- Concerns re the ferry crossings and material that is dumped into the Mackenzie and the Peel that is affecting how and where people can fish. An oilspill was reported from a Cat going into the river at the crossing, but the response was not soon enough to oil spilled.
- Self Assessment process – concerns that this makes it easier for proponents to avoid the process.
- The Land Claim sets up the Land & Water Board, Land Use Planning and the Renewable Resources Board. These need the support of Fisheries & Oceans to do support the Land Claim.
- Senior Biologist in Yellowknife is Stu Nevin.
- Inuvik office of Fisheries & Oceans – have gone from 30 offices in the Central and Arctic Region to 5 due to a decision by government to centralize operations.
- Concern that people making decisions for the Inuvik region have never been here.
- Concern that cuts to Fisheries & Oceans will result in Board staff having to make up the difference – especially if there is development in the region. The Department has put resources into areas where impacts have potential to have real damage to fisheries – then would have resources to review and put direct input into the process.
- Concern that relationships between the Board staff and the Department are important, but are not being maintained with the new structure. All new files go to Burlington for review first, then a biologist is assigned if there is a concern identified.
- Concern that biologists assigned to projects must be familiar with review processes in the NWT.
- Mackenzie Valley Fibre Optic Project – may not be reviewed by Fisheries & Oceans if they are doing all of the stream crossings using directional drilling. Would ask them not to drill when fish are spawning, but otherwise directional drilling does not have an impact.
- Fisheries Officer patrols – contact Gerald if there is an issue.
- Fisheries & Oceans does not get involved in Land Use Planning – only development proposals, so would not be involved in the Land Use Plan for the Peel Watershed. The Act would apply to fisheries used for subsistence and ceremonial use as well as protections under the Land Claim. Part of the review process for any project is to ensure aboriginal consultation has been completed.
- Concern that Fisheries & Oceans officials have not involved the Board in designating aboriginal fisheries in this area.
- Funding to rebuild and restore fish populations is available for recreational fisheries – herring would apply only if they were a recreational fishery. There is no program for aboriginal fisheries. The Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board may not qualify as a conservation group under this funding.
- Program funding for Dolly Varden populations re restoration/rebuilding – other than Species at Risk, not aware of any other funding available.
- Disappointed in the lack of meaningful discussion between the Department and the Board re the development of the Act, consultation did not happen as is laid out in the Land Claim Agreement – government used language used “may” as reason not to consult as was done in the past.



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- Lack of presence in the Mackenzie Delta by the Department – who will enforce the Act and Regulations?
- Fisheries Protection Policy Operational Approach – requested involvement in a minor impacts list during the November conference call. This list has not been created – the website is based on old operational statements. No list was created, the Department is not planning on creating one at this time.
- The Board was asked to review the Operational Approach document – was not involved in the development of the website content that is in use now.
- Concerns re water coming up the system from the Athabaska River. Environment Canada deals with concerns re the spill before Christmas.
- Coney tagged in Northern BC have been caught here – likely other fish are also travelling through the system that way.
- Concerns about fish – herring parasites, whitefish re climate change.
- Would like to see the Department seeking advice from the Board in a more timely manner in future. Consultation must be done in a meaningful way. The way this process went through – we were consulted after the bill had passed.
- Thomas Hogarth commented he understands and agrees with the principle of consultation.
- National Marine Conservation Area – will follow up with the Board on progress – Steve Newton, Manager of Oceans Programs to provide information.
- Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board is a working board – with agreements, management plans and with its partners, for the betterment and preservation of wildlife in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. It is something that is dear to our people and has sustained us for years. We want to make sure it is there.
- Re the policy being misleading - Thomas Hogarth don't think that was intentional. Fisheries & Oceans staff did not see any part of the policy or website until November 25<sup>th</sup>. Up until that time, there was a lot of work being done in the background to the policies, website, how we would implement the Act, but a lot of it was under Cabinet Confidentiality.
- Best decisions are made with information and the input of the people in the region. Fisheries & Oceans hopes to build back the relationship.

The Board thanked Thomas Hogarth for his time and asked him to please share our messages.

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 4:55 p.m. Will reconvene at 9:00 a.m.

### February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013

Eugene Pascal called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m. and recognized quorum.

#### **23. Renewable Resources Council & Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board Session**

Janet Boxwell presented a list of items that have come up from the Board meeting in September and the Regional Renewable Resources Council meeting along with some notes from this meeting. A copy of this information was passed out to the participants of the meeting.



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### Discussion:

The following issues and concerns were discussed.

- Another **source for funding** for Harvester Education is Industry Tourism & Investment.
- **Deep Water Lake** – water quality and quantity studies.
- Schools all receive funding for **cultural programming** – may be another source for funding Hunter Education. Janet Boxwell will contact the schools.
- **All Season Camp** – for education programs on the land. Not all local people get a chance to be on the land.
- **Caribou** – the no-hunting zone, and timing for its review/changes to the restrictions, steps to have the harvest opened again if the count shows recovery.
- **Slumps and caribou travel mitigation** – is research being done. Need to contact the researcher to ask.
- **Residential Schools Education payments** – are investigating if this can be used by the Board for camps, the Board is not a recognized facility on the approved list. Tribal Council will likely let people know how the funds can be used.
- **Muskrat population research** – there is a researcher working in Old Crow on muskrats. Many lakes are drying up and this may contribute to the problem. ENR is doing carcass collection to check for disease and parasites.
- **Water levels** – re Bennett Dam, lakes drying out
- **Tags** for Blue Nose East and Cape Bathurst herds – must be in the correct zone to use them.
- **Caribou Hunters video** – Stephen Charlie to look for a copy for the Board.
- **Herring** – possible decline. Suggestion to set a net to see if they are available. People that put nets in at Tuktoyaktuk get enough herring in 3-4 days.
- **Snipes** – possible decline. Suggestion to ask someone to do a count in a given area.
- Could use local people to do initial assessments of species re population.
- Anyone can recommend a **species for assessment** by the Species at Risk process, the information is on the web.
- **Grizzly Bear hides** – there are some in storage. Need to make a decision what to do with them. Ehdiiat Renewable Resources has sent out a hide to be tanned and then sold to raise money. Local people do not usual tan bear hides. Bear tags are allocated to communities with a certain number banked for problem bears. Hides from problem bears are not given to the person that shoots the bear, they are dried and scraped. There are about 3 per year. The Board has two hides in storage right now. When the Board gets a hide, they either keep it for educational purposes or pass it on to the Renewable Resources Council. Tags are only for the NWT, not the Yukon. In the Yukon, if you hunt a bear, you must eat the meat. Not many people eat bear meat, some feed it to their dogs, or it may go to the dump. The Board can help to dispose of the meat and hide if they know sooner about the kill. The Wildlife Act does not require you to eat bear meat. You could bring them to Environment & Natural Resources to send them to auction and get the money, or you could send them out to get them tanned for about \$1000 to use for display purposes.



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Some Gwich'in Elders do not want to see bears hunted.

Suggestion there could be a workshop re how to tan bear hides.

There was a discussion of what should be done with the hides – pass them on to the Renewable Resources Councils or sell them. If they are sold – what should happen to the money raised? Could use it for bear management. Not all hides are suitable for tanning – summer bear hides have no commercial value.

Problem bears from Yukon must be dealt with by them.

- **Wood Cutting Permits** – they advertise that wood cutting permits are available at the Renewable Resources Council, but they don't have any there. Should have a big sign for Environment & Natural Resources saying where to get the permits.
- **Traditional Workshop Video** – was mentioned in 2013 meeting, but have not located a copy at the office. May have a copy at Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute. Suggestion to host another workshop jointly with Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute. Gwich'in Tribal Council has this on their strategic plan as well.

**Decision:** Bears will be sent to auction first in all cases. Contact to the Renewable Resources Council would happen after the money is received. It would be up to the Renewable Resources Councils to let the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board know if they want the hides for educational purposes, etc. Environment & Natural Resources will notify Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board when a bear is shot and the affected Renewable Resources Council will be contacted at that point.

### **BREAK**

Johnny Charlie commented – every two years, we build a cabin in McPherson – have four so far. Last year, were staying in tents with the military and every morning there were bears around. If you are staying on the land, you can stay in a cabin. Got funding from Environment & Natural Resources for assisting as well as from the Renewable Resources Council. The cabins are off the ground about 20" and will last a long time. If the foundation gets rotten, it can be replaced. The old cabins that were built on the ground are sinking. Would like to see 3 more cabins built. Anyone can use them, they are open.

### **24. Rat River Working Group**

Kris Maier reviewed the presentation that was included in the meeting package and was originally scheduled for Day 1.

Coming to the Board re the recommendation to the Rat River Working Group for the harvest level.

Kris Maier reported that the population appears to be stable for the last 3-4 years. Will recommend to the working group, there should be no change voluntary harvest level: 420 total – 180 to monitoring, 240 to community fishermen. Asked for the Board's support.

Kris Maier raised a concern that McPherson did not use their allocation for the char in 2013. There is no reason for people not to fish re concern for the char stock. Have heard that people are concerned about the stock, but the allocation is there because the stock can handle it. There could be pressure from the Inuvialuit to increase





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their allocation in the harvest and their participation in the monitoring program if the Gwich'in do not use their allocation.

### Discussion:

- Members indicated they support the recommended allocation.
- People were unable to get any char ("trout") when water was high in the fall.
- Tags on nets – people are not tagging their nets as they should. This helps people to monitor nets left in too long.
- Non-Gwich'in require a licence/permit to set a net. Some were setting nets last fall.

Rat River Working Group will be meeting March 4 in Inuvik. They will be making the allocations and setting the harvest level. Kris Maier will update the Board on the recommendation the Rat River Working Group will be making to the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, Department of Fisheries & Oceans and FJMC.

### 25. Operating Budget & Work Plan

Amy Amos reviewed the cover letter to Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada, the budget and workplan.

- Note that Eugene Pascal's title should be changed on the cover letter.
- The workplan has six sections. In the staffing section – yellow highlighted area is recommended for removal. The workplan doesn't change much from year to year except for updates. It is intended not to be too specific, our agreement says that if we have a surplus and it can be used to meet objectives in our workplan, we can carry it over, so we try not to be too specific.

Amy Amos reviewed the budget worksheets.

- Suggest removing the line item for Resource Technician that line item and increase casual staff, so we could still hire a someone, but for a shorter term.
- Another saving was moving to a Xerox from a Ricoh copier.
- Staffing budget follows Board policy.
- RRSP contributions changed to match Gwich'in Tribal Council policy as per teleconference in October.
- Staff travel and PD has not changed.
- Board meeting expenses have been updated to make them more accurate and to include preparation time. Savings are achieved when there are vacancies on the Board due to late appointments.
- Teleconferences were changed re preparation time.
- Executive Representation – when Board members are working outside of regular board meetings. Reduced that line item because we can usually get money from other sources.
- Office items did not change much except for the copier.
- Truck lease is included.
- Consultants – includes for legal or financial advice.

Amy Amos needs to submit the budget and workplan on Monday unless she asks for an extension.



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### Discussion:

- **Phone, fax and internet costs** – phone bill is usually just under \$1000 per month, which includes the fax and internet. The budget may include a bit of a contingency and is based on historical use. Have talked to NWTel about possible savings, but there isn't much more can be done.
- **Staff travel** amount includes the staff going to meetings in the communities, going to the Inuvik Petroleum Show, Aurora College. The Petroleum Show expense is for a pass for Janet Boxwell – so she would be aware of any activity going on or may be coming down the line. She attends the presentations, but we don't set up a booth. Sometimes Amy Amos attends.
- **Staff attending Renewable Resources Council meetings**, sometimes that is not possible, sometimes there is a challenge when there is more than one meeting on the same day. Sometimes can use project funds to cover travel to an Renewable Resources Council meeting, so it doesn't come out of the travel fund. Try to encourage using the project funds first.

### Motion #14-04 GRRB

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board approves the operating budget and workplan for 2014/2015 as presented.

Moved by: Johnny Charlie

Seconded by: Bobby Jo Greenland-Morgan

### Discussion:

- This motion gives approval to Amy Amos to manage the Board's budget within these guidelines.
- Is there any flexibility where something crops up to move stuff around? That would be up to the Board on a teleconference. Also have options to access other funding sources. Usually try to keep core funding according to the line items in the budget. If there is anything emergency or extreme comes up, will discuss it and make changes as required.
- The total amount of the budget is given to the Board by Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada. We work around that to come up with the budget.

Question called: **CARRIED** unanimously

Fanny Greenland thanked the Chair and Board for the meeting and Cheryl for the great snacks, youth for hanging on, and the rest of the Renewable Resources Council. Also thanked Amy Amos.

Eugene Pascal thanked Renewable Resources Councils and youth for their participation. We have had a lot of good discussions. Keep attending and keep your interest.

**LUNCH BREAK 12:12 to 1:30 p.m.**



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Eugene Pascal called the meeting to order at 1:33 p.m.

### **26. Safety Policy**

Amy Amos explained there is a Briefing Note in the meeting package.

- Cheryl Greenland and Amy Amos have both taken Supervisor Safety Training from WSCC.
- The Operations Manual has some safety information in it, but based on the course, the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board needs a safety section for their policy.
- Cheryl Greenland was selected as the safety rep for employees.
- Working on developing a safety policy. Hired a consultant who has a safety background as a safety officer. She has met with Cheryl Greenland and Amy Amos to identify the items that should be included in the policy. Will prepare a draft for staff and Board to review and approve. As an employer, the Board has a lot of responsibilities under the Safety Act. As the Executive Director, Amy Amos is considered part of the employer, as well as supervisor and employee. We're not doing anything unsafe, but need the policy written down.
- This doesn't require a motion, but would like a direction.
- Would any of the Board members like to be included in a committee to work on drafting the policy.
- The Board will have to approve this policy, once it is completed.
- Will provide the policy a month before a teleconference dedicated to discussing and approving the policy.
- There would be a regular agenda item discussing safety issues/incidents. Would also notify the Board of anything that happens.
- The current policies contain one page, Section 9, on Safety and Harassment. Should have two separate sections. There are timelines laid out in the Act that should be included in the policy.
- Need job risk analysis for each job description. Every employee needs to understand the risks associated with what they do, so that they may have an option to refuse to work they consider unsafe.
- Have safe practices in house, but it isn't written down. Once it is written down, can be enforced as well.
- Bobby Jo Greenland-Morgan would be interested in taking part of the drafting. The Board agreed.
- Suggested each section can be approved as it is drafted.
- The consultant has started the draft with some of the more generic statements and portions of the legislation. It is important to translate important pieces of the legislation into language as uncomplicated and straight forward as possible, so that employees can understand it.
- An outline to the consultant re where the policy should go.

### **27. Signing Authority**

Eugene Pascal explained the existing policy. Would like to add another Board member to the signing authorities.

- Staff cannot issue a cheque without a member of the Board signing it.
- Right now the only thing might be an expense claims and we usually get that done within a week. Payroll and honoraria are done through Ceridian, so don't need signatures. Accounts payable are done once a month. The only other ones are consultants or contractors who might need to be paid.



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Johnny Charlie agreed to have his name put on the signing authority.

### **Motion #14-05 GRRB**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board appoints Johnny Charlie to be added to the signing authorities for the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board accounts.

Moved by: Charlie Snowshoe

Seconded by: Bobby Jo Greenland-Morgan

Question called: **CARRIED** unanimously

### **Discussion:**

- Re **openings on the Board** – some have been appointed, but there are seven vacant. We are lucky we got a quorum. Names are submitted through the Gwich'in Tribal Council and they make the recommendation to appoint. The Federal Government makes that actual appointments. There are a number of names that have been put forward, but the decision on the appointment hasn't been made. Appointments can take a year to 18 months. The last couple of recommendations made by Gwich'in Tribal Council were refused. They submitted three names the last time so the Minister can choose.

Barry Greenland thanked the Board for a very successful meeting.

Steven Gruben thanked the Board for having him attend. Would be interested in attending again in the future. Charlie Snowshoe encouraged him to keep coming.

## **28. Staff & Board Meeting**

### **a. Research Priority Discussion**

- An item that came up is adding community based monitoring as a priority. It would open things a bit more to allow the staff to give letters of support for researchers.
- Suggested taking a look at research that is being done to obtain base-line data. That could include Community Based Monitoring. Projects like CIMP use community based monitoring as part of their criteria.
- The way the priorities are listed now is very species specific, and secondary priorities are more general. A lot of time, researchers will ask for letters of support from us for other funding bodies. If we add community based monitoring as one of the priorities, it would capture something that we don't have listed as a priority, but is of community interest i.e. rabbits.
- There is a need for a more general research priority because Steve Kokelj asked for a letter of support but his program didn't fit the research priorities we had listed, even though his work was of interest to the communities. This doesn't mean we would do the work ourselves or put our funding into it.
- This speaks to the Research Planning Priority work we did. Seems like we are changing the field to fit the projects that are coming in rather than getting them to do different research. If we can change research priorities based on staff recommendations, there may be more amendments we would like to make.



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- The Board could say they support Community Based Monitoring in the Gwich'in Settlement Area and the collection of base line data without changing our research priorities. Could be listed as a preferred method rather than another priority. "Research priorities could be achieved through community based monitoring and collection of base line data." Could be added as a line at the beginning of the listing.

**Action:** Janet Boxwell and Amy Amos can work on some text in the preamble that the Board supports Community Based management and baseline research as a method.

- Re the discussion re muskrats, we need to look at the criteria that was used in the workshop to make sure it is fair. Can address it in the interim through recommending it to the Species At Risk process for evaluation. Encourage Traditional Knowledge gathering on this subject through Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute and Renewable Resources Councils. Can follow up with Environment & Natural Resources re their data from carcass collection.
- There is no real definition of community based monitoring, and there is a difference between perception of southern researchers and people that work here. There is a difference between training people to collect the data and then using the data they collect to make the decisions, rather than just hiring someone to come along with you for a couple of days a year.
- An example is the person who would like to conduct the bird surveys, and his stated objective is to hand it off to them, so that would fit into the objective. Potentially, he might ask for a letter of support to send somewhere else. Maybe we need to figure out what community monitoring is and provide that for the Gwich'in Settlement Area and provide it to researchers.
- May be premature to bring to the Board now for a motion. Anything that is added as a priority likely needs to go through the ranking process, but there is a difference between priorities and methods.
- This process makes it more difficult to turn a community concern into an emergency. If people are interested in herring surveys, how can we add it to the list? Under this list, there are only two fish priorities on the list, but they could be dealt with in the next couple of years. There are other priorities that could be brought forward.
- There has to be a line between a manageable list and the interest list that has 60-70 priorities. One thing the Board can do is share the longer list with external researchers in the hopes of guiding research interests but there is something different re staff resources. Have already made a Board motion re Dall Sheep for Kristen Callaghan to work on in 2014. There needs to be a line for staff to work on vs. encouraging others to work on.
- The new design of the research priority document was to assist staff in research planning and give time to gather funds. It was hard to have an annual process where priorities could be changed every fall. However, it can be frustrating when you can think of a way to deal with a priority quickly in the current year and it's not on the list.
- It is important to distinguish between management plan commitments and research priorities. One of the objectives of the research priorities process was to guide staff time and try to focus things a bit. Now that the dust has settled a bit with having a focus, but we should be able to make changes as needed.
- Need a more in depth discussion on this. Everyone agreed on the process to get the priorities. It is the Board's responsibility to have ownership of this, but we have to discuss how we can accommodate some



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questions that are being put out there – muskrats for one, herring question, the question about up the Arctic Red River and that is an important area for Gwich'in.

- In the Research Priority report, it said these are items that staff should work on or get money for, then some are the priorities that should give in-kind support, then some were just for support for further research. Everyone agreed to the criteria, then ranking was done by groups made of Board members, Community and Partners. The Community members ranked things differently because they viewed the criteria differently than everyone else. Maybe we need to do another workshop.
- Suggested there needs to be more autonomy for the Board to move things up and down the list as questions come up from the community. Five years ago otters were a priority, now they may be number two.
- Suggested that new items would go into the secondary list, then if they are still an issue in five years, would become a priority for staff.
- Dolly Varden Char will always be on the list because it is a management plan. Unless you agree to let the Department of Fisheries & Oceans take the lead. In the past, Department of Fisheries & Oceans did all of the lead, got the money, then asked for the staff to go out and help, so that would be a secondary priority. Lake Trout was handled that way. Need to consider if it will be removed as a priority as work is completed.
- Re extenuating circumstance – Environment & Natural Resources said they wouldn't have money for the survey in two years so wanted to do it this year, plus had other interests coming up re the management plan, so that is an extenuating circumstance.
- The priority list is listed on the web.
- Should have this discussion with partners as well. In the interim, can talk about this at the staff level and address our needs re work planning, vs management planning, vs research. Also need input from the communities and Renewable Resources Councils.
- Wildlife vs fish management requires a different planning approach – wildlife planning requires a longer time scale. Fish stuff often doesn't need 3 to 5 years to plan it.
- Need to be as efficient as possible with resources available.
- We are way behind on fisheries on baseline data. There are questions about fish that could be answered with a really small amount of funding.
- With the old system, one year moose was a priority, it took a year to get funding, then it wasn't really a priority any more.
- Could add questions re priorities to the Harvest Study, information could be filtered through the Renewable Resources Council to the Research Priority setting process. Should not be done every time.

**Action item:** Staff can start working on identifying differences in needs between wildlife, fish and forestry re planning. From staff discussion, can seek funding to add on an extra day to the meeting, to allow us to have a larger discussion. Need to go back to the drawing board before we go back to the Board for a decision. Could be a review and evaluation of the process – two years will have gone by since the first workshop. Can talk about how to deal with emerging interests. Would plan to review the priority list in the following year, after reviewing the process.



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- Need to keep the criteria as close to the mandate as possible. Need to understand what is happening with the species to make management decisions.
- The Board has to have the autonomy to say this is a priority and this isn't. You have to be able to say this is more important than this, no matter what has been said.
- Johnny Charlie and Charlie Snowshoe talked about traditional management methods used in the past to maintain habitat and water levels as well as past numbers for muskrats, fish and rabbits.
- Climate change – what is the best research? Can look into what is being done.

### **Motion #14-06 GRRB**

To go in camera at 3:18 p.m.

Moved by: Bobby Jo Greenland-Morgan

Seconded by: Johnny Charlie

**CARRIED** unanimously.

### **Motion #14-07 GRRB**

To come out of camera at 5:03 p.m.

Moved by: Johnny Charlie

Seconded by: Charlie Snowshoe

**CARRIED** unanimously.

### **Motion #14-08 GRRB**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board approves the allocations from the Wildlife Studies Fund as per the following table:

Research and Monitoring to Support Management of Dolly Varden in the Gwich'in Settlement Area	\$13,500
Youth & Communications Program	\$5,000
Arctic Borderlands community monitoring, interviews and youth workshop	\$11,000
Nin Nihlinehch'ı' – Łi' hàh Guk'àndeht'inahtii (Animals at Risk – animals we are watching closely)	\$16,500
Steppe Bison Exhibits - Warming Times: The Steppe Bison in Two Worlds	\$3,000
Population abundance and index of demographics of Dolly	\$10,000



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Varden from the Rat River

North Richardson Mountain Dall's Sheep Survey, June 2014 \$18,000

Collaring of the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, Cape Bathurst, and  
Bluenose-West Barren-Ground Caribou Herds \$18,000

Monitoring of the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, Cape Bathurst  
and Bluenose-West Barren Ground caribou herds \$9,000

**Total \$123,000**

Moved by: Bobby Jo Greenland-Morgan

Seconded by: Johnny Charlie

**CARRIED** unanimously

**Motion #14-09 GRRB**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board approves deferrals of projected surpluses in project budgets as presented in Tab 6.

AANDC Supplemental_SARA	\$26,135.83	Will defer balance
Bluenose Caribou Management Meeting	\$10,619.22	Request to defer balance
Communications Network Program	\$11,738.00	Request to defer balance
Dempster Grizzly - WSF	\$6,787.11	Board to decide
GNWT SARA Contract	\$26,410.67	muliti-year, expect to use
Gwich'in Haverst Study - WSF	\$36,447.00	Request to defer balance
IFMP Consultations	\$885.54	Request to defer balance
Wildlife Act Meetings	\$9,394.75	muliti-year, can defer balance and use next year
Wildlife Studies	\$11,123.00	This is the 2013-14 WSF projects. Available for Boards use in 2014-15
Youth Program	\$4,915.18	Will use to bring youth in for this meeting. Request to defer any additional surplus

Moved by: Bobby Jo Greenland-Morgan

Seconded by: Johnny Charlie

**CARRIED** unanimously





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**Motion #14-10 GRRB**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board approves withdrawal of \$93,000 from the RBC Wildlife Studies Fund.

Moved by: Johnny Charlie

Seconded by: Bobby Jo Greenland-Morgan

**CARRIED** unanimously

Eugene Pascal thanked everyone for coming to the meeting. Thanked Amy Amos and the staff for their hard work and making the meeting a success, thank you to the recorder.

**Motion #14-11 GRRB**

To the Board of Directors meeting at 5:07 p.m., February 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

Moved by: Charlie Snowshoe

<b>Major File</b>	<b>No. of seats</b>	<b>Current Members</b>	<b>Expressed Interest</b>
Wildlife Act	1-2	Eugene Pascal Amy Amos	Cindy Allen
Species at Risk, CMA	3	Eugene Pascal Amy Amos Rotate member Kaytlin Cooper (via other funds)	Cindy Allen
Board Forum	2	Eugene Pascal Amy Amos	Cindy Allen
ACCWM, wildlife co-chairs group	1-2	Eugene Pascal and/or Jozef Carnogursky	
Dolly varden	1		
Forestry	1		
Outfitting	1		
Dall's sheep	1		
Grizzly bear	1		Cindy Allen