



Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board

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GRRB Teleconference Minutes

March 19, 2014 5:30 PM MST (NT) / 4:30 PM PST (BC) / 6:30 PM CDT (MA)

Attendance:

GRRB office: Eugene Pascal (Chairperson), Amy Amos (Staff), Natalka Melnycky (Staff), Janet Boxwell (Staff), Cheryl Greenland (Staff)

On call: Bobbie Jo Greenland Morgan (Member), Cindy Allen (Member)

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order at 5:36 PM by Eugene Pascal.

2. Agenda

Motion # GRRB 2014-12	To approve the March 19, 2014 teleconference agenda, as presented
Moved by: Bobbie Jo Greenland Morgan	Seconded by: Cindy Allen
All in favour.	Motion carried.

3. Minutes

The verbatim version of the meeting notes from the February 2014 face-to-face meeting was provided. The final draft minutes should be available soon.

4. Conflict

Conflict will be declared as it arises.

5. Bark Swallow

At the February face-to-face board meeting the GRRB Board agreed to hold off on making any decision on the proposed listing of Bark Swallow until the Tsiigehtchic consultation was completed. The delay was a result of staff turn-over at the Gwichya RRC. Natalka hosted a public meeting in Tsiigehtchic on February 26, 2014. She presented an update to the GRRB on the comments she heard at the Tsiigehtchic consultation and her staff recommendation on the proposed listing.

Cindy inquired on the frequency of bird surveys. Natalka described the proposal she helped the Gwichya RRC with to apply for funds from the NWT Species at Risk Stewardship Fund to complete a Bark Swallow survey during the summer of 2014. There was appreciation from the Board on the initiative taken by the Gwichya RRC on this proposal. The Board encouraged other RRC's to take the same initiative for community-based surveys. The Board reviewed the information provided in the consultation package from Environment Canada, the results of the consultation and the staff recommendation in order to make a decision on the proposed listing.

Motion # GRRB 2014-13

Moved by: Bobbie Jo Greenland Morgan
All in favour.

To approve the proposed listing of bank swallow as threatened under the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

Seconded by: Cindy Allen
Motion carried.

6. Olive-sided flycatcher

At the February face-to-face board meeting the GRRB Board agreed to hold off on making any decision on the proposed recovery strategy for the olive-sided flycatcher until the Tsiigehtchic consultation was completed. The delay was a result of staff turn-over at the Gwichya RRC. Nataalka hosted a public meeting in Tsiigehtchic on February 26, 2014. She presented the briefing note provided in the meeting binder which included a summary of all the community comments and her staff recommendation to the GRRB on the proposed recovery strategy.

Cindy requested clarification on whether Donna Bigelow responded to her question from the February board meeting on international agreements. Her concern is that the primary breeding area is in the United States so the recovery strategy should have some objectives in place to manage internationally. The GRRB staff have not heard any response to date but will follow up. Nataalka added that the broad objectives in the recovery strategy include a policy and partnership component to promote protection internationally. Cindy and Bobbie Jo are okay with the proposed recovery strategy but want Cindy's comments from the February meeting to be clarified. The Board reviewed the information provided in the consultation package from Environment Canada, the results of the consultation and the staff recommendation in order to make a decision on the proposed recovery strategy.

Motion # GRRB 2014-14

Moved by: Cindy Allen
All in favour.

To approve the proposed recovery strategy for olive-sided flycatcher under the federal *Species at Risk Act*.

Seconded by: Bobbie Jo Greenland Morgan
Motion carried.

7. Species at Risk Committee (SARC) Chair

Amy provided an update on the Species at Risk Committee (SARC) chairperson. The meeting binder includes a short briefing note. The GRRB appoints a member and alternate to SARC to assess species. The GRRB appointed James Firth as a member and Eugene Pascal as the alternate member in 2010 for a 5 year term. James was appointed by SARC to represent them as their chairperson for the past 2 years. He wanted the Board to know that he has declined the offer to extend his term as the SARC Chair but remains as a SARC member. This reduces funds the GRRB received for renting office space to him.

8. Boreal caribou range planning

Amy walked the Board through the questions from Nicole McCutchen, ENR Biologist, at the February board meeting. Nataalka walked the Board through the staff recommendations on the guidance document for range planning of Boreal caribou in the NWT. The meeting binder includes a briefing note on the questions and the staff comments on the guidance document.

Questions to the Board

- Question 1: The Board has no concerns with dividing the NWT wide plan into regional plans but was curious how the Gwich'in primary use area in the Yukon would be dealt with

- Question 2: The Board is concerned with the goals for 65% protection level and the timeline of achieving 65% over 50-100 years. The Board recalled raising these concerns in their official comments on the proposed recovery strategy in October 2012. **Action:** Amy and Nataalka to review the Board comments from 2012 and reiterate their concerns relating to these two items.
- Question 3: The Board supports the proposed participants of the working group but suggested the GNWT seek clarification on who would represent the aboriginal government in the overlap areas in the Yukon.
- Question 4: The Board supports how the areas should be kept free of disturbance are identified as long as the regional processes in place are respected (e.g. land use plans). The Board noted that for the Gwich'in Settlement Area this is not a huge concern at the time because we have a land use plan and there is currently not very much development happening in our region.
- Question 5: The Board generally supports how the areas are ranked as long as the Gwich'in Land Use Plan is respected and development does not dictate changes to high importance areas. There was discussion about how TK surveys could be used to help identify important areas and how the north might be defined differently than the more southern areas. The Board also discussed how areas can move from high importance areas can change and how development should not dictate a change in how an area is ranked. The Board strongly supports protection of Boreal caribou habitat. **Action:** Nataalka to check if the Boreal caribou TK report addresses TK surveys to help identify important areas for Boreal caribou.
- Question 6: The Board is concerned with weighing natural changes in an area to offset development. If development occurs in an area, it will likely always be low importance. If natural disturbance like fire happens, the area could eventually be restored and return to a high importance area.
- Question 7: The Board supports the proposed interim recommendations for each region.
- Question 8: The Board supports the suggested order for developing the regional plans.

Staff recommendations on Guidance Document

Nataalka presented the staff comments for the guidance document for Boreal caribou range planning in the NWT. These comments are included in the meeting binder.

9. Forest regulations

Amy presented the staff comments on the Forest regulations. These were compiled by her and Kris Maier, GRRB Fish/Forest Biologist. The recommended regulations were compared with the Gwich'in Forest Management Plan and Chapter 13 of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement.

Action: Submit comments to the GNWT as presented

10. RRSP

The Board reviewed the draft waiver form that was developed as a result of an action item from October's teleconference. The waiver form will ensure that staff cannot hold the GRRB liable if they choose to withdrawal from their RRSP prematurely before retirement.

Motion # GRRB 2014-15

Moved by: Cindy Allen

All in favour.

To adopt the waiver form, as presented

Seconded by: Bobbie Jo Greenland Morgan

Motion carried.

The Board reviewed the draft RRSP policy that describes the new policy effective April 1, 2014 based on the decisions at the February 2014 board meeting. The Board wants the word “annually” incorporated into the policy to reflect the annual gross salary.

Motion # GRRB 2014-16

To adopt the amended policy for a group RRSP, with the revision noted.

Moved by: Bobbie Jo Greenland Morgan
All in favour.

Seconded by: Cindy Allen
Motion carried.

11. Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB)

The PCMB met February 11-13 in Dawson City, Yukon for their annual harvest meeting. They circulated their harvest recommendations to the parties of the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement. The GNWT, Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) department shared these recommendations with the GRRB requesting advice by March 26, 2014. The Board reviewed the recommendations and offers the following advice.

Decision: The GRRB agrees that all the information provided during the 2014 Annual Harvest Meeting, as well as the recently released photo-survey results, support the green zone harvest management actions according to the Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management Plan and associated Implementation Plan. Specifically, the GRRB supports no harvest restrictions, continued monitoring and communication on responsible harvesting practices including encouraging a bull-dominated harvest. The GRRB also supports promoting education to youth on the proper traditional harvesting practices.

12. Cape Bathurst tag zone

Amy requested the Boards support for her to follow up on a comment that was raised in the February board meeting regarding moving the location of the Cape Bathurst tag zone. This is currently in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region but the comment in the meeting was there are discussions to move it towards Campbell Lake. The staff recommendation is to request the Board to be included in discussions for two reasons; (1) it’s involvement in the draft management plan that manages this herd jointly and (2) the location proposed in the meeting may include part of the Gwich’in Settlement Area (GSA).

Decision: The Board supports the request to be included in discussions relating to moving the tag zones for the Cape Bathurst herd.

14. Board files

Eugene presented the major files the Board is currently involved in that welcome participation from other members. **Action:** Members will email Amy their interest for being involved in the Board files.

15. Other business

A table with upcoming meetings is included on the agenda. No other business was raised.

16. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 7:21 PM

Motion # GRRB 2014-17

To adjourn the March 19, 2014 teleconference

Moved by: Bobbie Jo Greenland Morgan
All in favour.

Seconded by: Cindy Allen
Motion carried.