



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

<b>DAY 1 Monday, February 5, 2019</b>			
Anglican Church Community Hall, Inuvik			
<i>Item</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Led by</i>	<i>Expected outcomes</i>
8:30 AM Arrival	Coffee and tea provided		
1. 9:00 AM Introductions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Call to order</li> <li>• Round table</li> <li>• Declaration of conflict of interest</li> </ul>	Jozef Carnogursky, GRRB	Information
<p>Call to Order: 9:12am (Jozef)            Introductions (Jozef and the Board members)            Opening prayer (Sarah Jerome)</p> <p>Attendees (morning session):            Jozef Carnogursky, GRRB Chair            Margaret Begg, GRRB Member            Burt Hunt, GRRB Member            Doug Doan, GRRB Member            Sarah Jerome, GRRB Member            Tracy Davison, GRRB Member            Sam Bullock, GRRB Member            Amy Amos, GRRB Executive Director            Édouard Bélanger, GRRB Staff            Sarah Lord, GRRB Staff            Jordan Norman-Goose, GRRB Staff            Janet Boxwell, GRRB Staff            Kaytlin Cooper, GRRB Staff            Cheryl Greenland, GRRB Staff            John Norbert, Gwichya Gwich'in RRC            Jessi Pascal, Ehdiitat RRC            Fanny Greenland, Ehdiitat RRC            Allen Firth, Nihtat RRC            Wilbert Firth, Tetlit RRC            Georgina V. Neyando, Tetlit RRC            Vanessa Grandmaison, DFO            Robert Charlie, Public            Jarvis Mitchell, INB Youth            Brayden Koe, INB Youth</p> <p>Amy gives housekeeping info.            Declare conflict of interest as it arises.</p>			
2. 9:15 AM Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review and approval of agenda</li> </ul>	Jozef Carnogursky, GRRB	<b>Motion</b>
<p>Amy has made changes to accommodate the DFO Arctic Region RDG's flight being cancelled.</p>			



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

<b>Motion to accept the revised February 2019 Board meeting agenda</b>		Motion	
Moved by: Burt	Seconded by: Margaret	<b>GRRB 19-02</b>	
All in favour	Motion Carried		
3. 9:20 AM Minutes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and approval of minutes: February 2018 face-to-face, March 2018/June 2018/July 2018 teleconference</li> </ul>	Jozef Carnogursky, GRRB	<b>Motion</b>
<b>Motion to approve the September 2018 face-to-face meeting minutes</b>		Motion	
Moved by: Sam	Seconded by: Doug	<b>GRRB 19-03</b>	
All in favour	Motion Carried		
<b>Motion to approve the November 2018 teleconference minutes</b>		Motion	
Moved by: Burt	Seconded by: Sam	<b>GRRB 19-04</b>	
All in favour	Motion Carried		
4. 9:25 AM Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review of outstanding action items</li> </ul>	Amy Amos, GRRB	Information
<p>Amy gave a brief review of outstanding action items from previous meetings.</p> <p><b>18-46</b> ECCC wants to know if GRRB wants Gwich'in communities to be consulted on down-listing of common nighthawk?</p> <p><b>Action #19-01: Kaytlin to follow up with RRC coordinators to see if there is interest.</b></p> <p><b>18-36</b> Is it still safe to drink water from the moss when out berry picking? With climate change, it is hard to know what's safe. Direct question for ENR Waters.</p> <p><b>Action #19-02: Sarah will connect Sarah Jerome to ENR Waters community tour in March.</b></p>			
5. 9:40 AM Review reports	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opportunity for Q&amp;A on written reports               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Chair report</li> <li>Member reports (presented)</li> <li>Executive Director report</li> <li>Staff reports (Q&amp;A only)</li> <li>Other reports (info only)</li> </ol> </li> </ul>	Jozef Carnogursky Board members Amy Amos Staff members	Information
<p><b>See the meeting binder for individual reports.</b></p> <p><b>a. Chair report:</b> Jozef gave a brief update on his activities as Chair since his appointment in November 2018. This has included Board meetings, <i>Wildlife Act</i> meetings, ENR Legislative Initiative, Commercial Use meeting in Inuvik, ACCWM meeting and more.</p> <p><b>b. Members reports:</b> Burt reviewed the outcome of the DFO annual meeting in 2018 with Sam and Amy. The 2017 meeting was unsatisfactory. GRRB was more aggressive with letters and communication stating our concerns in advance of the 2018 meeting. In-person attendance by DFO staff, especially higher-level staff, was much improved in 2018. Burt encourages GRRB to continue that path and encourages RRCs to</p>			



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

send their DFO-related concerns to GRRB so GRRB can bring them to DFO on their behalf. Finance committee has done well.

Comment: Regional RRC meeting discussed disappointment at moving out of the region. DFO is unable to respond quickly to issues like oil spills, even when it affects fishing.

**c. E.D. report – Amy:** Amy reviewed her written update in the meeting binder. She has been a GRRB employee for 13 years and ED for 10 years now. Amy reviewed the current vacancies on the Board which include Gwich'in-nominated (1 full, 1 alternate) and federal government-nominated (1 alternate) seats and the upcoming expiring seats (3 federal government-nominated seats expire in 2019 April, May and June). Nominations are in progress, but Board should prepare for some vacant seats.

Question: The government is taking so long to start the process, and now has to replace three important members. Is there a way we can keep these members on not as full Members but ex officio or something, so we can keep the continuity until the new appointments are made?

Response: That's something the Board can discuss. Budget has been prepared as if the Board was full, so budget-wise there should be money. Legally unsure. If the Board chose to bring expired members to a meeting, they would not have voting privileges and would not be able to call themselves "Board Members", but could perhaps contribute to discussion. We'd have to be careful, but we can talk about it. Unfortunately, the process is out of GRRB control. Current members can re-submit their names when the Privy Council advertisement comes out, but the ad hasn't come out yet.

6. 10:00AM Fisheries	a) Rat River Working Group recommendations & Chair	Sarah Lord	Decision
----------------------	--	------------	----------

Sarah Lord presented (see meeting binder).

Question: Anything on Tsiigehtchic headwaters?

Response: No estimate, we know for sure they are there and took samples to map out where they are and are not. Waiting for lab results, will take a few years. Will give ROC update in spring. They were not tagged.

Question: What is the FJMC rule for year-to-year harvest? Response: 10-15%

Question: Discolouration of water last year and slow government investigation. When will we know how it is affecting the fish population?

Response: They sent two pieces of information; one type of tree rust (fungus) and iron bacteria were found in the water. These are not harmful to humans, but they have not looked into effects on fish or dosage levels that would affect fish. Working with Gila to be fast next year to get samples. In progress. The problem is to preserve samples correctly. You need the right bottle, right chemicals, right temperature of shipping.

Question: No genetics data? Board expressed concerns, thought consultant was hired and data expected.

Response: They have not provided an update. Head has been requested to come to RRWG meeting to report.

Board members will talk in camera and give direction.

10:30AM Break	Snacks provided		
---------------	-----------------	--	--



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

10:45AM Fisheries cont'd	c) Proposed fisheries regulations regarding fish stocks and rebuilding plans	Vanessa Grandmaison	Decision
<p>Vanessa gave a presentation on two items, proposed regulatory amendments to the Fishery (General) Regulations and the (draft) National Fishery Monitoring Policy. Bill C-68 amends the <i>Fisheries Act</i>. It was passed in Parliament in June 2018 and is currently under review by the Senate. For details refer to her presentation in the meeting binder. There are currently no stocks in the Central &amp; Arctic Region on the proposed list. If Dolly Varden are added in a second batch in the future, then if Dolly Varden hypothetically declined to a level where a rebuilding plan was triggered, if the IFMP contains the components that the rebuilding plan requires, then the IFMP could simply be adopted as the rebuilding plan.</p> <p>Comment: How are you getting this information down to the community level? Response: Same process as for the <i>Fisheries Act</i>; also the public website.</p> <p>Comment: Information should be put in Indigenous language programs on the radio. Send this information to the RRCs so they can put it on the radio, so people can know what's going on.</p> <p>Comment: Is there anything in the Dolly Varden IFMP that conflicts with what we just heard from you? We're ahead of the game on the IFMP, incorporating Species at Risk and other program requirements, it's almost a role model of how this could be implemented. Response: Not as familiar with specific details of the IFMP, looks really good. No conflict right now.</p> <p>Comment: Can you say exactly what you need from the Board? Also, the timeline has not been ideal for our organization as it's over the holidays. The Board must approve regulations — if you're updating a Regulation, that requires approval from the Board. Response: Looking for feedback on rebuilding plans and the monitoring policy. If the land claim says we need Board approval, then yes that's what we need.</p> <p>Comment: Used to get herring in August in herring nets. Not much herring nets out there anymore.</p> <p>Vanessa continued to discuss the draft Fishery Monitoring Policy. Refer to meeting binder for presentation.</p> <p>Comment: Largely this is directed to the offshore fishery, where we have a mishmash of information collection by monitors who are hired by the commercial company that operates the vessel. Argument that because that can be a bit loose, the government needs to step up its game. This is for the big fisheries in the Atlantic and Pacific. In our region, this makes it sound like there's a requirement for a formal monitor, which means someone has to pay to collect information on that particular fishery, because you couldn't have a fishery that this Policy applied to. Would we have to provide a tally of what's harvested in a community? Response: It depends on the fishery in question. This Policy applies to commercial fisheries, recreational fisheries, Indigenous fisheries — but to those that the sustainability survey covers. That's Dolly Varden. DFO would be working with co-managers to apply this Policy to Dolly Varden to see if there are gaps we're not addressing, are there risks we're not managing, do we need to change anything. If there are then we might want to consider potentially changing something, but that decision would be made with co-management partners. Focus of this policy is on commercial fisheries, to address irregularities in at-sea observers.</p> <p>Comment: Batch 1 lists those fisheries. So many large-scale commercial fisheries to think about. Response: Batch 1 is for the Regulation change. For the Policy, every region has stocks that we're going to start applying this Policy and it depends on risks. For Central &amp; Arctic the focus is Greenland walrus, Great Slave Lake lake trout and whitefish and Dolly Varden.</p>			



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

7. 11:20AM Wildlife decisions	a) Commercial harvesting of muskox	Édouard Bélanger, GRRB	Decision
<p>Ed presented on a request from ERRC to GRRB last winter for six tags for guided hunting of muskox in the Richardson Mountains. Tetlit applied for the same, two months later. Questions about what is needed to allow commercial hunting, questions to ENR. It is a complex venture with input needed from GRRB, GTC, ITI, ENR, Inuvialuit, Yukon Government, WMAC (North Slope) and other partners. GRRB can decide whether the commercial harvesting activity is allowed to happen (yes or no), but it cannot decide which Gwich'in organization or person gets those tags. GTC has right of first refusal for the economic activity. GRRB can propose terms and conditions, including how many, age, sex, method, season, and so on; need to set an outfitting zone. There is currently no management plan for muskox in the GSA. Refer to Ed's presentation for details, including a flow chart of actions and decisions that need to be made to resolve this question.</p> <p>Comment: Ever since muskox came into GSA, there's no caribou. Peter Esau in Sachs Harbour said kill them all, if there's muskox there won't be caribou anymore. They chew up the ground and pee all over the place and caribou won't go there. Very few people eat muskox, so we're more interested in preserving our Porcupine caribou. What can we do? One biologist said caribou and muskox can co-exist, but everyone I know says they won't live in the same area. In the Yukon you can't shoot them but in NWT you can.</p> <p>Comment: Only six tags are being allocated for hunting? Response: Right now there is no tag system. The request from ERRC is to give them permission to allocate six tags for sports harvesting, with the idea they would sell those tags and provide a guided hunt for a non-Participant.</p> <p>Comment: I remember the late Johnny Charlie telling us to shoot muskox if we see them up in the mountains, because they interfere with the caribou. I've been asking PCMB members and they say no, but I've been asking our own experts — the elders — and they say they'll interfere. Sometimes we overlook what our elders were saying and depending more on researchers to give us that information, and that's something we need to be leery of. I'm an up and coming elder and I say that because our generation is the last generation that grew up on the land. We lived up in the mountains, we traveled in dog teams with our parents and grandparents and they really instilled in us that knowledge that we need today.</p> <p>Comment: This is not just a GRRB issue; the migration between GSA and ISR makes me think that this is not just our decision. I'd be in favour of initiating discussion with our Inuvialuit partners and ENR partners about harvesting — I'm not against a harvest, but it's not just our decision. We can only allocate that after agreement with our co-managenet partners. We should launch into that discussion with them. Is there a harvest in the ISR? Response: The Gwich'in Harvest Study needs level is zero. There is harvest though. And there's harvest of muskox by Inuvialuit as well. But the numbers are low, and we don't have a good idea of exactly the numbers.</p> <p>Comment: Big information void. We need to know what the current harvest is. Then if there's a gap between what is currently harvested and what can be sustainably harvested, we could think about doing something with those.</p>			



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

Comment: Growing up here I never heard of muskox in the GSA. Were they driven to this side? Is their movement from west to east? Are the feeding habits of muskox similar to cows and horses, where you don't mix them in the same pasture because horses pull their food out of the ground whereas cows shave it so it grows back? For a very long time, people were saying the two [muskox and caribou] don't mix — were the people studying them looking at the wrong thing, or the wrong time of year? Also, what about diseases that make the meat inedible on Victoria Island? For a long time, it was very easy to buy muskox meat from Kitikmeot Foods, but then it stopped because of brucellosis. Is that an issue in this population? We can think about this issue as larger than just guiding.

Response: We need a good state of knowledge on muskox. That's work that can be done with help of ENR. That's the big picture. But there's more to that — there's already co-management framework for muskox in Yukon North Slope, developed by WMAC North Slope. We do have research going on, a monitoring program. There's research by a Master's student from McGill on muskox and caribou.

Research is good but it will not answer the overall question.

Tracey: when Yukon put out collars, they took blood and did disease screening, but I don't know the results. The main pathogen that was an issue on the islands was brucellosis but I haven't heard of that here.

Comment: Is the situation going to be the same as bison, where you appear to have a lot of really healthy animals as in the south Mackenzie, but they're not edible because of tuberculosis, and once the disease gets in it's there to stay?

Tracey: We haven't had that issue with muskox in NWT. The brucellosis on the islands is for the animal's health, it's not a human health concern.

Comment: When I talked to Peter he said after the muskox left, it was five years before the caribou came back. That's why he said get rid of them. I like how Sam put it with the horses and cows. Same logic: caribou eat the lichen on top, but the muskox come and tear everything up. It's common sense the caribou won't come back then, there's nothing to eat.

Comment: Ever since the caribou came into our area, the first time it was 11 and now it's 17-20, another five years from now you'll still be sitting at this table figuring out what to do and there will be even more of them. So just get rid of them. Nobody likes to eat them.

Comment: When the elders speak we need to listen. The people lived in Sachs Harbour all those years and had no caribou, and now they're telling us.

Comment: A couple of weeks ago, our RRC met up with the HTC and with Patrice Stewart from ITI. We are working towards getting a meat processing facility for both Inuvialuit and Gwich'in people. Maybe we could hire people to shoot the muskox once we get the processing shop up and grind it up and distribute it to the community to eat.

Comment: Just to be clear I don't think it's the Board's position that we want the muskox gone at this point. It's a complicated issue because there are so many organizations involved and a complicated process to decide who should be requesting those tags given GTC has exclusive rights, but it's something we'll work towards navigating.

12:00 PM Lunch	Provided		
----------------	----------	--	--



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

Attendees (afternoon session):

Robert Charlie, Interim Chair  
 Burt Hunt, GRRB Member  
 Doug Doan, GRRB Member  
 Sam Bullock, GRRB Member  
 Sarah Jerome, GRRB Member  
 Tracy Davison, GRRB Member  
 Amy Amos, GRRB Executive Director  
 Édouard Bélanger, GRRB Staff  
 Sarah Lord, GRRB Staff  
 Jordan Norman-Goose, GRRB Staff  
 Janet Boxwell, GRRB Staff  
 Kaytlin Cooper, GRRB Staff  
 Cheryl Greenland, GRRB Staff  
 Fanny Greenland, Ehdiiat RRC  
 Jessi Pascal, Ehdiiat RRC  
 James Edwards, Ehdiiat RRC  
 Wilbert Firth, Tetlit RRC  
 Georgina V. Neyando, Tetlit RRC  
 Jarvis Mitchell, INB Youth  
 Brayden Koe, INB Youth  
 James Andre, Gwichya Gwich'in RRC  
 John Norbert, Gwichya Gwich'in RRC  
 Allen Firth, Nihtat RRC  
 Lila Voudrach, ENR  
 Norman Snowshoe, ENR  
 Vanessa Grandmaison, DFO

<b>Motion to appoint Robert Charlie interim Chair for the afternoon</b>		Motion	
Moved by: Burt	Seconded by: Tracey	<b>GRRB 19-05</b>	
All in favour.	Motion Carried.		
7. 1:15 PM Wildlife decisions (cont'd)	b) Bluenose-West caribou herd total allowable harvest	Édouard Bélanger, GRRB	Decision

Ed gave a brief presentation on the Bluenose-West caribou herd status update. A 4% allowable harvest is distributed amongst Gwich'in, Sahtu and Inuvialuit based on an aerial survey done in 2016. A new survey was done in 2018. The estimate is 21,000 caribou. There have been requests from Gwich'in communities and other partners to have more tags. In the fall there was discussion in GRRB about the 4% TAH and how the Board would approach that decision. During the annual status meeting, it was brought forward that the Board would approve 4% based on the previous survey — which brings it from 22 to 34 Gwich'in tags for this herd. Historically the tags were distributed 48% Inuvialuit, 48% Sahtu, 3% Gwich'in and the remaining 1% ENR. Now the remaining 1% is going to Gwich'in instead of ENR. Does the Board support this 4% TAH of the 2018 survey results?





# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

Comment: During the period where the herd was declining, the tag system was implemented in the three claim areas. Gwich'in chose to err on the side of caution and gave up their allotment at that time for conservation. We have lived with that number for many years. Whereas Inuvialuit and Sahtu did not give up any numbers. Now that we're in a position that we're being offered more tags, how does the history affect that?

Response: In 2006 the Sahtu, Gwich'in and Inuvialuit all agreed on a conservative approach with 4% TAH. The way the number of tags were divided, I'm not sure how that was decided.

Comment: I remember having this discussion with Eugene at the CMA meeting last spring. He was sure we were the ones who were being conservative.

Response: We'll try to get an answer.

Comment: How are the tags distributed among the RRCs?

Response: There was a regional RRC meeting where it was resolved to give all 22 tags to Nihtat RRC to manage, with the agreement that when other communities wanted those tags, they could request those and they would be shared. At the time NRRC were closest to the herd and when other communities had tags they weren't using them. ENR gives the tags to NRRC. Requests go to NRRC and then they share.

Comment: If NRRC are giving those tags out, how are the four communities dealing with it, are they happy with the process?

Response: At the Regional RRC meeting the herd was right in the Inuvik area, so we thought it best to let them handle it. I don't think anyone was really using it.

Comment: Can you elaborate on this — there was a reluctance based on the state of the herd, even if we keep it at 4% it's still more animals that are harvested. But concern that if we change the 4% at all it would trigger a need for hearings for some of the folks. So if people are wondering why are we harvesting more animals when the herd is still in distress? Why not leave it at 722 for the sake of the caribou? And the concern was triggering hearings.

Response: Yes, that's a good summary. Paulatuk members were saying they saw more caribou and wanted to increase. Inuvialuit generally wanted an increase. 4% TAH is supposed to be a conservative approach, so while it's more conservative to stay at 722 the 4% was agreed back in 2006 and following that means increasing the number of tags based on the survey.

Comment: Who is responsible for transferring that 1% to the Gwich'in?

Response: ACCWM parties would each write a letter to ENR Minister asking for an increase to TAH based on 2018 survey results and also ask for that 1% to be transferred. We need a motion to have GRRB write a letter to the ENR Minister concerning the 4% TAH. Inuvialuit have already asked.

**Motion to support a 4% harvest of the 2018 survey and to formalize a request to have the Gwich'in allocation be increased from 3% to 4%**

Motion

Moved by: Doug

Seconded by: Burt

GRRB 19-06

All in favour.

Motion Carried.





# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

Bluenose-East caribou herd status: 2018 survey is below the Action Plan Threshold of 20,000 animals, at 19,300. Historically this herd does not come in the GSA but it is still part of GRRB's mandate to manage through ACCWM because back when the numbers were high, there was no distinction between Bluenose-West and -East, it was all just Bluenose. Back in November the discussion was to move from orange to red, for two reasons: a big decrease in the estimated population over the last three years and because the Action Plan stipulates the threshold is under 20,000 caribou the status of the herd should be red. Sahtu, Inuvialuit and others strongly felt the status should be red. Does the Board want to follow other co-management partners going from orange to red status as of this year for the Bluenose-East?

Comment: When herds like that drop, like the Beverly herd and others that are declining, but the Porcupine herd has increased — if we kept status like ABEKS on how many caribou were harvested, health and condition of the herd, it might have saved a lot of the herds even after they've declined this far. Are there any studies done with this herd to find out why they've dropped from 120,000 in 2010? Disease, migration? What makes it drop that much?

Response: All of the above. There is a lot of study on Bluenose-East, but also Bluenose-West and all across northern Canada about why the population goes up and down. I don't think we know exactly why, probably because there's several factors: resources (what they eat), predation, climate change, weather like snow conditions, there are a bunch of reasons. There's some interesting research done on the Porcupine as to why it's going up while other migratory caribou are going down, there are different ideas about that, maybe their habitat is doing better while in other places it's not doing great.

**Motion to approve the change in the status of the Bluenose-East caribou herd from orange to red**

Motion

Moved by: Doug

Seconded by: Sam

**GRRB 19-07**

All in favour.

Motion Carried.

Next step: Write a letter to the Minister on the herd status. Inuvialuit have already sent their letters and spoke to the allocation of the 1%.

7. 1:45 PM Wildlife decisions (cont'd)

c) Harvest Survey Results & GRRB recommendations to PCMB

Janet Boxwell, GRRB

Decision

Janet gave a presentation on the 2017-18 Gwich'in Harvest Data Collection Project. Highlights included: Overall participation rate was 39% of harvesters reporting (246 active harvesters, 104 were interviewed). Worked with RRC in McPherson to refine the harvesters list to remove inactive harvesters and add new harvesters; this increased the participation rate significantly. There is still work to do to make sure we're talking to the right people at the right times to capture all the information. At September 2018 Board meeting, discussion was to make sure we interview younger harvesters, choose community interviewers who are friendly and knowledgeable about harvesting and incorporate the use of technology in to the survey. Ideas for 2019-20 are to: introduce data collection technology, hire harvest survey coordinator, hold community meetings, hold harvester education workshop, do program evaluation.

Comment: About the harvester education workshop: I retired in 2008. The main thing I wanted to get into was tanning moose hides. I've cleaned two moose hides and haven't tanned them yet, and it's 10 years later. We're talking about young harvesters too — do they know how to properly skin a caribou or moose? It's good they're having these workshops at Chief Julius with all the different parts, but properly skinning them is important specifically for the young harvesters. Last spring, we did a program in Aklavik,



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

my co-worker brought moose legs and some of the people had never seen moose legs being skinned, or cooking moose hooves. And the cook at the camp said she'd never seen that in 30 years. Keep that in mind when you prepare this workshop.

Response: I will mention the funding agreement Janet has funding for, there has to be a link to increasing harvester participation in the survey. If we had 100% harvester participation all that money would be used. When we don't have 100% there's flexibility in the contribution agreement to be innovative in how to increase participation. All of Sarah's comments could be something we think about, but we have to be sure it increases harvesters participating in the survey, and how do we assess that. There's other money to be used to do that kind of workshop, but Janet's project funds have to be used for the harvest study.

Comment: The other thing to keep in mind for educating young harvesters and us women who are going to be tanning, if somebody comes along and says I have a moose hide, the first thing to ask is when did you get it? If March, yes, great! If August no way, our elders say it is too thick then.

Comment: The best way to go about getting information is Janet coming to McPherson to go on the radio and explain for harvesters what it is all about. I do it and tell people our surveyors are going to go out, and why we're doing it. Harvesters won't give out their information unless they're compensated in some way. We give them gas through CHAP funding and ask them for their information and we still don't get it — I don't know if RRC has to put it in a motion or something to give the CHAP funding after they give the information and not before, but coming March 20 and speaking to this and giving information and having good door prizes will help. It's hard to approach a harvester — the minute you talk to them they back out, they're reluctant.

Comment: Tsiigehtchic is harvesting muskox. Small communities we know what's happening — McPherson had a lot of moose. But what Gina is saying is also true: a 20% chance of winning is not great. I did that survey for 10 years and I haven't won yet! I continue to give information, but how many people are like that? Harvesters work hard for what they get, they're not going to give their information away for nothing. We used to share and give everything away and it's not that way anymore. We need to teach the young people. Young people go out hunting and bring back 20 caribou — what do they need with 20 caribou? And they go get another 20 the next day? Something's going on. We have to teach them to work with it right.

Comment: When the interviewers are going out there, it's only voluntary, you don't force it out of them.

Comment: The less harvester information we receive, the higher the margin of error. This is where your formula makes an estimate. Maybe it's not that they don't like to report their harvest, maybe it's they don't like the interviewer? Efforts to find the right people and ask the right questions are key. I like the idea of education, stressing the importance and getting that message across — it's a work in progress. You're on the right track on a lot of fronts.

Comment: I did a harvester's survey in Aklavik and interviewed just 7 people out of 20 or 30. If I interviewed everybody on that list would it increase the participation rate even if they didn't harvest anything?

Response: Yes, it would. If they attempted and made the effort to go out, then yes. If they didn't even try to go out, I don't think so. It's something I've asked PCTC — what will reflect what's going on most accurately? And they're not really sure either.



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

Comment: It was my understanding that it would still increase the participation rate. Even if harvesters aren't going out, that's good to know. The more we know the better.

**Motion to recommend to PCMB that they maintain Green Zone designation, promote traditional management practices, continue to promote harvester and community conservation and education initiatives**

Motion

GRRB 19-08

Moved by: Tracey

Seconded by: Sarah

All in favour.

Motion Carried.

7. 2:15PM Wildlife decisions (cont'd)

d) Defining commercial use

Amy Amos

Direction

Amy gave a presentation on the results of the consultations on defining commercial use of wildlife in December 2018. This was a community-driven process driven by concerns brought to the Board that people were selling too much meat. This was brought to Regional RRC meeting in Aklavik 2017, made a resolution to ask GRRB to seek funding to act on this. When Gwich'in are trading with Gwich'in, at what point is it no longer traditional sharing and becoming commercial sale of wildlife meat? We have a 70-page 'What We Heard' report on the consultation meetings. GRRB is going through its consultation process, and we are still in Step 1 for drafting a Regulation. Next steps: ask for money to do a regional workshop to create a draft regulation in summer 2019. ENR would draft it, and then do a consultation with the communities on that draft regulation. We could have ENR enact this by July 2020 if there are no major concerns but this is a very ambitious timeline! I want to know from the Board if these steps are the direction we should go in.

Comment: In four months the Board will be down three members. Does that impact your timeline?

Response: The Board will have quorum even if they only have one Board member. The land claim says quorum is the majority of the Board members at every time. In the past in this situation the Board chose to make only operational decisions until there were more Board members again. Legally we could make decisions and carry on, but it's up to the Board if they want to go ahead.

Comment: Are we the first Board in NWT to challenge this commercial use definition?

Response: Yes. Talking with ENR headquarters, they're very supportive of this initiative, so whatever our request is they're probably going to be supportive. I ran the timeline by them and didn't hear a big No, so they may have challenges providing us with what we need by the times we need them but they would do their best.

Comment: A lot of stuff happened in our land claim and we have no way of enforcing anything without going to court. If, say, in James Creek area that's private land, only Gwich'in supposed to go in there, but it's not enforced and non-non-aboriginals go in there. If we see something happening, what can we do? We don't even have our own officers. The way it is right now ENR is working for us voluntarily and we have no grounds to enforce anything.

Response: That question is best directed to ENR. ENR needs to understand — *Wildlife Act* says you need permission to harvest on private lands. An aboriginal person with a GHL can harvest anywhere in NWT except if they go on private lands they need to have permission from RRC — and ENR needs to know what that permission looks like. GTC and RRCs need to advise ENR on what that looks like. ENR has asked for that clarity and once that's provided then they can enforce it. It's not part of GRRB's mandate.



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

Comment: I really oppose the selling meat. Can they come back to us and say it's Treaty Rights? We really have to word it carefully. You have a treaty right to hunt and fish, but you don't have a treaty right to sell it. The education part of it really needs to happen at the community level so the young harvesters know. The older harvesters were brought up to share; it's the young ones that need to learn it.

GRRB supports the suggested approach to apply for funding to proceed with recommendations.

Comment: This is a long overdue and ambitious exercise, so I support getting at it directly. We need a definition of commercial use before any action can happen on it.

Comment: This looks like a really good piece of work. You should be congratulated. I totally support your recommended direction going forward.

Comment: It looks very ambitious for that one-year period, but we need to do something like this because there are elders leaving us left and right. The sooner we get moving on this the better.

Comment: Momentum is a good thing. You're on the right track and it's ground-breaking. There will be many other groups who look at your format in the future.

Comment: I will second what everybody said. A lot of really good work went into this.

Comment: I agree with the other Board members.

2:50PM Break to set up teleconference			
8. 3:00PM ENR legislation initiatives	a) <i>Forest Act</i> b) <i>Protected Areas Act</i> c) <i>Environmental Rights Act</i>	Ron Allen (phone)	Information & Decision

ENR is drafting five pieces of legislation: *Forest Act*, *Protected Areas Act*, *Environmental Rights Act* and two others. GRRB has been invited to the Technical Working Group late in the process and has worked with the other RRBs to provide input on this process. How does GRRB want to participate in the next steps? Ron was going to present some ideas to the Board — there are different perspectives from different groups. The Board is going to defer that discussion until the Board can go in camera on Thursday and Ron will phone in. Both Ron and Margaret have been attending meetings.

Item deferred until Board goes in camera on Thursday.

Proceed with rest of agenda.

Michael Svoboda not available on the phone.

Move ahead to WSF Proposal #4: GRRB Youth Work Experience Program.



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

10. WSF Proposals	d) Proposal #4 (Youth) GRRB youth program	Amy Amos & Janet Boxwell, GRRB	<b>Motion</b>
<p>Janet gave her presentation on the Youth Work Experience Program application to Wildlife Studies Funds. This is to hire youth who are directly involved in staff-led projects.</p> <p>Question: What is the reason for deferring funds?          Response: That's GRRB money and we had planned to use it for youth involvement in various projects, but when we secure outside funding we use that first and reserve the internal funds. The new request is for summer student top-up and while we apply for both federal and territorial money, we don't confirm that until June.</p> <p>Comment: We can still apply for more WSF funds and defer those as well.</p> <p>Comment: Can you refresh my memory to what the Board approved for WSF last year?          Response: About \$5,000. We deferred some and asked for a top-up.</p> <p>Comment: How much did we spend on youth last year? If we didn't use even \$6,000 from the previous year and now we're deferring and withdrawing more and getting to \$11,000 — how much do we really need?          Response: We separate the Summer Student money and YWEP generally. They are separate projects. Summer Student money is always used up. YWEP is not necessarily.</p> <p>Comment: Is the money being deferred used for Students?          Response: It could be. It's a request, but I think we could utilize the deferred \$8,000 if there's a shortage of funds.</p>			
9. 3:20PM Agency Updates	Canadian Wildlife Service	Michael Svoboda (telephone)	Information
<p>Michael gave a brief overview of ECCC activities. Highlights included: Listing consultations, the November COSEWIC meeting (no terrestrial GSA species included), overview of work plan for next several years including collared pika and grizzly bear.</p> <p>Comment: About the grizzly bear. There were lots of camps wrecked on Arctic Red River this summer and across the river. It's getting to be a problem. What can we do?          Response: With this file, the Minister is required to conserve. What you're describing is an increase in bear conflict. Sometimes that can be from bears being stressed or starving. I'm not sure who is in charge of that in your community.</p> <p>Comment: I'm hearing your comments about berry failure [in Whitehorse, bringing bears into town due to starvation]. Is there any work to connect with the diamond mines on the occurrences of grizzly bears and wolverine coming quite close to where people are working — including three wolverines in a dumpster gorging on the food there. Does the Committee connect with these remote mine areas to gather more information on the SAR listings?          Response: When a species is listed, it means the Government has to take particular actions. Listing it means the outcome we want is to find solutions to a problem that species has. What you're describing is really specific things, unusual observations. SAR is not intended to step on the local and territorial government's toes in terms of jurisdiction. It just means we should be working together to ensure a good</p>			



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

outcome for the species. Unusual observations like yours can be integrated into status documents and so on. ABEKS is one way to make that information available to COSEWIC. It's a challenge for COSEWIC to write these reports in the first place so having any local information is useful. Management planning for wolverine and grizzly bears — flag this for GRRB staff so they can feed this into the process. The plan for how to proceed with management planning for grizzlies has not been figured out yet because there's so many jurisdictions involved.

Question: Does SAR connect with remote mining camps as a source of information when it comes to wildlife sightings? Free accessible information that nobody has to fund, but many mining camps have wildlife monitors. Is there communication like listing species that we think are endangered because we don't see them, but they're out there, it's just people aren't seeing them and that information is not getting back to these listings.

Response: There are many different sources of information. If I were to take a high-level response I would say when they write these documents they post them publicly to invite input, but it might be more useful to knock on the doors to actively invite participation than to passively wait for it. For wolverine the classification was done because the population in Quebec was classified as endangered and they made it one designable unit, and because wolverine were doing not as poorly in western Canada, they landed on special concern status. It's worse that not at risk, but it means the obligations to write a management plan to identify things that you can do in different jurisdictions to make things better.

Comment: We're having problems with wolves also. They're killing dogs around town and getting too close for children's safety.

Response: Wolves are not on our species at risk list. Barren-ground caribou are, though, so they are on our radar related to predator control.

9. 3:45PM Agency Updates (cont'd)	Government of Northwest Territories, Department of Environment and Natural Resources	Norman Snowshoe & Lila Voudrach	Information
-----------------------------------	--	---------------------------------	-------------

Norman provided an operations update for ENR, including new staff members. He gave an overview of programs run by ENR including Take A Kid Trapping, administering CHAP and harvester disaster compensation programs, Genuine Mackenzie Valley Fur Program, and others. NWT has created an On the Land Unit to focus on these programs even more. They will start an engagement session in the communities soon.

Lila reported that this has been a busy year for Wildlife Officers, on the north side of the highway where it's closed, and the reindeer being poached on the Inuvik-Tuk highway. Right now, they are working on getting the herd over to Jimmy Lake. We had some workshops in the fall including the Inuvialuit beaver program, teaching people to work with pelts and how to sample in December. In January we had a workshop in Sachs to teach hands-on experience with trapping and pelt handling. We had scheduled another workshop for Paulatuk, a grizzly bear workshop, they have a lot of grizzlies there and they come in to the community every fall. The weather did not cooperate so we are rescheduling it. We're organizing a Sight Your Rifle even in Ulukhaktok. We did not have anything in GSA this past year but next year we are planning wolf pelt handling workshops in Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic. We hope this workshop will encourage harvesting of wolves in those communities, and we'll do the same we did in the





# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

higher communities and talk about pelt handling and how to take samples. This year we had lots of foxes in Inuvik and sightings of lynx. The lynx has been targeting dogs. One of the lynx was harvested and we sent it out for testing; it does not have rabies. So perhaps it was after dogs because it was young. For Tsiigehtchic the patrolman was harvesting wolves, he set snares and harvested seven wolves. They were given to local trappers and one was used in school to teach youths how to work with the pelt. If we do harvest any wolves again next fall we'll use snares again and use them for the planned wolf pelt handling workshop. We work with McPherson and have done a lot of education on Facebook and sending posters to provide information on the wolf sampling program. Because of all the problem wildlife here in the community we've gone into the elementary school to talk about foxes, rabies and so on, respecting wildlife and not feeding them. We plan to go to the high school on Friday to do the same presentation. This year we were late on getting funding out for Take A Kid Trapping program but all the schools have now received the funds. I've been working with each of the schools to get a timeline on their programming so we can have officers go in to do education. We have lots of complaints about people in traditional trapping areas. We are working with RRCs to let them know these are the complaints we're hearing, because the only thing ENR can enforce is section 15 which states no person can interfere with another person's legal harvesting, no person can snap a trap or remove a trap. I will let RRCs know that ENR cannot do anything — if people have complaints about people taking over their traditional trapline that's a concern, we will be consulting on that. Grizzly bears have been coming in to the communities in Inuvik, Aklavik also had a lot of bears, so we are working with MACA to give some advice on how to help manage wildlife entering the landfill, but more importantly help control the landfill to prevent people from entering.

Norman also discussed environmental monitoring and environmental resource officer. Water License Officer is Lloyd Gruben and he ensures all permits and licenses are complied with. Lloyd did inspections in the Gwich'in communities one year, then Inuvialuit communities the second year. Every summer he also does ferry landing inspections, ensuring permits and licenses for ferry operations are complied with. On all water license applications Lloyd makes sure we participate in that process and provide comments. Anytime we hear concerns from the community we try to respond as quickly as possible. An example is that orange slime — just recently we got an email from ENR Forest, they said it's something that comes from the trees. We also have a person who responds to spills — Alicia McRae.

It was a slow fire season.

ENR Forest reports the orange sludge is tree rust, it's not dangerous.

[refer to recording for further details]

Comment: You mentioned that you have a designated officer in charge of spills. Earlier this morning we heard that there were two spills on the Peel. I thought that was an Environment Canada responsibility. Do we have an agreement with EC for GNWT to handle that? Who should James Andre call?

Response: We're responsible for spills in the region. It's general knowledge that you should phone us. If you call us we can submit it to the Spill Line. For the one on the water it would be the Canadian Coast Guard — but report it to us and we will call NWT Spill Line and they will contact the appropriate agency.

Comment: Question on spruce needle sludge. Why would it only have happened recently?

Response: I'm not too sure. I'll ask the Forester.





# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

Comment: You say you monitor different animals but didn't mention the Porcupine caribou herd. I know when the herd comes close to the highway there's lots of complaints from people that it's overkill. Do you monitor that? What happens? James was saying there were young people going up and getting 20 caribou in a day, and going back for more the next day.

Response: There is a sampling program in place where we monitor aboriginal harvesting. But the harvest from Porcupine caribou is not limited for aboriginal people. If we hear lots of people are out there we can send officers out there to make sure there's no wastage, but that's all we can do. Resident harvesters are limited to two animals, but Inuvialuit and Gwich'in beneficiaries are not limited.

Comment: Recently we've been hearing a lot about the numbers of different herds of caribou are on the decline. Shouldn't this be something ENR is looking into? Overkill is part of the problem.

Response: We've been discussing this concern from the communities for years, about harvesting Porcupine herd on the highway. The challenge we have is that Gwich'in and Inuvialuit can harvest anytime, anywhere, any amount. Porcupine herd is doing great, while other caribou down the valley are down. PCMB and GRRB and the Councils are monitoring this herd closely.

Comment: More people are starting to go back out onto the land. Years ago, some hunters were at Rock River and had shot some caribou, and when they went around the corner they came face to face with a grizzly. They were not even 10 feet away, and they asked 'should we shoot this bear? no, we don't have a tag' — and if it was me with my grandchildren at the camp I wouldn't hesitate. It concerns me we're protecting wildlife more than people. Even at other camps it's a problem.

Response: Under the *Wildlife Act*, people have the right to shoot it to defend yourself or your property. Report it to our office right away, we come and take over the bear and it's turned over to GRRB within the GSA.

Comment: About the wolf pelt handling workshops — will you do them in Inuvik?

Response: We will do our best. We had one of those here the year before. We rotate between the communities based on what funding we receive from headquarters.

Comment: Under the *Wildlife Act*, 'barter and trade' — we have the right to get as much as they want, but we know they're selling it. If they get 20 one day and 20 the next and the truck full of caribou goes to Midway and to Aklavik, they're selling it. But we have no way of charging or proving it. It's like we're stuck.

Response: GRRB is doing a good job trying to come up with a definition of trading and bartering. It is against the law for anyone to sell the meat of big game without a permit or license to do so — but the land claim says beneficiaries can trade/barter with others. There's little ENR can do until we get a definition of what that means. ENR is very happy to see GRRB working to get that definition. Under the land claim agreement, the wildlife board have the authority to make regulations and once those regulations are in place ENR can enforce them. Until such time we go by laws of general application that say they can harvest as many as they want, when they want.

Comment: Can ENR come in to the communities and have a workshop on regulations that pertain to the *Wildlife Act*? Most of our people don't know the regs, including me. We don't have good communication with your wildlife officer, and then people in our communities phone me! I send them to Glen and if he's not answering his phone, people are upset.

Response: At the Regional RRC meeting I let the RRCs know that I'm available to come in to your communities anytime that you want and I can give that presentation. We have *Wildlife Act* 101 that



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

includes a lot of new information, everything that changed from the previous *Act*. If you want us to come present it to the RRCs or do an open house for the community, we can do that.

Comment: Regarding the spruce needles — is it safe to drink the water? Is this information going to be made public?

Response: As soon as we have an internal discussion we'll start our communications campaign.

Comment: When you have information like this, I suggest you give it to CBC. Get someone who can explain it well in the language so people can understand. CBQM in Fort McPherson has lots of information on there.

Comment: After the oil spills, did they examine the soil too?

Response: Yes. There's a whole process.

4:35PM Break for end of day. Reconvene tomorrow morning at 9:00AM.



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

<b>DAY 2 Tuesday, February 6, 2019</b>			
Anglican Church Community Hall, Inuvik			
<i>Item</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Led by</i>	<i>Expected outcomes</i>
8:30 AM Arrival	Coffee and tea provided		
<p>Call to Order: 9:00am (Jozef)</p> <p>Attendees (morning session):            Jozef Carnogursky, GRRB Chair            Sam Bullock, GRRB Member            Doug Doan, GRRB Member            Tracy Davison, GRRB Member            Margaret Begg, GRRB Member            Burt Hunt, GRRB Member            Amy Amos, GRRB Executive Director            Édouard Bélanger, GRRB Staff            Sarah Lord, GRRB Staff            Jordan Norman-Goose, GRRB Staff            Janet Boxwell, GRRB Staff            Kaytlin Cooper, GRRB Staff            Cheryl Greenland, GRRB Staff            Jarvis Mitchell, INB Youth            Brayden Koe, INB Youth            Fanny Greenland, Ehdiitat RRC            James Edwards, Ehdiitat RRC            Jessi Pascal, Ehdiitat RRC            Wilbert Firth, Tetlit RRC            Georgina V. Neyando, Tetlit RRC            Robert Charlie, Public            Leonard DeBastien, GLWB            Alexander Chila, UVic            Tracey Proverbs, UVic            Kate Snow, DFO            Vanessa Grandmaison, DFO            Mackenzie Scott, CBC            James Andre, Gwichya Gwich'in RRC            John Norbert, Gwichya Gwich'in RRC            Gabe Nirlungayuk, DFO            Ellen Lea, DFO            Connie Blakeston, DFO            Margaret Gordon, Recept.            Winston Moses, Public Elder</p>			



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

9. 9:00 AM Agency Updates	Fisheries and Oceans Canada Arctic Region	Gabe Nirlungayuk, Ellen Lea, Connie Blakeston	Information
---------------------------	--	--	-------------

Gabe gave a presentation on Arctic Region Implementation. Gabe is from Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. His background is with NTI and then Government of Nunavut (Deputy Minister of Environment). He is here to speak about the Arctic Region, what it's going to be, how it's going to be. This is his first public engagement on the topic. The Arctic Region is an attempt by DFO & Coast Guard to enhance indigenous partnership, as per reconciliation mandate. Arctic Region announced Oct 24, 2018 the Minister DFO & Coast Guard announced creation of stand-alone Arctic Region to be built in partnership with Indigenous and Northern partners. Gwich'in is a huge stakeholder in this I hope, but it's up to you. Region is led by Gabe. Assistant Commissioner Neil O'Rourke is not able to be here today; he is based in Yellowknife. Gabe & Neil will lead engagement on priorities of new region.

Central & Arctic Region is served out of Winnipeg. Great Lakes to Alberta, NWT & Nunavut, it's a huge region. Senior DFO officials engaged with ITK, Arctic leaders and territorial governments over the past year prior to the announcement. Minister Catherine reached out to Dene and on November 28, engagement occurred with Dene Nation in Yellowknife. Dene were disappointed and surprised that they were not consulted earlier. Engagement will continue across the Arctic using various approaches leading to a report summarizing recommendations for implementation. I am pleased to see DFO 'stick its neck out' on something like this.

DFO is seeking your input. We have a list of questions provided in advance. [refer to presentation] If the Gwich'in want, your settlement area will be part of the Arctic Region. Open the floor to questions, comments, suggestions.

Comment: We all know the effects of Harper reducing the capacity of DFO. With the upcoming election, how much of this effort would be affected with a possible new government?

Response: That's the million dollar question. What I've been told from the Department is that it's a commitment by the Department, which is non-partisan. I've been reassured that this commitment will, over the next couple years, that funding will be provided.

Comment: In 1970, my brother was the first fishery officer that came to Inuvik to open up the office. That grew to two people, and then to a full contingent of fishery officers and a supervisor here in Inuvik. Since then, as Sam alluded the government cut back that presence of fishery officers. We hear folks in communities and this Board that the loss of fishery officers in Inuvik has been a very important thing. My brother used to go up and down the river to visit the communities and they were so grateful to have an opportunity to interact with the Department in a one-on-one way. They felt like they belonged and they had access to the Department. After the cuts, that presence disappeared, and they have no officers. We have competent staff in Inuvik, but that officer presence that took complains and questions, talked about spill in the Peel River, changes in fish supplies, disease in fish and so on, that was a very important interaction that we still hear a lot about. One of your questions about how to improve service, I have heard over the years repeatedly about how we lament the loss of that service being in Inuvik. If we had a magic wand I could say start the fix by replacing the officer contingent in Inuvik — somewhere in the Delta — as opposed to having officer that do their best from Yellowknife. Replace that contact and officer contingent. Have those officers have a regular interaction with our communities, and with the Inuvialuit communities as well.

Response: Right now, 5 or 6 in Yellowknife & Hay River combined. Recruiting in Yellowknife to get up to 7 - 8, then will be fully staffed for NWT.



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

Comment: Annual meeting in Winnipeg DFO said they were getting new patrol boats, would patrol up the river, optimistic for the first time in years. If that actually occurs the communities up here will be very pleased. A vessel stationed in Inuvik would provide service that's not provided now.

Comment: Thank you for coming, we appreciate you taking the time and us being the first engagement you have. We will be interested in providing written comments. 'Assistant Commissioner' in Yellowknife. What is their job?

Response: Under the Minister's announcement, DFO appointed the RDG (me) and the AC for the Coast Guard. His job is different than DFO — under Ministerial portfolio is both DFO and Coast Guard. Coast Guard office will be in Yellowknife. People who live on the shores know Coast Guard is very important for research, icebreaking, search and rescue. The AC situated in Yellowknife will engage indigenous folks as well, and he should come here and you can ask him the tough questions. I can't speak for his department.

Comment: I've been with the Board for 13 years. I was the Fisheries biologist in the past, and I've seen the staffing for the Inuvik DFO office. Our staff are always in the communities and we hear what Burt was talking about, the biggest comment is about the presence. Prior to those 2012 changes with the omnibus bill there was a lot of staffing changes; Larry's position used to be here in Inuvik, similar supervisory positions, technicians, just more staff in general, not just fisheries protection. I think that's something missing here as well. We work well together as best we can, but having people here — it's a challenge for us. That's another big comment.

Response: Do the Gwich'in have a Guardians program?

Comment: No. At one time we operated in the North very consciously and aggressively chose to have fishery officer trainees drawn out of the communities. And the Gwich'in for their part have — Jordan, for example, has been through a lot of training programs — we had a conscious effort to involve local indigenous people in the fishery officer program and then send those folks back to their communities to serve the people they know, love, grew up with, and they fit in better in the communities than someone from Burlington perhaps. I would like to see that again. We consider that part of our job, to train and involve local people, and create capacity to equip them to assume senior positions in the Department and other departments in the same fashion that you have risen to the cream level in the Department. That kind of a program could once again be revitalized.

Response: It's a common theme, not just in this region but other regions, the presence of DFO. I know the history of DFO has been left out of the western Arctic lately as there used to be a strong presence in Inuvik.

Comment: When more speak to the issue, it's better. I used to work as a ferry captain in McPherson. One day I was going to go hunting, and I had a net set. When I came back my net was gone. What happened to my net? DFO took it. How come? Captain said you never looked at your net for two days. He was just fooling around but DFO came they took it anyway. It's just to illustrate that with DFO in the community, everybody could go talk to them and everybody knew them, and they could do things right away. Now this fall, someone left a net in, and the fish were rotten, and they said nobody can touch it, only DFO. But there's no DFO here. So what they're going to come down here next week or something? There are all kinds of regulations with fishing and tagging but nobody to enforce it.

Comment: Thanks for coming and speaking with us. We appreciate your presence here.

Response: Thank you — I liked Amy's point about what happened here. It's very important for an authority like DFO to have presence. Please put it in writing, and any other thought that you might have about your questions, I'm looking forward to that.



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

Ellen gave an update. Kate is now indeterminate, and we have process underway to make a second technician position indeterminate as well. We will continue to work with GRRB and the communities to move things forward with Fisheries Management files. Larry is on leave and can't be here today, but process is underway in terms of DFO appointments to GRRB. It's a publicly posted process intended to be fair and transparent. Sarah provided update yesterday on Dolly Varden files and we wanted to reinforce that we're expecting updated IMFP by end of March; we're in process of circulating final draft. For DV as species of special concern, there will be a species at risk management plan that will be adopting the IFMP for the GSA & ISR, and have some additional content for areas outside of those regions. There will be further discussion on how to move that forward. DFO biologist leading those files will be attending upcoming RRWG meeting scheduled for March 4 and will have some further discussions with the working group at that time. Genetics lab has hired additional staff to deal with analyzing samples from the coast, which are important for the WG to understanding contributions of various stocks to the harvest. We're here for questions and discussion as well.

Comment: Who is the SAR biologist?

Response: Peter Rodger.

Comment: Genetics hired additional staff. In November they said it would be ready very soon.

Response: I'm not sure. I touched base with Rob Bajno, the lead biologist on that work, and they're trying to get results ready for RRWG meetings, but I know they're dealing with a large backlog. Yukon North Slope and Nunavik we heard from elders in Aklavik that there's a char stock at Fish Creek at Komakuk Beach and in 2016 we were about to go out there and find anadromous char at that creek, it's really small but there are resident and anadromous fish there. We collected samples but now they need to go into the mixed stock question, and see if there's implications for assignments of coastal char harvest to different stocks. So it's a big job. Rob is going to come up to the meeting and report on the mixed stock genetic work and also eDNA collections they've been doing.

Comment: Do you have any other insights on the appointments than 'in the process' because that's what we've been hearing, and the public posting is only part of it — then comes screening and so on. My experience is that after nomination it still takes a year from then to actually get the Privy Council to approve the name.

Response: I can't speak to that but I can reinforce that it's a priority for the Board.

Comment: If Gabe is interested in putting his mark on things, if he was able to do something about that process, because the stress is that Ron Allen's term expires in April, mine in May, Doug's in June, so that leaves three vacancies, and if Amy is correct that it takes a year, that leaves a skeleton of a Board. That's long-standing problem and the present government has promised to fix that. If Gabe puts a senior word in about the importance of those appointments being made that would be good.

Response: Yes we can do that.

Comment: Those appointments are such a long process, we want to speed it up, for all the Boards.

Comment: The upcoming work I will be doing in Tsiigehtchic exploring the possibility of a commercial fishery — I'm not sure the capacity that this venture has, but I did a discussion paper two years ago and very early in the research it was evident that there was commercial fishing happening in a Special Management Zone. Some of the fishers had licenses from DFO. But there was no movement on DFO's part to pursue charges related to fishing in a SMZ. I will be working to further that effort by gathering information such as the number of commercial fishers that are currently fishing. Does DFO have a special license that would bridge



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

and protect the people that are currently breaking the law? To give them a small bridge to stand on while other efforts are made to help make that fishing area legal?

Response: That is something that has come up several times with the community. Commercial fishing licenses issued out of Area 5, the one closest to Tsiigehtchic, we put a line on the license saying commercial fishing is not allowed in the Special Management Zone as per the land claim. Part of our role as DFO is to support commercial fishing opportunities, but superseding that is recognizing the land claim and the subsistence fishery in those communities. We are open to discussion on ways to make it work with the community but right now we're limited with the language in the land claim. We can discuss other options. There are other kinds of licenses, but if the intention is commercial fishing, it will let hard to square that with the land claim language. We don't want the licenses to be done in such a way that prohibits or restricts the commercial fishers who are also subsistence fishers, and those local economic opportunities, but we can have a discussion about how we can make that work.

9. 10:00 AM Agency Updates (cont'd)	Fisheries and Oceans Canada Agency Update	Stephen Haayen (telephone)	Information
-------------------------------------	---	----------------------------	-------------

Stephen gave a presentation on Bill C-68 amendments to *Fisheries Act*. Changes are happening slowly and GRRB is very well-informed. We appreciate the input and the effort taken by the GRRB on this file. I heard a comment earlier about the Guardian program — Fishery Management people can respond to this better than I can, but everyone is aware of NIFI, and the review of other Aboriginal fisheries management programs under that umbrella, and of Guardians program on the west coast. They are talking about a final report sometime this winter. Hopefully there has been some engagement on the Aboriginal fish guardian program between spring and autumn 2018. If that hasn't happened they're behind schedule.

The bill was introduced and passed on to Senate, it's now in Senate Standing Committee. We expect them to review it later in March. Once they are done, if the Committee recommends changes they have to talk with House of Commons about that and work it out because it goes to the Governor General for royal assent. We have to get this done before summer recess in June this year, because once the election is called any legislation being reviewed has to be completed before then and we'd have to go back and start again.

In March 2018 we met and talked about the changes, the change back to HADD, about ecologically significant areas, authorization and permitting schemes, standards and codes of practice, and the public registry. [See presentation for additional provisions] We are hoping to develop a protocol on the requirement to consider adverse effects that decisions may have on the rights of Indigenous peoples.

Once the Bill is enacted, there will be a six-month grace period before the new process for authorizations is enacted. In Winter & Spring 2019, there will be a Discussion paper on regulatory intent for designated projects and permits under the *Fisheries Act*, Engagement on Codes of Practice, Incorporating and Protecting Indigenous Knowledge in DFO Decision-Making processes, Fisheries Management Regulation for replenishing depleted fish stocks (FAM program).

No questions.

10:30AM Break			
---------------	--	--	--





# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

10. 10:50AM WSF Proposals	a) Proposal #1: Arctic Salmon Monitoring	Karen Dunmall, DFO (telephone)	Motion
<p>Karen gave her presentation on past results and a path forward for Arctic Salmon. Community-based monitoring program to monitor year to year abundance trends, and distribution, in the entire Arctic.</p> <p>Comment: Does FJMC provide support to this project?  Response: They hadn't provided any support until last fiscal year. Last year FJMC provided \$15,000 to the Arctic Salmon program, as did RCIA for translations.</p> <p>Comment: Are you applying to them as well for this year?  Response: Yes, I've asked FJMC for a similar amount. SRRB has provided \$10k per year for the last five years, hopefully they will continue that.</p> <p>Comment: The increase in numbers of chum salmon may be bad news if they are competing for food and spawning habitat with Dolly Varden. May we be in future jeopardy as the number of chum increase for pushing out the Dollies?  Response: That's a great question and one we're trying to understand with those specific questions about interactions. First step is to tackle that in freshwater, to see if their spawning habitat overlaps. For competition and exclusion there has to be a limited amount of habitat available — and we know it's limited, because it happens at those groundwater springs. Salmon need slightly warmer water temps than DV, they can't spawn in temps as low as DV can. It's possible that they could situate themselves closer to the springs where it's warmer. Salmon and DV co-exist in rivers in Alaska and that's what they do, DV use colder temps and salmon warmer. There are places DV spawn that are at four degrees, the minimum tolerance of salmon, and one of those is Babbage where we do more intensive monitoring to understand the interaction. Preliminary results of stable isotopes show that in marine environment the salmon and char do not eat the same thing, DV are eating little fish, while salmon are eating zooplankton and jellyfish.</p> <p>Comment: There is considerable pressure on our WSF at the present time because the economy means our revenue is not as high as its been in the past. If GRRB is not able to provide the full \$10k, is there any opportunity to reduce that amount without significantly impacting on project results?  Response: The budget has some funds that are not necessarily 'needed' to keep the monitoring running, including those analyses to address the interaction questions. That's \$4k for diet interaction analyses. If we weren't able to fund that this year, we could keep those samples and look for funding elsewhere, e.g. in the past SAR DFO has funded that — but they gave me the same indication this year about available funds. So that's where the change would occur. We would not be able to answer questions about their diet or where they're coming from then. Worst case we keep those samples in hand and hope to get funding for future analyses.</p> <p>Comment: I was born and raised in traditional Gwich'in fish camp at Tree River. We fished during summer and my observation was one-off catches of Dolly Varden, the odd salmon, there was a great presence of herring later in the season. The primary fish were whitefish, both broad and crookedback, as well as coney and loche. We would often hear stories from my uncle about the whitefish runs that go up to Traviillant Lake area and his method of harvest was just a scoop net. So different fish were very abundant. It's good work you're doing. We need to learn more about our fish.  [see cell phone for texts]</p>			



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

10. 11:25AM WSF Proposals (cont'd)	b) Proposal #2: Whitefish Camp	Emma Hodgson, SFU (telephone)	Motion
<p>Emma gave her presentation on whitefish monitoring in the Mackenzie Delta and Peel River. [refer to presentation]</p> <p>Comment: Thank you for your presentation. It's exciting work that you're doing. Is your work directed towards establishing commercial fish quotas in the Delta?</p> <p>Response: For any kind of quota establishment, the way DFO does it is ideally with a stock assessment. That requires basic information about fish populations and monitoring that through time. We monitor fish size at age and look at whether that changes, and we changed our sampling this year to be more precise in getting catch per unit effort, which can help track through time an index of how catch changes in different areas. The ultimate goal is to establish the population sizes but knowing where fish spend their time, what rivers they grow and overwinter in, is important to knowing how much were caught in different areas — are they the same or mixing, or using different areas and so on. You get a sense if you increase fishing pressure in a particular area will that impact fish everywhere or mostly on one stock.</p> <p>Comment: Your research is not directed towards stock assessment as such, which is some of what DFO wants, but the parameters you're addressing can be used to support commercial quotas.</p> <p>Response: Yes. The information we're learning and measuring will be useful for commercial quota determination. But we are not doing a stock assessment ourselves.</p> <p>Comment: I see \$80k for 'additional expenses for community monitoring and water sampling' — what does that include?</p> <p>Response: \$20k goes directly to harvester compensation, another \$20k is travel for myself and Rachel, we applied to CIMP to renew this funding and including some funding for a field assistant, another \$6k to university employees to process samples at the school, and the water sample analysis is quite expensive and we've asked GRRB for \$2k of that but for the samples in the Arctic Red and Delta it's another \$6k.</p> <p>Comment: Our WSF funds are under pressure because of the markets. If you were not able to get the full amounts requested, is there scalability in terms of achieving the project objectives with slightly reduced funding? Is there opportunity there or is it pretty tight already?</p> <p>Response: There are three pieces: water sampling, ongoing monitoring, and fish sampling higher up in the Peel. There could be wiggle room in the boat rental perhaps but not much if we want to do all of it.</p> <p>Comment: The fish flesh in the Delta is soft.</p> <p>Response: We've heard that fish flesh in the Peel is softer than in Tsiigehtchic,. I'm not sure what the reason is. We ask the monitors to write down any observations about if the fish are different, any weird markings or parasites and so on.</p>			
12:00PM Lunch	Provided		



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

Attendees (afternoon session):

Jozef Carnogursky, GRRB Chair  
 Sarah Jerome, GRRB Member  
 Tracy Davison, GRRB Member  
 Doug Doan, GRRB Member  
 Sam Bullock, GRRB Member  
 Burt Hunt, GRRB Member  
 Margaret Begg, GRRB Member  
 Amy Amos, GRRB Executive Director  
 Édouard Bélanger, GRRB Staff  
 Sarah Lord, GRRB Staff  
 Jordan Norman-Goose, GRRB Staff  
 Janet Boxwell, GRRB Staff  
 Kaytlin Cooper, GRRB Staff  
 Cheryl Greenland, GRRB Staff  
 Jarvis Mitchell, INB Youth  
 Brayden Koe, INB Youth  
 Allen Firth, Nihtat RRC  
 Fanny Greenland, Ehdiitat RRC  
 James Edwards, Ehdiitat RRC  
 Jessi Pascal, Ehdiitat RRC  
 James Andre, Gwichya Gwich'in RRC  
 John Norbert, Gwichya Gwich'in RRC  
 Wilbert Firth, Tetlit RRC  
 Georgina V. Neyando, Tetlit RRC  
 Robert Charlie, Public

1:00PM WSF Proposals (cont'd)	c) Proposal #3: Dall's sheep monitoring	Édouard Bélanger, GRRB	Motion
----------------------------------	---	---------------------------	--------

Ed gave his presentation on Dall's Sheep (Dhiivi) WSF application.

Comment: The cameras take pictures of the animals to tell you about the age structure. But that doesn't tell you about the actual numbers of the population. Is that right? And, is it the helicopter surveys that do the count, and are you comfortable you've covered the entire area for that?

Response: Yes that's right. Talking with community members and data from a previous project with collared sheep shows where the sheep move in the northern Richardsons. We're targeting the Black Mountain sheep, and it seems they stay in this place. A few sheep go back all the way to Fish River or Bear River in the Yukon, but the Black Mountain subpopulation is stable and covered fairly well. The idea with this project is if we get good results in the first 2-3 years we can expand to a larger area.

Comment: You should a photo of working with the HTC in Aklavik. Does the Inuvialuit interest pay anything for the project or pay as much as we do?

Response: No. They were invited for that workshop and ENR paid their wages so that GRRB didn't have to. But we hire Gwich'in participants.



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

Comment: What's decreasing the number of sheep? What causes that?

Response: Good question! We don't know. They are like the caribou a little, where there are multiple reasons from climate change, change in the habitat, predation.

Comment: How many of these sheep are being harvested per year?

Response: We don't know. Amy and I are writing a letter to get an agreement with Inuvialuit to exchange harvest information in the spirit of co-management. We would then exchange information about what Inuvialuit harvest in the ISR, and in return give Inuvialuit information on what Gwich'in harvest in the GSA. On the Gwich'in side there's the harvest survey, I don't know how many sheep were declared in the last few years but it's not many from the Gwich'in side.

Comment: The predators would be wolf, grizzly bear. Disease. Has any bloodwork been done? Have you sampled for body condition?

Response: Not with this one. There's been research by Susan Kutz on parasites to see if muskox could transfer disease or parasites to muskox, and the answer was no. For predators, a few people have told me eagles can take young lambs. Polar bears no, it would be rare to see them in that area.

Comment: Have there been stories of lightning taking out animals, due to being higher up?

Response: I haven't heard any stories about that but I've read about it for other populations of ungulates, so it's possible.

Comment: Sheep can go anyplace on the mountain where a polar bear can't go, and maybe even wolves can't. They can handle the heights. Are they increasing or decreasing?

Response: Between 2014-17 they've been increasing. People are happy about that. I can't say right now how they're doing — people say they see fewer than 15 or 20 years ago, but it seems the population is doing well compared to a few years ago.

Comment: What number were they before the survey started?

Response: Before 1980s, that's a good question. I wouldn't know. All I would think is Gwich'in words about the land, which doesn't have numbers but it talks about people hunting them from McPherson and Aklavik and seeing a bunch of them in the past. They've always been around in the past in fairly good numbers.

Comment: Is there any flexibility in the budget?

Response: If you're short, I'd cut \$5k and seek funding elsewhere for training youth. It's easier to find outside funding for training and hiring community members than for helicopter time.

Comment: Do the sport hunters hunt them?

Response: In the northern Richardsons there are no sport hunters. In the Arctic Red River headwaters, there's some harvest of Dall's sheep within the GSA, in that GOT-01 harvest zone, about 30 every year. That harvesting zone is 80% in the GSA and 10% in the Sahtu. So not in the northern Richardsons but yes in the Mackenzie mountains.



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

11. 1:30PM RRC & Public Session	Open discussion between the RRCs, the public and Board members	Amy Amos, GRRB	Information
<p>Jozef invited the RRCs to speak directly to the Board. He opened the floor.</p> <p><b>Ehdiitat RRC</b></p> <p>Jessi Pascal spoke as assistant coordinator for the ERRC. The ERRC would like to congratulate Jozef on his appointment as chairperson. The ERRC consists of Eddie Greenland, Fanny Greenland (VP), Andrew Charlie, [missed name], Gladys Edwards, Jim Brown, Robert Buckle, and coordinator Eugene Pascal. ERRC has been working with GRRB government and university partners. Annual program with DFO on Rat River char, we welcome work that started on whitefish, with GWNT on water monitoring, muskox with Yukon gov't, sheep with ENR, and we just started with GTC on cabin locations. We administer CHAP funds from ENR and GHAP from EGC — have ordered traps, snares, nets, and gas for our members. There are issues we would like to deal with: beavers, grizzly bears, porcupine caribou. Beavers the IRC offer incentives for harvest — we should have a similar program. We checked to see if we can run implementation funds for this but were not able to. Beavers in GSA were exclusive harvest for members, and last spring's harvest for Inuvialuit may have caused loss of harvest in GSA for members. There is also harvest of sheep in the GSA by Inuvialuit. Each summer there are grizzly bears at our dump, this is a safety concern — they are teaching their young ones this way of life. Even though there are many porcupine caribou they are staying in Alaska and there is little or no harvest. Because of this we would like bluenose caribou harvest tags. We would like to do a community hunt for caribou and the cost would be less if we were able to secure more tags.</p> <p>Comment: With regard to implementation funding, you talked to ENR? [yes, we called them and IGC]. I think the GRRB is getting some money from regional ENR office to supplement implementation funds for GSA and we're using it for wildlife projects and research that we're doing. We hear your comments. It's something we can think about doing — work with the community so that we're accessing money and that it's the priority being used for that money. We can ask them for the same requests too.</p> <p><b>Tetlit RRC</b></p> <p>We like to see the continuation of the fish studies. Encourage it, especially up the Peel. There's a creek below the canyon called Abe's creek. I talked with Karen Dunmall last year on trip over to Aklavik about that site, she's doing genetics work and we encourage her to go up there. Continuation of Dolly Varden in Vittrekwa and Rat River, whitefish we need middle Peel assessment. We're going to work on a map for special management areas, we got areas for fishing, caribou, moose, we'll put it on a map so people know about it. Most people don't know about the second part of our agreement so they find out these by accident. Need an assessment for Cisco herring, and what's the take at Shingle Point the mesh size, and more management of the stock — there used to be thousands and thousands of herring, even in 4.5-inch net you used to catch lots and now no more. We want to see continuation of consultation on commercial use of the caribou because of concerns about selling of the meat, not making the soup — keep making the soup! We need a <i>Wildlife Act</i> update (this will be in house for McPherson residents), <i>Fisheries Act</i> update, and a native user agreement meaning consultation — we'll take it to PCMB. We need a meat handling workshop, after listening to Sarah talk about how to skin a moose right and tanning, we went to a workshop in Yellowknife the CIMP workshop showed the Tlicho doing a boots on the ground project where they went to the calving grounds on the Bathurst and followed the caribou and observed them, some good stuff came out of that . We'll try to get funding for that and when the caribou</p>			



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

show up we can hike along with them. Maybe if we're with them there will be less over harvest and we can encourage good harvesting practices. We need a trapping and hunting workshop, that's in the works. We're acquiring InReach equipment so that anybody who goes out there we can have a few courses in how to use the equipment they can call us in an emergency. CIMP we encourage the continue of the slump work and water quality, what kinds of chemicals are coming out of stony and those other areas. Hunting we've talked about a few times over the years a guiding course, we need one in McPherson. We need a spill response monitor system — we like to do it on our own, DFO you heard them this morning they're in Iqaluit, Rankin, Yellowknife, when we call that spill line there's nobody there and the guy in McPherson is usually on holiday in the summer months. The RRC would rather do it themselves. When you're talking about RRWG and WSWG there's a clause in Appendix C 12.9.1 Tetlit Gwich'in traditionally harvested on the North Slope but I think we can have an observer or something because it's our traditional land.

Comment: Harvest of Dall's sheep in GSA: we'll work with RRC with our harvest survey. Some of the things the Board and staff are talking about are trying to be different in how we approach that harvest survey to encourage more buy-in. Any ideas the RRC has would be good, we're really open to that and being flexible. We're trying to work with Inuvialuit to share data so we get Inuvialuit data for anytime they harvest in the GSA, and share our data for the same scenario. Grizzly bears at the dump is a safety concern so that's ENR, for us we've been involved for Inuvik we were involved with the renewal of the Inuvik town water license we provided advice and encouraged them to consider safety and a bear fence. Bluenose tags for the Board their involvement is at the total number and how it's allocated is a community matter but we hear you and will put it in the notes. Continuation in fish studies we hear you, especially Egg Creek. About maps, it sounds like GTC is doing some mapping work, and Jordan is interested in doing some mapping work with GLUPB to do some GIS work potentially. That might be an opportunity, we will talk with Sue. Cisco and herring — I've been with the Board for 13 years and I've heard it for 13 years, there used to be more herring, but I've also heard that maybe it is the mesh size, maybe people use bigger mesh now. That is something on our research interests list that we share with researchers too. Good to hear the RRC encourages us to continue with the commercial use consultations. The McPherson session had a lot of elders and that was good to see. *Wildlife Act* I heard Lila say she's willing to come give that talk at the communities. *Fisheries Act* update — Sarah and I will talk, **we'll try to get DFO to come give a talk in plain language**. User Agreement is more GTC, meat handing — there's ways we can work with the communities so that you get what you want and GRRB gets what it needs for the harvest survey. We shared InReach with the communities so we're glad you're using it. About guiding, just be careful about expectations because we don't have outfitting zones yet and 8-10 years ago in Aklavik they had a workshop and it created frustration at the community level because people couldn't get a guiding license because there were no outfitting zones yet, even though they were trained. It's a long, complicated process but were working down that path. Good to hear you want to work at the RRC level on things like spill response, that would be ENR I think. Thank you for the comment on traditional harvest at RRWG and WSWG — to go beyond observer status on WSWG? Am I understanding that right? Right now the Chair of RRWG is an observer at WSWG but we can pass on your request. DFO covers the cost.

**Action #19-03: Follow up with Tetlit RRC on getting DFO to come and give a plain-language talk on *Fisheries Act* updates.**





# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

Comment: To clarify — guiding: McPherson is not interested in shooting big game. But we're talking about photo guiding, up into the Rat and those areas, then you can shoot the same animal a hundred times.

Response: there's parts to the *Wildlife Act* that allow for that so that's good.

Comment: Grizzly in the Delta, they're trained from when they're small to go to Aklavik and make a big mess, we have the same problem. And assessment or survey to see how many grizzly are out there in the Delta would be good, because we hear there's lots out there.

Response: Yes, we've heard issues with grizzly bears that some people think we might be protecting too much.

Ed: I've been in contact with RRC coordinator to come to your next meeting and chat, because over the last year there's been a lot of concern. In terms more of the research side of things, we don't know how many there are, and there's been no good survey done in GSA done in the last 30 years or so. We should discuss. It's a long process though to get an abundance of grizzly bear in a scientific way is really expensive and long time. I hope having RRC support I can go to bigger organizations like ENR or SAR and get an idea of the numbers. It's something I will look into in the next year for all over the GSA, not just the Delta.

Comment: What happened to bear fencing? At one point there used to be bear fences for people in the Delta, and I've not heard anything about it after that.

Response: I'm not sure on the status of that program and how much they give out per year.

Comment: In the old days, grizzly bears never come close to camps, even in a bush camp. They don't do that. What's wrong now? They break into everybody's cabins, make a mess, they never used to do that. Something that we can't understand, even elders can't understand it. We never seen that before, them close to town even. It's very funny.

Comment: Wildlife is overprotected. Specifically grizzly bears. When a bear came to our camp last summer, it made me realize, I had six grandchildren out here, watching TV about bears, and people come right up to them and do nothing. That bear come down the trail where we get water — and the kids ran right down there the next day, not even thinking the bear could attack them. We never used to see them near people, even miles out from our camp picking berries. It's so different now. That bear in the Yukon killing a mother and her baby out at camp made me think even more I need to carry a gun out at camp, especially when my grandkids are there.

Comment: People in Aklavik are saying that too, bears never used to destroy camps. And a couple months ago around snowfall a black bear destroyed our tent just a few hours before we went out there. The black bears we don't usually see them — maybe they're moving up north. We went for a boat ride up to the coast and we saw a couple of black bears in the river. I think they're trying to move more north. we should do something now sooner rather than later for the protection of our children and grandchildren.





# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

### Gwichya Gwich'in RRC

About the grizzly: Wilbert's brother Jimmy has a cabin down the Peel, he fixed up that place and over the window he put a big piece of plywood and lots of nails. It looked like that grizzly took a fast run at it and jumped through the window, he was smart! Growing up though you elders know, we never talked about grizzlies, you're not supposed to talk about grizzlies, they're a medicine animal and if you talk about grizzlies they know about it, that's how I was taught. We always keep our camp clean. We have a camp off the highway and never had a bear come around. Last summer I shot one bear out by the water [can't hear] by Tsiigehtchic and I was really disappointed, that black bear never bothered anybody I don't know why they shot it. People say all animals are behaving strangely. That's one of the RRC's concerns is climate change — there's so much happening with slumping, mercury comes out of it and runs into lakes and rivers and affects our fish. The RRC is quite concerned about that. The RRC also looks after CHAP and GHAP. This fall there were lots of wolves in the community and one of the elders his dogs all got killed by wolves. The RRCs are pretty busy. Just an example here's the minutes of the meeting and all the agenda items — thanks to Robert, and Sarah for doing the minutes. I don't know how we're going to get through all of the action items without a regional coordinator. We need GTC and others to help us on that. Here's a few things for the GRRB taken out of this action items list: SAR category meanings for harvesters, assist RRC developing a study on snipes, at the community level the RRC can do that counting themselves, but finding the money is harder. Commercial use consultation I like to thank the GRRB for doing that. We talk about different options for how to get more information about them, maybe do a door to door survey. Maybe we can find funding for a regional workshop and thanks to GRRB for taking the lead on that. Another thing was decline of songbirds, there's hardly any songbirds anymore. We want the GRRB to do a study on the decline of songbirds. I think it's the decline of all the birds, period, it's not like long ago. I think Tsiigehtchic but probably everybody knows we never had caribou this fall and it's been a few years. Up the Red the Arctic Red River Outfitters gift us tons of meat, moose and sheep. They brought some to McPherson and Aklavik too. We really thank them for doing that — they're paying for everything.

Comment: One of our council members (ERRC) said that GRRB is in charge of a regional coordinator for the RRCs.

Response: That position has been going on for a long time. We're trying to find ways to work with the RRCs. Funding is short. We're trying to work with tribal council to establish something, we're trying to work with them as well. We'll keep working on it.

Robert Charlie: I want to thank everyone who's at the meeting. I know you're all here because you have concerns about the resources. Back in 1992 the claim was based on lands and resources, the money was secondary. Lots of issues are still the same as back then when I was Chair, and will keep being under discussion. Times are changing. Not so many people living out on the land anymore. Elders in the room remember spend time on the land. Back before the people on the land had dog teams with them, lots of kids, so the noise may have deterred animals from coming in to the camp. Porcupine caribou — times are changing, every fall — and we've had this discussion over and over and over — the caribou start migrating back and even though there's no snow, people are out there with snow machines hunting them. The caribou keep going, they reach the Dempster and the same thing happens again. So of course they turn back. We've been saying that for years. People don't change. We have to find a way of changing peoples' ways. If you're not hungry, let the caribou come and they'll come all the way back into Stony, Caribou River Area, Caribou Lake and that's where caribou winter and start migrating back the summer. We talk about harvest and taking bulls, and people take bulls or a combination because people like the young ones on their way back, so people are not listening. If that same practice continues we're



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

not going to have caribou. We need to have an education campaign so that when caribou come back we're ready. I don't think people are hungry, because there's other resources: moose, fish, barter with Inuvialuit. There's other means of getting carbon and other resources we can depend on until caribou come back into the region. We talk about people using the resources within the GSA and I travel on the highway and see all kinds of trails for people cutting wood. I don't know if they have permits or not. In Inuvik I see people coming in with loads of wood, do they have permits? On the dumpster there's an offset for how close to the road you can cut but I see parts where now it's almost bare. If you cut all that wood it's going to eventually stump. It's a good berrypicking area. We need to encourage ENR to really do patrols. I don't think we have any authority for enforcement but we as individuals don't want to confront anybody — it can start a confrontation. We need to work with GTC and the Board. I want to thank the Board and GRRB staff for coming to Regional RRC and providing information, even though all RRCs weren't there we still got information about the work they're doing. The appointment process we've been struggling for years. We've sent joint letters in the past from all of the co management boards and nothing has changed so we need a new strategy to get that to change. We listened today to presentations on research and I really discourage the Board from cutting any money from the Youth initiative. A mentorship or training program is good to get the youth out there to see the land that their ancestors worked on. The other opportunity for the DGOs is to work with RRCs and GRRB to help fund the youth employment. I didn't want to ask questions during the presentation but Gabe's presentation, I encourage everyone to get copies of the questions and respond. It sounds like they're building the region and there's an opportunity to have input on how you think this should be set up. Having a presence in Inuvik at the director level or area manager level, we should push for that. Over the years we've seen them move positions from here to Yellowknife, then it's a shared position between here and Iqaluit, which doesn't help us when we need a response quickly. And other positions at this office too. We talk about having our own people in those positions, if there's an opportunity for training and mentorship we should do that. The Rat char I'm very concerned that we're making decisions without having adequate information, and having the genetic analysis of all the samples that we have will allow us to make a more informed decision on the allocation if it comes down to that. So really getting after DFO to provide that information. If they have to contract that out they should do that. They're holding three years' worth of samples and that's not acceptable. Commercial use, good job and keep up on that one. There's some interest in that, it's been for many years. Harvest study and collection of information. I don't know if other boards are going through the same information or not, but maybe somebody has a success story for that because I think it's important to get really accurate information. Muskox — always there, I think Tsiigehtchic has its own herd now. I commend their Board on all its work, it's very busy now, good staff and good work, keep doing it.

Youth: I'd like to make a recommendation for Janet's YWEP: one thing to look into is water level around lakes in Peel River area. Since I was growing up I notice the water is decreasing. Lots of willows, plants we don't use growing over the years. Looking into that and seeing if trees and willows are taking up too much water from the soil. To me, seeing the Peel River full as a kid and seeing the empty levels this low, six feet, kind of affects me because twenty years down the line that river is not there anymore.



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

### **Tetlit RRC**

Wanting to see more involvement with the RRCs but also the many Boards we work with, come up at different times and do a presentation over the radio and do a workshop to explain what work you do with the RRCs. ARI give out licenses for people to do research but the researchers don't give talks in the community about what they're doing. I want to thank you for the good meeting, it's always organized.

### **Nihtat RRC**

Not much to say. No issues. Good job, good communication with Nihtat RRC and GRRB. Good working relationship.

Comment: We always said when those researchers apply for licenses to study, we want them to come back and show us their presentation. Not just send it to us. We can read it but if we have questions how are we supposed to get answers? We want them to come back with what they've studied, then we can ask them directly. We ask for it every time but they say there's no money for it.

Comment (Sarah Jerome): About Porcupine caribou, I'd like to put this to the RRCs especially Tsiig and McPherson, we've been talking about the caribou going back to Alaska. Some of us are so used to harvesting caribou are not getting them anymore. Whenever we ask ENR to do patrols they say no we can't. Why are we relying on them? Why can't RRCs get together and do it ourselves? Is that possible? Discuss in your meetings. At the community level the elders are suffering for not getting caribou. When your child comes to you and says they want drymeat, they're not going to take your muskox, it's not their food. We need to get our voices back and start talking about what we need to do instead of depending on government departments telling us no we can't do this. We've been living on this land all our life, we have our own laws, we know how to conserve, and now we [REFER TO RECORDING] It's our land, it's our caribou, we need to do something. You have the power, you need to get together and say okay, this is what we're going to do with it.

Comment: this weekend we're having ABEKS in Aklavik. I would bring that up. I hope the RRC in Aklavik will say something. I think Joe will be there too. We know the problem is starting from there, It's Inuvialuit area too. HTC is going to be there so they're going to hear. Hopefully something comes out of that.

Comment: At the last RRC meeting for TRRC, they give direction for letter to get price quote to get a plane to go look for caribou. We haven't got a response back yet but that's what we're doing.

Comment: I really appreciated that you bring youth to these meetings because they are the future. Another problem that we encounter in our communities is income support. A lot of people rely on that. I think like what Sarah said, we have to get our voices back, tell the government no, and generations today are very weak compared to people from long ago. We need to keep remembering that, and keep the elders and youth close together to keep passing that on. For Porcupine caribou that has been a problem in our community. Three years back they made an ice road up to the coast and a whole bunch of vehicles went up to harvest and share with the community — but the thing is that's not right, that's not how we used to do it. I lived a life where you should use a boat and shoot it, not a four-wheeler or skidoo, because the sound scares them off. Maybe a regulation to not use four-wheeler or skidoo in the mountains for two years so they can come get their ground back.



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

2:30PM Break			
12. Finance Committee	a) Finance Committee Report and Recommendations	Amy Amos	Information
<p>Amy discussed the update and recommendations from the finance committee. Refer to written report for details. The terms of reference for the finance committee is for up to three members. Board discussed how to manage appointments and expiries to the finance committee, including three-year term with a new member added each spring to ensure continuity. An annual review in the spring, and flexible term lengths, would allow for cycling of Board members without having to keep track of exact term dates.</p> <p>Another item was discussed of making expiring Board members be 'ex officio' members to prevent loss of knowledge and continuity. Would this generate concern from our funders if we were paying people as 'consultants' and they were not Board members. It's really beneficial to have current Board members participating in the Finance Committee too. Are there ways we can stay in touch with past Board members to ask their advice.</p> <p>Amy reviewed the requested WSF deferments.</p> <p>Discussion of auditor for financial statements. Auditor used since 2004 has said they need to raise their rates significantly. This auditor had made errors in wage accruals last year which caused problems; resulted in temporary deficit until that was rectified. Finance committee suggests putting out a public advertisement inviting cost estimate bids from the marketplace. We would invite our present auditor to bid on this as well. Marketplace will give indication of whether we're paying the right amount, and perhaps getting the right level of service. This should have been initiated last fall, so maybe we stay where we are this year. But we should plan for upcoming years. General discussion of timing and deadlines for reporting statements.</p> <p>Update to WSF statement: it was down in October 2018 and market has dropped since then. If you do \$60k withdrawal now you're banking on market recovery next year. Have to look through WSF proposals with a very careful eye to see how much we really want to support each project. The fund has a balance of fixed income investments to generate barely 2% but it protects us against loss; the equities that generate revenue are down significantly this past year.</p>			
<p><b>Motion to approve the requested deferred revenue as presented in the table under Tab 12 of the meeting binder.</b></p>		<p>Motion</p>	
Moved by: Sarah	Seconded by: Doug	GRRB 19-09	
All in favour.	Motion Carried.		
<p><b>Motion to appoint Paul TO chartered accountant as GRRB's auditor for the 2018-19 fiscal year financial statements.</b></p>		<p>Motion</p>	
Moved by: Doug	Seconded by: Burt	GRRB 19-10	
All in favour.	Motion Carried.		
<p><b>Motion to change the name of the Training Fund to the Administration Fund and allow the Executive Director to manage for office administration and staff training expenses.</b></p>		<p>Motion</p>	
Moved by: Burt	Seconded by: Sam	GRRB 19-11	
All in favour.	Motion Carried.		
<p><b>Action #19-04: define guidelines for the Administration Fund with regards to Board training and accessing the funds.</b></p>			



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

<p><b>Motion (recognizing that Burt Hunt and Doug Doan are leaving) to appoint Sam Bullock and Sarah Jerome to the Finance Committee for the upcoming 2019-20 fiscal year.</b></p>		<p>Motion <b>GRRB 19-12</b></p>	
Moved by: Margaret	Seconded by: Tracey		
All in favour.	Motion Carried.		
<p><b>Action #19-05: review Finance Committee appointment manually.</b></p>			
14. 3:45 PM Safety Policy	<p>a) Review any amendments to Safety Policy (no amendments to review) b) Update on any safety incidents (no incidents to review)</p>	Amy Amos, GRRB	Information
<p>Amy reviewed the Safety update. The Board is the ultimate employer, and it's important for you to understand any safety incidents and that you're informed about those types of things. This will be an ongoing agenda item for the February meeting. Under Policy there's no recommended amendments to the Policy, but we have an operational document that identifies specific tasks that the staff do on a day to day basis, the Job Risk Analysis document. We have adopted that at the staff level. Between September and February, we had no incidents. We did have a Skidoo break down in the field a few weeks ago but everything was fine and I don't know what we could have done to avoid it.</p>			
15. 4:00PM Operating Procedures	Review and approval of policy amendments (changes to group benefits plan)	Amy Amos	Discussion/ <b>Motion</b>
<p>Amy recommends one update to the Operating Procedures Manual. I mentioned this to the Board in the past on a teleconference. The current Manual has policy things intermixed with operational things. I am trying to find time to go through it and propose amendments to the Board. We have one amendment to how we pay for the benefits plan for staff. We switched providers, and the Policy says the Board covers 75% and staff pay 25%, but as we transitioned we got advice from the provider for the staff to pay 100% of their long-term disability insurance because if the staff ever needs to use it, if GRRB pays any portion of that then the staff would have to pay income tax on any payout. The staff attempted to get additional coverage to cover the difference but they were declined. So, the staff have requested they pay 100% of the LTD and GRRB pays the rest of the benefit package, which is actually a lower cost for the Board.</p>			
<p><b>Motion to approve the health benefit policy for staff as presented in the briefing note under Tab 15 (employee 100% of long-term disability insurance benefit, GRRB pays the remainder)</b></p>		<p>Motion <b>GRRB 19-13</b></p>	
Moved by: Sam	Seconded by: Sarah		
All in favour.	Motion Carried.		
<p>4:00PM Adjourn for the day</p>			



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

<b>DAY 3 Wednesday, February 7, 2019</b>			
Anglican Church Community Hall, Inuvik			
<i>Item</i>	<i>Action</i>	<i>Led by</i>	<i>Expected outcomes</i>
8:30 AM Arrival	Coffee and tea provided		
<p>Call to Order: 9:00am (Jozef)</p> <p>Attendees:            Jozef Carnogursky, GRRB Chair            Margaret Begg, GRRB Member            Doug Doan, GRRB Member            Sarah Jerome, GRRB Member            Sam Bullock, GRRB Member            Tracy Davison, GRRB Member            Burt Hunt, GRRB Member            Amy Amos, GRRB Executive Director            Édouard Bélanger, GRRB Staff            Sarah Lord, GRRB Staff            Jordan Norman-Goose, GRRB Staff            Janet Boxwell, GRRB Staff            Kaytlin Cooper, GRRB Staff            Robert Charlie, Public            Jeremy Brammer, Environment &amp; Climate Change Canada            John Norbert, Gwichya Gwich'in RRC            Jessi Pascal, Ehdiiat RRC            James Andre, Gwichya Gwich'in RRC            Jim Brown, Ehdiiat RRC            Heather Ashthorn, ABEKS            Wilbert Firth, Tetlit RRC</p>			
10. 9:00 AM WSF Proposals	f) Proposal #6: Muskrat monitoring	Jeremy Brammer, ECCC	<b>Motion</b>
<p>Jeremy gave his presentation on results so far from the muskrat monitoring program and plans for next year. [Refer to his presentation in the meeting binder]</p> <p>Comment: In the plane, how are you recording the number of pushups?            Response: Either a camera in the plane, or just count out the back with a clicker. A lot of the lakes are small so you can do it fast.</p> <p>Comment: The reason I ask is we take youth out from Aklavik and didn't know if they specifically counted any pushups. Before that, one of the participants pulled up her cellphone and was able to know the locations through satellite.            Response: I know some satellites have images with pixels that are a good size, but you have to pay for access to them.</p>			





# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

Comment: What do you do with the muskrat carcasses?

Response: We give them for dog food. Nobody would eat them afterwards, they're not safe for human consumption afterwards because they've been sitting in the lab.

Comment: In your aerial surveillance, you mentioned the IRC is in collaboration now. Just recently there was a CBC news clip that showed in Tuk or Inuvik drone pilots had been trained. Have you considered using drone technology?

Response: I've talked a lot with drone people and right now the rule is you have to be able to see the drone, so that's about a 1km radius. And for our surveys we want to cover hundreds of kilometers. If they change the rules so we can do it like the military does where the drones can go much farther, then we could, but right now there's only a 4 or 5 day window where the snow conditions are right to do the survey so we have to be able to work fast and cover a lot of area quickly.

Comment: Those old notes from back in '48 did they mention anything about predation or disease, or anything to explain why the density was so high back then? Water quality or something? Because the decline is so drastic.

Response: Speculation at this stage as I read more, but those old reports were not foreseeing decline, so they're talking about year to year changes that could be substantial and speculate on the causes for that. They do mention predators and can see when a predator takes an animal but they can't know for all of them. There was speculation disease might play a role, and they said they sent off samples for investigation but no disease report came back afterwards. One of the big changes I notice is going back to those same places, 2 of those 10 major lakes they were studying have drained out so no muskrat there anymore. That's something that stood out, those hydrological changes. People talk about riverbanks eroding and lakes splitting out into channels. One way to look at that is satellite images going back to 1984. If you look at a lake and the area around it is wet, seasonally wet, or just land. And the amount of wet and seasonally wet area around a lake seems to have increased.

Comment: We know something is happening with climate change. We know there's a lot of trapped methane in the permafrost. Would you be looking at the correlation between the density of methane gas in the water and how it affects populations?

Response: I've been thinking about that but not sure how to answer it yet. We see lots of air holes and then water floods out the pushups we try to live trap in we can't. Those air holes are often from methane gas. I've asked trappers and I hear different things. We need to get some old data about how much air holes there used to be, and see if it's changed.

Comment: In the mid 60s the oil companies came in and criss-crossed the Delta all over the place. The elders said something like this would happen, that it was going to affect the animals on the land. Do you think that has impacted the decrease in the muskrat population?

Response: A lot of old reports were written to try to answer that question, impact assessments focused on muskrat. For me the answer is I don't know. That type of local development on the small scale, lake by lake I haven't looked at. It plays a role in hydrology for sure — the old reports they did seismic testing and then looked to see if it affected muskrats and the conclusion was it didn't, but on a larger scale I don't know.

Comment: Do we know anything about muskrats versus beavers? The theory is beaver populations may have increased or moved, do you think that is true, is there old data?

Response: There's controversy in the beaver history. There was a beaver sanctuary in the Delta from the late 30s through the 50s, and that was also the time of greatest muskrat production. In the late 50s they closed



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

the beaver sanctuary and then beavers were open with a quota per trapline, and beaver numbers declined. There were some relocation attempts that were unpopular, trying to move beavers around in that sanctuary period. Now we're seeing more beavers again and the research on beaver-muskrat interactions in other areas is mixed: Sometimes they live together, share lodges and help each other, beavers provide more stability by damming outflows which is good for muskrat, but beaver also compete for food with muskrat by eating the same food. At the Northern end of their range beavers switch from eating trees to willow and alder because the big trees aren't available. When they live together muskrats will go out and if they see a predator they'll go back and warn the beaver, but it's like a roommate situation too where they're eating each other's food. It's a fertile ground for work. We have. New researcher coming in and put some effort in that direction to map where beavers are and their activity. We have reports from 60 to 72 the area by Jackfish Creek they went and counted every active beaver lodge, we can go back and see how it is now how much the density has changed. Comments: Way back when there were still lots of rats in the Delta, they took beavers from Travallant Lake and put them in the Delta. You don't play around with nature. You should ask those guys why they put those beavers in the Delta. Since that time we've been having trouble. There are good areas like East Branch, [?] Creek, the best place for rats now they're all dried out. I kind of blame the beaver but maybe it's something else too. At one time every 10 miles in the Delta somebody lived. White guys too, all mixed up. There were enough rats to kill how much rats you wanted to kill. Today it's way different. There's nobody out there because there's no rats. [John Norbert]

Comment: Our WSF is under some pressure. If we weren't able to do the full amount requested, is there any flexibility to reduce a bit without impacting results.

Response: I think so. A lot of other funding agencies have really been looking to support the on the land community activities at Jackfish or elsewhere. Flexibility could come from external agencies providing more, or also reducing the sample of those aerial surveys in WSF. We're at 250 lakes now and we could instead set some lakes visit every year, other lakes every second year, and save some costs that way.

Comment: We discussed in the past the idea of doing transects for predator traps in the winter to estimate fluctuation in predation. Do you still plan that?

Response: It's in mind but not in any of my project plans right now. I like it because it links really well to what a trapper would do anyway, when you go to your line you look at what's running around, so you could get funding to support people going out to their traplines anyway so it's a natural way to record observation of all these predators. But it's not something to do partially, we'd have to fully commit to it to do it right. I fully committed to doing this other part right instead [Dzan Camp]. But it's on my mind for the future. It was done in Old Crow with Parks Canada back in 2000 - 2005 and it would be good to do again.

Comment: Hydrological information is really important. The cumulative impacts — we talk about the Bennet Dam in the past, the amount of water in the Delta, and around that time water levels started decreasing. We're not having the same situation with spring melt and flooding of the whole Delta anymore, that keeps the lakes replenished. Climate is changing. RRC meeting the McPherson, people talk about Deep Water Lake and its' not being replenished — it's an issue. Predators appear to not be much of an impact but as John mention, a lot of people used to be on the land and people would be out trapping after Easter, and when the lakes opened up they'd be out there shooting, people talked about bringing in thousands of muskrats every night. There were human impacts back then and muskrats still were able to survive and replenish. Way back when there was a lot of muskrats and not so many people, would they naturally die off, would there be competition for food between muskrats that would affect numbers?

Response: It brings up a number of points. The hydrology changes might make animals more open to predators. The number of predators could be the same but maybe there are key times of the year (spring and fall) they could be more vulnerable now than before. How much of an impact I'm not sure. Muskrats are



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

eaten by predators everywhere they are able to reproduce and survive, could this explain that long term decline I'm not sure.

Comment: A lot of the elders blame the Bennet Dam. Mackenzie River used to be way higher. Brought up on Tsiigehtchic and when the Mackenzie moved it was like thunder, the ice shooting up in the air. It's no lie that anymore. Now they're talking about building another dam — what kind of effect is that going to have? One of the elders told me in 50 years the Mackenzie will be dry. Even ?? years ago the barges couldn't come because no water. In 1980 spring I went out and we'd get over 100 rats a night on Traviillant River. Now you get 100 beavers a night! We talked about overflow — that TV show in Yukon, that guy and his woman they just walk, no sled or dogs. He cut open a beaver house and found muskrat in it. That's where they live. Erosion and slumping on the lakes, maybe those muskrat are getting caught in there too because that's where they have houses. When I was four years old my dad took me out to go trapping and hunt beavers. And I never ever saw beaver having a house on the river or in a creek, it's always on a lake right beside a creek. And now they're all over. They're building lots around Tuk too. They don't eat beaver. I was talking with our survey — I'm with Arctic Borderlands — and those boys in Tuk say they can get 12 to 14 muskrats out of one pushup. That's lots! It's all going that way. I don't know if it's better water, more water, better food, or what's going on. It's good to find that stuff out. All you're talking about is the Delta and I'm curious about the Preserve. I got a spring camp out there and I used to go to one lake out there, I went there one spring but you can't go there now because of willow, I used to go with dogs as you can't go with skidoo. One lake you could get a thousand rats. I don't go back there now, In the Preserve the Sunny Lake area, Traviillant Lake back there are there no muskrats back there too? Are there plans to go into the Preserve and into this other are?

Response: The hydrology is the story in other Arctic rivers as well that flows are changing. I'm not an expert but climate change seems to be changing when water comes and how much. That's reported from Russia, other parts of Canada. The Delta here is not unique in that story. There's a history of dams but there's also the climate change. The different areas the short answer is no, I haven't been out to the preserve but time and money hasn't allowed for it yet. It would be interesting to hear how things would look there. I don't have historical reports to compare to for that area either. It's a good thing to be aware of for the future but it would take more time.

Comment: At one time the ocean was right up at Point Separation. All the low grounds here was in water. I was talking to an elder and quite a while back he said that's going to come back some day. I believe it.

10. 9:50AM WSF Proposals (cont'd)

e) Proposal #5: Arctic Borderlands community monitoring

Heather Ashthorn, ABEKS

**Motion**

Heather gave her presentation on ABEKS [refer to presentation for details].

Comment: [refer to recording]

Response: We have a data management contract. It's tricky because we don't know how many requests are going to come in, and it takes some time. One thing to discuss at the Gathering is a different structure for how much is going to be pulled out. The IGC and GRRB have the 'key' to that database to pull out whatever they need. This is at arms-arms-length so everyone has easy access. This should be a simple piece that does not require additional fund.

Comment: There's been a lot of concern about grizzly bear in the GSA. ABEKS probably has data about grizzly bear trends. How can we take this data and transform it into trends over time for the four communities and get that indexed. How could you get that indexed?



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

Response: The IGC last week asked for access to the database so they could prepare for the meeting next week. There's misunderstanding about what the survey does. It's an easy one to remind people: it's not a harvest survey, but there is information provided by harvesters. Those answers to questions about are you seeing more, less, or the same are asked to harvesters. If I create a graph of trends over time for what Aklavik or Inuvik are saying about grizzly bears. [Heather showed an additional slide for this question 2011-2018 in various communities]

Comment: The predictions of the elders are coming true. What they said to us before, the TK people who passed that on to us, now researchers are coming in to confirm that to us. I still speak the language and go on CBC to share that information, can I use this information on CBC to make people aware of what's going on?

Response: I think that's a question for the ABEKS Board.

Comment: The fact that you're including the youth in this research is good. They need to take responsibility for conserving our wildlife. Our elders tell us we need to conserve not only the land but the wildlife, birds, fish, for future generations.

Response: There's a lot more we can do to involve youth. I have archival records from Environment Canada of old ABEKS material that was going into cold storage, and it's just in my living room now. It would be an incredible project for youth to go through that material.

Comment: The Heritage department would be able to take that and put it into storage for us. Our history is an oral history, so whenever we can get written documents Sharon Snowshoe would take it in for us.

Comment: In 1986 I worked on the 5th floor of the Scotia Centre in Yellowknife with ENR. For many years that department was considered a think tank and was respected worldwide as one of the best wildlife organizations. During that period TK was still equated as folklore, and very little of it was actually used in studies — it was collected but it wasn't used. It's encouraging to see that some of those barriers are being removed and you're incorporating that with your data set.

Comment: When we were down in Ottawa making presentations to various groups everybody was very impressed. What Sarah was saying about the elders is a good example: when caribou were declining all over Canada, they started putting all kinds of regulations on the Porcupine caribou. And as president of ABEKS I said they can't be, over 10 years the herd has stayed the same, I argued with them and still the Yukon government went ahead and made all those regulations. Mike Svoboda phoned me and said did you hear the count, Yukon gov't estimate there were 80 thousand and the count is 125 thousand and counting. It was 179 thousand and they thought 80 thousand. It shows that our TK over the years was right.

10:30AM Presentation		Amy Amos, GRRB	
----------------------	--	-------------------	--

Amy presented gifts to Board members whose terms are expiring over the next 3 months.

10:35AM This closes the public session of the meeting.

Thanks to everyone for coming out and providing input. We look forward to working with you moving forward.



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

16. 11:00 AM In-Camera	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Board &amp; Staff session</li> <li>GRRB members to discuss any in-camera items, if needed</li> </ul>	Board & staff only GRRB members only	Motion
<b>Motion to go in camera at the February 2019 Board meeting at 11:00AM</b>			Motion GRRB 19-14
Moved by: Sarah	Seconded by: Margaret		
All in favour.	Motion Carried.		
<b>Motion to come out of camera at the February 2019 Board meeting at 2:58PM</b>			Motion GRRB 19-15
Moved by: Burt	Seconded by: Jozef		
All in favour.	Motion Carried.		
17. 3:00PM Actions & motions	Record actions and motions from in-camera discussions	GRRB Members	Motion
<b>Motion to approve the 2019-2020 operating budget and workplan for the GRRB, as presented.</b>			Motion GRRB 19-16
Moved by: Doug	Seconded by: Sarah		
All in favour.	Motion Carried.		
<b>Motion to appoint Robert Charlie as the Rat River Working Group Chairperson. Sarah Jerome and Margaret Begg declared conflict.</b>			Motion GRRB 19-17
Moved by: Tracey	Seconded by: Burt		
All in favour.	Motion Carried.		
<b>Motion to approve the Wildlife Studies fund allocations as described in "GRRB approved column" of the 2019-20 allocation table for a total of \$46,000</b>			Motion GRRB 19-18
Moved by: Doug	Seconded by: Sarah		
All in favour.	Motion Carried.		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direction - For the Rat River Working Group (RRWG) allocation presentation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Support up to 5% of the total population estimate.</li> <li>Let the communities lead the discussions.</li> <li>Only provide concerns with doubling the harvest, if needed.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Direction - For the ENR legislation review process <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Jozef and Amy to approach GTC to take lead on consultation and process concerns</li> <li>GRRB to focus on technical concerns</li> <li>Proceed with working with the other RRB's on a joint submission to the Standing Committee</li> <li>Ron can continue to take the lead on this file</li> </ul> </li> <li>Direction – For beaver research priority <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bring up at next GRRB priority workshop (2023)</li> <li>Suggest ERRC talk directly to the regional ENR office. They might be able to get some funding directly through them.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>			



# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

## AGENDA

**Action #19-06:** See upcoming meeting document (confirmed attendance), Amy and staff to work with them to coordinate their participation.

**Action #19-07:** Amy to work on liability concerns with Directors insurance, hiring people through the RRCs and renting equipment off people. Report back to the GRRB Board at a future meeting.

**Action #19-08:** Amy to communicate concerns with ABEKS to them (unclear how money will be used under data analysis).

18. 3:30PM Adjournment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Set fall meeting date</li> <li>• Motion to adjourn</li> <li>• No supper provided at the venue</li> </ul>	Jozef Carnogursky	Decision  <b>Motion</b>
Fall meeting date set for Sept 10-11, 2019 in Tsiigehtchic.			
<b>Motion to adjourn the February 2019 GRRB Board meeting at 3:40PM on February 7, 2019.</b>		Motion	
Moved by: Doug	Seconded by: Burt	<b>GRRB 19-19</b>	
All in favour.	Motion Carried.		