



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 June 05, 2017 1:00 PM MST (NT) / 12:00 PM PST (YT)

Attendance

- GRRB office: Amy Amos (Staff), Sarah Jerome (Alternate Member)
- On call: Doug Doan (Member), Burt Hunt (Member), Margaret Begg (Member), Tracy Davison (Alternate Member), Ron Allen (Alternate Member), Paul Teoh (Auditor)
- Regrets: Eugene Pascal (Chair), Jozef Carnogursky (Member)

1. Call to order

Eugene Pascal called the meeting to order at 2:07 PM. Conflict of interest will be declared as it arises. An alternate needs to be selected to chair this meeting after 3:30PM, as Eugene Pascal will not be able to attend the full meeting.

2. Agenda

Motion # GRRB 2017-21	To approve the teleconference agenda
Moved by: Burt Hunt	Seconded by: Doug Doan
All in favour.	Motion carried.

Motion # GRRB 2017-22	To select Burt Hunt as chair of this meeting, as Eugene Pascal needs to step out at 3:30PM.
Moved by: Doug Doan	Seconded by: Sarah Jerome
All in favour.	Motion carried.

3. Minutes

Approval of minutes was deferred to the next face-to-face meeting. The following edits were noted:

- Typo of minutes for teleconference says May instead of March

4. Financial Statements (Paul Teoh)

a. WSF Financial Statements.

Paul presented the financial statements for the GRRB's investment account, the Wildlife Studies Fund (WSF). These are just for the GRRB's information. They are not required by any reporting requirements. There was some additional clarification given on some sections. No concerns were raised.

<GRRB Staff member Kaytlin Cooper entered the meeting around 2:00 PM.>

<Chair Member Eugene Pascal left the meeting around 2:30PM.>

b. GRRB Financial Statements

Paul presented the financial statements for the GRRB. The GRRB is required to provide these audited statements to Aboriginal and Northern Affairs Canada (ANAC) and CIBC. Paul explained the different statements in detail, including the notes section, in the recommended financial statements. There was an error noted under the statement of general operating. It shows scholarship as an expense but there was no scholarship expense in general operating. That was a WSF allocation last year. This is likely just a coding error. Under the detailed projects, it was noted that the “Wildlife Act S15_GNWT” project was showing an incorrect negative balance. This is also likely a coding error. Paul will make these adjustments.

Action(s)

- Amy and Paul to investigate the coding under statement of operations. It shows scholarship as an expense and this is incorrect coding. Paul will update and send final financial statements.

<Phil Anselmo, RBC Adviser called in at 3:00PM.>

Motion # GRRB 2017-23	To accept GRRB FS & GRRB WSF, subject to two changes discussed in GRRB FS.
Moved by: Doug Doan	Seconded by: Ron Allen
All in favour.	Motion carried.

c. GRRB trends

Paul presented for the Board’s interest. No action is needed. He presented charts that showed trends in the Board’s expenditures over time. The Board’s goal should always be to try to be the closest to zero, as possible. The charts clearly show how this has been met.

<Board decided to move to #7 now, while Phil Anselmo is on the call>

5. Species at Risk

a) Review & approved updated assessment schedule (Kaytlin)

The Board was provided with a proposal to change the assessment schedule for NWT species at risk to be assessed between 2018-2022. The Board needs to make a decision then this decision will go to the next Conference of Management Authorities (CMA) teleconference on June 23, 2017. There are two options. One includes Northern Mountain Caribou. Our Species at Risk Biologist, Kaytlin Cooper, suggests Proposal #1 which would bump NMC to be assessed in 2022 (instead of 2020 as in proposal #2). She is fine with this as she does not feel there is a dire need for that assessment at this time. There were some clarification questions. It was clarified that these decisions would not affect how much money we get in our contribution agreements.

Motion # GRRB 2017-24	To approve updated assessment schedule for SAR NWT 2018-2022 with preference for proposal #1.
Moved by: Sarah Jerome	Seconded by: Doug Doan
All in favour.	Motion carried.

b) Discuss grizzly bear assessment

This topic was initially brought to the Board's attention, in-camera, at its February face-to-face meeting. In May 2017, the CMA met in Fort Smith and discussed this. Amy presented an update on the grizzly bear assessment discussion. In the past, we thought it would be possible to request a re-assessment. That is possible but the current assessment will remain. Once one is done it cannot be changed. If new information is available a new one could be requested. The recommendation from staff (including the Executive Director) is to continue with the consultation process. In the consultations, present the status report and seek support from the RRC's and public on whether they support listing as a species of special concern or if they think the species is not at risk. It is okay to highlight that we have heard some concerns about the listing category. The Board supported this approach.

The Board also reviewed the draft letter requesting clarification on the grizzly bear assessment. This is a draft letter from the CMA to the Species at Risk Committee (SARC). There were no concerns from the board on this.

Action(s):

- Proceed with the consultations, present the status report, highlight the concern about the category of the listing. Seek community input.
- Provide the GRRB's support for the draft CMA letter of clarification on the grizzly bear assessment

6. Commercial Fishing (Amy)

Amy explained that section 12.7.1 of the Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement (GCLCA) states that the GRRB determines whether Commercial Fishing is permitted, with terms and conditions. This was never done. DFO has been issuing commercial fishing licenses. This should be done, with consultation with the communities. It could be done in a blanket fashion that quantifies the current quota. Any additional, larger scale, commercial harvest requests would need to return to this process for the Board to determine those cases separately. The Board noted there is a current interest in commercial fishing from Tsiigehtchic and we need to ensure that does not get included in this "blanket type" approach. That should be looked at separately. The Board supported staff to proceed with the process.

Action(s):

- Amy and Sarah to proceed with consultations with the communities to seek their support on a blanket approval for the current (low scale) commercial fishing licenses that are being issued. Seek input on any terms and conditions they may wish to apply.

7. Finance

a) Update from Royal Bank Investments, Phil Anselmo

<Note that this item was discussed earlier on the agenda, after agenda item #4>

Phil provided the Board with an update on how the investment portfolio's are doing and their predictions for the coming year. He talked about how they are watching international trade and agreements, and assessing how that could affect the Canadian market. Overall it seemed like there are no major concerns with how things are currently going. The Board asked about any

implications for us from the agricultural trade discussions between the US and Canada. RBC is following those discussions. They feel the trade will continue.

b) Finance Committee Update

Amy provided a brief update on the Finance Committee. They continue to meet quarterly. They have a new member (Doug Doan). There were only two things the committee wanted to flag for this call; (1) to remind the Board that it does have a “Training Fund” that it can use for conference attendance or other meetings, at its discretion, and (2) we requested that RBC call into this call to provide an update on how the stocks are doing. This would be an annual call-in around this time. The Committee did go over the financial statements, in detail as well. They came up with a few recommendations that were addressed and included in the version that the Board reviewed today.

Amy also provided an update on the Gwich’in implementation plan process. It looks like the GRRB will hear back on its level over funding soon (mid June 2017). It looks like we will be receiving an increase that will allow us to make the Species at Risk Biologist position permanent.

8. Administrative (Amy)

a) Update on Wildlife Biologist Competition

- Edouard Belanger was hired and began work on June 19, 2017. Kristen will overlap with him until the end of June. She will then be on leave until the end of the summer. Her leave was budgeted for.

b) Upcoming meeting discussion

- CMA call June 23 1:30PM
- Finance Committee call will be in late July to early August
- GRRB call will be in early to mid August
- GRRB workshop will be on September 20-21 in Aklavik

9. Other Business

- a) Grizzly bear management agreement (GBMA) poster
 - The Board reviewed the poster. They felt it was done well. It incorporates the management agreement and legislation into one document. It is also a good starting point for when we are ready to update GBMA.

10. Adjournment

Motion # GRRB 2017-25 Moved by: Doug Doan All in favour.	To adjourn the meeting at 4:35 PM. Seconded by: Motion carried.
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