

Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board

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

GRRB TELECONFERENCE MINUTES March 12, 2015 2:00 PM MST (NT) / 1:00 PM PST (YT)

Attendance

- GRRB office: Jozef Carnogursky (Alternate Member), Sarah Jerome (Alternate Member), Amy Amos (Staff), Kaytlin Cooper (Staff), Mike Turco (RCMP)
- On call: Eugene Pascal (Chair), Doug Doan (Member), Burt Hunt (Member), Ron Allen (Alternate Member), Bobbie Jo Greenland Morgan (Member), Cindy Allen (Alternate Member), Donna Bigelow (Environment Canada (EC))

1. Call to order

The meeting was called to order by Eugene Pascal at 2:04 PM. Eugene thanked everyone for attending the meeting. Sarah Jerome was sworn in as a new Board Member by the RCMP officer, Mike Turco. The Board members all welcomed Sarah as a new member and the meeting started with an opening prayer by Sarah Jerome in Gwich'in.

2. Agenda

Motion # GRRB 2015-21 Moved by: Bobbie Jo Greenland Morgan All in favour.	To approve the March 12, 2015 teleconference agenda Seconded by: Burt Hunt Motion carried.
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3. Minutes

The draft minutes were provided for the February 2015 face-to-face meeting. It was decided to table a decision on them until a future meeting. In the interim, comments can be sent to Amy.

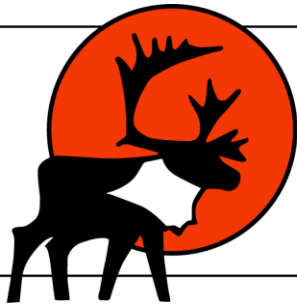
4. Conflict

Conflict will be declared as it arises.

5. Federal SAR – Northern Mountain Caribou (NMC) listing

Donna Bigelow, EC, began her presentation by thanking the GRRB staff for their assistance with community engagement. She highlighted that the Northern Mountain Caribou listing is a re-assessment that proposes to keep the listing the same, a species of special concern, and for the NWT there are no changes to how this species will be managed. The deadline for responses is October 15, 2015. Kaytlin Cooper, GRRB staff, presented her staff recommendations and community input.

Motion # GRRB 2015-22 Moved by: Jozef Carnogursky All in favour.	To approve the re-assessment for listing Northern Mountain Caribou as a species of special concern under the federal <i>Species at Risk Act</i> Seconded by: Bobbie Jo Greenland Morgan Motion carried.
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Action(s):

- GRRB staff to draft a letter indicating the Boards support for the proposed listing of NMC.

6. Federal SAR – Wolverine listing

Donna Bigelow presented the proposed listing of Wolverine as a species of special concern under the federal *Species at Risk Act*. Kaytlin Cooper presented her GRRB staff recommendations and any community comments she heard. Donna highlighted that the wolverine listing is also a re-assessment that proposes to keep the listing the same, a species of special concern, and for the NWT there are no changes to how this species will be managed. The deadline for responses is April 15, 2015.

Discussion:

Ron Allen raised concerns with different designated units, genetic definitions and scientific definitions. Donna responded acknowledging the concern and confusion between the obligations under the federal and territorial Acts. For wolverine, COSEWIC did its work by looking at the best available information. Once the species was assessed and listed under the Federal *Species at Risk Act* there are obligations to develop a management plan so even if the species is assessed not at risk in the NWT the federal obligations still prevail.

Cindy Allen asked Donna to comment on the GRRB's SARA Biologist position and if she supports it being a permanent position. Donna acknowledged the work of the Board staff and that she appreciates having a key contact person especially when it comes to community engagement. She offered to write a letter if that would help.

Motion # GRRB 2015-23

To approve the re-assessment for listing Wolverine as a species of special concern under the federal *Species at Risk Act*

Moved by: Bobbie Jo Greenland Morgan

Seconded by: Burt Hunt

All in favour.

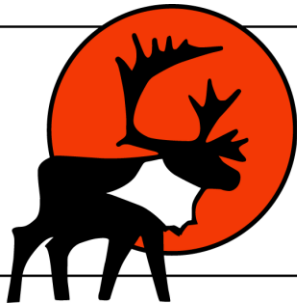
Motion carried.

7. Federal SAR - Gypsy Cuckoo Bumblebee listing

Donna Bigelow presented the proposed listing of Gypsy Cuckoo Bumblebee as endangered under the federal *Species at Risk Act*. Kaytlin Cooper presented her GRRB staff recommendations and any community comments she heard. The deadline for responses on this listing is April 15, 2015.

Discussion:

Cindy Allen asked how the critical habitat will be identified if the bumblebees are listed as endangered. Donna responded. This will happen at the recovery strategy stage on the action planning side. It would not be her but other experts that would work with the NWT species at risk team, such as with Suzanne Carrier with ENR. Ron Allen asked what measures will be put in place



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to protect the critical habitat once it is identified. Donna responded. First they will need to determine what activities will likely destroy the habitat. If these are on federal lands, then her government is legally responsible to protect that habitat with enforcement. If these are on territorial lands, then the territory can use tools for their jurisdictions. This relates to the recent amendments to the *Species at Risk Act* and Devolution that give powers to the territorial government for protection on their lands. They could use their own tools but would need to prove the endangered species is protected. Ron continued questioning with an example. What if the critical habitat is identified to be a plant species, and that species happens to be along a traditional use area where people often skidoo during the winter. Donna responded. A species at risk permit for seasonal use would be required if the habitat is identified as critical habitat and no traditional use areas were formally identified. She confirmed that the federal legislation does not impose on aboriginal rights but she admitted that there are few examples of protecting critical habitat for endangered species in the Northwest Territories and offered to look into experience from other regions, if that was desired by the Board.

The Board decided to wait for more information from Donna before making a decision on the proposed listing. Donna confirmed that she will alert headquarters that the Board's decision may be delayed while they find this additional information.

Action(s):

- Donna Bigelow, EC, will find examples of how the critical habitats of other endangered species are managed. The Board will review this information then make a decision on whether it approves the proposed listing.

Donna Bigelow ended with an update on the three year plan that lists the federal species at risk activities coming up. She highlighted that for the Gwich'in region we are caught up and already working with the GRRB on all items identified.

8. Federal SAR – Advice on bats

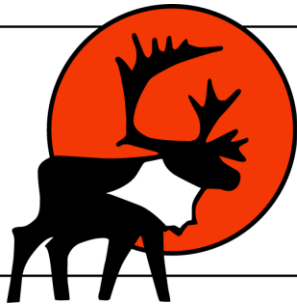
Donna Bigelow, EC, asked the Board how they want to be engaged with respect to bats such as the little brown myotis. There are no known bats in the Gwich'in Settlement Area (GSA) but there is one sighting that is similar latitude. The Board felt it was not necessary to be fully engaged.

Decision – Keep the GRRB informed and send the status reports. If there is capacity to review we will do so, but will do this at the staff level and not do the full engagement with the RRCs since the bats are not known to be in the GSA.

9. Territorial SAR – SARC Appointments

[Cindy Allen declared conflict of interest]

Amy Amos explained the materials and agenda item. As a management authority under the conference of management authorities (CMA) the GRRB has the responsibility of ensuring there is



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fair representation on the species at risk committee (SARC) by reviewing the biographies of all the appointments. Ron Allen added that there are currently no funds or any clauses in the legislation for alternates but ENR has committed to making that change during the next amendment so they are accepting names for alternates as well.

Decision - The Board reviewed the biographies and supported the names submitted.

10. GTC / GRRB Meeting

Amy Amos updated the Board on the current status of coordinating a joint meeting between the GTC and GRRB. There was a document that identified the possible topics of discussion. Bobbie Jo Greenland Morgan, Cindy Allen, Sarah Jerome and Doug Doan all expressed interest in being involved in future discussions and meetings. It was suggested that a legal opinion may be considered for management plan approval process and land access. A concern was raised on ensuring the topics are within the Boards mandate and the intent is on building relationships to work together.

Action(s)

- Amy Amos to work on a new agenda that focuses more on building relationships, share this with the interested members then schedule a meeting with GTC.

11. Auditor

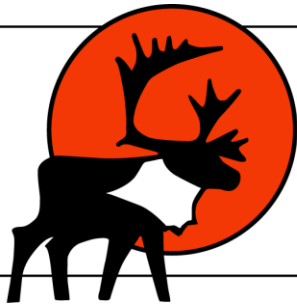
Amy Amos advised of a reporting requirement for the Board to appoint an independent auditor by March 18th each year. She recommended continuing to use Paul Teoh.

Motion # GRRB 2015-24	To appoint Paul Teoh as the independent auditor for the GRRB for 2014-2015 fiscal year.
Moved by: Burt Hunt	Seconded by: Doug Doan
All in favour.	Motion carried.

12. Updates

12.1.1 Upcoming Meetings: Amy Amos presented the table in the meeting binder with a list of upcoming meetings. The Board reviewed and had no comments.

12.1.2 Board Portfolios: Amy Amos explained that there was a request for an update on the Board portfolios. An updated list is included in the meeting binder with names of who expressed interest. The Board discussed the need for having members assigned to specific files and decided they are okay with how things are now, with the Executive Director and Chair keeping them informed on all items, as needed.



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12.1.3 Grizzly bear hide letter: Amy Amos updated the Board on some recent correspondence. Back in July 2014 the GRRB Board provided a letter to ENR with standing advice on how to deal with grizzly bear hides, which were coming to the GRRB previous to that. In that letter, the GRRB requested that ENR still keep the Board updated on defence against life and property (DLP) kills. Amy heard about some recent DLP's so she inquired for an update from ENR. The letter is what was sent after this request for information.

12.1.4 Dall sheep letters: Amy Amos shared two letters that we received after the GRRB sent letters to all parties regarding its decision in September 2014 to approve and implement the action table in the draft Dall's sheep management plan. The Board will review and let Amy know if they have any comments.

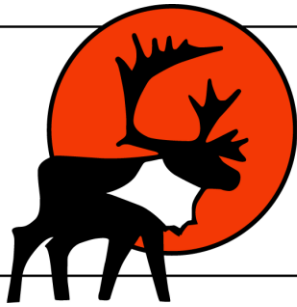
13. Other Business

13.1.1 SARA Amendments: Amy Amos introduced this topic. It is a follow-up from the February face-to-face meeting, where the GRRB received a presentation on the proposed amendments to the federal *Species at Risk Act* that will reflect the recent changes from Devolution and the territorial *Species at Risk Act*. The GRRB requested some additional information. This has been provided and is included in the meeting binder. Kaytlin Cooper, GRRB Biologist, met with the communities and presented the comments she heard along with her staff recommendations for the Board to consider. The Board discussed the information presented and still have concerns with the process taken but make a decision to support the proposed amendments based on the general approach as described in the materials provided. Ensure that the letter references the GRRB's consultation policy and that the Board wants to be further engaged when the final wording of the legislation is drafted.

13.1.2 New Nihtat Building: Jozef Carnogursky declared conflict before giving an update to the GRRB on the Nihtat Gwich'in Council (NGC)'s pursuit to build their own rental building. The initial plan was to build a one storey unit just for the NGC but they are now considering a two storey building based on interest they are receiving from possible tenants (namely the Gwich'in Land and Water Board (GLWB) and the Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board (GLUPB)). The NGC cannot confirm the exact rate but can commit to meeting or beating the current rent the GRRB pays at the Alex Moses Greenland Building. In order to go with the two storey building, the NGC requires some sort of approval from the possible tenants to bring to the bank. The NGC is requesting the Board to consider this request and if they are in support to write a letter to the NGC to confirm their interest for the banks consideration.

[Jozef Carnogursky leaves the room for the Board to discuss]

Amy Amos was asked about our current rental situation. She explained that the GRRB is currently on a month-to-month rental agreement but that our landlord, Inuvik Commerical



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Properties (ICP), can come to us at any time requesting us to sign a long-term lease. The Board's stance has been that they want a lease that reflects the office space used and not the full upper floor, as it is now. The Board currently sublets to the GLWB and GLUPB to offset the rental costs. The Board also has always supported sharing office space with the other co-management boards, such as the GLWB and GLUPB. The Board discussed the information presented. There was support to move and also to share space with the GLWB and GLUPB. It was recommended that the building be built following the green standards, if possible.

13.1.3 Bluenose caribou herds: Kristen Callaghan, as a GRRB staff and member on the working group for this file, has requested the Boards input into two items. First, does the Board support beginning the action planning on the Bluenose East herd and, second, how much consultation would the Board expect her to do on this action plan considering that herd is outside the GSA. The Board supported beginning with an action plan for Bluenose East and that she should keep the communities informed but would not require a full out consultation session at this point.

Motion # GRRB 2015-25

Moved by: Bobbie Jo Greenland Morgan
All in favour.

To give direction to the Executive Director to pursue a move into a new Nihtat building, as discussed.

Seconded by: Sarah Jerome
Motion carried.

14. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 5:06 PM

Motion # GRRB 2015-26

Moved by: Bobbie Jo Greenland Morgan

To adjourn the March 12, 2015 GRRB teleconference