



## **Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board – Fall Meeting September 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 – Tsiigehtchic, NT**

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### **Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board Fall Board Meeting September 19<sup>th</sup> & 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013 Chief Niditchie Gymnasium, Tsiigehtchic**

#### **Attending:**

**Board:** Johnny Charlie, Cindy Allen, Charlie Snowshoe (by telephone), Jozef Carnogursky

Excused – Eugene Pascal, Jozef Carnogursky (September 19<sup>th</sup>)

**Renewable Resources Councils:** Fanny Greenland – Ehdiiat Renewable Resources Council; John Norbert & Carolyn Lennie – Gwichya Gwich'in Renewable Resources Council; Peter J. Kaye – Tetlit Renewable Resources Council; Barry Greenland – Nihtat Renewable Resources Council

**Government Agencies/Public:** Ellen Lea – Department of Fisheries & Oceans; Margaret Nazon; John “Doodles” Firth; Martin Callaghan – Environment & Natural Resources; Jonathon Michel – Aurora Research Institute; Julie-Ann Andre; Itai Katz; Myra Robertson, Dan Teillet (by telephone) and Donna Bigelow (by telephone) – Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada

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

**Meeting Notes:** Mary Beckett

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

Amy Amos called the meeting to order at 9:37 a.m. Amy explained that after the first ferry arrives, a chair will be selected for the meeting. Quorum will be recognized after Charlie Snowshoe calls into the meeting later in the day.

Opening Prayer – Carolyn Lennie

Everyone around the room introduced themselves.

#### **2. Review & Approve the Draft Agenda**

The Board members were asked to review and support the agenda.

It was agreed to proceed with the agenda as presented.

#### **3. Review & Approve the Draft Minutes**

Amy Amos explained since the Board does not have quorum at this time, it is up to the Board members if they want to review them now or defer it until later in the meeting.



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It was agreed that this item will be deferred until there is quorum present.

### 4. Review Action Items Outstanding

Amy Amos reviewed a list of the action items that are outstanding from the last meeting. A full list of all action items 2008 to present was included in the meeting package.

Investment Policy – Cindy Allen & Joel Ingram led this item – held a teleconference March 8 to review the policy. The Board will look at that item at this meeting.

Review Strategic Plan and post on website – was done.

Assign staff to the Outfitting file – Kristen Callaghan working on this for the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, Environment & Natural Resources also has a role and are waiting for them to take action.

Contribution Agreement with Environment & Natural Resources – surplus funds must be returned at the end of the fiscal year, Technician Trainee position funding can remain with Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board.

Agreements re the laptops – has been done and is included in the in camera agenda.

Work with Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute and Aurora College re hides for cultural purposes – Ryan has approached them, they don't do that, but would be willing to work with the Board or Renewable Resources Councils, the schools would be able to secure funding, Industry Tourism & Investment has funding available for proposals for tanning workshops.

Request financial assistance from Gwich'in Tribal Council re the Harvest Study – Amy Amos will follow up with this item to ensure the letter was received.

Fisheries Act – Renewable Resources Councils sent support letters and Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board drafted a letter to Gwich'in Tribal Council re the lack of consultation on the changes to the Act – was sent August 15<sup>th</sup>.

Item 13-10 to 13-14 – at the August teleconference, received direction re how to lay out the agenda.

### 5. Board Member Updates

**Johnny Charlie** reported that he was appointed after waiting 18 months. Attended the February winter meeting in Inuvik and conference calls in May, July and August. Went to the Conference of Management Agencies meeting for Species At Risk in Yellowknife, there will be another one in October.

**Cindy Allen** also reported that she waited 18 months to be appointed to the Board. She enjoys coming North for the Board meetings. Since the last Board meeting, has attended a number of teleconferences and in December attended Board training in Yellowknife. This meeting was an orientation for Board members and included a lot of other land claim Boards, and a lot of good discussion. In Yellowknife this summer, attended the NWT Board Forum, where all the Land Claim Boards meet to discuss issues and similar concerns. There were a lot of concerns raised re changes to the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act which is going ahead regardless



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of the concerns of Northerners. At the Board Forum, it was the first time that environmental Non-Government Organizations were invited to participate – was interesting to hear their perspectives. Alternatives North, Ecology North, Pembina Institute and Ducks Unlimited – talked about being allies for the north, a sustainable environment, concerns about the North becoming another Alberta, concerns about wetlands for wildlife and people. Think that the networking opportunity was very important. Also attended a law conference on Northern Development in the same week – included some land claim boards, lawyers from Canada and the United States. Heard about legal issues related to Northern Development and development in Canada including fracking, issues re gravel use/access, Inuvialuit issues, etc. Provided information from those conferences to the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board staff.

### **6. Operations Update**

Amy Amos reviewed the progress report provided in the meeting package.

The reports have been organized based on the job description categories for each of the staff members.

Amy reported that all full time permanent staff have remained with the Board for over 3 years – an excellent accomplishment. Have hired two six month terms – special projects biologist and a technician, also a summer student. Professional development has been put in place for staff along with performance evaluations.

Auditors completed the draft audited financial statements which were approved in July at the teleconference. The audit showed the core operating budget was well managed, the surplus from 2011/2012 was fully spent which was a requirement under the funding agreement.

Completed the quarterly variance report – main variances are due to the fact that a number of board appointments have not been confirmed, so membership is very low at this time, reducing travel and meeting costs.

Applied for supplemental funding for a special projects biologist to Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada – only received six months' funding, but goal is to achieve permanent full time funding.

Have not heard about the 10 year Implementation funding application at this time.

Wildlife Studies Fund – has been managed as per the approvals made by the Board at the spring meeting.

Working on improving communication with Board members that are not email users – will be sending out monthly packages of all correspondence.

Sharing offices with the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board is working well. They share costs for the space, also use Cheryl Greenland for some financial administration and are being invoiced for that as well.

Natalka Melnycky worked on the Species At Risk listing consultations.

Working on the muskoxen outfitting project – have been waiting for the regional Environment & Natural Resources office to begin the process on their end which will help the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board make their decision.



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Board Forum Meeting – attended with Cindy Allen. Focuses on Regulatory Board mandates, gives funding and implementation updates, good networking opportunity.

Working on year two of Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute Project re developing Traditional Knowledge reports on Species At Risk. Last year, Grizzly Bear work was done, now working on Wolverine. If time and funds permit, will look at interviews on Mountain Woodland Caribou.

Staff members are encouraged to attend at least two Renewable Resources Council meetings in each community.

Lack of funding for a communications coordinator has created a challenge re a regular newsletter. In response to this, have developed a facebook page to post news and announcements.

Amy was married in August and all correspondence should now be addressed to her married name.

Amy confirmed that the information will be included on the memory stick to be provided to the Renewable Resources Councils.

*Ellen Lea – Department of Fisheries & Oceans was welcomed to the meeting.*

### **BREAK**

Amy Amos explained that Barry Greenland of the Nihtat Renewable Resources Council has been asked to chair the meeting for the remainder of the day.

## **7. Staff Reports**

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

Will review things that are on the agenda in less detail, and give more detail on items that won't come up later. Caribou updates will be on the agenda later. Continue to serve on the Porcupine Caribou Herd Technical Committee – an ad hoc committee to give direction re data gathering and herd status. They need to develop policy re data management, but for now pass around requests received to committee members for approval.

Grizzly Bear Management – have been working on a research project, need to work on the Management Agreement.

Dall Sheep Management Plan – on the agenda later, there has been new discussion between the parties addressing the plan.

Research – helping Environment & Natural Resources with ongoing small mammal survey to detect trends in population numbers for region around Inuvik. Similar sampling is done around the territory – also helps with predator population. Will get a copy of the data from around the Territory in a poster format. Project to reduce negative interactions with Grizzly Bears on the Dempster Highway – there were posters and brochures posted in all affected communities along the highway. There was good uptake – getting people to fill in forms re what they saw, how the bears react. Have been getting lots of forms turned in. Will be doing a bit more field work along



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the highway. Stop every kilometer to scan for bears, noting the distance off the highway for all of those seen. In addition, hired John Itsi to patrol along the highway to look for gut piles along the road. Had heard concerns about bears actively trying to steal caribou parts and defending gut piles. John's activities focus on times when people are going out harvesting. Caribou came early this year – around July 10<sup>th</sup>, so were not quite ready at that point.

Margaret Nazon asked about cougars – she heard about sightings. Kristen responded that she had heard about sightings in previous years, but no one has reported anything this year.

Technical Advice – part of the job includes commenting on Species At Risk listings, public hearings and consultations related to Kristen's files. Helped Nataalka with the community consultation meeting on the Species At Risk, Boreal caribou listing.

Liaison – working on maintaining good working relationships with co-management partners and government bodies. Have been working with Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute on Traditional Knowledge they are gathering for Species At Risk, and on the brochures they are developing.

Training & Professional Development – attended a field first aid training early in the season led by Janet Boxwell.

Peter J. Kaye asked about the bear situation – since most of the activity is on the other side of the border, will you be working closely with the Yukon Government? Kristen Callaghan reported she is working with Mike Suitor on this project – the Yukon office is taking turns with the monitoring on the highway and they are providing funding as well. In the past, bear problems were not being reported officially, so it was difficult to take action without documentation of the issue. This project may lead to better management for both sides of the highway – Yukon and NWT.

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

Kris Maier commented that he does not have anything else on the agenda, so encouraged questions to be asked now.

The Forest Management Plan was signed last summer – top actions were to improve communication, strengthen partnership between Renewable Resources Councils and Environment & Natural Resources, continue permitting, increased enforcement – this has been approached sensitively, infractions are usually minor and result of lack of communication. Fort McPherson is working on bio-fuel project.

No significant work has been done with the action plan – have sent out emails to set up a meeting in November. Need to identify some specific research objectives.

Dolly Varden Char – four main themes: conserve populations, protect habitat, manage char locally, maintain sustainable harvest. Starting to gather more data with habitat, including setting up a weather station. Hope to launch a three year project re changes to habitat and how they impact the char population. Other parts of the plan are ongoing from previous year.



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The Rat River Working Group voluntary harvest recommendation was 420 total – allocations between each Renewable Resources Council was done based on their agreement. Have had better harvest reporting in the past few years.

Installed temperature probes to find out what temperature char eggs are incubating at, see if the temperatures would permit salmon to also spawn.

Using probes to see how air temperatures affect water temperature.

Planning on doing some tagging to set up a population estimate in the next couple of years.

Other fisheries research – Lake Trout genetics project – looks at how they are different from each other and how they spawn at different times. Addresses concerns re Deep Water Lake re water quantity and quality, also for Airport Lake. Can look at changes in water depth, volume. Concern at Deep Water Lake is that there may be too much water taken out – however, it seems that there is a lot of water that is well oxygenated right to the bottom. Will do more analysis.

Future – want to look at water monitoring for fish habitat – simple work that can be done by the community monitors. Char population in the upper Arctic Red River – want to find out what that is. Tsiigehtchic fish harvesting monitoring study – would like to get a sample of the catch to provide data. Angling surveys – concerns re Dempster grayling, Airport Lake trout re numbers caught and declining populations. Time and money will always be a concern.

Carolyn Lennie asked about the Forest Management Plan – is there a permitting process in place re cord wood that is commercial? Kris Maier explained there is a process, but it depends on who is harvesting and where it is cut. Private lands have to be permitted by Gwich'in Tribal Council. Carolyn Lennie explained the Renewable Resources Council coordinator was trying to initiate an application, but there was no process in place. Under the Land Claim Agreement, cord wood is classified as a commercial use. Kris Maier explained the process – applicant applies to the Gwich'in Tribal Council, reviewed by all parties, then must comply with all of the plan. Have not been aware of commercial licences on Gwich'in private land. Martin Callaghan has issued commercial permits for cutting on Crown land. Martin will be attending the meeting later in the day.

Cindy Allen commented at the NWT Board Forum, the Superintendent of Environment & Natural Resources commented on the drift wood issue – they were changing regulations to ensure that people were not ticketed. Kris Maier explained in this area, there is no permit required for gathering driftwood. At the last meeting, Martin Callaghan explained that he encourages people to get a free cutting permit which includes transportation of wood, to ensure they are covered.

Fanny Greenland asked what is a bull trout? Kris Maier explained it is related to Dolly Varden Char – it does not occur here, but is in the Sahtu. It is possible that there are bull trout at the upper Arctic Red River, but suspect they are Dolly Varden. Need to find out because the Integrated Fisheries Management Plan is coming up for editing. It is similar to the Dolly Varden but with a different geographical range.



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Peter J. Kaye asked how Kris Maier did with Grayling at Fish Hole last year. Kris Maier explained they got about 30, but the sample is not giving reliable data. Will not do that this year.

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

Janet explained one of her duties is to provide Research Applications from Aurora Research Institute for staff to comment on.

Have had 23 research applications from Aurora Research Institute, 2 from Department of Fisheries & Oceans, some Wildlife Research Applications. When being asked for letters of support – refer to the research priorities listing to focus comments and observations.

The approved Research Priorities were included on the data sticks for the Board members and Renewable Resources Councils. There were six main priorities approved at the spring meeting along with a number of secondary ones.

Primary Priorities: Gwich'in Harvest Study, Blue Nose Caribou – Implementing Management Plan Actions, Grizzly Bear population and habitat studies, Dolly Varden Char, Lake Trout, Forest Management Plan Actions.

Secondary Priorities: Moose, Porcupine Caribou studies, other population studies.

There are a number of researchers doing work relating to wildlife management, but not necessarily species specific work. Suggest providing an additional priority re environmental monitoring research areas that support wildlife population work.

Technical Advice – provide to the Board and staff re applications that come up. There is an increased interest in Oil & Gas exploration in the region. There was a call for bids in the Central Mackenzie Valley from Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada re land that abuts the Sahtu in the south Gwich'in Settlement Area – parcels 4,5,6 and 7 are within the Gwich'in Settlement Area. Janet Boxwell showed a map identifying the areas involved. There are also Gwich'in parcels 31 and 32. Parcel 31 is on the Forks of the Arctic Red River. Parcel 32 is the upper reaches of the Arctic Red River. The call for bids closed September 17 – have not heard about the results yet. Related to that – at the Dene Assembly, attended a presentation by Caleb Behn re Fracking in the Treaty 8 Territory in Northern BC. He explained there are pros and cons – there is employment, but they haven't seen caribou in 30 years.

Gwich'in Harvest Study – in the meeting package, the data package has been released to the Porcupine Caribou Management Board for data that is relevant to them. Also collect woodland caribou, Blue Nose West Caribou, Dall Sheep. 332 – Porcupine Caribou harvest reported, 280 males reported, 6 females and 46 where sex was not reported. Estimated harvest was 615 +/- 123. A challenge has been low reporting – overall harvester reporting of about 44%, with greater participation in fall and winter. There could be various reasons for this. Porcupine Caribou were not around as much, so people may have not reported, or if they did not get anything, they may not have reported. It is important to report harvester observations as part of the survey to record where animals are being seen, etc. Not just successful harvests are important. Harvester response rates also feed into the



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estimate. Will continue to work with the Renewable Resources Councils to improve communication. Will also work on coordinating with other interviews that are happening in the area.

Education – working with the schools for Nature Day, also promoting an education unit within the classroom.

Public Registry – working on updating this and getting documents on line for the public to view.

Carolyn Lennie asked about the parcels of land that are opened up on the Arctic Red River – it is a concern about the possible impacts on the Arctic Red River fishing. Will the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board be involved if those parcels are approved for exploration? Saw the licence application and those parcels would be accessed through the Sahtu. Have there been studies re the wildlife and proximity to water? Janet Boxwell confirmed the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board has not conducted any research in those areas, but are open to working with others or being aware of research conducted in that area to feed into our response. Once the bidding is closed, if there are successful bidders, they would approach the Gwich'in Land & Water Board for an application and the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board and Renewable Resources Councils would be approached for their concerns. At the present, there is very little known about that area.

Carolyn Lennie asked if the Gwich'in Harvest Study includes non-Gwich'in harvesters? Know there were information notices re management, etc., are those done in consultation with the Hunters & Trappers Committees? Janet Boxwell explained the Gwich'in Harvest Study is done just with the Gwich'in, but the Hunters & Trappers Committees have a similar process. Information from Inuvialuit harvesters is passed on to them if it is gathered. Amy Amos explained non-aboriginal harvest goes through Environment & Natural Resources through tags. Environment & Natural Resources' check station feeds into the Porcupine Caribou Management Board. Our harvest study is just one component of the overall data.

Margaret Nazon asked about the Arctic Red River, it is a heritage river, so there should be something in the management policies re seismic or other work that might be done? Janet Boxwell talked to Sue McKenzie of the Land Use Planning Board and there may be ways they can help if there are concerns. The Board could look at amendments to zoning in the Land Use Plan. If the board is interested in research in the area, the Land Use Planning Board may also be interested. She mentioned the heritage river as well, so might be useful for the Board to specify additional research be done. Will have to look at the process.

John Norbert commented about Parcel 31 and 32 – this is a heritage river and we have fish there, but we also have to think about our people that are not working. The Prime Minister just put \$100 million for research for minerals in the NWT, so either way they are going to come and do it. Ask questions to the Elders about this area, and they say go ahead with the work because people need the work, and also new lines cut can be used for trap lines. All the existing cut lines have grown in, so more people will be able to use new lines to get out on the land.

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

Organizes the travel and meeting arrangements, organize and distribute meeting materials, regular office management duties including file management, maintain time sheets for staff, develop communications materials.





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Need training on electronic file management system for office computer and email – will be following up on this in the coming year.

Financial duties – includes payroll submissions, bank and visa reconciliations, accounts payable and invoicing. Project summaries are printed monthly for staff members to review, complete variance reports. Do accounting for the Land & Water Board and bill time to them monthly.

Also the safety officer for the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board – working on a safety policy for the office.

### **e. Technician – Ryan Brooks**

Assist biologists and staff on research and management projects.

Ryan gave a brief biography of himself and his educational background. Started 6 month term on July 3<sup>rd</sup>.

Worked with Kristen Callaghan on pellet count for small mammal survey, also on the Grizzly bear monitoring project. Also worked with Aboriginal Affairs & Northern Development Canada and Canadian Rivers Institute to sample 15 creeks and streams around Fort McPherson. Worked with Kris Maier and Department of Fisheries & Oceans on fish sampling projects.

### **f. Special Project Biologist – Natalka Melnycky**

Natalka started her term on July 22<sup>nd</sup> for six months. Gave a brief biography of herself and her educational background.

Main responsibility is to advise the Board on Species At Risk issues, coordinate community consultations, conduct technical reviews.

Time permitting will help out with educational projects and conduct Traditional Knowledge interviews.

Community consultations for both NWT and Federal Species At Risk Act. Held meetings in August in Tsiigehtchic and Inuvik, and attended the Gwich'in Tribal Council Annual General Assembly. September 4 had first Traditional Knowledge interviews in Inuvik on Wolverines.

Helped set up the Facebook page – postering isn't getting a lot of youth attending the community consultations, so hope this will assist in getting youth participation in the process. "Like" their page to get the notifications.

### **g. Summer Student – Alicia McRae**

Amy Amos read out the report provided by Alicia.

She worked in the office along with assisting with field work. She enjoyed her tasks at the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board and learned a lot of new tasks that will apply to her education. She is registered with Environment & Natural Resources Technology Program at the Aurora College.

### **LUNCH BREAK 12:00 to 1:00 p.m.**

Charlie Snowshoe joined the meeting by telephone. Quorum was recognized.



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### **8. Agency Updates**

#### **a. Department of Fisheries & Oceans – Ellen Lea**

Ellen Lea is the Fisheries Management Biologist in Inuvik. Attending on behalf of Larry Dow – Manager of District Operations, his office is now in Iqaluit and he could not attend today. He will be in Inuvik next week and may be available for a meeting with Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board staff.

Department of Fisheries & Oceans changes recently – there are new rules, processes and levels of approval for contracting, travel and events. This should not affect normal programs, but requires more advance preparation. A lot of these changes are government wide through the Treasury Board.

Department of Fisheries & Oceans appointment for the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board is in process, subject to Cabinet Secrecy so cannot comment on it.

Have not heard anything beyond the discussion paper. On the Fisheries Protections, have staff all located in Yellowknife and they travel for enforcement along the Dempster Highway and in the Delta.

Research & Monitoring Activities, Management Activities:

Harvest based monitoring program – Rat River Dolly Varden program – tagging and biological sampling. Fall tagging and index of population size at fish holes is coming up this week. Doing live sampling to verify various population indicators. Have community monitors for Dolly Varden within the Gwich'in Settlement Area and Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Have coastal harvest monitoring at Shingle Point – has been helpful to give a better picture of the stock composition of the coastal char harvest.

Involved with the Dolly Varden Harvest Management Implementation Plan and responsibilities for Department of Fisheries & Oceans.

Other Department of Fisheries & Oceans research in the Gwich'in Settlement Area – Kris Maier already spoke about that in his presentation.

Cindy Allen asked if Ellen Lea has any comments on Department of Fisheries & Oceans' failure to consult with the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board on the legislative changes to the Fisheries Act. Ellen Lea cannot comment. Cindy Allen explained this is a major issue for the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, Department of Fisheries & Oceans' failure to consult on legislative changes or provide any information on the legislative changes. Ellen Lea is the first Department of Fisheries & Oceans staff person to attend a Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board meeting in some time. Ellen Lea explained she cannot comment, knows there have been letters written and respects and understands the concerns, but does not know if there are any responses.

Amy Amos asked if there could be a written update provided in advance of meetings to be provided in the meeting package.



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### **b. Environment & Natural Resources – Martin Callaghan**

Martin Callaghan apologized – Stephen Charlie is at Porcupine Caribou Management Board meeting in Dawson, Marsha Branigan is attending a Grizzly Bear meeting in Utah. Tracy Davison is not available due to illness.

Martin Callaghan explained he is drawing up a report right now on the quantity of forest in the region – this is done every 10 years. That was the only research done this year due to forest fire management.

Barrenland Caribou – work was done the last week in March on the Tuk Peninsula and other herds. Plans are underway for collaring at water crossing on the Cape Bathurst herd.

Moose – joint survey with Yukon Government, Environment & Natural Resources, Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board was done in March 2013 in Richardson Mountains. Report will be done – plans for overlapping data sets will be done up as well.

Porcupine Caribou herd – Inuvik region provided support for the photo census in the Richardson Mountains. At the last Porcupine Caribou Management Board meeting a letter had been drawn up requesting rescinding of 3 regulations re harvesting along the Dempster Highway. Wrote up a letter and sent to Eugene for his review – this also involves Inuvialuit Game Council and Wildlife Management Advisory Council.

Dempster Highway has 152 caribou harvested at the check station so far this season.

Muskoxen hunt proposal out of Aklavik is being looked into to see if it is a viable and sustainable hunt.

John Norbert asked about muskox – people saw muskox on the highway here a couple of times. Last year, got a few caribou here along the highway and elsewhere. See sightings of muskox and know that caribou don't like muskox. Don't know what can be done about it. Martin Callaghan responded that we are trying to get a proper population count of muskox in the Gwich'in Settlement Area to determine if this is once only episode, or if this is a movement of muskox making the Gwich'in Settlement Area part of their habitat. So far, there have been relatively few sightings of muskoxen, but we are looking into this further. As more information is discovered, will provide it to the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board.

Charlie Snowshoe asked why is Environment & Natural Resources only looking into this now? Martin Callaghan explained this is looked into when there are sightings made, but they are so rare that there hasn't been much to be looked into. Charlie Snowshoe commented that Elders have not seen muskox in our country before. About 10 years ago, 21 were seen on the Dempster Highway. When people on Banks Island first saw muskox, the Elders advised they should get rid of them, now they are sorry because the muskox have chased the caribou away from where they were. When they eat, they eat what the caribou eat, but roots and all. There is another problem with hunting on the Dempster Highway – have to get together to educate the young hunters about the caribou. We talk about this in our meetings, and then nothing happens. Martin Callaghan responded that he will bring Charlie Snowshoe's concerns up to Stephen Charlie when he is in the office.

Carolyn Lennie asked about the muskox – when it was discussed at the Renewable Resources Council meeting in the Spring. Some recommendations were made at the time. Asked for more education on muskox and how to harvest them and use them. They are in our area, and people are allowed to harvest. Martin Callaghan



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responded that is a great idea and will pass that along to the Con Ed officer. He is working on a sighting your rifle program. Maybe we can get people together to give talks locally and at the Renewable Resources Council to determine a use for the muskox. A lot of people like muskoxen meat and it is sold commercially in Inuvik when they do the harvest, so could capitalize on that.

Natalka Melnycky commented she has heard concerns about more frequency of forest fires and less action being taken. Asked if there is information people can get on historical forest fire data. Martin Callaghan has maps and digital overlays that can be pulled up on Google Earth that he can provide to people. Has provided it to the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board. Need to remember that trees grow back, so the map looks like everything has burned, but the forest does grow back. Have been doing research to determine the regeneration rates for the forest, lichens that caribou use and smaller herbaceous plants that moose depend on. Within 25 years, there is enough regeneration of lichens to feed caribou. Found that caribou were frequenting old burns using caribou collaring data.

Peter J. Kaye asked about cut lines. Martin Callaghan responded that a lot of the cut lines are almost impassable because of alders and willows in the summer. They make good access for trapping. Peter J Kaye commented there was a big fire in the 90s and they did a cut line. Martin Callaghan has been talking to Johnny Kay re-cutting the fuel brake around Fort McPherson, similar to the one around Tsiigehtchic and also want to re-cut the one around Inuvik. We only have two fire crews in the area, so the fuel brakes are a good idea to give us time to mobilize crews and equipment.

John Norbert commented that when forest fires happen, it destroys all of the young animals. In the past, had some controls because we attacked the fires as soon as it started. Know it does a lot of damage when animals are having their young. Martin Callaghan responded since the Yellowstone Park fires in 1988 burned down the entire park, fire response has changed. Only protect lives and communities. The forest now takes 3<sup>rd</sup> place in this because it has been determined from many fires and observations of fires that fires are not good or bad. Fire happens and we cannot be everywhere at once, so have to decide where we will commit our people – people agree that lives and homes are important. They have been laying off fire crews up and down the valley and there is a chance we can lose even more. That means our priority has to be to protect our communities, sometimes letting fires burn further away from home because we don't have the capacity to fight all of the fires on the landscape.

John Norbert asked if there will be a fire crew in Tsiigehtchic again? Martin Callaghan explained with the economic situation the government is in, with all of the fiscal restraint, don't see it happening soon. There is a lot they could be doing, but there is no funding for it.

Cindy Allen asked about the letter re the Dempster Highway regulations and the proposed changes? Expressed a concern if the regulation about letting the leaders pass is being rescinded. Martin Callaghan explained there are 3 regulations the Porcupine Caribou Management Board is thinking about removing – 1<sup>st</sup> is the 500 meter no-hunting corridor, let the leaders pass is another, and no off-road vehicle or snow machines would be removed. Rather than having these things monitored by the Governments, would be monitored by the harvesting groups



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themselves. The three management regulations to be removed had been agreed upon by a majority of the party members to the Porcupine Caribou Management Board.

Carolyn Lennie asked if Environment & Natural Resources provides training to young hunters re how to harvest caribou – especially in the mountains. Caribou came when it was hot, and usually they come when it is cooler. Martin Callaghan explained we are trying to get more and more presence in the schools. Have younger officers that are willing to talk to schools and children. As they get more and more experience, the scope of what they are talking about will improve to include hunting of caribou and traditional practice.

Carolyn Lennie asked about education for people in the 20-30's. Heard about hunters leaving hearts behind – need to let people know they should be giving the parts to the Renewable Resources Councils to distribute the meat so there is no wastage. Martin Callaghan explained they made posters re wastage and other things – hope they are put up. It is up to all community members to take part in the educational process. Word of mouth is one of the best methods of educating people – if we see people doing something wrong, we should do our best not to confront people, but notify the authorities and educate each other re the right methods to reduce meat wastage.

Kristen Callaghan commented on one of the regulations to be removed was the let the leaders pass – the reason for removing that was the regulation contained specific dates and with the changes in caribou movements, those dates don't really make sense all the time. Martin Callaghan commented we only have 6 officers in the Mackenzie Delta, so we can only do so much – we have posters, booklets with information, don't think people should be able to say they don't know about regulations. Everyone knows meat wastage is wrong, but it still happens from time to time.

Fanny Greenland asked if there are extra reports for the communities? Martin Callaghan left information on the table at the back and would provide additional information to anyone that asks. Amy Amos mentioned that in the meeting package, Environment & Natural Resources provided full reports along with a flow chart re changes to be suggested to the Porcupine Caribou Management Board.

Charlie Snowshoe talked about the Porcupine Caribou Herd and letting the leaders pass. Traditional Knowledge has been around about this, but it is not working. Asked where the caribou are at the moment? Martin Callaghan does not have that information at the meeting. Charlie Snowshoe commented it is a serious issue for Elders – we are harassing the caribou and making it so they cannot go where they want to go. Asked if Martin could find out where the caribou are to report to the meeting.

### **9. NWT Species at Risk – Proposed Listing of Boreal Caribou as “Threatened”**

Natalka Melnycky gave a presentation. Note that there will be a motion from this section. Quorum was recognized.

Species At Risk Act NWT was passed in 2010. Species At Risk Committee assesses biological risk of species – members are nominated by Conference member groups, and once appointed represent species only and not the group that nominated them.



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Species Assessments are available online for the public.

Socio-Economic factors are not considered, only biological factors in assessing how a species should be rated.

If there is not enough information, a species can be assessed as data deficient before an assessment can be made.

Conference of Management Authorities – decides what should be done once the Species At Risk Committee has done a status assessment. Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board is a member.

For the Boreal Caribou – we are preparing for a listing decision. Community consultations continue if the species is listed at the management recovery step. If the species numbers decline, even if it is not listed, there can be management steps taken with community consultation.

12.8.23 (c), (d) in the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement gives the role of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board – to approve the designations and the management plans that come afterwards.

James Firth is the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board member appointed with Eugene Pascal as the alternate for the Species At Risk Committee.

Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board has 3 seats at the Conference of Management Authorities meetings.

Conference of Management Authorities will approve the listing for the Boreal Caribou by December 2013.

In the NWT, there are four sub-species of caribou. Peary, Peary/Barrenground, Barrenground – most abundant in the NWT, Woodland are the most southerly. Woodland have two distinct populations – Boreal and Mountain. The Boreal tend to stay in small groups in the forests and do not migrate. One of the ways they avoid predation is they spread out. There are only about 6500 Boreal Woodland caribou in the NWT according to best estimates. They make seasonal movements according to habitat changes. The reason for proposing them as threatened is population size is small, only 8% are increasing in numbers, 53% of NWT caribou are in areas with stable or declining populations.

Currently the Boreal caribou are staying further north than they did historically. They are proposed as threatened because they need large areas of habitat to avoid predation. These habitats are at risk for loss and fragmentation due to human causes and climate changes. There is more exploration and more commercial use of forests and more forest fires expected in the future, which could result in woodland caribou disappearing within our children's lifetime.

During public consultations Nataalka heard concerns about harvesting and wastage. Tags have been suggested as a way of preventing wastage. A concern was raised that the listing would affect harvesting rights, but this is not true automatically and any restrictions would at the Recovery Strategy stage and would be part of a consultation process. There was also a concern about listing lengths, muskoxen competition, forest fires affecting habitat, and interest in detailed population information.



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Final responses from the community consultations – attended meetings. Fort McPherson (Tetlit RRC) did not give a written response, but no concerns were given, Inuvik (Nihtat RRC) does not support listing for this region, and Aklavik (Ehdiitat RRC) and Tsiigehtchic (Gwichya Gwich'in RRC) both support the listing.

Federally, they have already been listed under the Species At Risk. A recovery strategy is being created under the Federal Act. A NWT listing would give the opportunity to have a NWT recovery strategy.

Given the main concerns are harvesting rights, and biological limitations to current populations. In the southern NWT and Alberta and BC, populations are unlikely to be self-sustainable without outside help, and future threats will increase – it is recommended that the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board support the NWT Species At Risk Act listing as Threatened.

This would mean a recovery strategy would be developed along with future consultations on actions to be taken.

Amy Amos explained that this is a decision item for the Board members to decide if they support the listing of Boreal Caribou as threatened. The Conference of Management Authorities will be meeting in October to talk about the consensus decision. The Board will need to make the decision before December, if they don't do it right now.

Cindy Allen commented about the process. In the NWT, we have an opportunity to do things differently than with the Federal Species At Risk Act. When we reviewed this last year, with the Federal management plan, the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board did not support it because there were a lot of things in the Federal management plan that did not consider the realities of the northern landscape and people. The Northern ecosystem is different than the south, so if it is listed under the NWT Species At Risk Act, we can shape the plan to meet northern peoples' interests and the northern reality. It is sad to hear about caribou disappearing from the landscape in BC and Alberta because of the development activities going on. Don't want to hear about that happening in the North. We have an opportunity to make a plan that fits the North and has the input of Northerners.

Charlie Snowshoe commented; one of the Elders from Tsiigehtchic told me that he was concerned – at one time Tsiigehtchic had a lot of caribou. Tsiigehtchic used to have caribou crossing for about a week and then they didn't have to go too far to hunt for caribou because they were straight across from the community. He figured it was a forest fire that did a lot of damage to that caribou herd. Don't know if that is different group or the boreal caribou. John Nagy has done a lot of research on this and the caribou are going towards extinction, so suggest we support that the Boreal caribou are a Species At Risk. They are getting a hard time all over – Hay River has a big oil rig, there are a lot of Oil & Gas activities in the southern NWT.

John Norbert commented that the Elders of long ago told him that all animals go up and down from year to year. The Boreal caribou here, there is nothing going for us for the last twenty-five years. We haven't had any oil or seismic work around here, and there is nobody out there, so what is happening to them? Support the Board to make a motion – maybe need to stop killing them for a few years until they go back up again.



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### Motion #13-24

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board supports the listing of the Boreal Caribou as Threatened under the NWT Species At Risk Act.

Moved by: Charlie Snowshoe

Seconded by: Cindy Allen

Question called: **CARRIED** unanimously

### BREAK

## 10. Species At Risk – Next Steps

Amy Amos reviewed the upcoming assessments scheduled for the NWT Species At Risk Act and Federal Species At Risk Act. This is important for the Board because this is an increasing demand for resources, and the Board has only received partial funding for a position to handle the community consultations as individual meetings as opposed to trying to attend regular Renewable Resources Council meetings. This will continue to be a demand for the Renewable Resources Councils as well as you are asked to talk about listings, management plans and recovery strategies.

By December 2014 – Barren Ground Caribou assessment reports will be available. In December 2015 there will be Wolverine. There are other species being assessed as well, but these are the ones relevant to our area.

2016 – Grizzly Bear, 2017 Peregrine Falcon and Ashton Cuckoo Bumble Bee, 2018 – Canadian Toad and Rusty Blackbird, 2019 – Pika, 2020 – Woodland Caribou and Short-eared Owl.

This means that every year there will be at least one species to be assessed for the Gwich'in Settlement Area. This is an opportunity for collection of Traditional Knowledge on some of these Species At Risk – doing that on Grizzly Bear, Wolverine and Woodland Caribou.

Re the Federal Process – the presentation was provided by Donna Bigelow of Environment Canada, and it is specific to the Gwich'in Settlement Area.

Amy Amos reviewed the process map for the Federal and NWT Species At Risk Act and where the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board has input.

After the assessment from Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, the listing is brought to the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board and decision is made to support or not support the listing followed by a decision. After a decision is made to list, a management plan and implementation is done.

Amy Amos reviewed the listings being considered on the NWT and Federal Species At Risk Act schedules (see documents included in the meeting package.)

The Federal Species At Risk Act has a similar schedule of assessments, recovery planning and management plans. Some of these are coming up on the agenda tomorrow.





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The reason for this agenda item is to emphasize the magnitude of the work that this process is generating, not only for the Board, but for the Renewable Resources Councils as well.

### **11. Bluenose Caribou Herds**

Kristen Callaghan reviewed the work that has been happening on this file since the draft management plan was brought out. The working group has been looking at all of the comments to decide if changes are required to the management plan.

The Working Group is not ready to release the revisions at this point, but plan to do it in November. A lot of the comments will be providing clarification rather than making substantive changes. The group has added a lot of detail to the plan without changing the actions proposed.

Added “Hot Topic” boxes to the plan in areas where there have been a lot of discussion and to identify how the plan will proceed.

Working on finishing up the scientific report that is a companion to the plan. Lacking a Traditional Knowledge document, no studies had been done, but have documented the comments made at the community consultations as a second companion document. Was released as a first draft for comments in August.

One thing that came up was a discussion of the Co-Chairs Committee re comments made by the Wildlife Management Advisory Council NWT. The outcome of the meeting to discuss this was included in the meeting package. They decided the plan should be continued to be developed under the Terms of Reference with the three herds. Wildlife Management Advisory Council NWT had a concern that the herds should be managed as one and not three.

Continuing to revise the draft – will have a working group meeting in October to finalize revisions. There have been some challenges during the field season to get work done, hope to have management bodies review and approve the plan at winter meetings for implementation in 2014.

Cindy Allen asked about how the plan works for the three herds? The Management plan is for the Cape Bathurst, Blue Nose East and Blue Nose West herds – these were historically managed as one herd called the Blue Nose herd. However, new information shows they are three herds. Decided to write up the same management framework and principles for all three, with slightly different action plans for the herds depending on herd circumstances.

### **12. Dall Sheep**

Kristen Callaghan reviewed information provided in Tab 11 of the meeting package.

This is re a letter that the Yukon Government sent to the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board and Vuntut Renewable Resources Board – they would like to re-engage the parties and have provided a list of changes they would like inserted into the plan.



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Kristen Callaghan is providing advice and recommendations to the Board. The plan was released as a draft in 2008, but the plan was never approved. The Board did set priorities that did not include this file at this time, although it is important not to let it go unfinished.

Yukon Government and Vuntut Gwich'in have submitted a revised plan and other parties may have comments they want to submit. Suggest bringing the parties rather than only responding in writing. Wildlife Management Advisory Council North Slope also noted that this revision does not include comments made previously. This will require a budget and staff time to ensure consultations are done re changes that are not minor. This could mean renewed consultations with the Renewable Resources Councils. Councils were added as partners to the plan after the process was started. Striking of an implementation team has been proposed – earlier on, need a Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board representative at the table. Right now, all the parties to the plan would be listed on the Implementation Team, which would likely include travel budget. Although the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board is the main body for management plans, the Gwich'in Tribal Council is also participating in the management group and is a party to the plan.

The Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board has never finalized their comments on the plan. Renewable Resources Council comments were never gathered. In order to feel comfortable on this process, will likely need to review it again.

### Recommendations:

1. Review process and proposed plan for completion.
2. Consider Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board finalizing comments to draft plan. Staff and Board time required.
3. Determine Board priorities and timelines.
4. Identify who will participate.
5. Discuss among Board and Renewable Resources Councils re participation on Implementation Team (who will speak for the region?)
6. Budget needed for Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board Implementation Team representatives
7. Respond to Parties with preferred approach and suggested timeline for Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board participation.

Cindy Allen asked where the Dall Sheep ended up in the Priority Planning process? Janet Boxwell explained last year in the research priority process – there were many research priorities that were management plan actions already committed to. In the approved research priorities for 2013/2014, Dall Sheep were not included because those management plans were already committed to.

Amy Amos commented that Jozef Carnogursky spoke to her about this item. He felt it was important to get the working group back together. There was a lot of work done with the communities on the management plan and that changes should not come from one party only, but should go through the working group process as Kristen recommended.



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Charlie Snowshoe commented the working group includes the Yukon Government and Vuntut Gwich'in and they came up with this plan. This was circulated around in the news here. Now they are coming out with their own recommendations similar to what happened with the Peel River Watershed. Need to get a clear understanding of what they are talking about. This needs to be discussed. Asked what the Inuvialuit stand is on this management plan? Kristen Callaghan commented part of the issue is the parties never brought the comments from their regions together. Part of the need is to have the comments from the regions together so they can be discussed. Sometimes it is hard for a working group member to speak for a region. Ultimately, you sometimes need a representative from the Board to speak for the region. Suggest having a staff and Board member participate.

Charlie Snowshoe suggested that the Yukon Government is using the same tactic as they did on the Peel River Watershed. Suggest that we take care of the Dall Sheep in the Gwich'in Settlement Area and let the Yukon Government take care of the sheep in their area. Feel they are delaying what the group has done and are just playing a game with it.

Cindy Allen commented that a lot of work went into the original report, but there are significant operational requirements for the parties to carry out the management plan. On an annual basis, there would have to be a lot of money found to do the monitoring of the management of the sheep – i.e. aerial surveys every three years of the lambs if the numbers get to a certain threshold. Thinks it is a good idea not to respond directly to the Yukon Government letter, but do further work to review the plan and see what is required with further discussion from the communities and Renewable Resources Councils. This is a big project that would have ongoing requirements for the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board. This is not a small project and we have to seriously consider how to do this properly.

Carolyn Lennie asked for clarification on what is being asked for – funding and Board member? Kristen Callaghan commented the letter was not expected, so had to look at how to respond. She provided advice on what needs to be considered in responding to the letter.

Amy Amos commented that from Cindy Allen, Charlie Snowshoe and Jozef Carnogursky – there was not support to go forward to approve the recommendations from the Yukon Government as proposed in their letter. The entire working group should reconvene. From a staff perspective, this would add an additional file to our Wildlife Biologist. This will be something we will have to look at for raising funding for the next fiscal year – possibly could replace the Grizzly Bear project as a priority as that project is nearing completion along with the Blue Nose Caribou Management Plan.

Cindy Allen suggested we respond that we are considering the recommendations, but have to consult with the Renewable Resources Councils again, have other priorities as well, so will respond in the near future and that we would be moving priorities to work on it in the upcoming fiscal year.

It was agreed that Amy Amos and Kristen Callaghan will respond to the Yukon Government as discussed.



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Reviewed the agenda remaining for the meeting. Since are ahead of schedule, will cover the first agenda item from tomorrow.

NS is at the Porcupine Caribou Management Board meeting in Dawson now and will be arriving tomorrow afternoon to speak to the Board.

### **13. Grizzly Bear Hides**

Kristen Callaghan explained Environment & Natural Resources supplied the most recent summary of the Grizzly Bear harvest data. On average, there are about 3 problem bears killed each year in the Gwich'in Settlement Area, which means there are about 3 hides to be dealt with by the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, but these can differ by region. Environment & Natural Resources brings the hide back to the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board and then may be returned to the communities.

The difficulty is the timing of the return and getting the hides tanned costs money. Kristen Callaghan asked if there is money available for the tanning of the hides. There is money that could be used for training for someone to learn to tan hides to start a business for someone.

One issue is Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board needs information right away re bears killed to let us know what is happening, get the hide dealt with, get standardized biological information collected – can ask that from Environment & Natural Resources. Tanning costs can cost as much as \$1000 per hide if it needs to be cleaned and tanned.

Charlie Snowshoe asked what they want to do with the hides? Kristen Callaghan explained when there is a problem bear kill, the hide is given to the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board and the Board may give that back to the Renewable Resources Council in the community the bear was shot. There has been discussion re what to do with the hides and the timing of how long it takes to get the hides back. Charlie Snowshoe commented he does not know what they did in the past with bear hides, but suggest that if you cannot use the hide, it should be burned?

Amy Amos asked if the Renewable Resources Councils want the hides, they are usually about a year old and are pretty stinky after a year of sitting only being scraped? If the Renewable Resources Councils get the funding for tanning training? Jason Dayman at the Elementary School mentioned they would be interested in getting some hides to tan and display in their library, but there would be a limit to how many they would want.

Ryan Brooks was asked to find a home for the hides in storage – approached Aurora College, have not heard back from them. Also talked to Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute – they suggested the Renewable Resources Councils for each community should be contacted. Aklavik has used the money from hides for graduations and funeral donations. If anyone can get back to Ryan with their ideas, can work on getting together a workshop on tanning.

Johnny Charlie commented re tanning – has never heard of anyone tanning a grizzly bear hide. It would be good for hunters to be trained on skinning and handled properly. Suggest the hides could be given to the Renewable Resources Councils to be sold at auction.



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Carolyn Lennie commented Tsiigehtchic has not had to deal with bears or the hides. If it is not our tradition to tan hides, maybe we should not do it, but could sell the hides at auction.

Barry Greenland commented at the Renewable Resources Council in Inuvik, there was not much traditional practice in Inuvik. Suggest taking the issue back to the Renewable Resources Councils in the community.

Cindy Allen commented she appreciated the discussion – it bothered her to know the hides were not being cared for. Think it is a good idea for the Renewable Resources Councils to discuss this further. If there is training re how to properly skin and care for the hides, that would be a good idea. Each community has a way for doing things and that should be respected. Glad the discussion is being held.

John Norbert recommended the Renewable Resources Councils can discuss this and decide from there.

Charlie Snowshoe told a story about a bear.

John Norbert asked what has been happening with the hides in the past? Amy Amos recalled the Board discussing it. Think they used some money and tanned hides to be used for educational purposes. It was before she was in the Executive Director's role.

**Decision – to bring the issue back to the Renewable Resources Councils for discussion.**

Supper will be held for the public at 5:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:00 p.m. for the day.

### **September 20<sup>th</sup>, 2013**

The meeting was called to order at 9:24 a.m. by Amy Amos. Quorum was recognized.

#### **14. Federal Species At Risk – Donna Bigelow**

##### **a. Grizzly Bear and Collared Pika – Listing as “Special Concern”**

Donna Bigelow joined the meeting by telephone.

She reviewed a presentation regarding the proposed listing of the Grizzly Bear and Collared Pika as “Special Concern”, and the management plan for the Rusty Blackbird.

In the last year, the Federal Government has been consulting on two species proposed for listing by Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada which occur in the Gwich'in Settlement Area. Last January, sent out packages to the Board and all communities in the NWT. In February, did a presentation to the Board on the proposed listing. In April, sent out further information packages, which included a CD with a narrated PowerPoint presentation. Would be interested to know if communities used that CD and if it was useful.

This summer, met with the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board staff. This was very helpful and commend the work they have done.



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October 4<sup>th</sup> is the end of the consultation. Under the Land Claim Agreement, the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board has the power to approve the proposed listing and that is being asked for now.

Implications of listing as a Special Concern: Under the Land Claim Agreement and the Species At Risk Act, Environment Canada will work with the Land Claim Agreement groups. There is no general prohibition or critical habitats identified for “Special Concern” listings.

Grizzly Bear range information was shown for Canada and the Gwich'in Settlement Area. In the NWT, the population is estimated between 3500-4000. The main reason for concern for the Grizzly Bear, since the 1800s has disappeared from 50% of its range, the core of the remaining range is in Western Canada. Canadian population is estimated at 26 thousand, but could be 10 thousand mature individuals. Overall range in the North is expanding, but in the South is seeing declines in population as the range is declining and becoming more isolated. The main threats are: development of access roads that increase mortality; poaching, accidental killing, nuisance/defence kills; loss of habitat.

Nataoka Melnycky explained consultations held – did full day consultation in Tsiigehtchic and meetings in Inuvik. Received a written support from Aklavik, Tsiigehtchic had no concerns and approved the listing, Fort McPherson had no official response, but voiced no concerns over the listing. Inuvik wrote a letter opposing the listing, but had not given any concerns at the meeting.

Based on the majority of communities being in support, and the loss of habitat for the Grizzly Bear in the South, Nataoka recommends approval of the listing of the Grizzly Bear for “Special Concern”.

Collared Pika – was assessed by Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada as being of “Special Concern” and this is the proposed listing. Showed a map showing the range of the collared pika in the Gwich'in Settlement Area and the NWT. The reason for it being assessed as special concern is because it is vulnerable to climate change due to death from exposure and reduction of meadow forage. This animal is more vulnerable to this because they cannot move far to find new habitat. The region they live in are more affected

Nataoka Melnycky reported on the consultations held. Heard a lot of interest, people were not knowledgeable about the species.

Inuvik and Aklavik were indifferent to the listing and would support the Board's decision. Tsiigehtchic and Fort McPherson supported the listing.

Recommendation: Since communities had no concerns or were indifferent to the listing, little is known about the populations in the Gwich'in Settlement Area, sensitive to future climate changes, listing can help increase the knowledge. Recommend approving the listing.

Cindy Allen commented that there will be a lot of Species At Risk work coming up with the Board over the next few years. How will listing these species as of “Special Concern” reverse the trends – how will we stop climate change or reverse development? Have been wondering how we are going to make a difference with the listing?



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Donna Bigelow responded that when climate change is the main driver that is the threat to the species, it becomes more of a challenge. After a species is listed, must write a management plan. For things like climate change, we cannot do much, but for human causes of disturbances, you can identify things that can slow down the human caused stresses.

John Norbert asked about the collared pika – does not know about the animal and has not heard the Elders talk about it. Read about it and it looks like a little rat and it lives mostly in the mountains. Don't know if people even eat it. Whoever is concerned about it, will support them and the Board's decision. Grizzly Bears are always a problem on the Dempster Highway and it is getting worse. We have been working with Grizzly Bears for a long time. Support the Board with whatever direction they want to go.

Charlie Snowshoe commented on climate change. He calls it man-made change. Grizzly Bear have declined since the 1800s. A lot of change has happened including a lot of hunters and poachers. We are having a Grizzly Bear problem on the Dempster Highway. We were talking about caribou yesterday, I talked to one of the guys who shot caribou and was working with it and the Grizzly Bear was coming towards him and he had to shoot it. That problem is mostly on the Yukon side. On this motion, the reason I support the motion is because the information that was given out. One of the things I am concerned about is why all of a sudden, there is no rabbits? Don't see tracks around McPherson anymore. Another concern is muskrats – you don't see them anymore in the Delta, but there are a lot of otters now. These are things I want to bring to the attention of the biologists.

Discussed whether or not to review the motion at this time. Jozef Carnogursky will be joining the meeting after the first ferry arrives.

Peter J Kaye asked how you will work about safety for Grizzly Bears if we are going to list them as of "Special Concern", down the road, may not be able to shoot them. The main concern my people have is safety on the highway.

Kristen Callaghan clarified with that the Grizzly Bear was proposed for listing in 2006. At that time, the Nunavut Board did not support the listing. It was identified by Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada, but it was not listed federally and does not have the protections of the Federal Species At Risk Act. Under the listing, there are no prohibitions. The Grizzly Bear would be managed by the NWT Co-Management system. There would be no prohibition against hunting or to protect habitat. Even if the listing is increased in level, aboriginal rights are respected.

Cindy Allen commented on the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada summary on the Grizzly Bear. You mentioned the listing would not impact the harvesting of Grizzly Bears by Gwich'in. Hunting is listed in the report as a limiting factor. The way it is presented, it looks like one of the main threats is aboriginal subsistence hunting and don't think that is an accurate portrayal of the true threats to the Grizzly Bear. It is really man-made development. If I was editing the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada report, I would not list aboriginal subsistence hunting as the second item on the list of threats, I would move climate change and development up. Gwich'in people left the Grizzly Bears alone and the only time they come in conflict now is related to the Dempster Highway. The people don't harvest Grizzly Bears to eat.



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Kristen Callaghan clarified that Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada made the recommendation for the Grizzly Bear listing in 2002, 2006 and again now. Donna Bigelow commented that all of the NWT Boards supported the listing at the time, but the Nunavut Board did not, so additional work has been done on the listing.

Carolyn Lennie asked what is being done differently this time to get the listing approved? If Nunavut does not agree again, will the Federal Government go ahead with the listing? Donna Bigelow explained Nunavut has a Memorandum of Understanding and if there is a disagreement, there is a process to be followed. At the time, believe that Traditional Knowledge had not been gathered and information was not available in all of the communities. Know there has not been a lot of support for listings in the past. There is a process that is followed when there are differences between the Nunavut Board and the Federal Government.

Jozef Carnogursky and Barry Greenland joined the meeting and Barry Greenland took over as meeting chair.

Nataalka Melnycky and Amy Amos pointed out that the NWT Species At Risk Assessment for Grizzly Bears is scheduled for 2016. Collared Pikas will be assessed in the NWT in 2019.

Donna Bigelow commented because this listing is national, the threats listed may be more of a concern in other areas of Canada. The management plans are done regionally, so those affects may be quite different in the NWT. Heard your comment on the subsistence harvesting in the listing.

Nataalka Melnycky suggested it might be helpful to clarify in the document the level or strength of each threat.

Donna Bigelow commented with a recovery strategy, look at each threat and assess it as high, medium or low and whether or not it is range wide or more specific to a region.

Nataalka Melnycky reviewed the community consultation results for those joining the meeting. Inuvik meeting – there was no concerns re the Grizzly Bear, but the Renewable Resources Council did not support the listing. Tsiigehtchic – no concerns, supported the listing. Fort McPherson – no response formally, but no concerns at meetings. Aklavik – no concerns with the listing. Nataalka Melnycky recommends the approval.

Collared pikas – Inuvik written response, indifferent to listing, not enough information on the species; Tsiigehtchic – no concerns, written response supporting listing; Fort McPherson – no official response, no concerns; Aklavik – indifferent to the listing in written response, no concerns. Recommendation for approval by the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board.

### **Motion #13-25**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board supports the listing of Grizzly Bears as a species of Special Concern under the Federal Species At Risk Act.

Moved by: Cindy Allen

Seconded by: Johnny Charlie

Question called: **CARRIED** unanimously





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### Motion #13-26

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board supports the listing of the Collared Pika as a species of Special Concern under the Federal Species At Risk Act.

Moved by: Cindy Allen

Seconded by: Jozef Carnogursky

Question called: **CARRIED** unanimously

#### **b. Rusty Blackbird Draft Management Plan**

Charlie Snowshoe commented that he hardly sees any blackbirds today.

Donna Bigelow reviewed a presentation on the Management Plan for the Rusty Blackbird which was assessed as a species of special concern in 2006 and listed in 2009. They are looking for feedback people might have on the management plan and will be sending out a request soon to post this as a final document.

Worked with Amy Amos to make a questionnaire – a way to show the Renewable Resources Councils what was being proposed in the management plan. Will be using something similar with other Boards. Thanks to the staff for helping with this.

Under the Land Claim Agreement, the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board has the authority to approve plans for management and protection of wildlife species.

Process followed – provided a draft and a summary to the communities, Renewable Resources Councils, Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board, GNWT. Consultation packages were sent out. Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board has two opportunities to look at it and approve it, then it is posted on the Species At Risk Act Registry for comments for 60 days, then posted as a final document and implementation of the plan begins.

Management Plans are required for a species of special concern and must be completed within 3 years. Includes measures for conservation of the species and habitat. Prepared in cooperation with management boards, government and aboriginal organizations.

Donna asked Charlie Snowshoe if these were birds that were seen in the past? Charlie Snowshoe commented it has been quite a while since seeing them.

Reasons for the designation: More than 70% of the breeding range is in Canada's boreal forest, severe decline appears to be ongoing. Wintering populations have declined by 85% between 1966 and 2003. Known threats are habitat conversion and blackbird control programs in the US.

Showed the map of the range of the rusty blackbird. Breeding areas are across Canada, with wintering in the southern United States. In the NWT, have been seen as far north as Tuktoyaktuk.

Threats: Habitat loss – mainly in the south and wintering area; Accidental mortality; pollution; climate and natural disasters; changes in predators and competitor species; disease and parasites.



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The management plan lists the threats and objectives to ensure the species does not become more threatened or endangered.

Broad Strategies contain 19 specific measures to achieve the objectives: identify and better understand threats on breeding and wintering ranges; mitigate threats; gain a better understanding of the population sizes and distributions; encourage and carry out collaborations re management and conservation related activities throughout the range.

If Grizzly Bear and Collared Pika are listed – will do a management plan for them including similar features.

Natalka Melnycky reviewed the consultation results. Spoke about this at the full day meeting in Tsiigehtchic [council had no wish to be engaged], was brought forward to Inuvik – they do not approve as they do not have enough information; Aklavik and Fort McPherson do not wish to be fully engaged and do not have any concerns.

Recommendation: most communities have no concerns, population numbers are declining, threats are likely to increase; goals of the management plan is to learn more about the plan and secure habitat which would benefit other species. Recommend approval of the management plan.

John Norbert expressed concerns about all of the song birds. There are far fewer than there used to be in the spring time. Possibly this could be due to climate change – notice it not only with black birds, but all the song birds.

Cindy Allen commented since the wintering range is where most of the threat occurs – with only 15% of the wintering range left, will one of the management plan actions be an international agreement with the US to mitigate or change its development practices so there are wetlands left for the birds. If there is nowhere for it to go in the winter, what we do in Canada will not help.

Donna Bigelow agreed that is an issue – the 85% decline in the population numbers. Part of this is the changes in the US, part of this is how they count the birds. You can count in the breeding or the wintering areas. As far as the Federal Species At Risk Act, for all migratory birds, a lot of them are in the US in the winter, so our act looks at what can be done in the range in Canada and what we can do. Know that for some species, there is work done and efforts that can be made – i.e. with shore birds. Don't know too much about international agreements. Donna will commit to finding out how we interact with the US for species like the Rusty Blackbird. Know that our plans will cover Canada.

### **Motion #13-27**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board approves the management plan developed by Environment Canada for the Rusty Blackbird.

Moved by: Charlie Snowshoe

Seconded by: Cindy Allen

Question called: CARRIED unanimously



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Donna Bigelow thanked the Board for allowing her to call in to the meeting. Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada is assessing the bank swallow as stressed and will be doing consultation on that in the next month. Also within the Gwich'in Settlement Area, have a recovery strategy for the olive sided flycatcher. Hope to have that ready to be posted on the Species At Risk Act Registry by the end of March, so will be engaging the Board and Renewable Resources Councils on this in the next month.

### **15. Federal Migratory Bird Hunting Regulation Amendments**

#### **a. Snow Geese – Myra Robertson, Canadian Wildlife Service – Environment Canada**

Myra Robertson from the Canadian Wildlife Service gave a presentation on proposed changes to the Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations and Management of Snow Geese.

In February, met with the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board to discuss this. Talking about Western Arctic Distribution of Snow Geese. The management concern is the Western Arctic Snow Goose is showing signs of over-abundance – have more than doubled in population since the 70s. There is a concern there could be damage to habitat and other populations based on the experience with Nunavut populations. There are two options being considered – opening up the fall harvest in Canada so that non-aboriginal hunters can hunt in fall with wide limit. Considering increasing bag limits and eliminating possession limits.

Canadian Wildlife Service met with Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board in February. There were questions re how monitoring will be done to ensure this program is not too successful. Also heard concerns about preventing wastage.

Sent information packages to all the Renewable Resources Councils and to Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board staff. Heard no concerns from Aklavik, sent a written response back. From the Inuvialuit side, had a request for a public meeting in Aklavik and some Gwich'in members attended as well. There were questions about private land and enforcement re preventing wastage. In Inuvik, no concerns were brought up. Held a public meeting in Inuvik last night, had a good discussion, but attendance was low. Tsiigehtchic had lots of questions and had some concerns re how the process would work, questions about enforcement and monitoring to ensure the program is not too successful and questions about future changes to regulations. Tsiigehtchic also suggested more aboriginal hunters should be encouraged to harvest snow geese – Canadian Wildlife Service is working with Gwich'in Social & Cultural Institute to do a waterfowl pamphlet. This evolved because there were questions about scoters that are not doing well, snow geese that are doing really well, and other ducks such as mallards. The idea is this pamphlet would go out to all Gwich'in residents. Working with Tsiigehtchic to fully engage them in the process.

Photo survey was planned for June to confirm that the population was as high as was thought. Showed the plane used and photos taken during the census. After the photos are taken on Banks Island, someone counts the number of photos of nesting birds. Most of the birds were concentrated in the traditional colony area – the boundary seems to be a little smaller where they are nesting, it looks like there are as many as there were in 2009 – about 400,000 birds.

Questions for the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board:



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### Concerns or advice on...

1. Increasing daily bag limits for non-aboriginal hunters in Alberta, Saskatchewan, NWT from 20-50.
2. On removal of possession limits
3. On designating the snow goose population in the Western Arctic as over-abundant.

Request a written response no later than October 31, 2013. Do you support the change, not support it, any concerns?

If it looks like the regulations are going ahead, the regulations would be in place by July 2014.

John Norbert asked if there is a limit to how much you have? Why not open it up to everyone? If they are affecting other birds, need to do something. Myra Robertson responded we want to open it up quite a bit, but not have no limits altogether so we aren't too successful. John Norbert asked what Banks Island people think? Myra Robertson visited them last March – the Hunters & Trappers Committee is for this regulation because there a lot of geese and are in favour of guided sport hunts, so would be in favour of a spring non-aboriginal hunt. Paulatuk and Tuktoyaktuk did not have any concerns. Aklavik had some of the same concerns that came up here – enforcement, communications, monitoring. In Nunavut populations went from 1 million birds in the 70s to over 15 million now and there has been quite a lot of habitat degradation.

Carolyn Lennie commented we met with Nataalka Melnycky for the consultation. Think it is important to get the message out to hunters about the overpopulation of snow geese. Talked about bartering with Sachs Harbour or other places, so they could harvest and we could exchange things with them. The other thing is going to Kendall Island, people go down there to hunt and there have been comments that people should not go down there, so need to promote the idea that geese are overpopulated. Talked about bag limits and talked about working with Alberta and Saskatchewan to create a management plan. If we open up the spring hunt to non-aboriginals, how do we manage if there is an overkill? Talked about non-residents and the bag limits of 10.

Myra Robertson commented the management plan suggestion is a good one. There is a management plan for Western Arctic Snow Geese done through the Pacific Flyway – a group of American and Canadian biologists that meet regularly. We had input into that plan. The proposal to lower the population has reached that plan as well. This plan covers more than Canada. Can send a copy of that plan here. Carolyn Lennie asked if there was aboriginal input into that plan? Myra Robertson responded that Canadian Wildlife Service has input, they take into account messages heard from the Aboriginal Management Boards. Are open to suggestions on other ways to get information out about snow geese. Have heard concerns about high aboriginal harvest at the Kendall Island Colony which has about 2000 birds per year. Although the overall population is high, there are concerns about the Kendall Island population – but these are really local issues re flooding, the odd grizzly bear, etc.

Margaret Nazon asked if outfitters would be allowed to offer that to clients? Myra Robertson responded if the regulations go ahead allowing non-aboriginal hunters in the spring hunt, outfitters would be allowed to deal with that. Margaret Nazon asked if that would be in the management plan? Myra Robertson is not aware of any outfitted hunting for waterfowl in the NWT. Margaret Nazon sits on the NWT Tourism Board – since there is a decline in big game outfitting, there is a reduction in the number of hunters visiting the NWT each year.



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Itai Katz asked how many snow geese are taken each year? Aboriginal harvest including NWT and Alaska is about 7-8,000. Biggest harvest is in the south – largest in California, in western states, annual harvest is about 57,000 currently, down from the 1970s. In Alberta, non-aboriginal harvest has also gone down, in the 70s was about 20 thousand per year, now about 10 thousand per year. Saskatchewan is the only non-aboriginal harvest that has increased, but it mainly targets birds from Queen Maude Gulf and Hudson Bay. Totals about 80,000 per year. That is much lower than in the 70s. In the 60s and 70s there were years where over 100,000 birds were taken per year, with population of about 200,000 birds that was very stable.

Itai Katz asked what number are we aiming at? Myra Robertson responded the population could handle a harvest of 50,000 birds per year. Even if we implement the spring harvest in Alberta and NWT, not sure we would hit that. Saskatchewan already has a spring harvest and they take about 10,000 birds per year.

Itai Katz asked what kind of cooperation is there with the US to manage these populations? Myra Robertson responded we are working with them and they realize there are a lot of snow geese. There is one complicating factor, there is another population of snow geese that nest on Rangel Island, Russia and they winter in California and some migrate in spring through the Prairie provinces. The population on Rangel Island was not doing well 12 years ago and they used to have geese nesting on the coast of Russia that were eliminated and are coming back now. These birds winter in California as well, so have to tread lightly to ensure that we don't affect their population.

Carolyn Lennie asked if Canadian Wildlife Service is working with the Wildlife Management Advisory Council North Slope as well? Myra Robertson responded they are getting a presentation next week in Whitehorse and have been sending them correspondence as well.

### **Motion #13-28**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board supports the changes to the Federal Migratory Bird Regulations to designate the Western Arctic Snow Geese as over-abundant and establish a spring harvest for sport hunters; support increases to daily bag limits for sport hunters in Alberta, Saskatchewan and NWT; and support removing possession limits for Snow Geese for sport hunters in Canada.

Moved by: Jozef Carnogursky

Seconded by: Johnny Charlie

Question called: **CARRIED** unanimously

### **b. Migratory Birds Regulations Changes - Dan Teillet, Canadian Wildlife Service – Environment Canada**

Changes have been proposed in respect to Aboriginal people and references to their rights.

Most sections of the regulations are 30 years old or older. The legal landscape has changed quite a lot and the regulations do not reflect the decisions made in the last 20-30 years, changes to the constitution, renegotiation of the Migratory Birds Convention in 1995.



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In 1995, Canadian Wildlife Service and Environment Canada renegotiated Migratory Birds Convention with US originally signed in 1916, because it was not reflective of aboriginal rights. Changed the Migratory Convention Act to reflect this change, but the regulations were not changed.

Doing a complete overhaul re structure, regulations on hunting and permitting, harvesting activities by Aboriginal peoples. Conservation is number one priority. Harvesting for aboriginal people is number one priority for allocation after conservation. Should be able to manage birds to have hunting for everyone.

Definitions in the regulations for First Nations and Inuit are poor and do not mention Métis. There is no acknowledgement of domestic harvesting rights. There are inconsistencies with rifles and single shot guns used. There are quite a lot of land claim agreements in place now.

Regulations and the fact sheet can be looked up on the internet.

Recommended changes:

To ensure that Aboriginal people may domestically harvest migratory birds in the area where those rights are derived without a game bird permit, throughout the year and with no bag or possession limit. The only exceptions would be for conservation, public health or public safety.

That Aboriginal people may barter, exchange or trade, but not sell migratory birds domestically harvested within or between Aboriginal communities.

Aboriginal people may sell inedible parts of birds harvested.

May use rifles and single bullet shotguns in remote areas.

Drop references to Indian and Inuk to refer to all people as Aboriginal Peoples of Canada.

Dan Teillet reviewed some of the specific changes to clauses – they are removing wording that is redundant and not required.

Suggesting an expansion of the use of rifles and single bullet shotguns to other remote places in Canada – adding Yukon, Northern BC, Northern Alberta, Labrador, Northern Ontario.

The regulations are 30-40 pages long and only have about 5-6 clauses re aboriginal hunting. Also planning to make changes to regulations re sport hunting. Have had complaints from hunting groups and enforcement officers over the last 30 years.

Looking at completing the early phase of consultation early in the New Year. Still looking at gazette one and two in early 2014/2015. There is a fair amount of time and are encouraging input from Boards and anyone that is interested. If you have any comments or suggestions as you look at the regulations, if you think we have missed anything, please get back to us.

Contact information was provided for Canadian Wildlife Service to provide comments.



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Cindy Allen reviewed the information sheet and asked if Canadian Wildlife Service or Environment Canada get in contact with the Boards if the proposed wording changes from what is presented in the information sheet and when would that happen? Dan Teillet responded that if the changes were change in direction, would absolutely come back. The way that legal drafting works, we provide them with what we want them to say and then they provide us the legal language. As long as the legal language does not deviate from the original intent, we would not likely come back to the individual boards.

Myra Robertson commented that the Yellowknife office can keep in touch with the boards and communicate key progress to the Boards if that is wanted.

Cindy Allen confirmed that the Board does want to be kept up to date with legislative changes because it affects the rights of aboriginal harvesting. Cindy Allen read out the proposed amendments – asked if conservation, public health and public safety would be defined in the regulations. Dan Teillet commented there have been several court cases dealing with these. Public Health does not tend to be something regulated by Environment Canada – tend to be conservation and public safety re discharge of firearms, etc. This is not something we had proposed to define.

Cindy Allen commented if there is a move towards defining those terms, the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board would want to know the language used. Also, does this include eggs? Dan Teillet confirmed that it does, birds are defined in the Act to include eggs.

Cindy Allen asked about the barter, exchange or trade, but not “sell”. Are there definitions of barter, exchange or trade in the definitions? Does that include gifting? Dan Teillet responded you would generally fall back on treaty definitions or general dictionary definitions. Some people include sale under trade, so that is why we have specifically excluded sale. This does include gifting.

Cindy Allen asked if the definition of aboriginal peoples includes individuals – does it have to be the First Nation or will individuals be able to do it? Dan Teillet explained the language is taken from the Convention. The phrase between aboriginal communities is considered to include between individuals.

Cindy Allen commented she looks forward to receiving further information. Dan Teillet commented a package on hunting will be coming to the Board.

Jozef Carnogursky asked when we would be able to see final versions of wording? Also asked if the underlying principles are referenced in the document? Dan Teillet commented the entire process has been delayed a number of times, so hesitates to promise a date for the firmed up language, but hopes to have something by spring. The underlying principles mentioned in the slide are the back ground to what is being done, but will not be included in the regulations.

Barry Greenland thanked Myra and Dan for their presentation.

**LUNCH BREAK 12:10 to 1:07 p.m.**

Barry Greenland called the meeting back to order.



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### **16. Renewable Resources Council Session**

#### **a. Notes from the last Renewable Resources Council Session**

Janet Boxwell reviewed the notes from the last session. For each of the comments, the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board noted a response.

A copy of the updated notes was included in the meeting package.

#### **b. Open Discussion for Renewable Resources Council Concerns**

John Norbert is very interested in what is happening in the headwaters of the Arctic Red River. It is a heritage river and any exploration or activity that is going on up there, we like to know about it and protect that area. Long ago, that is where we got our caribou from. Nobody has been up there for a long time and we don't know what is happening with the caribou up there.

Alestine Andre recently returned from her fish camp on the Mackenzie River. Have been going up there since she was a little girl. Over the last 30 years, have been going up by myself and with my husband. We go up with our boat in August. Noticed this year especially, there was a lot of slumps along the river, maybe due to the heavy rain this summer. Outside of town and further up the river, there are a lot more. Next year when the ice goes out, it will take all that and create a blockage somewhere. The other thing we have noticed that might be included in the surveys the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board does – have noticed a lot of new species of birds and insects. This summer saw a hummingbird and new insects. When we are out there, we can see things. Need to note more what land users have seen.

Carolyn Lennie thanked the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board for coming to Tsiigehtchic and consulting with us and giving us information we have requested. When we have to make comments, it helps to have all the information. It was very informative to sit in on the meeting.

Peter J. Kaye thanked the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board for the last years gone by. We always talk about things we wanted on the list, and see the otters and grizzly are on there and it's being worked on. Appreciate the Board and know the Renewable Resources Council are always willing to work with the Board.

Fanny Greenland thanked the Board for the presentations done. Sure we have concerns at the Renewable Resources Council level, but will bring it back to the Council. This year, we were lucky the caribou came back by the mountain along the coast. The Renewable Resources Council and Band got together to do a community hunt, also set nets for char and gave out fish. Thank you for everything – good meals, good sleep.

Barry Greenland commented that throughout the year, the Renewable Resources Councils meet monthly. If people notice things out on the land, take pictures and write down observations to bring them in to the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board.

### **17. Review and Approve Minutes**

#### **a. February 19-22, 2013, Board meeting**

**Motion #13-29**





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BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board approves the minutes of the February 19-22, 2013, Board of Directors meeting as presented.

Moved by: Jozef Carnogursky

Seconded by: Johnny Charlie

Question called: **CARRIED**

### **b. May 8, 2013, Teleconference**

#### **Motion #13-30**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board approves the minutes of the May 8, 2013, Board of Directors teleconference as presented.

Moved by: Jozef Carnogursky

Seconded by: Johnny Charlie

Question called: **CARRIED**

### **c. July 2013 Teleconference**

#### **Motion #13-31**

BE IT RESOLVED THAT the Board of Directors of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board approves the minutes of the July 2013, Board of Directors teleconference as presented.

Moved by: Jozef Carnogursky

Seconded by: Johnny Charlie

Question called: **CARRIED**

Barry Greenland thanked the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board members and staff for having him as Chair for the last two days of meetings. Staff is very hard working. Congratulated Amy on her marriage.

Amy Amos thanked everyone for attending the meeting and their hard work.

Closing prayer – Alestine Andre

#### **Motion #13-32**

To adjourn the meeting at 1:47 p.m.

Moved by: Cindy Allen