



Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board

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

GRRB TELECONFERENCE MINUTES

December 11, 2019 1:00 PM MST (NT) / 12:00 PM PST (YT)

Attendance

- GRRB office staff: Amy Amos
- On call: Burt Hunt (Member) Sam Bullock (Member), Doug Doan (Member), William Koe (Member), Roger Fraser (Alternate), Edouard Belanger (Staff)
- Regrets: Jozef Carnogursky (Board Chair), Margaret Begg (Member), Tracy Davison (Alternate)

1. Call to order

Amy Amos recognized quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:07 PM. Board discussed selection of a meeting chair

Motion # GRRB 2019-56	To appoint Burt Hunt as the meeting chair for the December 11, 2019 special meeting
Moved by: William Koe	Seconded by: Doug Doan
All in favour.	Motion carried.

Burt Hunt welcomed everyone. It was noted that conflict of interest will be declared as it arises.

2. Agenda

Motion # GRRB 2019-57	To approve the December 11, 2019 teleconference agenda
Moved by: Roger Fraser	Seconded by: Doug Doan
All in favour.	Motion carried.

3. ACCWM Status

This special meeting was called to discuss the proposed herd status for Bluenose-west, Bluenose-east and Cape Bathurst herds. Doug Doan and Edouard Belanger were the GRRB delegates at the ACCWM meeting, which was held in Inuvik from Nov 19-21, 2019. They led the discussion.

a) Bluenose-west herd status

The proposed herd status from the ACCWM meeting is orange. This is the same as the previous year. No concerns were noted. There was consensus amongst the member board delegates at the ACCWM meeting.

Motion # GRRB 2019-58	To support the orange herd status for Bluenose-west caribou herd for the 2020 harvest year.
Moved by: Doug Doan	Seconded by: William Koe
All in favour.	Motion carried.

b) Bluenose-east herd status

The proposed herd status from the ACCWM meeting is red. This is the same as the previous year. No concerns were noted. There was consensus amongst the member board delegates at the ACCWM meeting.

Motion # GRRB 2019-59

To support the red herd status for Bluenose-east caribou herd for the 2020 harvest year.

Moved by: William Koe
All in favour.

Seconded by: Doug Doan
Motion carried.

c) Cape Bathurst herd status

The proposed herd status from the ACCWM meeting is yellow. This herd has been classified as red status in previous years. The herd is currently closed to hunting under the NWT Wildlife Act. Yellow status would indicate the herd is increasing in population. There was not clear consensus amongst the member board delegates at the ACCWM meeting in November 2019. This herd status was discussed in detail by the GRRB members on this call.

The science is the same as last year. It does show an increase in herd size. In the monitoring table (in the meeting binder), the herd estimate is 4,521 animals +/- 875 animals. The lower of the confidence interval is below 4,000 animals. The upper threshold for a red status is 4,000 animals. These thresholds were blurred in the management plan intentionally to allow for other indicator information to be considered in status decisions. The community information from Tuktoyaktuk indicates a possible increase in number and in body condition. However, information from Inuvik did not indicate an increase in number or body condition, and in fact some information presented indicated a decrease in caribou seen and a possibly deterioration in animal's body condition in springtime this past year. There was not a lot of discussion at the ACCWM meeting. It was late in the day when this topic was presented. The member boards indicated that since the Inuvialuit and Gwich'in were the primary harvesters the WMAC (NWT) and GRRB should lead in addressing status. Following review of both science and community data GRRB advocated that since there was no significant changes from one-year past, we would support a continuation of red status. The WMAC (NWT) delegation expressed support for a yellow status at the meeting. The GRRB delegation expressed concerns but ultimately agreed to the recommendation knowing that each member board needed to go back to their respective boards. WMAC (NWT) has informally expressed interest to meet with the GRRB. No formal meeting requests were received to date. All boards have agreed to share their status decisions with the ACCWM by January 13, 2020. If there is consensus each member board will write a letter to the Minister. If no consensus, the boards agreed to have a teleconference the week of January 13th to attempt to reach consensus. Wek'eezhii RRB has formally shared their support for all three recommended statuses including a yellow status for Cape Bathurst (by email on December 11, 2019).

The GRRB discussed the information presented. Concerns were raised about how we will deal with management actions such as harvest numbers if we move from a red to yellow status. Concerns that 4,000 animals is not a lot of caribou. Concerns were raised that if hunting is opened it may be more challenging to close it later. Concerns regarding enforcement were also raised. Importance for the community data was acknowledged. It was decided it was not conclusive and not considered a

consistent picture at this time. The GRRB Board would want to see more new information that supports an increase in herd size before feeling comfortable changing statuses. It would be helpful if there was another population survey during the summer of 2020. The GRRB would feel more comfortable if the groups began discussions on tags, total allowable harvest and hunting processes prior to changing the herd status. The GRRB Board felt pressured to make a decision without sufficient supporting information. In the end, the GRRB Board agreed to take a precautionary approach and support a red herd status. This means there will not be consensus on this herd status. An ACCWM call will be arranged for the week of January 13th. Jozef Carnogursky, our Chair, will likely be the participant on that call. Staff and the delegates that attended the November 2019 meeting will brief him on this topic.

Motion # GRRB 2019-60	To support the red herd status for Cape Bathurst caribou herd for the 2020 harvest year.
Moved by: Sam Bullock	Seconded by: Doug Doan
All in favour.	Motion carried.

Actions:

- Amy Amos, Edouard Belanger and Doug Doan to brief Jozef Carnogursky prior to a January 13th ACCWM call on the Cape Bathurst discussions.
- Amy Amos and Edouard Belanger to draft letter to the ACCWM indicating the Board’s decision for the three herd statuses. Send this to the ACCWM by January 13th.

4. Adjournment

Motion # GRRB 2019-61	To adjourn the December 11, 2019 teleconference meeting at 2:18 PM
Moved by: William Koe	Seconded by:
All in favour.	Motion carried.