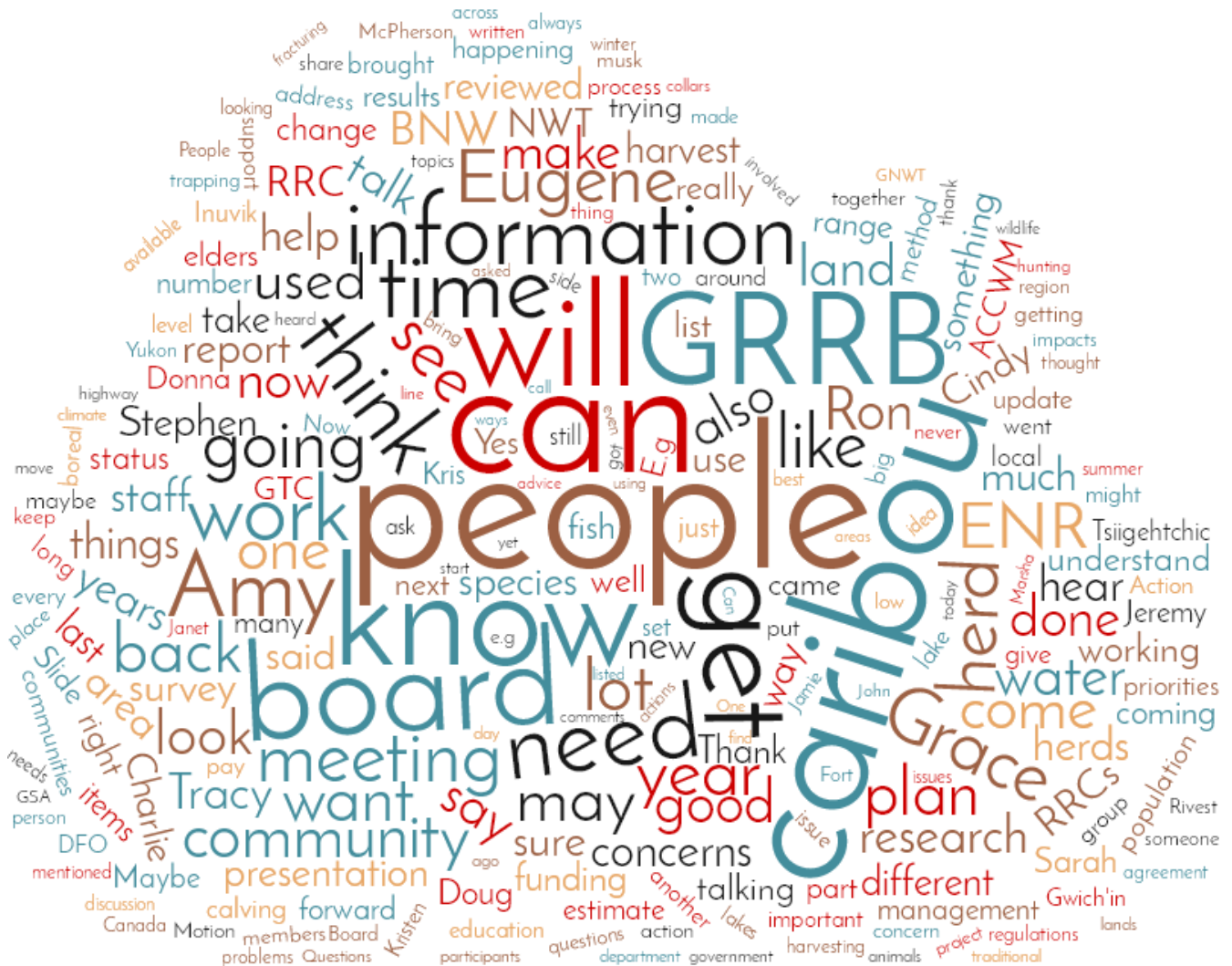




# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## Oct 6-8, 2015 Minutes SUMMARY

Fort McPherson, NT



**DAY 1 Tuesday, October 6, 2015**

Council Chambers (Annie G. Robert Boardroom), Fort McPherson

**1. Introduction**

**Call to order**

Eugene Pascal called the meeting to order at 9:15AM. Meeting participants did a round of introductions.

**Declaration of conflict of interest**

Eugene gave welcoming remarks to meeting attendees and asked members to declare conflicts of interest as they came up throughout the meeting.

**2. Agenda**

Members reviewed the agenda.

<b>Motion to adopt the meeting agenda.</b>		<b>Motion GRRB 15-32</b>
Moved by: Ron Allen	Seconded by: Doug Doan	
All in Favour	Motion Approved	

**3. Review and approval of draft minutes**

**Feb 17-19, 2015 Inuvik Board Meeting**

The Board reviewed the minutes from the February in-person Board meeting and two teleconferences of the Board on March 12 and July 8, 2015.

<b>Motion to accept the Feb 17-19, 201, Mar 12, 2015 Teleconference and the Jul 8, 2015 Teleconference minutes</b>		<b>Motion GRRB 15-33</b>
Moved by: Doug Doan	Seconded by: Cindy Allen	
All in Favour	Motion Approved	

**Action(s):** Amy to contact Donna from CPAWS regarding a letter supporting the (funding) position for Kaytlin

**4. Action items**

Amy reviewed outstanding action items with the Board, by action item number from the Fall 2015 Outstanding Items Action Table (in binder).

Action items discussed included: **09-47** the disposition of the 5 and 10 year reports; **08-04** working with the GGRRC and sharing research interest lists; **15-16** moving from burning cut spruce to purchasing pellets; **15-10** sharing the fisheries protocol and resurveying the Bonnet Plume Caribou.

**Action item:** Change formatting of action table. Include more details, including progress made and timing of when action is expected to be completed.

Grace, GGRRC president, led a discussion on what the RRCs are supposed to be following up on from these Board meetings. This was to be further discussed in the RRC session.

**Break 10:15-10:30**

**5. WSF investment update**

Phil Anselmo & Geoffrey Anselmo of RBC called in to discuss the GRRB's Wildlife Studies Fund as investment advisors. They reviewed their prepared presentation on screen with the Board.

Discussions centred around: the preferred share market, volatility and the economy, and socially responsible investing.

## 6. GRRB updates

a. **Chair update, Eugene Pascal:** Eugene spent 8-10 months out of the region, but was able to participate in most of the meetings and calls. He is back in the region now and doesn't plan to leave anymore.

### **Member updates:**

b. Cindy Allen: Cindy was appointed to the (NWT) Species At Risk Committee (SARC) to represent the GRRB.

c. Sarah Jerome: Sarah was appointed to this Board this past winter.

There were no updates from the other Board members.

## 7. GRRB Staff updates

a. **Executive Director update, Amy Amos:**

Amy reviewed her prepared written report with the Board and on screen with meeting participants.

She noted that funds not spent by the end of the fiscal may have to be paid back (she gave details of this to the Board during her presentation). The accountant is assisting to see if the Board can defer funds for the same purpose to the next fiscal. If funds may be used for a different reason, this could be more difficult. Amy plans to write a letter for supplemental funding for next year (to help cover the Species At Risk staff position).

**Action item:** Board to give Amy direction on how to move forward on the budgetary items, with respect to her advice to the Board on approach to take regarding surplus funds.

Discussion topics that followed included: the GRRB calendar and seasonal activities; the letter from Agnes Francis to the GRRB and off-road vehicle regulations; co-management with the Yukon around commercial harvesting; plain-language summaries of reports and information overload; requesting funding from Aboriginal Affairs; implementation dollars; expanding land use for private enterprise; education/TK and protecting the land.

**Action item:** Board to respond to Amy with direction for response to Agnes. Amy to contact SRRB for information on how they deal with people using the Canol Trail.

## LUNCH BREAK

Amy reviewed a number of projects where there were extra funds unspent as of July 2015. She clarified that if there is WSF money left over in projects, it will come back to the GRRB to spend again for WSF.

Amy reviewed the remaining WSF projects with surplus showing and rationale for each.

## 7. GRRB Staff updates (continued)

b. **Wildlife Biologist, Kristen Callaghan:**

Kristen reviewed her prepared written report with the Board and on screen with meeting participants.

Kristen mentioned that the Yukon government, through their Dawson office, is interested in expanding an April 2016 survey of muskoxen into the NWT. She asked if the GRRB would be supportive of such a survey and how could it be involved? E.g. Kristen can assist to examine logistical and financial needs of such a survey.

Brief discussion followed about the musk ox survey YTG proposes to extend into the NWT.

**Action item:** GRRB to give Kristen feedback regarding **a.** support for the survey and **b.** the use of Kristen's time helping to scope out the potential expansion of the musk ox survey into the Richardson Mountains in the GSA in April 2016.

**Action item:** GRRB to give feedback to Mike Sutor, YTG biologist out of Dawson, on sheep management priorities for potential YTG staff and financial assistance. Specifically, would the GRRB like the sheep survey repeated in 2016 (or to give assistance to the GRRB in another way with regard to sheep management)?

**c. Fisheries Biologist, Kris Maier:**

Kris reviewed his prepared presentation (PowerPoint and written) with the Board. Discussions followed on redistributing unused RRWG char allocations (can be discussed at the March meeting of the RRWG), char movement patterns in the Arctic Red River, commercial fisheries policy for the Arctic, and harvest reporting.

**d. Renewable Resources Biologist, Janet Boxwell:**

Janet reviewed her prepared presentation and written update with the Board.

**Action item:** Board to give direction to Janet regarding planning for when to hold the next research priority session (in 2013, Board said to do this every 3-5 years; last did a workshop in 2012).

**Break**

**e. Species at Risk Biologist, Kaytlin Cooper:**

Kaytlin reviewed her prepared written presentation with the Board and meeting participants.

**Action item:** Kaytlin to look into SAR funding to assist in doing Bank Swallow surveys also on the Peel River.

**f. Office Manager, Cheryl Greenland:**

Cheryl reviewed her written presentation with the Board. There were no questions for Cheryl.

**g. Summer Staff - Technician, Ryan McLeod,**

Ryan reviewed his written presentation with the Board and meeting participants.

**h. Summer Staff - Summer Student, Jozef Semmler:** -Jozef's written report was available in the Board's binders.

## **8. Agency Updates**

**a. Environment Canada, Donna Bigelow (call-in)**

Donna introduced herself as the Species At Risk (SAR) biologist for Environment Canada (EC) based out of Yellowknife. She presented updates and information items to the Board. She reviewed two previously supplied written updates.

Discussion followed on how species are assessed and moved in and out of SAR listings (COSEWIC reassesses every 10 years), any interim measures taken, and the monitoring process during those 10 years between assessments; using Gwich'in TK in assessments; oil sands impacts on waterfowl; and the number of species being added or taken off the SAR list every year.

**Action item:** Donna committed to finding out how many new species are added to the SAR listing each year and how many species are no longer a SAR and are downgraded and taken off the list.

A brief discussion followed on the effects of climate change versus industry and development.

**b. Department of Fisheries and Oceans, Ellen Lea (by phone) and Kate Snow (in person)**

Kate gave the prepared presentation to the Board following her written submission.

Discussions centered around managing both ferry landing impacts to fish and impacts on eddies to fishing in the community; water sampling and environmental monitoring.

**c. Environment and Natural Resources, Stephen Charlie and Tracy Davison**

Stephen gave an update on Staffing and Operations to the Board.

ENR provided written updates.

Major points Stephen touched on included problem bears; the spill at the Peel ferry crossing; and fire-fighting.

**Action item:** ENR to talk to GRRB about an Inuvik dump fence or moving the dump location to address problem bear issues at the current dump location.

Tracy presented wildlife-related agency update items from ENR.

**Action item:** ENR would be interested in hearing advice from the Board about when the next population survey of sheep should be conducted (the last one was in 2014).

**Action item:** ENR is interested in expanding the YTG (muskox) population survey in Northern Richardson mountains if it is supported by the GRRB and its communities. ENR would like advice from GRRB on that.

Tracy also spoke about community engagement in boreal woodland caribou range planning; and bear harvesting in the GSA.

Discussion followed on how to help community residents understand the process for having their concerns heard; regulating ATV use; concerns about the interactions between musk ox and caribou; Spruce Bud Worm; waste management and user-pay initiatives for the garbage dump; muskrat populations and low water; and the importance of increasing TK involvement in wildlife, land and water management.

**d. Gwich'in Tribal Council, Tsatsiyé Catholique**

Tsatsiyé reviewed his presentation about fracking with the Board and participants. As part of his presentation, he reminded the Board that at the 2014 AGM, the GTC passed a resolution that bans fracking until it is proven to be safe.

He further clarified his issues after concerns that elders may not have understood completely, and he stressed the importance of including TK in these resolutions.

Discussion followed about the impacts of fracking and the importance of educating the community members and encouraging their involvement.

Day 1 discussions ended at 6:10 pm

Dinner

**DAY 2, Wednesday, October 7, 2015**

## 9. Bluenose herds

### a) Working group update on management & action planning, Kristen Callaghan, GRRB

Kristen reviewed her prepared presentation with the Board, detailing the steps being taking by the working group to draft the action plans for the three herds and the current stage in implementation of the approved management plan. She noted that the results of ENR survey 2015 (next agenda item) will help ACCWM determine status of herds and resulting actions.

Discussion included determining the best ways to communicate with the RRCs; Nunavut commercial harvesting controversy; and Gwich'in historical rights to herds outside of the GSA.

### b) 2015 Caribou Photo survey results (30 mins) Marsha Branigan & Tracy Davison, ENR

Tracy reviewed the prepared ENR presentation with the Board and meeting participants. She explained how the collars were put on and the methodology of the surveys. She then reviewed the survey results and showed herd trends based on two different population estimators: the Lincoln-Peterson method historically used for the TP, CB and BNW caribou; and the Rivest method, a new method of estimating population size used for the Porcupine herd since 2010.

**Action item:** ENR looking for input from GRRB about the use of the Rivest estimator versus the LP estimator.

Tracy provided further explanation on why caribou herds outside of our range were being examined. Results on caribou herds important to GSA residents for sustenance are forthcoming.

**Action item:** Tracy to supply GRRB with a range map of all caribou herds.

Tracy continued her presentation that included the Bathurst (different from Cape Bathurst) and Bluenose East herds. She briefly reviewed the methods and then presented the results showing the decline of the BNE herd. BNW and CB results will be presented to the co-management Boards (and communities or other forums if requested).

Discussion followed around calving ground estimates and informing people where the caribou are; getting information out to the communities; population calculation methods; theories on the reasons behind the declines and why some herds are doing better than others; training the young people with caribou TK practices;

**Action item:** Tracy to make a map of industrial locations on the ranges of the CB and BNW herds.

## Break

### b) ACCWM update, Board discussion, decision & next steps

Amy reviewed her presentation with the Board, following on the Survey results shown by ENR. She noted that there will be decisions required from the ACCWM and the GRRB.

**Action item (?):** Give WRRB response regarding the process they used for BNE status and managing that herd.

ACCWM needs to consider herd status recommendations. According to the Management Plan, herd status has not been set for BNW or CB, but was set for BNE in the winter based on 2012 survey results. Now that there are new results, the GRRB needs to consider implications of setting herd status and management actions and the possibility of a public hearing.

The plan calls for an annual meeting to set herd status, similar to the PCMB harvest meeting. GRRB representatives

would need to have clear direction from GRRB. At this annual meeting, we would expect ENR to present results. The plan also wants community results, but there is currently no community monitoring. How could the GRRB incorporate that in the interim?

**Decision items:**

Status of herds  
Input on WRRB process used  
Draft MOU for the ACCWM  
Draft correspondence procedure

Amy's presentation prompted discussion on how (and how often) herd status is decided; the estimated population sizes for all three herds; and the consideration of TK in herd status. Concerns were raised about limiting caribou in other jurisdictions.

**Action item:** Kristen to send RRCs copies of the Community Engagement Report that accompanies Taking Care of Caribou, in response to Grace's query about what TK is shared. Gwich'in TK of BNW caribou can also be shared again.

Further discussion followed about the GRRB recommendation for herd status and the preferred population estimator method.

Lunch Break

## 10. GNWT Compliance

Jamie Chambers, ENR

Jamie reviewed a presentation with the Board and meeting participants on how the ENR, GNWT does compliance (e.g. with wildlife and related regulations).

Specific discussions occurred around problem wildlife; wolf sightings; travel reporting and safety patrols; reporting poaching; and timber importing processes. This branched into a discussion of invasive species and education.

**Action item:** Stephen to get back to GRRB and TRRC (for Mary Rose) regarding how/whether timber imported into NWT (GSA) is inspected for invasive insects and regarding the potential for infestation from those materials.

Jamie described the process around pulling someone over for a vehicle check or setting up a check stop. He then facilitated a discussion on education and compliance around the Wildlife Act, and how to communicate the new regulations and information.

Additional questions relating to BNW caribou followed, with a re-examination of the math used to come up with the population estimates. A conversation on harvest levels revealed that further data are needed on how many caribou are taken each year.

## 11. Muskrat project update

Presentation on Mackenzie Delta muskrat project (progress & future plans) - Jeremy Brammer, McGill University

Jeremy reviewed progress on the research he and Chanda are doing in partnership with the GRRB. He asked for ideas on how to obtain access to stomachs from quick-killed predators. Discussion followed around this topic and on other ways of examining diet. Participants also spoke about the scarcity of muskrats; aerial surveys; carcass collection; and trapper compensation.

## 12. RRC session

Amy reviewed her presentation with the Board (on notes from the last RRC session) and RRCs to open the RRC session. Janet reviewed a slide reviewing a summary of discussion by the RRCs with the Board in February 2015 and procedures in place or actions taken with respect to comments the RRCs made and the research interests list and any research being conducted that may address such interests. She reviewed new interests in Feb 2015 (walleye, herring (Cisco), and snipes). Amy then showed a slide to help generate discussion during this session.

Discussion and concerns revolved around getting feedback from harvesters or hunters; the fibre optic line; ferry operator license renewal; improper water runoff; group trapping areas; lifting the restrictions for aboriginal people to do their traditional activities along the highways and byways.

The ERRC spoke up about their concerns about not seeing caribou. Other RRC members added to these concerns.

**Action item:** [Get Curtis' notes if available, to add to the minutes]

## 13. Research Priorities

- Presentation on progress report of current priorities and new advice
- Decision on when to hold RP workshop - Janet Boxwell

Janet gave her presentation on research priorities as shared in the meeting binder.

**Action item:** Send report on Airport Lake trout study to John Norbert

Participants discussed SAR processes for listing grizzly bears; Deep Water Lake studies.

**Action item:** Send Deep Water Lake report and presentation to Larry Firth via the TRRC.

Concerns were raised about the lack of communication around the drainage of the lake up above Husky Lake.

Janet asked the Board for direction on having the research priority (RP) setting process in 2018. Discussion followed around potential timeframes for preparation and communication; how to track emerging issues; the research priorities setting process; and the difference between RPs and research interests (RIs).

Motion to support adding the new advice as presented to the research interests list as Board supported research.		Motion GRRB 15-34
Moved by: Cindy Allen	Seconded by: Ron Allen	
All in Favour	Motion Approved	

## 14. Public session

Opportunity for members of the public to speak to the Board - Eugene Pascal, Chair

Amy read a note about the harmful effects of calcium chloride (used as an ice melter on driveways highways and streets, it has harmful effects on humans and pets alike). She provided the Board with the note for reference.

Eugene stressed to the public that GRRB staff are available for calls and questions, so don't be afraid to call and get in touch.

Sarah Jerome gave the closing prayer.

Day 2 adjourned at 4:50pm. Remaining items moved to tomorrow to Inuvik at the GRRB.



## December 8, 2015

Eugene called the meeting to order at 9:13 AM

Present: Eugene, Sarah, Cindy, Doug, Ron present; Charlie & Sarah on the phone, JC regrets

### 15. Business arising

Any items needing further discussion (staff updates, other agenda items)

#### GRRB in-camera session

GRRB members to discuss any in-camera items, if needed

<b>Motion: To go in camera at 9:15AM for Board discussion.</b>		<b>Motion GRRB 15-35</b>
Moved by: Ron Allen	Seconded by: Cindy Allen	
All in Favour	Motion Approved	
<b>Motion: To come out of camera at 11:35AM.</b>		<b>Motion GRRB 15-36</b>
Moved by: Doug Doan	Seconded by: RonAllen	
All in Favour	Motion Approved	

**Action item:** Form an executive subcommittee to review polices for the Executive Director position (Eugene and Doug to lead).

**Action item:** Add Doug Doan to WSF subcommittee to review mixed asset investments.

**Action item:** Organize a pre-conference call prior to next GRRB face-to-face, to talk about meeting protocols.

**Action item:** Create a travel meeting report template.

<b>Motion: The Board fully supports the species at risk position and the ED to pursue options, within fiscal constraints, to keep the position with the alternate goal of making it permanent.</b>		<b>Motion GRRB 15-37</b>
Moved by: Doug Doan	Seconded by: Cindy Allen	
All in Favour	Motion Approved	

**Action item:** Draft ACCWM MOU and correspondence procedure document for Bluenose West and Cape Bathurst caribou (Eugene, Jozef and Amy to lead; others to review and reply within a week).

**Action item:** Board members to provide input on calendar themes to Amy within 2 weeks.

**Action item:** Amy to write a letter to the WRRB reminding them that the GRRB should be included on amendments to the Forest Management Act and the draft conservation areas action plan.

**Action item:** Amy to add Grizzly Bear DLP kill information to the information binder from this meeting as interim action, until an information and file sharing system is created and can be accessed.

**Action item:** Take actions regarding ATV use and habitat damage off the Dempster. Suggested Board actions included Board letter to GTC as well as education items.

### 16. Adjournment

Next GRRB face to face meeting: February 23-25<sup>th</sup> (to be confirmed at later date via email or teleconference)

<b>MOTION to adjourn the meeting at 12pm.</b>		<b>Motion GRRB 15-38</b>
Moved by: Ron	Second by Sarah	
All in Favour	Motion Approved	

## Meeting Participants

### **Attendance - Day 1 (Oct 6) Morning Session**

Board members: Sarah Jerome, Doug Doan, Cindy Allen, Eugene Pascal, Ron Allen, Jozef Carnogursky, Charlie Snowshoe joined at morning break.

GRRB staff: Amy Amos, Kristen Callaghan, Kris Maier, Kaytlin Cooper, Janet Boxwell

Public: Fanny Greenland (ERRC), Curtis Illisiak (ERRC), Jeremy Brammer, Elizabeth Vittrekwa, Grace Blake, John Norbert, Neil Firth, William Francis (Inuvik), Bertha Francis, Sarah Snowshoe, Mary Rose Tetlitchi, Richard Wilson, Jason Van Fleet, Joel Peter

Joined after morning break: John Itsi

### **Attendance - Day 1 (Oct 6) Afternoon Session**

Board members: Sarah Jerome, Doug Doan, Cindy Allen, Eugene Pascal, Ron Allen, Jozef Carnogursky, Charlie Snowshoe

GRRB staff: Amy Amos, Kristen Callaghan, Kris Maier, Kaytlin Cooper, Janet Boxwell

Public: Fanny Greenland (ERRC), Curtis Illisiak (ERRC), ME Snowshoe, Bella Charlie (Snowshoe), Jeremy Brammer, Elizabeth Vittrekwa, Grace Blake, John Norbert, Tsatsiye Catholique, Neil Firth, William Francis Johnny Kay, Bertha Francis, Sarah Snowshoe, Mary Rose Tetlitchi, Richard Wilson, Jason Van Fleet, Joel Peter, Kate Snow (DFO Inuvik), Laura Firth (Tetlit Elder), Ryan McLeod (DFO), Tracy Davison (ENR), Stephen Charlie (ENR),

### **Attendance - Day 2 (Oct 7) Morning Session**

Amy Amos, Kristen Callaghan, Kris Maier, Kaytlin Cooper, Janet Boxwell

Public: Bertha Francis, Fanny Greenland, Curtis Illasiak, Joel Peter, Neil Firth, William Francis, Jason Van Fleet, Abe Stewart, Elizabeth Vittrekwa, Bella Snowshoe Charlie, Tracy Davison, Marsha Branigan, Stephen Charlie, Jeremy Brammer, Larry Firth, Mary Rose Tetlitchi, Wilbert Firth, Jamie Chambers, Grace Blake, Richard Wilson

### **Attendance - Day 2 (Oct 7) Afternoon Session**

Board members: Sarah Jerome, Doug Doan, Cindy Allen, Eugene Pascal, Ron Allen, Jozef Carnogursky, Charlie Snowshoe

GRRB staff: Amy Amos, Kristen Callaghan, Kris Maier, Kaytlin Cooper, Janet Boxwell

## Summary of GRRB Board Meeting Oct 6 & 7, 2015 Motions

<p><b>Motion to adopt the meeting agenda.</b>  Moved by: Ron Allen                      Seconded by: Doug Doan  All in Favour                                      Motion Approved</p>	<p>Motion  GRRB 15-32</p>
<p><b>Motion to accept the Feb 17-19, 201, Mar 12, 2015 Teleconference and the Jul 8, 2015 Teleconference minutes</b>  Moved by: Doug Doan                      Seconded by: Cindy Allen  All in Favour                                      Motion Approved</p>	<p>Motion  GRRB 15-33</p>
<p><b>Motion to support adding the new advice as presented, to the research interests list as Board supported research.</b>  Moved by: Cindy Allen                      Seconded by: Ron Allen  All in Favour                                      Motion Approved</p>	<p>Motion  GRRB 15-34</p>
<p><b>Motion to go in camera at 9:15AM</b>  Moved by: Ron Allen                      Seconded by: Cindy Allen  All in Favour                                      Motion Approved</p>	<p>Motion  GRRB 15-35</p>
<p><b>Motion to come out of camera at 11: 35AM</b>  Moved by: Doug Doan                      Seconded by: Ron Allen  All in Favour                                      Motion Approved</p>	<p>Motion  GRRB 15-36</p>
<p><b>Motion: The Board fully supports the species at risk position and the Executive Director to pursue options, within fiscal constraints, to keep the position with the alternate goal of making it permanent.</b>  Moved by: Doug Doan                      Seconded by: Cindy Allen  All in Favour                                      Motion Approved</p>	<p>Motion  GRRB 15-37</p>
<p><b>Motion to adjourn the meeting on October 8th at 12pm.</b>  Moved by: Ron Allen                      Seconded by: Sarah Jerome  All in Favour                                      Motion Approved</p>	<p>Motion  GRRB 15-38</p>