

In-person Board Meeting Minutes



November 16 and 17, 2024, 8:30 am – 5 pm

Nunalik Financial Services Boardroom

Minutes by Catarina Owen

List of Acronyms/Terms Used

ACCWM	Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management
ECC	Environment and Climate
ᐱᕐᕈᕈᕐ ᑕᑦᑎᕐ ᑕᑦᑎᕐ ᑕᑦᑎᕐ	Sahtú Renewable Resources Board – SRRB
NNP	Níó Nᕐ P'ᕐᕐᕐ
PLS	Public Listening Session
RRC	Renewable Resources Council

Day 1 November 16, 2024

Participants

Board Members

Sam Haché

Donna Schear

Gordon Hamre

Camilla Rabisca

George Barnaby

Rhea McDonald, virtual

Staff

Catarina Owen

Leon Andrew

Melanie Harding, virtual

Manisha Singh, virtual

Other Guests

Bruce Laurich, virtual – Environment and Climate Change Canada

Kelby Ogryzlo – Environment and Climate Change Canada

Kathryn Yarchuk – Environment and Climate Change Canada

Micheline Manseau - Environment and Climate Change Canada

Cory Fournier - Environment and Climate Change Canada

Jess Dunkin – Dunkin Creative

Heather Sayine-Crawford

Shannon Bower, PlanIt North

Agenda

1. Opening prayer and quorum check
2. Wolverine Management Plan presentation
3. Níó Nę P’ęne – Geospatial Hub and Northern Mountain Caribou research
4. Environment and Climate Change, GNWT headquarter update
5. Petroleum Histories Project update
6. Mackenzie Valley Highway environment assessment update

Opening

- Prayer by George Barnaby
- Quorum check: 6/7

Wolverine Management Plan presentation

Presentation by Bruce, Kolby and Kathryn

- Workshops were held across all the regions where wolverine occur, with a total of 11 being held in the Northern Region.
- 3 Rounds to date:
 - Population trends, distribution and range
 - Threats facing wolverine
 - Recovery objectives and measuring progress
- Knowledge captured in workshop reports were used equally with scientific knowledge to inform the development of Management Plan
- Wolverine habitat distribution and needs
- Threats to wolverine’s survival
- Management objectives
- Conservation Measures

M2025-030

M2025-030	Supports the posting of the Draft federal Management Plan for Wolverine for public comment on the registry. George Barnaby/Sam Haché	Consensus
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Níó Nę P’ęne – Geospatial Hub and Northern Mountain Caribou research

Presentation by Micheline Manseau, Manisha Singh, Cory Fournier

- NNP Plan outlines the importance of community-led research to ensure the long-term and health of mountain caribou and Dene ways of life
- Study area – mountain caribou winter habitat
- 2021-2024- team flew over 10,000 km, covering much of preferred winter habitat
- Over 1400 samples collected
- Information from fecal pellets – individual id, sex, family groups, population/herd structure and population status

- 3 distinct genetic groups were found
- Project also looked at other info available – non-resident hunter observations & outfitters report
- Preliminary results indicate cow-calf ration is low.
- Research team was in Tulít'a in September 2024 updating communities on project.
- Overview of NNP geospatial hub

Environment and Climate Change, GNWT headquarter update

Presentation by Heather Sayine-Crawford

- Wildlife Act section 15 meeting held Nov 13 and 14. Meeting focused on past challenges, opportunities and current differences surround outfitting processes in the NWT.
- ECC is currently seeking feedback on Adapting wildlife conservation and management to climate change in the Northwest Territories
- Barren-ground caribou management – helicopter fall composition surveys of Bathurst and Bluenose-East herds were conducted in October 2024.
- Tłıchǫ Gov – GNWT wolf management program will be available to the public soon.
- NWT Species at Risk
 - NWT Species at Risk Committee will assess 3 amphibian species: Canadian toad, western toad and northern leopard frog.
 - Hairy braya has been identified for relisting – Threatened
 - Red-sided garter snake has been identified for listing – Special Concern
 - Donna Schear – new Species at Risk Committee alternate member appointed by the SRRB
- Boreal caribou range planning – Statement of Understanding is being reviewed by GNWT and regional planning meeting planned for Jan 2025.
- Wildlife Act regulations, Phase 3 – Outfitting in the NWT
 - No updates since 1997
 - Working group will be created to work on updating the regulations

Petroleum Histories Project update

Presentation by Jess Dunkin

- Objectives
 - Document the history and impacts of petroleum extraction in the Sahtú
 - Support community participation in closure and reclamation of the Norma Wells oilfield
 - Strengthen present and future indigenous roles in monitoring, stewardship, and decision-making
- Project activities: study circles, oral histories, archival research, fieldwork, sharing circles and planning for the future
- Team: Tulít'a, Norman Wells and Fort Good Hope RRCs, University of Calgary, Northern Alberta Institute of Technology, University of Alberta and Gwich'in Tribal Council (River Journeys Team)
- Project has a steering committee with RRC reps, SRRB and academic partners.
- More info on project available at www.srrb.nt.ca

Mackenzie Valley Highway Environment Assessment update

Presentation by Shannon Bower

- Update on Environment Assessment status and how SRRB is supporting RRCs.
- Technical sessions schedule for Nov 19-21

Day 2 November 16, 2024

Participants

Board Members

Sam Haché
Donna Schear
Gordon Hamre
Camilla Rabisca
George Barnaby
Rhea McDonald, virtual

Staff

Catarina Owen
Leon Andrew
Melanie Harding, virtual

Agenda

1. Future Public Listening Session
2. Planning for Future update
3. Tòdzı Range Planning update
4. SRRB strategic Plan overview
5. Financial update
6. ACCWM update
7. Meeting Minutes approval
8. Public Listening Session Report

Public Listening Session update

Overarching question – what is the most effective way to conserve caribou in the Sahtú region?

PLS 1 Harvest Regulation “What is the most effective way to regulate the harvest of caribou?”(2020, Colville Lake)

PLS 2 Predators and Competitors “What should people’s role be in maintaining healthy relationships between caribou and other wildlife?”(2022, Délı̨ne)

PLS 3 Wildfires and Climate change “What should people’s role be in addressing the impacts of climate change and wildfires on caribou?” (2024, Norman Wells)

PLS 4 Caribou and the Mixed Economy
“How can people and caribou live well together?” (TBD, Tulít'a)

PLS 5 Knowledge about Caribou and Landscapes

“How can knowledge and planning support caribou conservation?” (TBD)
Staff will apply for funding and start planning PLS 4.

Planning for the Future update

Presentation by Melanie Harding

- Toolkit will be finished once PFF guidance is completed
- Language and terminology workshop scheduled for the new year
- Staff will focus on helping Norman Wells and Tulít'a on their plans and also finalizing the NNP plan.

Tòdzı Range Planning update

Presentation by Melanie Harding

- Boreal caribou listed as threatened under Species at Risk Act
- Conference of Management Authorities (CMA): Recovery for the Boreal Caribou in 2017
- GNWT: A framework for Boreal Caribou Range Planning in 2019
- What is range planning?
 - According to the Framework, the plan will influence two specific things:
[1] Land disturbance activities such as road building, exploration, forestry, mining, etc, and
[2] Wildfire management priorities.
 - If the plan identifies areas of land that are very important for Tòdzı, then those areas can have stronger restrictions on development and higher priority for wildfire management.
 - *The plan will not directly influence policies about other human activities related to Tòdzı, such as hunting, predator management, or total allowable harvest.*
- What has been done?
 - March 2023: Gathering in Délıne
 - Fall 2023: Community tour
 - March 2024: Gathering in Tulít'a
 - Spring 2024: Support development of Statement of Understanding
 - October 2024: Gathering in Norman Wells
- Next Steps
 - SRRB + RRCs reach out to Sahtú Secretariat Incorporated and Land Corporations
 - Receive Statement of Understanding feedback from GNWT and communities to decide whether/how they want to participate
 - SRRB question: Does PFF guidance apply to this plan when complete?
 - Applying for funding to support Sahtú work

SRRB Strategic Plan goals review

Goal #1 – Hı́dó Gogha Sénégots'ı́zá (Planning for the Future) is the foundation of wildlife stewardship in the Sahtú

Goal #2 ʔehdzo Got'ı́ne are strong, independent organizations, fully implementing their role as defined in the Sahtú Dene and Métis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement

Goal #3 Research and monitoring in the Sahtú are collaborative, and support community and regional leaders to make wise decisions

Goal #4 Sahtú youth are strong environmental stewards and future community leaders

Goal #5 The SRRB has strong staff, contractor and partnership teams, with a central focus of building Beneficiary capacity in the Sahtú

Goal #6 The Board has secured increased and diversified funding to support Plan implementation.

Financial update

Review of mid-year financial update submitted to CIRNAC, staff to provide Board with budget and plan for spending deferred revenue.

ACCWM update

- Review of legal briefing notes prepared by Bruce McRae
- 10 year review – Taking care of caribou management plan
- Catarina Owen and Gordon Hamre will attend Annual Status Meeting Nov 20-22 and present SRRB’s comments on the management plan

Meeting minutes approval

M2025-031

M2025-031	Approve meeting minutes from August 30, 2024. Rhea McDonald/Sam Haché	Consensus
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M2025-032

M2025-032	Approve meeting minutes from Special PLS meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- May 13, 2024- August 8, 2024- August 22, 2024- October 10, 2024- November 8, 2024 Gordon Hamre/Sam Haché	Consensus
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Meeting adjourned at 3:05 pm.

Special PLS Meeting - November 16, 2024

Participants

Board Members (PLS Members only)

Sam Haché
Donna Schear
Gordon Hamre
Camilla Rabisca

Staff

Catarina Owen
Melanie Harding, virtual
Stephanie Yuill

Agenda

1. PLS Report Review and Approval

Public Listening Report Review and Approval

M2025-033

M2025-033	Approve the final Public Listening Session 3 Report as revised by the Board. Gordon Hamre/ Sam Haché.	Consensus
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Once final edits are completed, the final report will be revised by editor and submitted to Ministers of Environment and Climate Change and Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Meeting adjourned at 4:51 pm

Approval of Minutes

Approved by Board decision, January 6, 2025



Donna Schear, Acting Chair

Summary of Motions

Number	Description	Result
M2025-030	Supports the posting of the Draft federal Management Plan for Wolverine for public comment on the registry. George Barnaby/Sam Haché	Consensus
M2025-031	Approve meeting minutes from August 30, 2024. Rhea McDonald/Sam Haché	Passed with one abstention
M2025-032	Approve meeting minutes from Special PLS meetings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- May 13, 2024- August 8, 2024- August 22, 2024- October 10, 2024- November 8, 2024 Gordon Hamre/Sam Haché	Passed with one abstention
M2025-033	Approve the final Public Listening Session 3 Report as revised by the Board. Gordon Hamre/ Sam Haché.	Consensus