

**Conference of Management Authorities (CMA)
Meeting Minutes, December 13, 2019
Conference Call**

Attendees	Organization
Jody Pellissey	Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board, Chairperson
Freda Randhile	Athabasca Denesuline
Leslie Wakelyn	Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Management Board
Bruce Laurich	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Troy Ellsworth	Environment and Natural Resources
Rob Gau	Environment and Natural Resources
Joanna Wilson	Environment and Natural Resources
Kaytlin Cooper	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Sam Bullock	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Doug Doan	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Cat Fauvelle	North Slave Métis Alliance
Leon Andrew	Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
Jodie Maring	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Claire Singer	Species at Risk Secretariat
Michele Grabke	Species at Risk Secretariat

1. Introductions – *led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)*
Round table introductions.

2. Agenda – *led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)*
Review of agenda.

Agenda approved with the addition of item #9 (SARC appointment).

3. Minutes – *led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)*
Review and approval of draft minutes from May, July, and September 2019.

Draft minutes from meetings in May, July, and September 2019 approved with edits submitted by CMA members by email earlier.

4. Action items since last meeting – *led by Claire Singer (Secretariat)*
Review of outstanding action items.

5. Species Conservation and Recovery Fund – *led by Michele Grabke (Secretariat)*
Call for applications January 15-March 1, 2020.

This was formerly called the Species at Risk Stewardship Program. The name change reflects earlier discussions regarding uncertainty surrounding the word ‘stewardship’ and a desire to focus funds on recovery and management actions for species at risk. A new application, poster, brochure, and reporting template were agreed to by the Sub-committee, reflecting this shift in name and focus. In addition to the name change, the program will now consider applications using a tiered approach, based on the priority of the species (is it a listed species, is the project linked to a published draft/final management plan or recovery strategy) and the project (purpose/objective of the project).

The 2020/21 application period for the fund opens January 15, 2020 and closes March 1, 2020. Brochures and posters will be mailed out to CMA members. Please advise the Secretariat if any additional copies are needed. The material will also be available for download from the website. A total of \$60,000 is planned to be available on an ongoing basis for future fiscal years under this fund.

6. Wood bison – *led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)*

Legal deadline for completion/submission of consensus agreement on implementation is April 29, 2020.

The Wek’èezhìi Renewable Resources Board, Tłı̨chǫ Government, and Government of the Northwest Territories are preparing to sign a consensus agreement respecting implementation of the wood bison recovery strategy. The consensus agreement must be complete by April 29, 2020. This deadline cannot be extended. Some additional work is required to finalize the content of the consensus agreement prior to Management Authority approvals. Approval of the implementation agreement will be considered at the February 2020 meeting.

7. Bats – *led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)*

Review and verify timelines in work plan. Confirm that all relevant Management Authorities have submitted consultation/engagement results. Discussion of major topics from consultation/engagement.

Consultation and engagement results have been received and are being incorporated into an updated version of the management plan. The Secretariat anticipates completing these revisions and sending the final management plan to the CMA by the end of January to begin approvals. No concerns were raised with this timeline. Consensus approval of the management plan will be considered at the February 2020 meeting. The consensus agreement accepting the final management plan must be complete by April 11, 2020. The management plan will then be published by July 11, 2020. The implementation agreement will be due by April 11, 2021.

Comments were received from a number of governments, organizations, and members of the public.

Based on the comments received, all of the distribution maps in the management plan will need to be updated (new protected area, new observations of reproductive females and hibernacula, plus minor corrections), along with the white-nose syndrome map (which has spread since the proposed draft management plan was released). There are also a number of minor editorial changes and the addition of a new approach, along with some relatively minor content changes.

Although the management plan is still being revised by the Secretariat, the new approach was reviewed and approved during the meeting.

8. Barren-ground caribou – *led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)*

Review and verify timelines in work plan. Confirm that all Management Authorities have submitted consultation/engagement results. Discussion of major topics from consultation/engagement.

Consultation and engagement results have been received and are being incorporated into an updated version of the recovery strategy. The Secretariat anticipates completing these revisions and sending the final recovery strategy to the CMA by the end of January to begin approvals. No concerns were raised with this timeline. Consensus approval of the recovery strategy will be considered at the February 2020 meeting. The consensus agreement accepting the final recovery strategy must be complete by April 11, 2020. The recovery strategy will then be published by July 11, 2020. The implementation agreement will be due by April 11, 2021.

Comments were received from a number of governments, organizations, and members of the public.

Report preparer provided a brief overview of thematic comments. Suggested changes to the goals and approaches were discussed in more detail.

One new goal was proposed, focusing on the human-caribou relationship. The CMA approved the addition of this new goal, with some alterations to make the scope of the goal more inclusive. The revised new goal reads: Support and maintain the caribou-people relationship. Of a similar approach already included in the recovery strategy, one commenter asked how this would be measured. However, the CMA agreed that how objectives/approaches are implemented can be left up the groups/partners who will be doing

the implementation; they felt there was no need to define methods of measurement in the recovery strategy itself.

Goal #3 (supporting unobstructed movement) was reworded, with the aim of making it more plain-language. With the addition of more active language (i.e., promote), the revisions to this goal were approved. The revised goal reads: Promote conditions that allow caribou to move and migrate across their historic ranges without barriers.

Goal #4 was also revised, removing ‘social, cultural, and environmental’ from the wording. The revised goal reads: Promote the conditions necessary for recovery.

A number of new approaches were also added and discussed during the meeting:

- Approach 1.9 (resources for communities) – Given the similarities with approach 1.7 (capacity building), there was support to merge the two approaches, while ensuring that the ideas contained within each are retained.
- Approach 4.9 (caribou habitat and wildfire response) – There was some discussion about merging 4.9 with 4.5 (which is about range level responses to cumulative effects), however, given the strong concern associated with wildfire impact and response, it was agreed that they should remain separate. However, the approaches will be re-ordered to ensure that 4.5 and 4.9 appear consecutively.
- Approach 4.10 (conserve migratory routes) – There was some discussion about combining 4.10 with 4.7 (important habitat). However, as with the previous approach, the CMA agreed to keep the two approaches separate, and to re-order the approaches so that 4.10 and 4.7 appear consecutively.
- Approach 5.4 (education about caribou-people relationship) – The addition of this new approach was supported, but with some changes to the wording, such that it focuses on educating all people about the importance of maintaining the people-caribou relationship.

Action #A2019121301: The Secretariat will make these revisions to the goals and approaches and re-circulate by email so that CMA members can apply more specific edits. The Secretariat will provide a fairly short commenting window for this exercise.

Action #A2019121302: In making these revisions to the recovery strategy, the Secretariat will draft relative priority and timeframe statements for each of the new approaches.

**The Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) brought forward an issue that arose during their community tour. For the information of the CMA, they noted that the community of Tuktoyaktuk doesn't currently support the management plan approach for the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula herd. No action on the part of the CMA is required. WMAC (NWT) is still*

committed to continue working with the community and Tuktoyaktuk Hunters and Trappers Committee and anticipates being able to sign the consensus agreement accepting the recovery strategy.

9. SARC appointment – *led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson).*

Decision to fill vacancy on SARC created by resignation of Dr. Aalice Legat.

Two individuals were nominated for consideration for the SARC vacancy created by the departure of Dr. Aalice Legat: Mr. Petter Jacobsen and Mr. Paul Voudrach. Aalice's appointment was one of two designed to enhance expertise in traditional knowledge at the SARC table. As discussed by the CMA in February 2015, this vacancy should be filled by an individual with experience and knowledge about how to do traditional and community knowledge research. They should be able to critically evaluate the content of the traditional and community knowledge component of SARC's status reports. In addition, the Act states that all SARC members must have significant expertise of species, habitat, northern ecosystems, or conservation. In making the membership decision, the CMA should ensure that SARC has, to the extent possible, expertise in respect of all species and all areas of the NWT.

Management Authorities brought forward their respective recommendations and had the opportunity to raise concerns. No concerns were raised regarding either candidate, however, on majority vote of the Management Authorities participating in the meeting, Mr. Petter Jacobsen was selected as the CMA's recommendation for the new SARC member.

Decision #D2019121301: Decision to recommend Mr. Petter Jacobsen for appointment to SARC to fill the vacancy created by Dr. Aalice Legat's resignation.

Action #A2019121303: Secretariat will work with ENR on the proposed appointment of Mr. Petter Jacobsen to SARC.

10. Next meetings – *led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)*

- The next meeting is scheduled for February 18-20, 2020 in Inuvik, NWT. It was noted for travel purposes that the meeting will be the afternoon of the 18th, all day on the 19th, and the morning of the 20th.
- Please be prepared for these agenda items:
 - Approval of wood bison implementation agreement.
 - Approval of barren-ground caribou recovery strategy.
 - Approval of bat management plan.

- Implementation summaries – updates on your recovery strategy/management plan implementation activities need to be submitted to the Secretariat by the February meeting (for hairy braya, amphibians, boreal caribou, polar bear, and Dolphin and Union caribou). Management Authorities responsible for submitting implementation summaries are as follows:
 - Hairy braya – GNWT and WMAC (NWT)
 - Amphibians – GNWT (for northern leopard frog and western toad), plus GRRB, SRRB, and WRRB for other amphibian species
 - Boreal caribou – GNWT, WMAC (NWT), GRRB, SRRB, WRRB, Tłı̨chǫ Government
 - Polar bear – GNWT and WMAC (NWT)
 - Dolphin and Union caribou – GNWT and WMAC (NWT)

The Secretariat will circulate a template for reporting on implementation actions.

End of meeting.