



## Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board

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### **GRRB MEETING MINUTES** **May 27, 2020 1:30 PM MST (NT)**

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#### **Attendance**

- Jozef Carnogursky (Chair), Burt Hunt (Member) Sam Bullock (Member), Doug Doan (Member), William Koe (Member), Tracy Davison (Alternate), Amy Amos (Staff), Cheryl Greenland (Staff), Édouard Bélanger (Staff), Kaytlin Cooper (Staff), Sarah Lord (Staff)
- Regrets: Margaret Begg (Member)

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#### **1. Call to order**

Jozef Carnogursky recognized quorum and called the meeting to order at 1:36 PM. This meeting is hosted by video and teleconferencing. Jozef welcomed everyone to this new norm for meetings given covid-19. It was noted that conflict of interest will be declared as it arises. Amy acknowledged that we have a new staff member (Steve Andersen, Stakeholder Liaison) that is currently working from home in Alberta with plans to relocate once travel restrictions ease and the GRRB office reopens.

#### **2. Agenda**

Meeting will begin with agenda item #8a

<b>Motion # GRRB 2020-14</b>	<b>To approve the May 27, 2020 teleconference agenda</b>
Moved by: William Koe	Seconded by: Burt Hunt
All in favour.	Motion carried.

#### **3. Minutes**

The minutes were reviewed by the Board. It was noted that there two spelling errors.

- Under 6a, it should be Gabe Nirlungayuk
- Throughout the document, it should be fishery officers (not fisheries)

<b>Motion # GRRB 2020-15</b>	<b>To approve the February 4-6, 2020 board meeting minutes with corrections provided.</b>
Moved by: Doug Doan	Seconded by: Burt Hunt
All in favour.	Motion carried.

#### **4. Finance**

##### **a) Finance Committee Update**

Amy Amos presented the briefing note from the binder. Doug Doan clarified rationale for recommended motion. It is to simplify the process and plan for the current uncertainties in the financial market. Each year the Board will review all projects (including deferral requests) based on merit. This means deferrals will not be automatically approved into the next fiscal year.

**Motion # GRRB 2020-16**

Moved by: William Koe  
All in favour.

**To require a motion for any deferrals funded under the Wildlife Studies Fund beginning with requests from 2020-21 into 2021-22 fiscal year.**

Seconded by: Doug Doan  
Motion carried.

**b) Wildlife Studies Fund & Covid-19 considerations**

Amy Amos presented the briefing note in the binder. No comments.

**c) Board member compensation**

Amy Amos presented the briefing note in the binder. No comments.

**5. Wildlife****a) Discuss ACCWM process and upcoming management plan review**

Édouard Bélanger presented the briefing note in the binder.

William Koe provided information on caribou seen 15 miles up the Peel river (five caribou). The concern is that people should not shoot these caribou as there is not enough of them around. He asked how we can implement a management plan for these caribou. It was clarified that the ACCWM is dealing with barren-ground caribou (bluenose west and cape bathurst herds) and this is woodland caribou being referred to. Tracy Davison clarified that woodland caribou management falls under the species at risk process and there is a range plan proposed for all regions in the NWT. For the GSA, consultations were planned for this fall but will likely be pushed back due to covid-19. Édouard Bélanger added that the Yukon government is collaring woodland caribou on the Yukon side.

Regarding the briefing note on the ACCWM process and upcoming management plan review. The Board discussed the options presented in the briefing note. Direction was provided to support the recommendations in the briefing note. The ACCWM working group should focus on the technical aspects for the management plan review. There should be text to capture wording from the land claim agreements for situations when consensus cannot be reached. It was clarified that this is not only for color zone decisions but also applies to all decisions where consensus is unable to be reached such as management actions.

**Direction:** The Board supports the recommendations that were presented by the Wildlife Biologist in the briefing note provided in the binder.

**Action(s):**

- Édouard Bélanger to provide any relevant research information from the collaring project (that he has access to) on woodland caribou management to William Koe
- Kaytlin Cooper to record this comment for future consultations on woodland caribou under the species at risk process.
- Édouard Bélanger and Amy Amos to communicate the Board's direction to the ACCWM member boards and the ACCWM working group

**b) Gwich'in harvest survey update and plans**

Amy Amos provided a verbal update. The harvest survey will continue with its June survey plans using phone interviews instead of in-person. We will work with the RRC's to coordinate the surveys. No comments.

**6. Fisheries & Forestry**

**a) Rat River Working Group (RRWG) recommendations**

Sarah Lord presented the briefing note in the binder. It was noted that we have not received formal support from all working group members yet. This is a result of covid-19 as community offices and meetings have been closed/cancelled. The recommendations is the same as last year and it is under the 5% population estimate. The Board expressed its continued concern for not receiving updated genetics results. Results were shared this year but only 12 hours in advance to the RRWG meeting.

<b>Motion # GRRB 2020-17</b>	<b>To support the RRWG recommendations that are within the 5% population estimate</b>
Moved by: Burt Hunt	Seconded by: Doug Doan
All in favour.	Motion carried.

**7. Species at Risk**

**a) NWT Species at Risk assessment schedule**

Due to technical difficulties, Amy Amos presented the briefing note prepared by Kaytlin Cooper. No comments.

**8. Administrative**

**a) COVID-19 pandemic update**

Amy Amos presented the briefing note in the binder. Clarification was requested on whether we will have any issues with carrying surplus from this fiscal year into next year due to postponing the hire date for the one-year term. It was confirmed that surplus can be carried forward within our current funding agreement years (2017-2027).

**b) Policy updates and proposed amendments**

Amy Amos presented the briefing note in the binder. This was organized into three sections.

- General amendments (edits/updates): No comment
- Use of technology policy: No comment
- Working from home policy: Support for the approach of reimbursement for actual expenses for staff.

It was clarified that these amendments have not sought legal review. The Board still supported the recommended changes and felt they were adequate to implement.

<b>Motion # GRRB 2020-18</b>	<b>To approve the amendments to the GRRB's operating procedures manual, as presented</b>
Moved by: Burt Hunt	Seconded by: William Koe
All in favour.	Motion carried.

**c) September 2020 meeting plans**

The next face-to-face Board meeting is set for September 9-10, 2020 in Inuvik. The Board will continue to plan for this meeting. It will revisit it on its July call and make changes, as necessary.

**9. Other Business**

No other business was declared.

**10. Adjournment**

<b>Motion # GRRB 2020-19</b>	<b>To adjourn the May 27, 2020 teleconference meeting at 3:19 PM</b>
Moved by: William Koe	Seconded by:
All in favour.	Motion carried.