

# Board Teleconference Minutes



May 11, 2017, 1:10 pm-3:19 pm

Minutes by Deborah Simmons

## List of Acronyms/Terms Used

ACCWM	Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management
CMA	Conference of Management Authorities on Species At Risk
ENR	NWT Environment and Natural Resources
NWT	Northwest Territories
SRRB/Board	ʔehdzo Got'ıne Gots'ę Nákedı (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)

## Participants

### Board Members

Michael Neyelle (Chair), George Barnaby, Jimmy Dillon, Patrick Bobinski, Jeffery Walker, Keith Hickling

### Special Advisors

Leon Andrew, Paul Latour

### Staff

Deborah Simmons

### Invited Guests

Heather Sayine-Crawford, NWT Environment and Natural Resources

Lorraine Land, OKT Law

### Resigned

Leonard Kenny

## Agenda

- Conservation planning
  - ACCWM Action plans
  - Délıne Belare Wıle Gots'ę ʔekwé plan implementation
  - Correspondence with Colville re conservation planning
  - Shúhta gozepé planning, July 26-August 2
  - Harvest study completion
- Staff updates
  - Dene Ts'ıı School, August 26-September 10
  - Earth to Sky Climate Change workshop
  - Ne K'ə Dene Ts'ıı Forum (formerly Sahtú Environmental Research and Monitoring Forum)

- Tulít'a gender research with University of Toronto
- Plan for in-person meeting, Colville Lake, June 6-8 (travel days June 5 and 9)
  - Strategic planning workshop
  - Federal and Territorial Species At Risk
  - Approval of updated Operations Manual
  - Meeting with Colville leaders
- NWT Species At Risk update (Leon and Deb)
  - Revised assessment schedule for approval
  - Grizzly bear assessment – requests for clarification
  - Barren-ground caribou assessment – consultation
- Wildlife Studies Fund
  - Investment returns
  - Budget review and approval
  - Updated investment policy
- Proposal for limited contract staff hiring – professional staff and intern
- Review and approve minutes of previous meeting

## Meeting Minutes

### Opening

- Quorum check – 5/6 voting members/alternates
- Opening prayer by Michael Neyelle

### Conservation Planning

#### ACCWM Action Plans

*Presentation by Deborah Simmons*

- Now that Action Plans have been completed, the ACCWM Working Group is moving toward implementation. A Working Group teleconference is being planned for the end of May, and an in-person meeting to follow this summer.
- Michael and Deb are serving on ACCWM, and Deb serves on the Working Group which provides technical support in planning and implementation work.

#### Délıne Belare Wıle Gots'ę ʔekwé Plan

*Presentations by Deborah Simmons and Michael Neyelle*

- Overview of May 10 letter from Délıne Got'ıne Government clarifying that they do support collaborative implementation of the *Belare Wıle Gots'ę ʔekwé* plan.
- Overview of May 11 letter from Délıne ʔehdzo Got'ıne and ʔekwé Working Group with discussion of 2016-2017 harvest and observation about ʔekwé health and ecology. According to this letter, the community is under the threshold for total and tsıda (female) harvest.
- At an upcoming Working Group meeting, it could be a priority to fill in the herd status and trends assessment table that can be distributed for dialogue with other

communities/regions, and as a basis for building consensus at the status meeting in November.

- Heather requested more information about plans for alternative harvest.
- It was emphasized that it is desirable to share information between Délı̨nę and ENR in order to achieve consensus if possible; as a last resort, the parties can agree to disagree and explain the difference in perspectives.

*Heather left the meeting at 4:10 pm approximately.*

#### Colville ʔedə (Barren-Ground Caribou) Planning

*Presentation by Deborah Simmons*

- Colville has invited the Board to meet on June 9 in Colville to talk about their caribou Planning process, now that the data sharing agreement has been signed.
- Both ENR and the SRRB hope that Colville will agree to support a collaborative approach – rather than waiting for the point at which the Board is required to approve the plan.
- George noted the importance of involving Fort Good Hope in planning.

#### Shúhta Goʔepé (Mountain Caribou) Planning

*Presentation by Deborah Simmons and Leon Andrew*

- A lot of planning work has already been done, including a 2014 meeting in Ross River, and a September 2016 meeting in Tulít'a. A technical working group session with Ross River representatives took place two weeks ago, and preliminary text was prepared. The next step will be a planning session at Dechenla Lodge in the last week of July, which will include a “train the trainer” session with Stuart Cowell, our Australian mentor in the Délı̨nę planning process.
- An announcement has been sent to Norman Wells, Tulít'a and Ross River leadership organisations, including a request for leaders to consider the interim measures resolution about motorized vehicles that was put forward at the September 2016 meeting.
- Jeff clarified that it will be impossible to establish regulations prior to establishment of the park.
- Deb emphasized that the planning team will welcome any and all suggested solutions for interim measures.

## Other Activity Updates

### *Presentations by Deborah Simmons and Leon Andrew*

- Deb and Leon attended the Earth to Sky (NASA-ABOVE [Arctic Boreal Vulnerability Experiment]) Climate Change workshop in Yellowknife during April 19-21, which was oriented to helping communities and regions develop action plans for educating about climate change – a priority topic in the Délı̄nə Belare Wı̄le Gots'ę ʔekwé plan.
- The SRRB is planning for the second Dene Ts'ı̄lı School during August 26-September 10, with a focus on safety training.
- Nę K'ə Dene Ts'ı̄lı Forum (formerly Sahtú Environmental Research and Monitoring Forum) continues to meet and address its expanded mandate. Funding proposals will be forthcoming to support the work of the forum, based on a revised Terms of Reference to be discussed at our May 16 teleconference.
- Gender

### Plan for In-Person Meeting, June 6-8, Colville Lake

#### *Presentation by Deborah Simmons and Lorraine Land*

- Plan to focus on strategic planning for the Board, updating the 2009 plan to reflect the community conservation approach formerly adopted by the Board; Deb and Lorraine will provide a draft plan based on what we know, and will identify priority items for discussion.
- The strategic plan is a roadmap for staff, and includes priority setting.
- Other agenda items:
  - Consultation plan and assessment schedule for barren-ground caribou Species At Risk Assessment.
  - Operations Manual approval, including Wildlife Studies Fund policy.
  - Wildlife Studies Fund budget.
- On June 8, a joint meeting is planned with Colville (to be confirmed). If Colville's plans change, the alternative will be to meet in Fort Good Hope.

### NWT Species At Risk Update

#### *Presentation by Leon Andrew and Deborah Simmons*

- Leon and Deborah are working together on this file.
- The Species At Risk Committee assessed grizzly bears as Special Concern, and barren-ground caribou as threatened. There will need to be consultation about the assessments before the Conference of Management Authorities (CMA) makes a decision. This will be a priority for staff over the coming months.
- The CMA have requested clarification from SARC on the grizzly bear assessment.

## Wildlife Studies Fund

*Presentation by Deborah Simmons and Lorraine Land*

- OKT Law is researching the possibility that the Wildlife Studies Fund scope could be expanded to support the community conservation planning work, which does not currently have a funding base; this will be a matter for discussion with the land claim Implementation Committee.

*Lorraine Land left the meeting.*

- The Wildlife Studies Fund is not getting the desired returns because we don't have a fund custodian so can't invest in United States pools. We are investigating low cost options for getting a custodian, including the option of co-mingling funds with the Sahtú Secretariat Inc so we can share the custodian cost.
- The proposed budget approach (per the Briefing Note provided to the Board) prioritizes support for ongoing projects and completion of three projects; one project to expand on the Délı̨ne language research would involve allocation of an additional \$25K to zero out the total allocation for this fiscal year of \$305,506.
- The approach also allows for use of the fund as leverage for external funding, so that we can maintain our fund as a last resort for priority activities.
- Agreed to defer budget and investment policy decisions to June in-person meeting.

## Staff Hiring

*Presentation by Deborah Simmons*

- Overview of proposal per draft job advertisement for two limited term positions till March 31.

### Motion 2018-001

M2018-001	The limited term positions of On the Land Coordinator and Intern approved as presented. Patrick Bobinski/George Barnaby	Consensus
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## Minutes of Previous Meeting

### Motion 2018-002

M2018-002	Minutes of March 17 meeting approved as amended. Patrick Bobinski/George Barnaby.	Consensus
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## Other Business

- Big thanks to our intern Jordan Lennie who has been a huge help in coordinating Board activities, including the Dene Ts'ı̨ı School, SRRB Board meetings and Ne K'ə Dene Ts'ı̨ı Forum. Jordan is one of our intern success stories.

### Motion 2017-003

M2018-003	Meeting adjourned at 3:19 pm. Patrick Bobinski/George Barnaby.	Consensus
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## Approval of Minutes

Approved by Board decision, June 8, 2017.



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Michael Neyelle, Chair

## Summary of Motions

Number	Description	Result
M2018-001	The limited term positions of On the Land Coordinator and Intern approved as presented. Patrick Bobinski/George Barnaby	Consensus
M2018-002	Minutes of March 17 meeting approved as amended. Patrick Bobinski/George Barnaby.	Consensus
M2018-003	Meeting adjourned at 3:19 pm. Patrick Bobinski/George Barnaby.	Consensus