

**Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board  
Orientation & Research Priority Session  
January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011  
Ingamo Hall, Inuvik, NT**

**Attending:**

**Name**

Janet Boxwell  
Kristen Callaghan  
Kris Maier  
Cheryl Greenland  
Jeremy Mosher  
Richard Ross Jr.  
Wilbert Firth  
Peter Kay  
Abe Stewart  
Eddy McLeod  
Jonathon Michel  
Fanny Greenland  
Neil Heron  
Jenny Andre  
John Norbert  
Donald Andre  
Jozef Carnogursky  
Amy Thompson

Charlie Snowshoe  
Marsha Branigan  
James B. Firth  
Cindy Allen  
Joel Ingram  
Eugene Pascal  
Dan Topolniski  
Johnny Charlie  
Martin Callaghan  
Stephen Charlie  
Tracy Davison  
Mardy Semmler  
Liz Gordon  
Blake Bartzen  
Charlie Snowshoe  
Steve Kokelj  
Bobby Ross  
Robert Young

**Organization**

Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board staff  
Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board staff  
Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board staff  
Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board staff  
Ehdiitat Renewable Resources Council – Coordinator  
Nihtat Renewable Resources Council – Member  
Tetlit Gwich'in Renewable Resources Council  
Tetlit Gwich'in Renewable Resources Council  
Tetlit Gwich'in Renewable Resources Council  
Ehdiitat Renewable Resources Council  
Aurora Research Institute  
Ehdiitat Renewable Resources Council  
Observer  
Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resources Council  
Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resources Council  
Nihtat Renewable Resources Council  
Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board Member  
Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board Executive  
Director  
Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board Member  
Environment & Natural Resources  
  
Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board Member  
Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board Member  
Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board Member  
Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board Member  
Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board Member  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Environment & Natural Resources  
Gwich'in Tribal Council – Lands & Resources  
Gwich'in Tribal Council – Lands & Resources  
Canadian Wildlife Service  
Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board Member  
Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development  
Public  
Department of Fisheries & Oceans

Notes: Mary Beckett

## **1. Welcome, Introductions, Opening Prayer,**

Amy Thompson opened the meeting at 11:08 a.m. This is an orientation session.

3 members are flying in today, so they will arrive later along with some of the presenters.

This is a working session to prioritize and present the list of Research Priorities – to focus internal staff work and the Wildlife Studies fund. The Board will meet for an in-camera, followed by a Renewable Resources Council /Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board session in the evening.

The Renewable Resources Councils asked Donald Andre to Co-Chair and Jozef Carnogursky is one of the new members and he has also been asked to Co-Chair.

Everyone around the table was asked to introduce themselves.

Opening Prayer – Abe Stewart

## **2. Review of Board Policies & Operations – Amy Thompson**

There was supposed to be some training, but due to the weather, the instructors were not able to come into Inuvik. It is not specific to the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, but talks about all the resource management boards.

Amy Thompson reviewed the contents of the course materials – information is included in Tab B.1 of the meeting package. The course will now be held later in February.

### **a. Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board Policy Presentation**

Johnny Charlie was recently nominated through Government of the NWT, Jozef Carnogursky through Government of the NWT, Cindy Allen and Eugene Pascal through Gwich'in Tribal Council. Still have previous members: Dan Topolniski, Department of Fisheries & Oceans – alternate is George Lowe, Joel Ingram – is the alternate for the Canadian Wildlife Service, the other position is in nominations and should be filled presently.

Amy Thompson reviewed the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement and set up of the Board including: composition of the Board, powers of the Board, Operating Procedures, current staff positions, Rules & Procedures for Consultation, public hearing rules, strategic plan, financial planning process and Wildlife Studies Fund.

### **Questions & Discussion:**

Discussion items included: if the Board can summons witnesses for hearings; which accountant is used by the Board for audits; youth programs offered; projects funded recently by the Wildlife Studies Fund. It was noted that communication between the Board and Renewable Resources Councils is important for research priorities, funding deadlines and activities held in the communities.

### **LUNCH BREAK 11:38 to 1:00**

*Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board  
Orientation & Research Priorities Meeting  
Ingamo Hall – January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2011*

Donald Andre called the meeting to order.

Asked the people who arrived since this morning to introduce themselves.

Donald Andre asked people if they were willing to reschedule the evening session this evening to 6:30 to 7:30 rather than 7 to 8 p.m. There was general agreement.

### 3. Research Priorities

#### a. Marsha Branigan – Environment & Natural Resources Wildlife Research Priorities

Marsha Branigan introduced herself and reviewed a presentation showing how the Department generates their research priorities and what their current plans are for research in the coming year.

**Porcupine Caribou** – Check station, Harvest Data collection, communications, Support monitoring done in the Yukon and Alaska to do population estimate, recruitment, survival rates and movements.

**Blue Nose Caribou Herd** – Herd estimate every 3 years when the numbers are in the red/orange. Next one for this summer; Recruitment; Bull to Cow Ratio; Body Condition; Population trend – between census years; Comprehensive Harvest Data; Predator population; Habitat and Environment; Disturbance Levels. This plan is still out for comments – it will come to the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board for final recommendations to go to the Minister. March 2012 – Reconnaissance flights and Collaring – 30 to be deployed to the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula, 30 to Bluenose West, 20 to Cape Bathurst. Photo survey in July. Results in September.

**Boreal Woodland Caribou** – collars to come off this year. Doing data analysis now. No further plans at this time unless a project that would disturb the area is started – i.e. pipeline or fibre-optic line.

**Richardson Sheep Survey** – completed in 2010. Collection of harvest data. Some community based issues are outstanding from the plan.

**Wolf and Wolverine Carcass Collections** – to document distribution and level of harvest. Assess age, sex ratios, condition and reproductive parameters. Looking at diet including proportion of caribou. Collecting genetic material of animals taken.

**Grizzly Bear Harvest Monitoring** – ongoing. This is the last year for the 3 year tags. Most used in a year was 25 – not using all of the tags in Gwich'in Settlement Area. Summary of the information on a community by community basis is included in the meeting package.

**Grizzly Bears on the Dempster Highway** – Talking about having a conference call with stakeholders from NWT and Yukon to discuss the situation – preliminary discussion re the complaints being received and the options for steps to be taken. On the NWT side, the bears are open for harvesting. August and July, the hide is not good for sale, so would be mainly for defense of life/property kills.

**Moose Contaminants** – Analysis in the southern NWT there was an advisory for moose kidneys harvested in the mountains due to the cadmium levels. Doing a collection of samples now to look at levels locally.

**Muskrats** – Concerns were raised about low numbers. Collection of carcasses from different areas for contaminants, disease, and parasite analysis – to identify problem and then next steps.

**Small Mammals** – long term monitoring of cycles.

**Raptors** – National monitoring program – next cycle is in 15/16.

**Questions & Discussion:**

Discussion of the presentation included: CSI Sampling – a project done through the Circum Arctic Assessment Monitoring Program; Meetings to be held re collaring program; Moose contaminants – only a small number of samples are required; Otters as a concern for trappers – fur program is managed by Industry Tourism & Investment; outfitting for Grizzly Bears – not being done in the Gwich'in Settlement Area, but is being done in Tuktoyaktuk and Paulatuk area; Blue Nose West herd at Colville Lake; Grizzly Bears on the Dempster Highway – tags, human behaviour that creates bear problems; details of raptor program – Suzanne Carrier at Environment & Natural Resources is the contact person.

**b. Blake Bartzen – Canadian Wildlife Service Research Priorities**

Blake reviewed a PowerPoint presentation re activities in the NWT.

**Primary Mandates** – Protected areas, Species at Risk, Migratory Birds – including both harvested species and song birds.

**Listed Species** in the Gwich'in Settlement Area: Eskimo Curlew – considered extinct; Threatened – Woodland Caribou - Boreal, Olive Sided Fly Catcher, Peregrine Falcon; Of Special Concern – Woodland Caribou – Mountain, Rusty Crow.

**Snow Goose Monitoring Program** – extensive program to monitor numbers at the breeding colonies.

**White Fronted Geese** – similar program to Snow Geese.

**Aerial Waterfowl Surveys in the NWT** – completed annually by US Fish & Wildlife Service in Cooperation with Canadian Wildlife Service.

**Declining species:** Scoters and Scaup.

**Bird Use of Beaufort Sea** – compiling information on birds for development of a mitigation program, oil spill emergency plans.

**Shorebird Program** – recent interest because they have shown significant declines recently.

**Sea Duck Tagging Program** – in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.

**Questions & Discussion:**

Discussion of the presentation included: the effects of the Gulf Oil Spill on migratory birds; the reductions in the numbers of ducks in the Mackenzie Delta compared to 80's and possible effects of development of the oil sands; reductions in the numbers of rabbits and muskrats.

#### **BREAK**

Donald Andre called the meeting back to order.

Amy Thompson explained the last time the Board met was in March. The Fall meeting was not held because of pending Board Member appointments. Today's agenda includes presentations about research priorities – tomorrow will be the full Board meeting.

#### **c. Martin Callaghan – Environment & Natural Resources Forestry Research Priorities**

Martin Callaghan made a presentation of his work looking at boreal caribou habitat, forage and habitat regeneration after a forest fire including affects on the permafrost – looking at the area around Travaillant Lake. Commented that the Gwich'in Forest Management Plan will allow the Board to open woodlots for collection of firewood and reforestation to speed up regeneration – there will be opportunities for forest management funding.

#### **Questions & Discussion:**

None.

#### **BREAK**

#### **d. J. Boxwell: Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board research priority setting session**

Janet Boxwell reviewed her Excel Spreadsheet of Research Priorities – this is a working document and can be adjusted. Paper copies were distributed as well as electronic ones. 50 research priorities have been identified – the pink highlighting on the listing identifies new priorities. The list is in categories – wildlife, fish, environment and health, forest and vegetation. The list is filterable and includes past priorities plus items from management plans.

#### **BREAK**

Danny Andre called the meeting back to order. Introductions of people who have joined the meeting were done.

#### **e. Department of Fisheries & Oceans Research Priorities – Rob Young**

Rob Young made a presentation of Department of Fisheries & Oceans Research Priorities.

**Dolly Varden** – Sampling being done on the Rat River, investigating summer spawners, mark and recapture study. Doing genetic samples for Rat River and many other streams. Program at Shingle Point – to collect fish at Shingle Point and Herschel Island, to identify spawning stocks and to understand what happens in the coastal fishery. Fall seining at Fish Hole to obtain bio information and recapture tagged fish. Will use the information to do a population estimate. Will help provide advice on sustainable fishing in the Rat River. Program to be conducted looking at total mercury concentration in Dolly Varden – to compare to past studies.

**Suggestions:** continue harvest monitoring, summer spawning/sampling, Fish Hole survey – seining and tagging, total mercury survey, Mixed stock research – partitioning fish caught in the coastal area, behaviour of fish in the coastal areas.

### **Beaufort Regional Environmental Assessment (BREA).**

Priorities: Identify what fish species are present in the offshore, including deep offshore. To see how the fish community changes as we move from shallow to deep water areas. In the summer of 2013, will be looking further to the east and pair the sampling with inshore work to make the connection between coastal and deep offshore. Community Based Sampling Program in the coastal areas – looking for funding from Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development.

### **Climate Change Adaptation Program (CCAP)**

Lead by Environment Canada with participation of Department of Fisheries & Oceans. To develop tools to adapt to climate change, to update the projections, assess what those changes will mean, identify areas for additional research. Workshop planned for February 21<sup>st</sup> to 22<sup>nd</sup> in Winnipeg.

### **Science Communications**

Nahidik Special Edition – was in place from 2001 to 2010 a report produced with all the work. A summary report will also be provided to managers.

Mackenzie River Reference Condition Report – will be a reference for any impacts that are experienced if the pipeline is built.

### **Community Based Monitoring**

Examples of community based monitoring: Fisheries Joint Management Committee working with Lisa Loseto on belugas, Hendrickson Island, Looking for input from the Board re new community based monitoring programs.

### **Questions & Discussion:**

Discussion of the presentation included: funding and projects through the Department of Fisheries and the workshop to be held in Winnipeg; Dolly Varden monitoring – why is it considered successful; sources of mercury contamination; trout in the Peel River; population trends in other areas for char; differentiation of stocks; timing of the planning cycle for research and funding; char migration and isolates;

#### **f. Open discussion on research priorities – Janet Boxwell**

Janet Boxwell continued the discussion of the research priorities list – used the projector to show the mechanics of how the list can be manipulated. She also reviewed a PowerPoint presentation showing how the Board's cycle for identifying and funding research priorities works.

Discussion included: Ranking of priorities – how an item is given a particular ranking on the list; different types of salmon caught in the Delta; partners would like to view the list earlier to see how priorities mesh – agree the process is a good one; Renewable Resources Councils confirmed the existing system for identifying priorities is

working; need to identify completed areas to communicate to communities; ongoing dialogue is important to identify priorities; funding cycles are an important consideration for this process – fall meetings work well with grant application process; many government programs are looking for priorities i.e. NWT Water Strategy, CIMP – this list will provide a solution for their programs.

Public session of the meeting adjourned at 5:14 p.m.