

Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board

P.O. Box 2240, Inuvik, NT X0E 0T0
Phone: (867) 777-6600 Fax: (867) 777-6601
<http://www.grrb.nt.ca>

GRRB TELECONFERENCE MINUTES **October 24, 2014 10:00 AM MST (NT) / 9:00 AM PST (YT)**

Attendance

- GRRB office: Amy Amos (Staff), Nataalka Melnycky (Staff)
 - On call: Eugene Pascal (Chair), Burt Hunt (Member), Doug Doan (Member), Johnny Charlie (Member), Bobbie Jo Greenland Morgan (Member), Charlie Snowshoe (Alternate Member)
 - Regrets: Jozef Carnogursky (Alternate Member), Cindy Allen (Alternate Member). Both sent written comments
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1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Eugene Pascal at 10:03 AM. There was a round table of introductions and confirmation that there was quorum.

2. Agenda

Motion # GRRB 2014-33	To approve the October 24, 2014 teleconference agenda
Moved by: Charlie Snowshoe	Seconded by: Doug Doan
All in favour.	Motion carried.

3. Minutes

The draft minutes were provided for the September 2014 face to face meeting. It was decided to table a decision on them until the February 2015 face-to-face meeting to allow the members more time to review.

Action(s):

- Members to send Amy any edits or suggestions for the draft minutes

4. Conflict

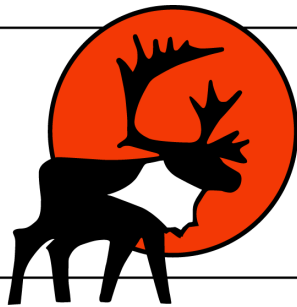
Conflict will be declared as it arises.

5. Peregrine Falcon Management plan

Nataalka Melnycky presented a powerpoint presentation that was included in the meeting binder. The presentation included background information, community comments and her staff recommendations. She requested the Board's support for the proposed management plan.

Discussion:

Doug Doan asked for more details on the harvest threat. Nataalka responded indicating that the harvest threat is assumed to be further south and used for falconry.



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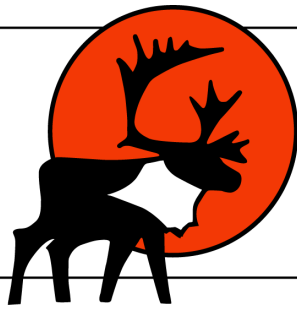
Doug Doan asked if people can capture protected species. Nataalka clarified that they should not be able to.

Doug Doan inquired about pesticides. He understood that pesticides were not used in Canada but were used in the wintering grounds and asked if Nataalka knew where pesticides were used. Nataalka responded that pesticides are used in some of the United States.

Cindy Allen provided written comments. She agreed with the GRRB staff recommendation to approve the draft plan with an abbreviated review time to follow. Her comments on the draft plan are:

- The down-listing of the bird in 2007 from threatened to special concern is worrisome in light of pesticides still being found in the birds despite the banning of DDT. The plan mentions that there is a medium threat to the bird from pollution and chemicals that results in a bioaccumulation of contamination.
- Peregrines arrive north in May and leave in October. Peregrines spend half their time in the north before going south.
- Is there anything that GRRB can do to help the peregrines with the negative effects from pesticides and chemicals? GRRB can write a letter to Federal and GNWT officials asking for further reductions or a ban of pesticides and chemicals in the habitat of the peregrines. GRRB can recommend to the GTC to ban pesticides and chemicals affecting peregrines in the traditional territory of the Gwich'in and the Gwich'in Settlement Area. Are there other legislative initiatives that the GRRB can support that will contribute to the well-being of the peregrines? Which legislation is in progress that establishes greater protective measures for peregrines?
- Disturbance and damage from recreational activities, exploration and development of resources and construction are medium threats. The plan also says that exploration and development of resources could be a significant threat. Medium and significant threat do not seem the same to her. Significant is more than medium. Can this be clarified?
- The draft plan mentions that under CEAA, 2012, that compensation is paid for an unacceptable impact on the species. Whom is the compensation paid to? Since it is the peregrine falcon that is threatened by the disturbance and damage and they will not be getting compensation. Has any exploration and development of resources and construction projects in the GSA and the NWT been able to pay compensation for the unacceptable impact on the peregrine instead of minimizing the impacts? If yes, which project and when?
- Is the management objective of having a self-sustaining population throughout its entire home range in Canada within 10 years realistic? She agreed with the 4 strategies and conservation actions.
- Can GRRB participate in any of the management plan activities? Can GRRB get funds to do research and or conservation activities for peregrines?

Nataalka Melnycky indicated she can add these concerns to the final comments.



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Charlie Snowshoe inquired about migrating birds range. Natalka clarified that these birds winter in the United States and breed in the North.

Charlie Snowshoe expressed concerns with oil and gas development and felt it should be listed as a threat. Natalka responded that this is currently not listed as a threat. She mentioned that peregrine falcons tend to perch in high areas and avoid tailing ponds but acknowledged that the chemicals may create a threat and be correlated. She also mentioned that the management plan identifies the need for more research on different chemicals as part of their strategy.

Motion # GRRB 2014-34

Moved by: Burt Hunt
All in favour.

To approve the Peregrine Falcon Management Plan under federal government's *Species at Risk Act* with comments from the GRRB's Special Projects Biologist
Seconded by: Johnny Charlie
Motion carried.

Action(s):

- Natalka Melnycky will highlight the importance of more research on chemical impacts to peregrine falcon. She will also recommend oil and gas development be added as a threat in the GRRB's final comments on the draft management plan

6. Short-eared Owl Management Plan

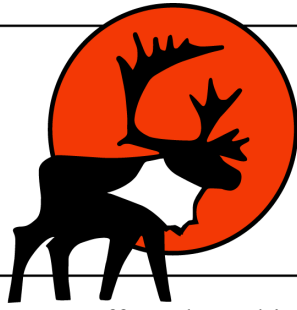
Natalka Melnycky presented a powerpoint presentation that was included in the meeting binder. The presentation included background information, community comments and her staff recommendations. She requested the Board's support for the proposed management plan.

Discussion:

Charlie Snowshoe expressed the same concern he brought up for the peregrine falcon about oil and gas development being a threat.

Cindy Allen provided written comments. She agreed with the GRRB staff recommendation to approve the draft plan with an abbreviated review time to follow. Her comments on the draft plan are:

- It is a concern that the owl has remained a species of special concern since 1994 and that its status is closer to threatened. There are continuous decreases in the population over 40 years. The primary threat is habitat loss and degradation with a severe and ongoing threat to the owl's grassland habitat by intensive agricultural practices. The conservation actions in this draft plan seem overly generalized. She felt there was a need for more specific conservation actions to be developed and implemented. She disagreed with the management objective that states it's unrealistic to bring the owls back to historic population levels because of the drastic and largely irreversible reductions in the owls prairie habitat. What does restoration of large tracts of human occupied landscapes mean? The draft plan says that the owl's northern habitat is largely



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unaffected. Is this true? How much information is known about these owls in the NWT? She agreed with extending the legislative protection of the Migratory Birds Convention to all raptors including the short-eared owl.

- Her comments regarding things that GRRB can do noted above for peregrines also apply to the short-eared owl.
- As a general comment regarding the format of Federal species at risk management reports She suggests it would be helpful to list the status of the species on page 1. If it is threatened put it on the title- front page. She read a number of these reports now and requested knowing the status of the species up-front without having to search for it in the plan.

Natalka agreed to add her comments and respond to her questions.

Motion # GRRB 2014-35

Moved by: Bobbie Jo Greenland Morgan
All in favour.

To approve the Short-Eared Owl Management Plan under federal government's *Species at Risk Act* with comments from the GRRB's Special Projects Biologist

Seconded by: Doug Doan
Motion carried.

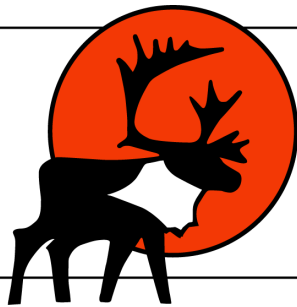
Action(s):

- Natalka Melnycky will add the recommendation that oil and gas development be added as a threat in the GRRB's final comments on the draft management plan
- Natalka Melnycky will add Cindy's comments into the final response and respond to any of her clarification questions.

7. ACCWM Meeting Outcomes

Amy Amos referred the members to the briefing note, meeting notes and draft letters in the meeting binder. Eugene Pascal added that there has been a discussion on this for the past two days at the technical working group, which was established and paid for by ENR to discuss the bluenose east and Bathurst herd status. He indicated that there will be a smaller working group established to work out the details for actions according to the orange zone for the bluenose east herd in the draft plan "*Take care of caribou; Bluenose-West, Bluenose-East and Cape Bathurst Management Plan*". For the Bathurst herd, the working group is working on giving the Minister advice on immediate actions required. He also mentioned that the Tlicho and Deline have indicated they will not hunt (Deline specifically committed to not hunt for 2 years in hopes of allowing the herd to come back). The Recommendations to the Minister will come out of the "Political Leaders Meeting" which will be on November 7, 2014. Eugene highlighted that there has been a lot of movement from the aboriginal groups (E.g. Tlicho and Deline commitments for no harvesting) and lots of discussion on predators such as wolves and grizzly bears.

Discussion:



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Cindy Allen provided written support with the recommendation to support the draft plan "*Taking Care of Caribou*".

Motion # GRRB 2014-36

Moved by: Burt Hunt
All in favour.

To approve the draft management plan "*Take Care of Caribou: Bluenose-West, Bluenose-East and Cape Bathurst Management Plan*"

Seconded by: Bobbie Jo Greenland Morgan
Motion carried.

Action(s):

- Amy to forward the GRRB's support for this draft plan to Jody Pelligsey at the WRRB who is coordinating the responses.

8. Mid-year Report

Amy Amos presented the mid-year report that is included in the meeting binder. This is a requirement under the GRRB's core funding and needs to be submitted prior to November 1, 2014. Amy highlighted that it is illustrating a surplus of \$6,000.

Discussion:

Cindy Allen provided written comments that supported the midyear report with an additional section on board appointments to indicate that several new board members positions were filled this past year. She also suggested indicating that others are yet to be filled. This may be useful in tracking financial expenditures over time.

Motion # GRRB 2014-37

Moved by: Burt Hunt
All in favour.

To approve the 2014-2015 midyear report, with surplus fully utilized and Cindy Allen's suggested edits.

Seconded by: Charlie Snowshoe
Motion carried.

Action(s):

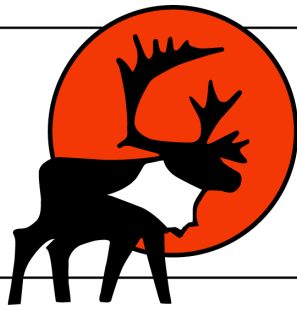
- Amy to add Cindy Allen's suggested edits into the final midyear report then send to AANDC by November 1, 2014

9. Audit Advice

Amy Amos summarized the auditor's management recommendations so the Board was aware of the advice given by the auditors.

Discussion:

Doug Doan asked for clarification on management note number #1 regarding the GST rebate and whether this would impact the GRRB's surplus. Amy responded that she did not believe it would but will double check.



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Cindy Allen provided written support for the approval and implementation of the actions suggested by the auditor.

Action(s):

- Amy Amos to check where the GST rebate will show in the GRRB's books and if it would impact the GRRB's surplus

10. Office Lease

Amy Amos presented the briefing note that was included in the meeting binder. She highlighted some considerations for the Board given its current lease structure, which is month to month at the moment. She offered the following options then requested direction on how to proceed.

- Option 1 – ask to begin lease talks with landlord, push for reduced office space
- Option 2 – look into renting other locations, such as the Nihtat Gwich'in Council's (NGC) proposal
- Option 3 – look into purchasing our own property
- Option 4 – no action needed at this time

Discussion:

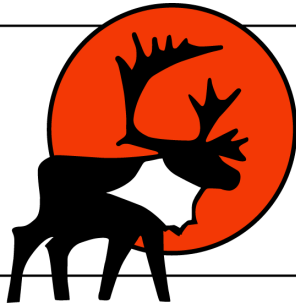
Doug Doan asked for clarification on how much space we rent (E.g. hole floor) and how much we pay for storage space. Amy responded confirming the GRRB is currently renting the entire 2nd floor and subletting four offices to the Gwich'in Land and Water Board (GLWB) and 1 office to the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board (GLUPB). The GRRB pays \$460/month for storage from May to October and \$360/month from November to April.

Burt Hunt asked if the NGC had expected rental costs for the GRRB, if they chose to rent from them in their new building. Amy responded indicating there is no cost estimates at the moment but they seemed open to working with us and the GRRB's budget.

Burt Hunt expressed his support for option 1 but to see if we could rent the current space in the Alex Moses Greenland Building at the reduced space for one or two years while the NGC's new building is being build. In the interim, practice option 2 by negotiating with NGC on the terms of renting space from them. Bobbie Jo Greenland Morgan supported this approach.

Doug Doan inquired about the availability of other commercial space in Inuvik. Amy indicated that Inuvik Commercial Properties (ICP) has a lot of vacancies in the town right now. Given this response, Doug indicated he was not sure if the GRRB needs to be anxious for option 1 at the moment as it could probably be implemented now or later.

Cindy Allen provided written comments. She asked if leasing another location was possible and what the energy, heating and utilities costs will be along with the monthly lease price. What's



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included in the lease price? She supported the idea of purchasing a place so long as its affordable in light of the high costs in Inuvik. If the GRRB decides to become an anchor tenant for the NGC building she would want to ensure that GRRB's interests and assets are protected.

The Board identified two issues with this discussion.

- Issue 1: Should the objective be to support a local aboriginal company? Is it feasible within the GRRB's budget?
- Issue 2: Is it feasible to support long-term lease?

Doug Doan expressed his support for working with the NGC as long as the cost is within the GRRB's current rental costs, at the reduced space rate. Burt Hunt suggested the GRRB stay put for now and in the interim they work with the NGC in accordance with the GRRB's budget. Charlie Snowshoe supported working to find a way to rent with NGC, which would support a local aboriginal group.

Decision:

- No action on the lease now
- If the landlord (ICP) contacts the GRRB, request a short-term lease for the reduced space that GRRB actually uses (no subletting)
- In the meantime, work with the NGC on leasing space with them that supports the GRRB's budget. Amy Amos can work with NGC on a discussion basis but no commitments. She must come back to the Board before committing to any lease agreements.

11. COSEWIC Status Report for Caribou

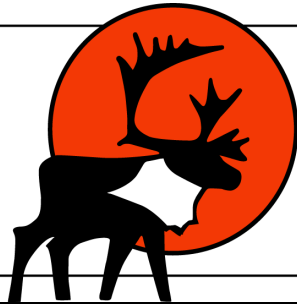
Natalka Melnycky highlighted what is in the status report provided in the meeting binder. No comments were given at the meeting.

12. Updates

- Project update: No comment
- Wildlife Act Working Group (WAWG) update: No comment
- Royal Bank update: Request a face-to-face discussion at the Feb 2015 meeting
- Upcoming meetings: See actions below
-

Action(s):

- Amy to add an item on the Feb 2015 meeting agenda for the RBC to give an update on the GRRB's wildlife studies fund investments
- Eugene and Jozef will attend ACCWM meetings
- Members to tell Amy Amos if they are interested to attend the CMA meeting
- Amy to look into if there is funding available for Members to attend the Arctic Change conference. Follow-up on the November 12th call.



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Motion # GRRB 2014-38

Moved by: Bobbie Jo Greenland Morgan
All in favour.

To enter an in-camera session at 1:06 PM

Seconded by: Doug Doan
Motion carried.

Motion # GRRB 2014-39

Moved by: Johnny Charlie
All in favour.

To come out of the in-camera session at 1:22 PM

Seconded by: Doug Doan
Motion carried.

Action(s):

Amy to revise the GRRB's operating procedures manual to better reflect relocation expenses for term hires.

13. Other Business

No other business

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 3:26 PM.

Motion # GRRB 2014-40

Moved by: Burt Hunt

To adjourn the October 24, 2014 GRRB teleconference