

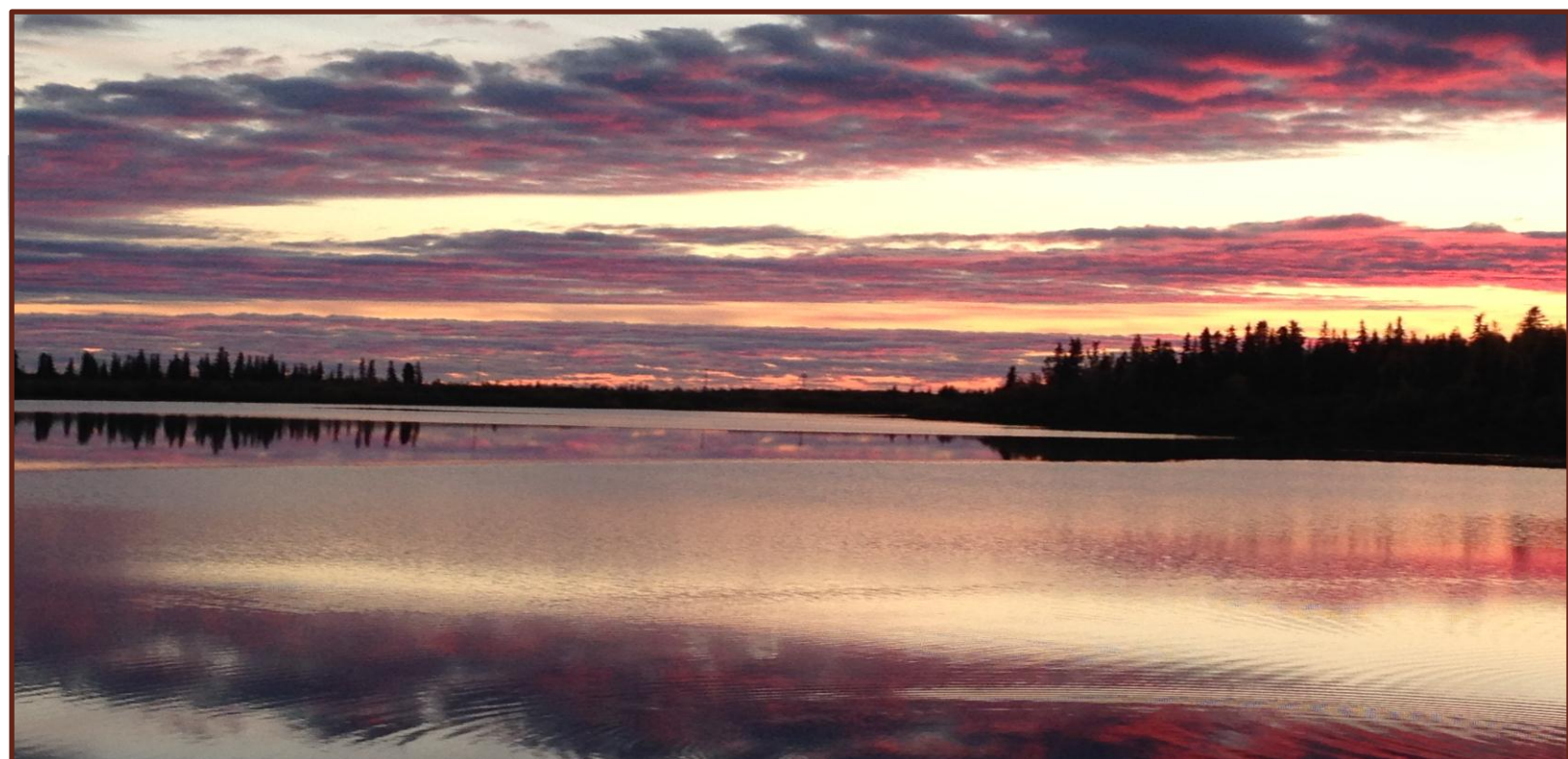


Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board

PROGRESS REPORT ON RRC SESSIONS

Updated September 2015

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PROGRESS REPORT ON RRC SESSIONS

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Context

The Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB) has a mandate under section 12.9.5 of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA) to consult regularly with the Renewable Resources Councils (RRCs) on matters within the Board's jurisdiction. The Board accomplishes this by meeting with the RRCs through its staff and at its regular board meetings. The staff have always met with the RRCs on an ongoing basis and that continues. The board has always welcomed RRCs to attend its regular meetings. In addition to this, the board used to offer to meet privately with the RRC in the community hosting the board meeting, which alternated between each community. The challenge with this approach was that these meetings were not always utilized and it was focused on the host community. The board felt this approach was not as effective as it could be.

In 2013, the board decided to add an agenda item to each board meeting to allow for an RRC session. The goal of these sessions is to ensure the board maintains effective relationships with the RRCs. It also provides some accountability for responsiveness to community interests and concerns. This report summarizes the topics heard with progress on each activity since 2013.

All RRCs

Board Meeting	Topic	Progress Update
Feb 2015	Request plain language summaries for technical documents	Ongoing Staff provide plain language summaries of GRRB created documents. When possible will ask external agencies to provide plain language executive summary.
Feb 2015	Traditional skills video Interest in creating a video featuring Gwich'in harvesters engaged in traditional harvesting or other skills.	Ongoing interest Possible resources <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jordan Peterson – Gwich'in Youth Council and Gwich'in Youth and Elders Forum at AGA. workshop at AGA in Sep 2015 – fish and moose drymeat. • GSCI – video equipment available in each community for project • M.Nazon interested in submitting a proposal to potential funders for traditional moose-hide tanning workshop in 2016. JB to assist_ WSF app'n • Potential funders: Gordon Foundation, NWT Literacy Council, Arts Council
February 2014	Harvester Education -video	See notes above

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Board Meeting	Topic	Progress Update
February 2014	Residential Schools Education payments	GTC
February 2014	Muskrat population research	Jeremy Brammer, McGill, and Chanda Brietzke, UVic, conducting muskrat and water levels research in Mackenzie Delta. First season 2015 ENR is doing carcass collection to check for disease and parasites.
February 2014	Water levels – re: Bennett Dam, lakes drying out, affecting muskrat populations	As above
February 2014	Caribou Hunters video to RRCs	DONE
February 2014	Grizzly Bear hides – there are some in storage. Need to make a decision what to do with them.	DONE
February 2014	Wood Cutting Permits –	ENR responsibility
February 2014	More cabins built in McPherson Four cabins built. Would like to see 3 more. Anyone can use them. They are open for anyone to use.	Sep 2015- could these be used as site for culture/fish camp? JB note
January 2012	Blue Nose Caribou Management Plan – concerns re: consultation process.	Kristen participated in survey in summer 2015 with ENR
January 2012	Gwich'in Forest Management Plan	DONE Plan was signed in August 2012
January 2012	Grizzly Bear Management Plan – should be signed off with amendments to tags and zones.	DONE GRRB pilot project – bear-human interaction 2012
January 2012	Dall Sheep Management Plan – Renewable Resources Councils are putting in comments, Yukon signatories are a concern because area is in the GSR	GRRB pilot project 2015– community monitoring of sheep
January 2012	Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management Plan – concern that Traditional Knowledge vs. scientific knowledge is not balanced. Bull only harvest does not follow traditional knowledge from Elders.	Concern is noted. GRRB continues to collect harvest data PCMB developed draft Harvester Education modules in 2015
January 2012	Vittrekwa Dolly Varden Char – population estimate should be done.	DONE Population estimate 20111

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January 2012	Caribou Check Station – should be in place for a longer period to get more precise information on harvesting numbers and who is going up to harvest.	ENR
January 2012	Outfitting, Guiding & Tourism Opportunities – support commercial muskox opportunities – need to determine allocation of Total Allowable Harvest and Gwich'in Minimum Needs Level.	GRRB Board supports muskox research (Feb 2015). GRRB has done a lot of homework on our role on this topic, we established a WG and now we have a letter from the ERRC. This will be discussed.
January 2012	Group Trapping Area – to be established in the Traditional Territory of the Gwichya Gwich'in.	GRRC
January 2012	Regional Renewable Resources Council – should be reduced in size from 4 to 2 members of each of the Renewable Resources Councils and held with Fall and Winter meetings of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board.	DONE GRRB supports this approach.
January 2012	Research Priorities – would like to see results of work, more communication and feedback to the communities.	2015- Request a decision from GRRB Board when to have fall RP workshop between 2016-2018 Had a workshop in fall 2012, now have a new process, a results/priority setting workshop every 3-5 years.
January 2012	Harvesting Rights Workshop – proposed to cover harvesting rights in the GSA	To be led by the RRCs and GTC

Ehdiitat RRC (Aklavik)

Board Meeting	Topic	Progress Update
Feb 2015	Scum on water – Peel Channel, Aklavik	DONE Contacted ENR, sample sent to YK, couldn't be assessed b/c sample not fixed. Probably algae bloom. Algae bloom is natural occurrence, foam occurs especially after high rainfall disturbs water. Summer 2014 was high rainfall year. Followed up with Martin Callaghan, ENR _Re_ effect of fire retardant on water. Fire retardant used in limited amounts. Would be diluted after use in south and may not be present or detected by the time it got to Mackenzie system. ENR water resources officer: Philippe Thibert-Leduc (678-6650) email: Philippe_Thibert-Leduc@gov.nt.ca

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Sept 2014	Scum on water – Peel Channel, Aklavik – concern about decreasing water levels summer 2014	DONE See notes above
February 2014	Culture camp – can survivor money be used to build camp?	GTC
February 2013	Muskrats - concerned that there are less muskrats in the area. Could there be a population concern? How can we monitor and ensure the muskrats are okay?	GRRB continues to monitor interest and ensures this concern is communicated to potential researchers coming into the Delta region to do work: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added to GRRB RP interest list • Connected with muskrat researcher that has done work in Old Crow. He gave a presentation in Inuvik and Aklavik (June 2013) Another muskrat researcher has expressed interest to do more work
February 2013	Muskox - There is an interest to commercially harvest muskox. How can we get this started?	Ongoing
February 2013	TK workshop - ERRC supports NRRC suggestion. Averaging two funerals a month in Aklavik this past winter with a resulting loss of knowledge and traditional skills.	Ongoing
February 2013	Plain language - Reminder that any written material from the GRRB and other organizations must be written in plain language.	Ongoing
February 2013	Slumping/Caribou Research Interest – Suggestion for a mapping project on how slumping may be affecting caribou movement. Do caribou avoid these areas? Communicate with mega-slump researchers (Kokelj et al) to see how their work may relate to this question. Could use TK, air photo data from 1950's, maybe mapping these lakes, slumps, see if they are avoiding them. Might help us understand why caribou are changing migration routes. Realize it might not be a GRRB lead but appreciate if GRRB can keep this in mind.	GRRB requests P/F and slump researchers to report evidence of ungulate use or avoidance of area - 2015 On research interest list
February 2013	Research interest - TK on mass caribou harvests. Where did mass hunts occur? Are caribou avoiding these areas? Something is changing their migration.	On research interest list

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February 2013	Increase frequency of Harvest Study - ERRC values harvest study and submitted a request for the GRRB to increase the frequency of the survey. Would like to work with GRRB to have harvesters report monthly, maybe not a full harvest survey but report harvest to the coordinator then have a bigger survey every 6 months.	2014-2015 ERRC pilot – GHS conducted 3Yr , no community interviewer, no gas draw. Budget goes into providing respondents w/\$20 gift card. RRC Coord calls harvesters to complete form. Participation rate about the same, but program less expensive to administer.
February 2013	Commitment to attend meetings or make alternate arrangements	ERRC would appreciate GRRBs assistance to communicate to other organizations such as DFO or ENR that if they want the RRCs input, representatives must attend meetings when they say they will or make alternative arrangements to reschedule. Emphasize that the RRCs are important, and are the eyes and ears of the land. Comments noted
Tetlit RRC (Fort McPherson)		
Board Meeting	Topic	Progress Update
Feb 2015	Concern about highway overflow affecting George Niditchie Sr. home. Culverts too small, if a tanker flipped on that ice on the hill it would end up in the creek and the river and would affect our fishing.	Outstanding James Andre/TRRC to send letter to GRRB about culvert and stream crossing concerns, just south of the Mackenzie River ferry crossing. Leighanne (GGRRC) to add photographs to supplement the letter.
February 2015	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.	Noted as research interest Anyone can recommend a species for assessment by the Species at Risk process, the information is on the web.
February 2015	Herring (least cisco) - possible decline. Suggestion to set a net to see if they are around. People that put nets in at Tuktoyaktuk get enough herring in 3-4 days.	Noted as research interest
February 2015	Walleye	Noted as research interest
Sep 2014	Muskrats – population status	Summer 2015 – initial muskrat ecology research conducted
February 2014	Culture camp	GSCI can provide info on past GSCI/school camps for reference
February 2013	Caribou - concern with caribou coming across the Dempster earlier than usual and also with people harvesting the leaders. Recommendation to reinforce	Restrictions rescinded in 2015

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	the voluntary closure to let the leaders pass.	
February 2013	Otters and Grizzly bears - concerns were noted on Otters and Grizzly bears but it was acknowledged that these are on the GRRB's 2013-2014 research interest list.	
February 2013	Beavers - Concern that there are a lot of beavers around McPherson	On the research interest list
February 2013	Muskrat - Concern about apparent decline in muskrat populations in recent years.	Summer 2015 – initial muskrat ecology research conducted UVic
February 2013	School contributions	RRC contributions to the school, work really well with the school (eg. Contributing to a traditional snack program)
February 2013	Peel watershed – RRC did great job on our consultation, speakers from age 8-90. Good turnout. Kyla went into classrooms to educate students about importance of participating. Students convinced parents to attend meeting.	Compliments to the RRC for working on good communication. We can learn from this.
February 2013	Harvest study - Need better methods for increasing check station use and increasing participation in harvest study.	ENR and TRRC Acknowledged some suggestions brought up earlier in the meeting (having fire at check station where harvesters can warm up and have tea, interviewers going on ferry to interview harvesters).
February 2013	Harvesting – many people not being respectful (leaving waste, attracting bears), need to have better education and cultural awareness about appropriate harvest practice.	Ongoing concern. PCMB developed Harvester Education modules in 2014-2015 to be adapted for local community use as needed. Draft modules presented to RRCs and GRRB. Support for program provided (Feb 2015).
February 2013	Harvesting on other people's property. Property boundaries not respected, or not known.	Ongoing concern Involve ENR and the GTC, as landowner. Lack of community participation in consultation meetings on Forest Management Plan are ongoing concern for GRRB staff.
February 2013	Deep Water Lake – community water source, concerns expressed about how water quality and water quantity may be affecting human health as well the aquatic life in Deep Water Lake.	The GRRB would only be responsible for the impacts to aquatic life component. RRCs can contact Erin Kelly, Water Stewardship Program_re water quality monitoring program Erin_Kelly@gov.nt.ca
February 2013	Sewage system – 25% of town on utilidor system, which transports waste right into the Peel River. Water quality concerns expressed	ENR Water Strategy program held Gwich'in Water Stewardship workshop in Inuvik in Feb 2013. Erin Kelly is the lead researcher
February 2013	More understanding of the GCLCA is needed. Community education program?	GTC responsibility

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February 2013	Climate change - Concerned about effects of climate change and what we are seeing in McPherson.	GRRB will continue to promote climate change research to research leaders. More info on resources_ http://www.nwtclimatechange.ca/
Gwichya RRC (Tsiigehtchic)		
Board Meeting	Topic	Progress Update
February 2013	Fish run times - different this year	On research interest list which is communicated to outside agencies to encourage research projects
February 2013	Arctic Red River - Recommendation for more protection and population studies around the headwaters of the Arctic Red River for fish, caribou and the land	initial Upper Arctic Red survey conducted, summer 2015
February 2013	Ferry landing - Concern that the ferry landing is destroying the eddies where people set their nets for fish. All three of the good eddies are being disrupted by the ferry landing and are too shallow to fish in now.	Department of Transport
February 2013	Garbage - Concern with people not cleaning up their garbage when fishing out on the land.	This should be addressed by public education. The new Wildlife Act will provide tools for the RRCs to manage how outside residents harvest in the GSA.
February 2013	Otters - Concern with too many otters around the Arctic Red River.	DONE Initial TK study done 2013 by GRRB environmental technician
February 2013	Moose - Concern that the recent moose survey revealed that there were not many moose around Tsiigehtchic and what this means.	DONE RRCs were visited and results of 2011 survey were provided as well as poster of moose survey results.
February 2013	Grizzly bears - Concern with grizzly bears around George Niditchie's cabin (across from Tsiigehtchic). This was particularly troubling last spring.	Problem bears should be reported to your local ENR officer. Funding for electric fencing around the cabin may be available from ENR.
Nihtat RRC (Inuvik)		
Board Meeting	Topic	Progress Update
February	Caribou survey – Concern	Notes_ In the absence of caribou survey data from 2000 – 2010, PCMB used a

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2013	expressed about decisions being based on computer estimates last year (2011-2012) There wasn't a successful survey to establish an accurate caribou population estimate.. These haven't been accurate in the past. So if caribou populations are based on computer estimates, there could potentially be harvest restrictions.	cautious approach when managing the herd. The 'caribou calculator' computer estimate was conservative and proved to be inaccurate when compared with the data received once a survey was conducted in 2010. The PCMB is currently reviewing the parameters used to provide the computer estimates and is promoting greater harvester participation in the harvest study in order to increase the accuracy of the population estimate.
February 2013	Low turnout at consultation meetings	<p>Ongoing concern. Facebook page created 2014</p> <p>https://www.facebook.com/grrb.nt.ca</p> <p>Need to work with RRCs to find more effective means to educate communities about the importance of participating in the public consultation process and find different approaches to promote participation</p>
February 2013	TK skills workshop	<p>Ongoing interest</p> <p>Notes- This has been brought up before. In the late 1990s, there was a TK workshop at the Chief Johnny Kay Community Hall, sponsored by GTC and GSCI. Elders and youth from all communities were brought together. Elders taught different traditional skills such as cutting up moose meat, muskrat, beavers, rabbits and making tools from the caribou and moose bone. Different styles and techniques were taught. It was interesting to participate in for 3 days. The workshops were videotaped. GRRB could help push for this type of workshop.</p>