



Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board

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GRRB TELECONFERENCE MINUTES April 29, 2021 1:30 PM MST (NT)

Attendance

- GRRB staff: Amy Amos (Executive Director), Cheryl Greenland (Office Manager), Sarah Lord (Fisheries & Forestry Biologist)
- GRRB Board: Burt Hunt (Board Member), Doug Doan (Board Member), Sam Bullock (Board Member), William Koe (Board Member), Tracy Davison (Alternate Member), Charlie Snowshoe (Alternate Member)
- Others: Rob Gau (GNWT-ENR)
- Regrets: Jozef Carnogursky (Chairperson), Margaret Begg (Board Member)

1. Call to order

Quorum was recognized and the meeting was called to order at 1:23 PM. Jozef Carnogursky (GRRB Chairperson) sends his regrets.

Motion # GRRB 2021-17	To appoint Burt Hunt as the meeting Chair for April 29, 2021
Moved by: Doug Doan	Seconded by: William Koe
All in favour.	Motion carried.

Conflict will be declared as it arises.

2. Agenda

Motion # GRRB 2021-18	To approve the April 29, 2021, GRRB meeting agenda, as presented
Moved by: William Koe	Seconded by: Doug Doan
All in favour.	Motion carried.

3. Minutes

Review and approval of minutes will be deferred. The minutes were missing from the binder.

Action #21-14: Add review of the February 2021 draft minutes to the next GRRB meeting agenda.

4. Finance

a. Finance Committee Update

This item was moved to before item #8.

Amy Amos presented the briefing note that is included in the meeting binder.

Motion # GRRB 2021-21	To transfer unused funds from projects funded by the GRRB's Wildlife Studies Fund (WSF) to the WSF investment account managed by Royal Bank of Canada.
Moved by: William Koe All in favour.	Seconded by: Doug Doan Motion carried.

Motion # GRRB 2021-22	To close the GRRB's Guaranteed Investment Certificate (GIC) account. Remaining funds will be transferred to the WSF investment account managed by the Royal Bank of Canada.
Moved by: Doug Doan All in favour.	Seconded by: Sam Bullock Motion carried.

5. Wildlife

a. Wildlife Act regulation amendment for drones

Rob Gau (Manager of Biodiversity Conservation section for Wildlife, Government of Northwest Territories, Department of Environment and Natural Resources) presented the regulation amendments. The materials are available in the meeting binder. In summary, this amendment restricts anyone with a hunting license (including general hunting licence holders). Indigenous rights holders are excluded. However, ENR heard a strong interest in restricting drone use for all types of hunters in their consultation. They will work with the land claim organizations and the relevant indigenous organizations to restrict drones for their membership instead of including it in the actual regulation amendment.

During the question period, Members expressed their concerns with drone use and asked how these regulations compare to other jurisdictions. Rob explained that some jurisdictions are taking a similar approach by defining drones while others chose to define drones as aircrafts. The GNWT has decided to define drones separately from aircrafts.

Motion # GRRB 2021-19	To support the amendment to the wildlife general regulations under the NWT Wildlife Act for use of drones.
Moved by: Doug Doan All in favour.	Seconded by: Charlie Snowshoe Motion carried.

Action #21-15: Staff to talk with DFO to determine if they have restrictions for drone use while fishing.

b. Commercial Use

Amy Amos gave a verbal update. The only update is that the legal representatives of GRRB and ENR had a call on January 18, 2021. We are waiting for a letter but it has not been received yet. Rob Gau elaborated that the letter is coming from GNWT's Justice Department. The letter will provide draft regulation instructions so its important for the GRRB to carefully review them to ensure they align with the expectations.

c. Moose Hunting Regulations

Amy Amos presented the briefing note that is included in the meeting binder. Rob Gau elaborated that ENR is comfortable with the information that resident hunters are currently providing but

recognizes it can do better. The letter lists the actions ENR is taking to improve harvest reporting with resident hunters. No comments were received.

d. Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB) Annual Harvest Meeting

Amy Amos presented the briefing note that is included in the meeting binder. No comments were received.

6. Fisheries & Forestry

a. Rat River Working Group – Update on Annual Harvest Meeting

Sarah Lord presented the briefing note that is included in the binder. The intent of this agenda item is to provide the GRRB with an update on what the Rat River Working Group decided on for harvest and research recommendations for 2021. The GRRB had provided preliminary support at their February 2021 meeting prior to the RRWG annual meeting. There was discussion on current research. No concerns expressed with the RRWG recommendations.

Action #21-16: Sarah Lord to provide Sam Bullock with a paper on slumps and organic materials.

b. West Side Working Group – Review Terms of Reference

Sarah Lord presented the draft terms of reference that is included in the binder.

Motion # GRRB 2021-20	To support the West Side Working Group’s terms of reference with Jozef Carnogursky as the signatory on behalf of the GRRB and our role on the IFMP Steering Committee.
Moved by: Sam Bullock	Seconded by: Doug Doan
All in favour.	Motion carried.

7. Species at Risk

No files to discuss at this meeting.

8. Administrative

a. Staffing update

Amy Amos provided a verbal update. Edouard Belanger’s (GRRB Wildlife Biologist) last day in the office is April 23, 2021. We held a recruitment process and Steve Andersen (GRRB Stakeholder Liaison) will take over the position of Wildlife Biologist on April 26, 2021. The two will have time to discuss files prior to Edouard’s departure.

c. In-camera – Staff compensation package

Motion # GRRB 2021-23	To go in-camera at 3:01 PM on April 29, 2021.
Moved by: William Koe	Seconded by: Tracy Davison
All in favour.	Motion carried.

Motion # GRRB 2021-24	To come out of in-camera at 3:43 PM on April 29, 2021.
Moved by: Sam Bullock	Seconded by: Doug Doan
All in favour.	Motion carried.

Motion # GRRB 2021-25	To approve the 2021 staff salary scale with 6 steps, effective April 1, 2021.
Moved by: Doug Doan All in favour.	Seconded by: William Koe Motion carried.

Motion # GRRB 2021-26	To confirm the new policy for annual leave to be implemented on April 1, 2023. Policy text will include discretion to the Executive Director (ED) to make exceptions in special circumstances.
Moved by: William Koe All in favour.	Seconded by: Sam Bullock Motion carried.

Motion # GRRB 2021-27	To confirm the new policy for sick and discretionary leave. The separation of the two leave categories will be effective April 1, 2021. The implementation of the capping of sick leave will be effective April 1, 2023.
Moved by: Doug Doan All in favour.	Seconded by: William Koe Motion carried.

Motion # GRRB 2021-28	To adopt a medical leave policy that provides support for medical situations, so employees do not need to use their sick leave credits for short medical appointments and travel.
Moved by: Sam Bullock All in favour.	Seconded by: Tracy Davison Motion carried.

Motion # GRRB 2021-29	To (1) amend the current policy for compassionate leave to meet the minimum employment standard in the NWT, effective April 1, 2021, and (2) adopt a policy to meet the minimum standard for family caregiver leave and family violence leave, effective April 1, 2021.
Moved by: Doug Doan All in favour.	Seconded by: William Koe Motion carried.

9. Other Business

There was no other business.

10. Adjournment

Motion # GRRB 2021-30	To adjourn the April 29, 2021 GRRB meeting at 3:51 PM.
Moved by: Doug Doan All in favour.	Seconded by: Not required Motion carried.