

**Conference of Management Authorities (CMA)
Meeting Minutes
December 7, 2017 Conference Call**

In attendance:	Representative for:
Jody Pellissey, Chairperson	Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board
Jodie Maring	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Allison Thompson	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Rob Gau	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Leon Andrew	Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
Jessica Hum	Tłıchǫ Government
Brett Elkin	Environment and Natural Resources
Joanna Wilson	Environment and Natural Resources
Claire Singer	Species at Risk Secretariat

[Meeting called to order: 9:35am]

1. Introductions – *led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson*

2. Agenda - *led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson*

Review of draft agenda.

Decision #D2017120701: Decision to approve December 2017 meeting agenda, with addition of minute approval from both June and October 2017.

3. Minutes from last meeting – *led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson*

Review of draft minutes from June 2017 and October 2017.

Decision #D2017120702: Decision to approve June 2017 and October 2017 minutes with no changes.

4. Review of action items - *led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson*

Review of outstanding action items from past meetings and action items from previous meetings.

Action Item [#A2014061110](#) is being retired (“ENR to draft a formal response to SARC regarding applicability of the Act on federal lands, and to further research the applicability of the Act in National Defence Sites, Historic Sites, and Migratory Bird Sanctuaries.”). A response was sent to SARC on November 3, 2014, but a more detailed response was pending changes to the federal *Species at Risk Act* that will change how federal and non-federal lands are interpreted. It was felt that it will likely be years until we’re able to complete this action item.

Action Item #A2014111402 is being retired (“ENR Species at Risk Biologist to research consultation requirements in other jurisdictions to clarify the expectations for consultation by the GNWT when consultation has already occurred by the Crown.”). It is anticipated that this question will be worked through during the adoption of the federal recovery strategy.

Continue to bring forward Action Item #A2016051102 (“GNWT to prepare schedule for Peary caribou recovery strategy adoption by the CMA.”).

Bring forward Action Item #A2017050204 until February 2018 (“Report preparer to work on consequential revisions to guidelines for management plans and recovery strategies.”).

5. CMA letters sent and received since last meeting - *led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson*
Review of letters sent and received since October 2017.
6. Dolphin and Union caribou management plan - *led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson*
Approval of management plan and schedule for press release. Deadline for submission of consensus agreement is December 31, 2017.

The Management Authorities for Dolphin and Union caribou (WMA (NWT) and GNWT) have completed their internal approvals of the management plan and have been authorized to sign the consensus agreement adopting the management plan. The management plan has also been approved by the Government of Nunavut and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board. Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) will have the management plan translated into French as soon as they receive the final version containing approval statements.

To ensure that the territorial and federal release dates line up, the consensus agreement won't be submitted to the Minister of ENR before the December 31, 2017 deadline. This will allow for a coordinated public release on March 31, 2018. The consensus agreement respecting implementation of the management plan will then be due on December 31, 2018.

Management Authorities noted the recent re-assessment of Dolphin and Union caribou by ECCC. This re-assessment could shift the species from Special Concern to Endangered. It's therefore important that we start working on implementation actions for the management plan.

A press release announcing the CMA's adoption of the management plan will go out in early January 2018. Although the Chairperson is typically the media contact for the CMA, in this case, it was felt that a representative from WMAC (NWT) or the GNWT would be better placed to respond to media requests. WMAC (NWT) recommended that the GNWT be the press contact given the tie-in with the recent COSEWIC re-assessment. The GNWT tentatively accepted this recommendation.

7. *Polar bear implementation agreement – led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson*
Discussion of path forward for completion of a consensus agreement respecting implementation of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region Joint Management Plan for Polar Bears. Deadline for submission of consensus agreement is March 27, 2018.

ENR has been working with WMAC (NWT) to prepare a draft consensus agreement on implementation. Pending receipt of a letter from WMAC (NWT) submitting an implementation recommendations table, the Management Authorities will be prepared to move ahead with approval of the implementation agreement. The GNWT will need to start its internal approval process in mid-January to ensure all necessary approvals are in place prior to the March 27, 2018 submission deadline. WMAC (NWT) anticipates sending the recommendations table to the GNWT before Christmas.

The GNWT should be able to sign the consensus agreement after March 8th. 2018. WMAC (NWT) is also anticipating signing the consensus agreement at their March 2018 meeting. Records of formal approval/authorization to sign should be sent to the Secretariat for filing. No formal CMA meeting will be scheduled; approval will be done via email.

WMAC (NWT) will be requesting some additional text in Annex B of the consensus agreement with respect to consultation/engagement.

8. *Consensus agreements on listing – led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson*
Touch-base on consultation/engagement regarding proposed listing of barren-ground caribou, grizzly bear, little brown myotis, and northern myotis. Management Authorities should bring listing positions to February 2018 CMA meeting. Deadline for listing is April 12, 2018.

WMAC (NWT) has completed their consultation/engagement on the proposed listings. Their positions on listing are ready for the February 2018 CMA meeting. After community engagements and discussion at a recent board meeting, WMAC

(NWT) intends to support the proposed listing of barren-ground caribou, but not support the proposed listing of grizzly bear.

The WRRB and Tłı̄chǫ Government consultation/engagement is complete. The Tłı̄chǫ Government will discuss the results at a CEC meeting next week. They expect to have their positions finalized in January 2018. Generally, they did receive support for the listing of barren-ground caribou as Threatened and had a lot of discussion about the possible listing of grizzly bears.

The SRRB has completed consultation on barren-ground caribou, focusing on the Bluenose-West and Bluenose-East herds. They have not yet consulted on the proposed listing of grizzly bear as Special Concern but anticipate doing that in January or February. It was noted that this consultation timeline should be considered carefully because each Management Authority is required to have their positions ready for the February 2018 CMA meeting.

The GNWT has completed their public comment period, and are almost done section 35 consultation. There are some groups in Saskatchewan and Manitoba that want to meet with the GNWT and these arrangements are currently being made. Based on results to date, the GNWT is leaning towards supporting the listing of barren-ground caribou as Threatened, not supporting the listing grizzly bears, and supporting the listings of little brown myotis and northern myotis as Special Concern.

Clarification from the Secretariat regarding consequences of consensus/non-consensus – If consensus on listing can't be achieved, then the responsibility for making a listing decision shifts to the Minister of ENR. However, please note that the CMA is not bound to the assessment recommendation. If the CMA achieves consensus on a listing decision that differs from the assessment, that's fine. The consensus can also be to not list the species.

It's important to note that rationale must be included in consensus agreements on listing. Management Authorities will need to describe what they heard during consultation/engagement and also demonstrate that they considered SARC's status report and assessment. For Management Authorities bringing forward a position inconsistent with SARC's assessment, it's important that those reasons be made particularly clear.

9. Next meeting – *led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson*

Next meeting is scheduled for February 20-22, 2018 in Inuvik. To accommodate flights, the meeting will happen the afternoon of the 20th, all day on the 21st, and the morning of the 22nd. This should allow people to fly in on the 20th and fly out on the 22nd.

The GNWT is requesting that the February meeting agenda include an item on the development of a section 11 agreement for NWT implementation of the federal Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy.