



Teleconference Meeting Minutes

September 15, 2015

1:10 pm-3:48 pm

Minutes by Deborah Simmons

List of Acronyms/Terms Used

ACCWM	Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management
BNE	Bluenose East caribou herd
BNW	Bluenose West caribou herd
ENR	NWT Environment and Natural Resources
GRRB	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
IGC	Inuvialuit Game Council
ᐱᕐᕈᕈᕐ ᑕᑕᑦᑎᕐ	Renewable Resources Council(s)
SRRB	ᐱᕐᕈᕈᕐ ᑕᑕᑦᑎᕐ ᑕᑕᑦᑎᕐ ᑕᑕᑦᑎᕐ - Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
WMAC (NWT)	Wildlife Management Advisory Committee (NWT)
WRRB	Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board

List of Attendees

Board Members

Michael Neyelle (Chair), Lesley Allen, George Barnaby, Leonard Kenny (2:16 pm), Patrick Bobinski, Paul Latour

Special Advisors

Leon Andrew, Frederick Andrew (1:30 pm)

Staff

Deborah Simmons (Executive Director), Joe Hanlon

Guests

Jessica Iveson and Lorraine Land (Olthuis, Kleer, Townshend LLP)

Regrets

Keith Hickling, Jeffery Walker

Meeting Agenda – Special Teleconference on Caribou Hearings

- Opening prayer, introductions, quorum check
- Collaborative hearing proposal from WRRB for BNE hearings (legal opinion provided) – DECISION REQUIRED
- Letter from Board to Sahtu leaders to notify of possible hearings – DOCUMENT APPROVAL
- Plain language guide to caribou management which will be part of community information for hearings – DOCUMENT APPROVAL IN PRINCIPAL
- Update on revisions to SRRB rules

Other barren-ground caribou management issues

- Background document on Bluenose West caribou management – DOCUMENT APPROVAL
- Update re proposed NWT Wildlife Management Advisory Committee (WMAC), Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB), SRRB meeting on October 19
- IGC meeting, September 25-26, Whitehorse – talking points for Jeff Walker?
- Resource Binder on caribou management issues (deferred to next meeting)
- Agenda for in-person meeting, October 20-23 (deferred to next meeting)

Other

- Minutes of previous meeting – deferred to next meeting
- Teleconference before in-person meeting
- Alerts re other Board issues for future consideration
 - Grizzly bear research and management

1. Introductions, quorum check, opening prayer

Opening prayer by Michael Neyelle

2. Collaborative hearing proposal from WRRB for Bluenose East caribou hearings

Presentation by Lorraine Land

- Overview of the legal opinion provided to the Board by Lorraine and Jessica.
- Discussion about the scope of the collaborative hearing. At our August 19 teleconference, WRRB invited only the SRRB because we are key interested wildlife management authorities.
- Question about how the hearing process would be funded. Decisions about the hearing process will help to shape a realistic budget for submission to AANDC Implementation Branch. In addition to the costs of a BNE hearing.
- George noted that planning for something as important as a hearing should be done in person. The current plan is for a hearing workshop to take place during the Board's in-person meeting during October 20-23.

- Leon noted that a Memorandum of Understanding will need to be negotiated with the WRRB as basis for moving forward.

Frederick Andrew joined the meeting at 1:30 pm.

Motion M2016-015

M2016-015	Lesley/Pat. That the SRRB accept the WRRB’s invitation to undertake a collaborative hearing process.	Consensus
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3. Letter from Board to Sahtu leaders to notify of possible hearings

Presentation by Deborah Simmons

- Deborah provided an overview of key points in the draft letter from the Board to Sahtu leaders, including a comment by Keith Hickling provided by phone about the process.
- Copy Norman Yakeleya and ENR on the letter – the focus is on providing early notice
- Lesley recommended that Board members, Special Advisors and staff agree to an approach to responding to any comments or questions from community members.
- Lorraine pointed out that the timelines are very ambitious; the dates for the hearings can be made more general – early 2016.

Decision D2016-025

D2016-025	The leader notifying Sahtú leaders of possible hearings to be distributed as amended. Board members discussing this with community members as encouraged in the letter will note that all comments and questions will be communicated to the Board at our hearing workshop on October 20-22 in Norman Wells; no decisions have been made so we are not yet ready to provide responses.	Consensus
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Leonard Kenny joined the meeting at 2:16 pm.

4. Plain language guide to caribou management

Presentation by Lorraine Land

- Lorraine explained the purpose of the plain language guide to caribou management.

Decision D2016-026

D2016-026	Approved in principal the plain language guide to caribou management, providing that the format is made more visual and the community role in caribou management is highlighted.	Consensus
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5. Update on revisions to SRRB hearing rules

Presentation by Lorraine Land

- The Board’s hearing rules will need to be reviewed and updated, especially as a basis for negotiating the MOU for the collaborative hearing.
- The version of hearing rules used at the 2007 hearings will be provided as part of the meeting binder for the October in-person hearing.
- Deborah recommended that the staff team/legal team undertake an approach to revisions that is more reflective of the general approach to engagement that the Board has been cultivating with communities over the past several years, aiming to be very accommodating of our regional aboriginal culture.
- Lorraine confirmed that such innovation is possible, if it is consistent with the minimum requirements of “natural justice” and “fairness” under the law.
- Michael pointed to the challenge that key parties may not participate. People might say what’s the point of participating if others refuse to? We need to provide as much opportunity as possible for parties to participate. If they do not participate, the Board is not able to accommodate their concerns in their decisions.
- Discussion about the role of the Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management (ACCWM) in sharing knowledge and coordinating. Discussions at the ACCWM can be incorporated into Board decisions.

Decision D2016-027

D2016-027	Approval for the staff and legal team to move forward in drafting revised hearing rules according to a cultural appropriate approach for meaningful engagement of Sahtú Dene and Métis beneficiaries.	Consensus
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6. Other barren-ground caribou management issues

Update by Deborah Simmons

a. Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC) meeting, September 25-26, Whitehorse

Presentation by Deborah Simmons

- Jeff Walter has requested direction on how to respond to questions from the IGC about the Board’s BNW caribou management decisions.

Decision D2016-028

D2016-028	Jeff Walker will be directed to refer back to the Board all questions posed by the Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC) related to the Board’s decisions with respect to Bluenose West Caribou; he will attend the IGC meeting as	Consensus
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	Government of the NWT staff, not a SRRB Board member.	
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b. Update re proposed Wildlife Management Advisory Council (WMAC), Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB), SRRB meeting on October 19

Presentation by Deborah Simmons

- The Board has not yet received a response from WMAC on our invitation to meet in conjunction with our October in-person meeting; it is possible that a response will be forthcoming after their meeting at the end of September.

c. Background document on Bluenose West caribou management

Presentation by Lorraine Land

- Lorraine provided an overview of the draft document, to be used as a resource in discussions with the other parties.
- Comments on the draft were provided by Jeff Walker (with some new information about the history), and Keith Hickling (who overall felt that the document was good, but pointed out some discrepancies in dates).
- Discussion about the need to be clear about the evidence basis for points made about harvesting in the paper. How much detail should be provided in this background paper, ie. what should be documented as part of the Board's internal record, and what should be included in a public document to be shared with other wildlife management authorities?
- Lorraine clarified that she and Jessica have done a lot of background research that is being provided to the Board in a resource binder for the October hearing workshop, and can be considered as supplementary to the backgrounder.
- Michael expressed concern that there are a lot of other issues not being addressed in the background document, like predation. These can be addressed in other forums like the ACCWM where a well-rounded management plan and associated action plans are being developed.
- The document style should be plain language – but fairly formal in format given the context.

Decision D2016-029

D2016-029	Lorraine and Jessica to provide a revised draft of the Bluenose West Caribou background document by September 17, with Board feedback on the document provided by no later than September 18 and Executive Committee approval by September 21.	Consensus
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7. Other

a. Alerts regarding items for future discussion

- Dechenla caribou stewardship; Lorraine and Jessica are providing a legal opinion on this.
- Grizzly bear management (per Keith's and Jeff's notice that research and management decisions will be required following public concern about recent mauling in the Mackenzie Mountains).

b. Next teleconference

Tentatively booked for October 9, 1-4 pm.

8. Agenda items deferred to next meeting

- Resource Binder on caribou management issues
- Agenda for in-person meeting, October 20-23
- Minutes of August 19 meeting

Motion M2016-016

2016-016	George Barnaby. Meeting be adjourned at about 3:50 pm.	Consensus
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Approval of Minutes

Approved by Board Motion M2016-020 on November 10, 2015



Michael Neyelle, Chair

Summary of Motions

Number	Description	Result
M2016-015	Lesley/Pat. That the SRRB accept the WRRB's invitation to undertake a collaborative hearing process.	Consensus
M2016-016	George Barnaby. Meeting be adjourned at about 3:50 pm.	Consensus

Summary of Decisions

Number	Description	Result
D2016-025	The leader notifying Sahtú leaders of possible hearings to be distributed as amended. Board members discussing this with community members as encouraged in the letter will note that all comments and questions will be communicated to the Board at our hearing workshop on October 20-22 in Norman Wells; no decisions have been made so we are not yet ready to provide responses.	Consensus
D2016-026	Approved in principal the plain language guide to caribou management, providing that the format is made more visual and the community role in caribou management is highlighted.	Consensus
D2016-027	Approval for the staff and legal team to move forward in drafting revised hearing rules according to a cultural appropriate approach for meaningful engagement of Sahtú Dene and Métis beneficiaries.	Consensus
D2016-028	Jeff Walker will be directed to refer back to the Board all questions posed by the Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC) related to the Board's decisions with respect to Bluenose West Caribou; he will attend the IGC meeting as Government of the NWT staff, not a SRRB Board member.	Consensus
D2016-029	Lorraine and Jessica to provide a revised draft of the Bluenose West Caribou background document by September 17, with Board feedback on the document provided by no later than September 18 and Executive Committee approval by September 21.	Consensus