

Board Teleconference Minutes

March 12, 2013, 9:00 am-noon

Teleconference 1-866-969-8429 and code 4950573#

See appended table of decisions.

Board Participants

Walter Bayha, Chair

Keith Hickling

Pat Bobinski

Laurel McDonald

Gordon Zealand

Staff Participants

Deborah Simmons, Executive Director

Joe Hanlon, Program Coordinator

Catarina Owen, Environmental Assessment Researcher

Resource Person

Jean Polfus, University of Manitoba

Regrets

Michael Neyelle

Jeff Walker

Paul Latour

Agenda

- **Opening prayer**
- **Activity reports**
 - Wildlife Act – Walter and Jeff
 - RRC Manual Workshop (March 5-7) – Joe and Deb
 - SARC Terminology Workshop (March 19-21) – Deb
 - Canol Working Group - Catarina
 - Oil and Gas Workshop (March 19-21) - Catarina
 - SSHRC Stories and Language of the Land – partnership and program development update - Deb
- **Current fiscal year budget and variance reports**
 - Core
 - Projects
 - Wildlife Fund (note fund administration costs)

- Scholarships
- **Next fiscal year budget and workplanning**
 - Core
 - Wildlife Fund
 - Scholarships
 - Projects (administrative fee)
- **SARC Status Reporting**
- **TK Guidelines Update - Deb**
- **Forest Management Planning? – Joe**
- **Funding Proposals**
 - ESRF – Memorandum of Understanding with ENR? Experts Workshop/Cross-Cultural Camp, Harvester Knowledge, State of Knowledge, TK Database, Biodiversity/Boreal Caribou, Seismic Regeneration and Habitat Assessment
 - Harvest Survey – proposal to ENR
 - 3 CIMP projects (monitoring, caribou, Dene Nation mapping)
 - Proposal development – Stories and Language of the Land?
 - RRC Manual (continued), Monitoring Guidelines, TK Guidelines
- **Planning for the April Board meeting**

Wildlife Act

Walter

The first reading of the act took place at the Legislative Assembly yesterday. There are a few items still to be finalized.

RRC Manual

Joe

Overview of the RRC Manual workshop facilitated by Doug Urquhart in Tulít'a on March 5-7 to developing an illustrated manual for RRCs. Attendees included participants from Colville Lake (on the final day), Tulít'a, Déljñę, and Fort Good Hope. Four RRC resolutions were presented to the Sahtú Dene Council and unanimously approved.

Next steps are for the SRRB to assist and encourage the RRCs and follow up on these resolutions as we're seeking feedback on the individual pieces of the RRC Manual over the next year.

SARC Terminology Workshop

Deb

The SRRB is hosting a terminology workshop in Deline, organized and facilitated by Betty Harnum (former NWT Languages Commissioner). One language expert is invited from Tulít'a, Déljñę and Fort Good Hope, plus two elders per partnering community. The approach is to translate from Dene into English, rather than from English to Dene. This is a last minute contribution agreement from the Species At Risk Secretariat. It will also provide guidance for development of the funding proposal from SSHRC.

Oil and Gas Workshop

Keith, Walter and Catarina attending on behalf of the Board.

Forest Management Plan

Joe

Joe and Deb met with ENR Forest Management staff to discuss what it would take to develop a Forest Management plan. This would likely involve a multi-year process. It will take considerable lead time just to explore options for how the research and planning might be approached. It will be possible to learn a lot from the Gwich'in Forest Management Planning process – the Gwich'in plan is now complete and available on their website.

Canol Working Group

Catarina

There was a conference call yesterday. The contractors are still classifying spills. The preliminary word is that spills are mainly minimal, not moving. Vegetation is growing back fine, and they are still discussing whether community monitor will come from Tulita or Norman Wells. Lots of what they did was helicopter surveys with video.

The contractor (SENES/Franz) has agreed to contribute to our scholarship fund according to a formula – the second installment was just received.

Current Variance and Budget

Deb

Discussion of variance and projected expenditures provided to the Board.

2013-2014 Budget

Deb

Discussion of next fiscal year budget provided to the Board. AANDC has confirmed that the Board Core budget will be at the standard increase of 2%.

We have proposed to Parks Canada that we rent two offices plus share boardroom, library and kitchen at \$2,500/month. Cost recovery can provide us with more flexibility in our budget.

Truck got fixed, very cheaply (\$400), now we're using it for Jean's fieldwork and also for our trip to/from Deline, so right now it is very useful.

Motion M078

That the truck be bought out by the Board at the price quoted by Kingland Ford.

Moved by Keith; Seconded by Laurel.

It will be necessary to be efficient about travel costs this year, since it was necessary to cut the travel budget to accommodate other budget lines. We're attempting to cut phone costs by using Skype. The budget for expert support from Pembina Institute had to be cut as well from what we'd discussed at a previous meeting.

Motion M079

That the 2013-2014 budget be approved for submission to AANDC.

Moved by Pat; Seconded by Keith.

Species At Risk

Deb

Staff could come up with a draft procedure for board to review to be a bit more systematic in how we work with RRCs in these processes. There are other species coming up in the SARC workplan, including wolverine, bear – and more obscure species that come to us from the federal process. We may decide that we may just want to inform the RRCs about some of these items. For others we may need to spend time with RRCs and have a work plan and funding to do that.

Wildlife Fund

Deb

Revised budget for Wildlife Fund was presented, including the investment management charge (this was previously coded to Core), as well as funding for the duck banding project as requested by Richard Popko (pending approval of ENR funds).

Paul has requested that the Board, at in person meeting, discuss guidelines for projects we're undertaking - whether they are long term, that we are funding year after year forever. We could be more proactive and have discussions with them about where the program and board involvement is going in the future.

The revised Wildlife Fund budget also proposes an additional reduction to the trout monitoring budget. DFO originally requested \$34K. At the last meeting we voted \$30K; the current budget is reduced to \$25 to accommodate other research priorities as well as the investment management cost. For fairness' sake, the Caribou Populations Study budget was also cut to \$25K. We will seek additional funds for our projects from other sources.

Motion M080

The budget for the trout monitoring project is reduced to \$25,000 with the provision that if additional funds become available we can do supplemental funding.

Moved by Pat; Seconded by Laurel. Carried.

Scholarship Fund

Deb

There has been unprecedented uptake on the scholarship program over the past year (and see the News/North clipping sent to Board members with an article by Antoine Mountain thanking the Board for our support). We have broadened our interpretation of the "environmental studies" focus to include Native Studies. We supported two graduate students, as well as a student who attended Dechinta Bush School, which is university accredited. We may decide to continue that kind of support for Sahtú students. The contribution was \$1000 for one term; the results for Doris Taneton - who we funded - were really great.

There is adequate funding in our Scholarship Fund to consider new applications and continue funding current scholarship students over the coming year. The funding support seems to have provided encouragement for young Sahtú beneficiaries to enroll in the NRTP program (Fort Smith Aurora College). The program is an important support for training of environmental/wildlife monitors. The SRRB can seek additional funding sources to expand the program.

We may also consider supporting monitoring training activities within the Sahtú Region at an in-person SRRB meeting.

Decision 031

The Board will continue to solicit new applications to its Scholarship Program.

April In-Person Meeting

Deb

Decision 032

The in-person Board meeting will be held in Tulít'a on April 9-11, according to the draft agenda provided. The first day will be a Joint Meeting, second and third days will be a closed Board meeting. George Barnaby (K'asho Got'ıneq nominee), Pat Bobinski and Gordon Zealand (former DFO-nominated Board members) are invited as consultants to the Board. RRC delegates will not be invited.

Meeting adjourned at noon approximately.

Table of Decisions

March 13, 2013

| Date | Year | Decision Type | Item # | Topic | Decision | Result |
|--------|------|---------------|--------|-------------------|---|-----------|
| Mar-12 | 2012 | Decision | D031 | Scholarships | The Board will continue to solicit new applications to its Scholarship Program. | Consensus |
| Mar-12 | 2012 | Decision | D032 | Meeting Procedure | The in-person Board meeting will be held Tuli't'a on April 9-11, according to the draft agenda provided. The first day will be a Joint Meeting, second and third days will be a closed Board meeting. George Barnaby (K'asho Got'Inę nominee), Pat Bobinski and Gordon Zealand (former DFO-nominated Board members) are invited as consultants to the Board. RRC delegates will not be invited. | Consensus |
| Mar-12 | 2012 | Motion | M078 | Administration | Keith/Laurel. That the truck be bought out by the Board at the price quoted by Kingland Ford. | Consensus |
| Mar-12 | 2012 | Motion | M079 | Administration | Pat/Keith. That the 2013-2014 budget be approved for submission to AANDC. | Consensus |
| Mar-12 | 2012 | Motion | M080 | Research | Pat/Laurel. The budget for the trout monitoring project is reduced to \$25,000 with the provision that if additional funds become available we can do supplemental funding. | Consensus |