

Conference of Management Authorities (CMA)
DRAFT Meeting Minutes – 12 June 2013
Conference Call

9:00 a.m. – Meeting call to order

Attendance:

In attendance:	Representative for:
Walter Bayha	Sahtu Renewable Resources Board, Alternate Chair (as Chair)
Deborah Simmons	Sahtu Renewable Resources Board
Jody Snortland Pellissey	Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board
Marjorie Matheson-Maund	Tłı̨chǫ Government
Jack Bird	Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT
Lynda Yonge	Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT
Joanna Wilson (resource person)	Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT
Steven Charlie	Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT
Rob Gau	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Amy Thompson	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Johnny Charlie	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Don Aubrey	Parks Canada
Diane Casimir	Parks Canada
Bruce MacDonald	Environment Canada
Arthur Beck	Northwest Territory Métis Nation

1. Introductions – *led by Walter Bayha*
Round table introductions.
2. Agenda – *led by Walter Bayha*
Review of draft agenda
Decision #D2013061201: Consensus to approve the June 2013 agenda with no changes.
3. Minutes from last meeting – *led by Walter Bayha*
Review of draft minutes from February 2013 face-to-face meeting in Yellowknife.
Decision #D2013061202: Consensus to approve the February 2013 meeting minutes with no changes.
4. Review of action items – *led by Michelle Henderson, Secretariat*
Review of action items from February 2013 face-to-face meeting in Yellowknife.

ENR confirmed that Salt River First Nation should participate at the CMA table when species that are found on Salt River First Nation reserve lands are discussed.
Decision #D2013061203: CMA approved the invitation of the Salt River First Nation (SRFN) to attend CMA meetings at the 'participant' level, when species that occur on SRFN reserve lands are being discussed.

Action #A2013061201: Secretariat to draft invitation letter to Salt River First Nation (SRFN) for participation in CMA on SRFN reserve lands.

5. CMA decisions made since last meeting – *led by Claire Singer, Secretariat Review of decisions made since the February 2013 meeting.*
 - a) Approved consultation material for four species being considered for listing (Polar Bear, Hairy Braya, Peary Caribou, and Boreal Caribou) by CMA: fact sheets, flow chart, mail out template letter, and PowerPoint presentation.
 - b) Membership changes to SARC, which have been approved by the CMA.
6. CMA letters sent and received since last meeting – *led by Claire Singer, Secretariat Review of letters sent and received by the CMA since February 2013.*
7. Review of consensus agreement templates – *led by Claire Singer, Secretariat Review of templates for consensus agreement to list and not to list.*
Action #A2013061202: CMA representatives to review draft templates for consensus agreement to list and not to list by July 18, 2013, and send any comments to the Secretariat.
8. Species at Risk Stewardship Program update – *led by Amy Thompson, GRRB Update on 2013-14 Species at Risk Stewardship Program applications that were awarded funding and review of project summary reports from 2012-13 Program year.*

The subcommittee awarded funding to six projects in total and distributed all available funding for the year. The subcommittee solicited ideas from CMA reps about how best to advertise the Program in an effort to obtain more applications.

- Marjorie Matheson-Maund will fill vacancy on the subcommittee.
- The Species at Risk Stewardship Program subcommittee now consists of: Grant Pryznyk, Lynda Yonge, Amy Thompson, Marjorie Matheson-Maund and Kendra McGreish (Secretariat)

9. Updates on actions taken since last CMA meeting, including report on progress of coordinated management actions for 4 assessed species and any changes in representatives – *led by Walter Bayha*
 - *Government of the Northwest Territories, Department of Environment & Natural Resources (ENR)*
 - Needs to provide an opportunity for public input. GNWT has been discussing how to fulfill obligations for public engagement and Aboriginal rights consultation. ENR representatives will be providing details shortly, and looking for CMA members' comments.
 - Approach to public engagement: Potential listing out for public comment for 60 days. ENR to advertise using print ads, green screens, website, and an electronic distribution and fax list to advertise that listings are being considered.
 - Individual s.35 consultation letters to groups with established or asserted Aboriginal or Treaty rights.
 - *How should ENR consult with Aboriginal governments in settled areas?*
 - GNWT could consult directly with Aboriginal governments in the way they normally would without the CMA, and would have records of the consultation.

- GNWT is planning on relying on Board processes for consultation in the communities and RRCs/HTCs in settled areas. The GNWT needs to make sure that consultation was adequate and properly done before Minister could use that consultation.
- Boards feel that consultation needs to be government-to-government, and that GNWT should go through its own process; meanwhile, Boards can also go through its processes as per the land claims agreements. It is likely that some information will get filtered through both GNWT and the Boards. At this early stage it is unclear whether Board's processes would meet GNWT's requirements for consultation.
- CMA should share results on the engagement process afterwards, and adjust for future.
- ENR will send a formal, legal letter to rights-bearing groups. This is different from the engagement process that the Boards are doing with the RRCs and general public. If the Governments and rights-bearing groups want to meet, ENR would meet in conjunction with the Boards. The purpose of the letter is specifically s.35 consultation and potential infringement. The letter will explain up-front that the Board is doing public engagement and that GNWT is consulting.
- WMAC (NWT) indicated that a letter to IGC is all that is needed for consultation in the ISR.
- SRRB indicated that ENR's approach will suffice in the Sahtu region.
- Unclear how ENR is to consult government-to-government with Tlicho Government.

Action #A2013061203: ENR and Tlicho Government to discuss path forward on government-to-government consultation.

Action #A2013061204: GNWT to send copy of draft consultation and engagement plan shortly for review.

- *Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)*
 - 4 of 6 communities completed. Communities have been receptive. No major issues to report thus far.
 - There was a question about whether a written submission from CMA members is expected, and if so, what it might look like. It was explained that the consensus agreement templates have space for noting how CMA members came to consensus, including meetings, consultation, engagement, etc.
- *Sahtu Renewable Resources Board (SRRB)*
 - Community tour done April and May 2013; spoke with RRCs about Boreal Caribou. Each session included a discussion on the Boreal Caribou assessment and delivery of a letter requesting that RRCs review the issue and provide comments to the Board.
 - Follow-up engagement will be carried out by the Board after RRCs have had time to digest the information.
 - SRRB will document RRC input and hopes to be done engagement process by early October.
- *Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)*
 - GRRB hired a species at risk biologist for 6-month term to help prepare board meeting. Biologist and community engagement will provide information, which will help the board to decide whether or not a proposed listing should be approved during Sept 19-20th meeting.
 - GRRB is going to RRC meetings in June.

- No major concerns raised about potential listing.
- *Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board (WRRB)*
 - No requirement to consult in Wekweèti because the Boreal Caribou range does not encompass the community.
 - Meetings planned for late June to gather community concerns and input on potential listings.
 - WRRB confident a decision can be made by October.

10. Update from Species at Risk Committee (SARC) – *led by Claire Singer, Secretariat*

Planned 2013 species assessments: Dolphin-Union Caribou and Northern Leopard Frog.

- 2013 status assessments are currently on schedule; CMA should anticipate completing assessments for Dolphin-Union Caribou and Northern Leopard Frog in December 2013.
- Northern Leopard Frog has completed its 6-month review; Secretariat is working to compile comments and develop draft 4.
- Dolphin and Union Caribou draft status report is currently out for its 6-month review and comments are due back to SARC by September 30, 2013.

Western Toad (due for assessment in 2014) draft species status report is out for its 6-month review

- Comments are due back to SARC by November 7, 2013.

Submission of 2012-13 SARC Annual Report to CMA.

- CMA accepted the submission of the 2012-13 SARC Annual Report.

Submission of the proposed SARC Assessment Schedule for 2013-2020 for review and approval

- Original schedule was quite ambitious so SARC chose to spread out future assessments.
- The high prioritization score for bumble bees also resulted in a number of changes to the assessment schedule, accounting for further changes.
- Management Authorities would be able to more easily approve the assessment schedule in the future if the Secretariat could tally species by regions and year, so that management authorities can anticipate workloads.

Decision #D2013061204: Consensus to approve the SARC assessment schedule with no changes.

Request to pursue an agreement to assess migratory birds and fish under section 144.2 of the Species at Risk (NWT) Act.

- The Species at Risk (NWT) Act applies to all wild animals, plants or other species managed by the GNWT, but without an agreement between the GNWT and Canada under section 144.2 of the Act, it does not apply to fish, migratory birds or marine plants.
- The SARC has heard concerns from NWT residents about song-birds and fish, but without a s144(2) agreement in place, SARC is unable to assess these species and respond to these concerns.
- While these species can be assessed by COSEWIC, SARC is concerned that these national assessments may not adequately represent the status of the

species in the NWT, or address the concerns of NWT residents in a timely manner.

- An agreement under s144(2) of the Act would allow SARC to assess migratory birds and fish species; it would not however, allow the CMA to list the species. If SARC assessed any fish or migratory birds, the assessments would be provided to COSEWIC for consideration for listing under the federal *Species at Risk Act*.
- See attached letter for full content of this request.
- ENR will not take on financial responsibility for migratory birds or fish. The agreement would have to address who would pay for assessments if they are done.

Action #A2013061205: CMA recommends that GNWT contact EC and DFO to discuss the possibility of a section 144(2) agreement for SARC to assess migratory birds and fish.

Submission of Guidelines for the Submission of 6-month Review Comments

- CMA had requested guidance from the SARC on the submission of comments from 6-month species status report reviews.

Review of SARC letter informing the CMA of knowledge gaps for species on the 2013-2020 SARC Assessment Schedule.

- CMA members find this table very valuable as a research planning tool.

11. SARC Membership – *led by Claire Singer, Secretariat*

Acknowledging concerns raised in February 2013 in relation the composition of SARC members.

- Concern about uneven representation of various participating bodies was brought up at the previous CMA meeting.
- Reminder that members represent knowledge and regions, rather than management bodies.
- New membership listing based on name, rather than the management body that appointed them, emphasizes this.

12. CMA 2012-13 Annual Report – *led by Claire Singer, Secretariat*

Review of draft 2012-13 CMA Annual Report

Decision #D2013061205: Consensus to approve CMA Annual Report 2012-13.

13. Guidelines and template for management plans and recovery strategies – *led by Claire Singer, Secretariat*

Review of guidelines and templates for management plans and recovery strategies.

Action #A2013061206: Secretariat to make final, agreed upon changes to the guidelines and template for management plans and recovery strategies.

Decision #D2013061206: Consensus to approve the guidelines and template for management plans and recovery strategies with no further changes.

14. Species at Risk (NWT) Act Annual Report 2012-13 – *led by Joanna Wilson, ENR*
Submission of 2012-13 Species at Risk (NWT) Act Annual Report to the CMA by the Minister of ENR.

15. Update on learning session for setting management and recovery goals – *led by Claire Singer, Secretariat*

Secretariat will be planning a learning session on setting management or recovery goals for the October 2013 meeting in Inuvik. Secretariat solicited requests for content or facilitators from CMA members. No specific requests were received.

16. Next steps and action items – *led by Michelle Henderson, Secretariat*

Review of action items from this meeting.

Next meeting will be face-to-face and held October 8-9, 2013 in Inuvik.