

**Conference of Management Authorities (CMA)  
Meeting Minutes  
October 20, 2016  
Conference Call**

In attendance:	Representative for:
Amy Amos, Alternate CMA Chairperson	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Kaytlin Cooper	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Eugene Pascal	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Cindy Allen	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Sarah Jerome	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Sjoerd van der Wielen	Tłı̨chǫ Government
Don Aubrey	Parks Canada, South West NWT Field Unit
Nelson Perry	Parks Canada, Western Arctic Field Unit
Fred Mandeville	Environment & Natural Resources
Joanna Wilson	Environment & Natural Resources
Lisa Worthington	Environment & Natural Resources
Grant Pryznyk	Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board
Marsha Branigan	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Shin Shiga	North Slave Métis Alliance
Claire Singer	Species at Risk Secretariat
Michelle Ramsay	Species at Risk Secretariat

[Meeting called to order: 9:07AM]

1. Introductions – led by Amy Amos, Alternate Chairperson
2. Agenda - led by Amy Amos, Alternate Chairperson  
*Review of draft agenda*  
**Decision #D2016102001: Consensus to approve agenda with no changes.**
3. Minutes from last meeting – led by Amy Amos, Alternate Chairperson  
*Review of draft minutes from May 2016.*  
**Decision #D2016102002: Consensus to approve May 2016 meeting minutes with change.**
4. Review of action items - led by Claire Singer, Species at Risk Secretariat  
*Review of outstanding action items from past meetings and action items from previous meeting.*
  - Action #A2016102001: GRRB, WMAC (NWT) and GNWT to continue discussions on role of Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB) in CMA responsibilities for barren-ground caribou.

5. CMA decisions made since last meeting - led by Claire Singer, Species at Risk Secretariat  
*Review of decisions made since last meeting for incorporation into the minutes.*  
**Decision #D2016102003: Decision to extend Chairperson and Alternate Chairperson appointments until October 20, 2016.**
6. CMA letters sent and received since last meeting - led by Claire Singer, Species at Risk Secretariat  
*Review of letters sent and received since May 2016.*
7. Member updates – led by Amy Amos, Alternate Chairperson  
*Updates on actions taken since last CMA meeting and changes in representatives.*

Government of the Northwest Territories – ENR

- Wood bison
  - Management plan for the Mackenzie bison population undergoing section 35 consultation.
  - Management plan for the Slave River Lowlands bison population is being drafted and is at the working group stage.
  - Management plan for the Nahanni bison population is being reviewed by ENR for minor revisions, and will be sent out for wider review by end of this fiscal year.
- Boreal caribou
  - ENR is working on developing the range plan for managing boreal caribou habitat in the South Slave and Dehcho regions. ENR has met with all Dehcho and South Slave communities to gather information on important habitat and is now engaged in discussions to flesh out the approach for range planning. ENR hopes to discuss this with the CMA at the January CMA meeting.
- Bumble bees
  - 2016 Wildlife Week was focused on bees. There were 16 classroom visits, adult colouring books and posters distributed, video about bees (available on ENR website), and CBC interviews.
- Grizzly bear
  - Planning for a grizzly bear DNA study in the Mackenzie Mountains next summer (2017). ENR has submitted a research application to the SRRB.
- Barren-ground caribou
  - ACCWM will be meeting in November and ENR will be attending to provide information for their annual status meeting.

- ENR has responded to Part A of WRRB's *Report on a Public Hearing Held by the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board 6-8 April 2016, Behchokò, NT & Reasons for Decisions Related to a Joint Proposal for the Management of the Bluenose-East zekwò (Barren-ground caribou) herd, Part A* ("WRRB barren-ground caribou report") and is working on response to Part B (research and monitoring).
- ENR has submitted a proposal to the SRRB regarding Bluenose-East caribou. SRRB held hearings and released a report. ENR has responded to the report and is completing section 35 consultation on the management measures.
- ENR's June reconnaissance survey for Bathurst and Bluenose-East herds did not show positive change in the herds; reconfirmed low numbers. Other monitoring shows that pregnancy rates and calf recruitment continue to be low.

#### Government of Canada – Parks Canada

- Nahanni National Park Reserve has appointed a new Resource Conservation Officer, David Walker.
- Wood Buffalo National Park recently hosted a reactive monitoring mission regarding its role as a heritage site.
- Whooping crane
  - Annual survey completed in May 2016 showed evidence of slow but steady increasing trend since 1992 (79 nests and 45 chicks in 2016 vs. 68 nests and 23 chicks in 2015).
- Wood bison
  - Population estimates survey showed preliminary minimum count of 3,133 individuals, though Parks Canada notes they have not yet completed the photo counting component, and thus do not yet have a population estimate.
    - Last survey in 2014 had counted 2,573 animals and estimated 3,731 in the total population.
  - The survey also estimates this year's productivity to be one of the highest recorded yearling: cow ratios.
  - In 2015, 60 anthrax cases were detected. In 2016, none were found.
  - Collaring work is also ongoing.
- Dolly Varden char
  - (Inuvik) DFO and Parks Canada accessed federal species at risk funding to complete year 3 of a tagging study. Based on results from this year, may be more work done in 2017. Population within Park is quite healthy. Study is hoping to achieve getting an accurate population estimate.

### Tłı̨chǫ Government

- Barren-ground caribou
  - Busy reviewing and responding to the results of Part A of the “WRRB barren-ground caribou report” (first of four reports that are expected). Tłı̨chǫ Government is now addressing Part B, which focuses on longer-term research and monitoring.
- Wood bison
  - Preparing for community consultations regarding the listing of wood bison.

### Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)

- No update provided

### Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board

- Amphibian management plan
  - Conducted technical review of the draft management plan and presented to Board.
- Boreal caribou recovery strategy
  - Conducted technical review of the draft recovery strategy and presented to Board.
- Bat status report
  - Gwichyah Gwich'in RRC in Tsiigehtchic has had reports of bat sightings. GRRB working with RRC to provide information on sightings for inclusion in status report.
- Grizzly bear
  - GRRB spoke with communities and RRCs regarding the federal assessment of grizzly bear.
- Insects
  - GRRB was unable to secure funding for a traditional knowledge workshop on insects. GRRB plans to redo application to the SAR Stewardship Program to access funding to go forward with smaller project.
- Other work
  - Discussed a large number of wildlife management and species at risk-related issues, including Bluenose-West, Bluenose-East, Cape Bathurst caribou prioritization of action items; federal *Fisheries Act*; moose regulations under the *Wildlife Act*; bear management review of tag system in GSA; muskrat surveys and ecology; discussion of Bluenose-East action plan; North American Caribou Workshop; fisheries work and caribou surveys, etc.

Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board

- Wood bison
  - WRRB will be participating in public consultations for listing wood bison in conjunction with Tłı̨chǫ Government.
  - Busy preparing Part A and B of the “WRRB barren-ground caribou report”.

North Slave Métis Alliance

- Continue to be involved in barren-ground caribou and wood bison issues, including barren-ground caribou processes in Nunavut (with Nunavut Wildlife Management Board).

Sahtú Renewable Resources Board

- Not on the call.

8. Hairy braya – led by Joanna Wilson and Lisa Worthington, ENR  
*Approval of implementation consensus agreement (CA). Implementation CA must be submitted to the Minister of ENR by November 25, 2016.*

- Management Authorities for hairy braya: GNWT and WMAC (NWT)
  - Both Management Authorities are ready to sign
- **Decision #D2016102004: Consensus to approve the Implementation Agreement for the Hairy Braya Recovery Strategy.**

9. Boreal Caribou – led by Joanna Wilson and Lisa Worthington, ENR  
*Approval of CA to accept the recovery strategy.*

Approval of CA:

- Action #A2016102002: Management Authorities to provide ‘actions taken to reach consensus’ on approving the Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy to Secretariat by October 31, 2016.
- Action #A2016102003: ENR to include wording in Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy regarding critical habitat thresholds in the North Slave and Dehcho regions post-2015 fire season, as per WRRB direction.
- GNWT, WMAC (NWT), GRRB, WRRB and SRRB are ready to sign.
- Tłı̨chǫ Government requires one week before issuing formal approval of the consensus agreement.

Approved January 24, 2017

*Recovery strategy and consensus agreement must be submitted to the Minister of ENR by November 27, 2016.*

- Secretariat will circulate the final CA by email. Management Authorities are to provide electronic signatures.

*Discussion on how the strategy will be released publicly.*

- Action #A2016102004: Secretariat to draft a press release and speaking notes for the Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy.

*Preliminary discussion on implementation agreement development (which is due November 27, 2017).*

- There is only approximately one year to provide an implementation agreement, which is a tight timeline.
- CMA suggestion to read the hairy braya implementation agreement to see how it was approached.
- Action #A2016102005: Management Authorities should undergo a technical review of the actions in the Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy, and come to the January face-to-face meeting with a potential preliminary approach as a starting point for discussions.

10. NWT Amphibian Management Plan – led by Joanna Wilson and Lisa Worthington, ENR *Approval of management plan (GNWT, WMAC (NWT), GRRB, SRRB, WRRB, TG).*

Approval of management plan:

- GRRB has submitted some additional revisions, which were reviewed on the call.
- GNWT, WMAC (NWT), GRRB, and Tłı̨chǫ Government are ready to sign.
- WRRB will provide its consent to sign by November 7, 2016. SRRB will provide its consent after its Board meeting this week.

*Approval of consensus agreement for western toad and northern leopard frog recovery strategy requirements (GNWT).*

- GNWT will be accepting and adopting the management plan, which fulfills the requirements for SARA (NWT) for the two amphibian species at risk (northern leopard frog and western toad).
- Approvals from the boards need to be referenced in the consensus agreement and in the management plan, although GNWT is the only Management Authority for these two species at risk. GNWT will not sign the agreement until other approvals are received.
- GNWT would like to ensure that any consultation or engagement completed for this plan be referenced in the consensus agreement.

- Action #A2016102006: Management Authorities to provide ‘actions taken to reach consensus’ on approving the amphibian management plan to the Secretariat by October 31, 2016.

*Recovery strategy and consensus agreement for northern leopard frog must be submitted to the Minister of ENR by December 19, 2016 (by November 26, 2017 for western toad).*

*Discussion on how the strategy will be released publicly.*

- Action #A2016102007: Secretariat to draft a press release and speaking notes for the amphibian management plan.

*Preliminary discussion on implementation agreement development (due November 26, 2017).*

- GNWT is the only Management Authority that is required to develop an implementation agreement under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, but other CMA members may wish to consider being part of the implementation agreement.
- Action #A2016102008: Management Authorities should undertake a technical review of the actions in the Amphibian Management Plan, and come to the January face-to-face meeting with potential preliminary approaches as a starting point for discussions.
- Action #A2016102009: GNWT to gather more information on possible mitigation measures taken for frogs in the Mackenzie Valley during construction of the fiber optic line and report back to CMA at January meeting.

#### 11. Dolphin and Union caribou – led by Joanna Wilson and Lisa Worthington, ENR

*Progress update*

- ENR is integrating comments from second review into a draft for public review. Environment Canada will post the next draft on the public registry. By March 31, 2017, GNWT will distribute for public review and all partners will be notified of the opportunity to comment (May 30, 2017 approximate deadline).
- Final plan expected to be completed by December 2017, at which time it will be sent to the Minister of ENR. It can be made public by March 2018.

*Notice of extension*

- ENR is asking for approval to issue a notice of extension from the CMA for a 1-year extension.
- **Decision # D2016102005: Decision to approve the notice of extension for Dolphin and Union Caribou Management Plan.**

12. Polar bear – led by Joanna Wilson and Lisa Worthington, ENR

*Progress update*

- Comments received are currently being reviewed and integrated into the management plan. The final version will soon be submitted to WMAC (NWT), WMAC (North Slope), and the IGC for approval.
- WMAC (NWT) is meeting in December and is hoping to approve the plan.
- February 2017, CMA to meet to discuss consensus agreement on accepting plan.
- By March 27, 2017, the CMA will provide final consensus agreement to the Minister of ENR.
- The Minister will have until June 27, 2017 to make it public.

*Management plan and consensus agreement must be submitted to the Minister of ENR by March 27, 2017*

13. Peary caribou – led by Joanna Wilson and Lisa Worthington, ENR

*Progress update*

- ECCC continuing work on the draft recovery strategy. Concerns about critical habitat are currently being discussed.

*Recovery strategy and CA must be submitted to the Minister of ENR by November 27, 2017.*

- GNWT thinks it is unlikely to meet November 2017 deadline, and will likely be seeking an extension in 2017.

14. Wood bison – led by Amy Amos, Alternate Chairperson

*Touch base on consultation for listing and preliminary positions on listing as threatened.*

- Management Authorities are: GNWT, Tłı̨chǫ Government, WRRB (and possibly Government of Canada)
- Tłı̨chǫ Government indicates there may be lack of support for this level of protection. People think harvesting should potentially be opened further.

*CA for listing must be submitted to Minister of ENR by April 15, 2017 (to be signed at January face-to-face meeting).*

15. Barren-ground caribou – led by Amy Amos, Alternate Chairperson

*Preliminary discussion on possible upcoming need for a management plan/recovery strategy (assessment to be submitted to CMA by SARC in April 2017)*

- Given the profile of barren-ground caribou, if SARC assesses as special concern or higher, CMA may need to move quickly.



Approved January 24, 2017

- CMA has the ability to adopt existing plans/strategies. CMA should consider whether there is enough already in place that could be adopted into a management plan or recovery strategy. This could be a discussion item at the January meeting.
- Action #A2016102010: Secretariat to perform legislative review of the existing plans for barren-ground caribou and verify to what extent they fulfill the requirements of SARA (NWT) prior to the January 2017 meeting.

16. New Chairperson/Alternate Chairperson selection – led by Amy Amos, Alternate Chairperson

*Appointments expired in June 2016.*

*Extension approved to October 20, 2016.*

*New appointments/re-appointments are required.*

- No volunteers have come forward for Chairperson roles
- Action #A2016102011: Rob Gau to solicit CMA representatives for Chairperson and Alternate Chairperson appointments and provide names for January 2017 face-to-face meeting.

17. Review of action items – led by Michelle Ramsay, Species at Risk Secretariat

*Review of action items from this meeting.*

18. Next meeting – led by Claire Singer, Species at Risk Secretariat

November 17, 2016 – in Yellowknife (joint meeting with the Species at Risk Committee)

December 8, 2016 – conference call

January 24-26, 2017 – in Yellowknife

[Meeting adjourned: 11:17am]