

**Conference of Management Authorities (CMA)**

Meeting Minutes – December 13, 2013

Conference Call

9:30 am – Meeting Call to Order

In attendance:	Representative for:
John McCullum	Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board
Jack Bird	Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT
Lynda Yonge	Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT
Joanna Wilson	Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT, resource person
Stephen Charlie	Environment and Natural Resources, GNWT
John B. Zoe	Tłı̨chǫ Government
Michael Neyelle	Sahtu Renewable Resources Board
Deborah Simmons	Sahtu Renewable Resources Board
Rob Gau	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Larry Carpenter	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (first half of meeting only)
Amy Amos	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board – Alternate Chairperson
Natalka Melnycky	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Don Aubrey	Parks Canada Gov. of Canada (on conference call line)
Bruce MacDonald	Canadian Wildlife Service, Gov. of Canada
Alex Fanni	Acho Dene Koe First Nation
Claire Singer	Species at Risk Secretariat
Kendra McGreish	Species at Risk Secretariat

1) Introductions - *led by Amy Amos, Alternate Chairperson*

*Round Table – welcome*

2) Agenda – *led by Amy Amos, Alternate Chairperson*

*Review of draft agenda*

**Decision #D2013121301: Consensus to approve the December 2013 agenda.**

3) Minutes from last CMA meeting – *led by Amy Amos, Alternate Chairperson*

*Review of draft minutes from October 8-9, 2013 meeting in Inuvik.*

**Decision #D2013121302: Consensus to approve the October 2013 meeting minutes with no further changes.**

4) Review of action items – *led by Claire Singer, Secretariat*

*Review of outstanding action items from past meetings, action items from the October 2013 meeting in Inuvik and updates on progress.*

From previous meetings:

#A20111101: Secretariat to look into linking the NWT Species at Risk website to the websites of the Management Authorities and regulatory boards.

- Further website work undertaken by Secretariat to improve site performance; will bring forward until technical issues resolved.

#A2012060410: ENR to review Species at Risk Secretariat directive letter to ensure consistency with CMA Rules of Conduct.

- Complete. ENR verified that the directive letter was consistent with the Rules of Conduct.

#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.

- Outstanding. Bring forward. Some concern that there wouldn't be much value added in pursuing a s144(2) agreement since, while SARC would then be able to assess these species, the NWT would not be able to list them.

From October 8-9, 2013 meeting:

#A2013100801: Management Authorities to consult with their boards at their next meeting to get a firm decision on participant or observer invitations for both the NSMA and SRFN. All Management Authorities will submit their positions to the Secretariat by no later than December 15, 2013.

- Complete. Discussion included in agenda and minutes for this meeting.

#A2013100802: Secretariat to draft briefing note as soon as possible for the CMA to facilitate the development of a position on NSMA and SRFN participation.

- Complete. Circulated to Management Authorities on November 1, 2013.

#A2013100803: Secretariat to draft amendments to the Rules of Conduct to allow for some buffer time on email decision items.

- Complete. Discussion included in agenda and minutes for this meeting.

#A2013100804: Secretariat to update list of decisions/actions with respect to outstanding and bring forward items before next CMA meeting.

- Complete. This constitutes the report on decisions/actions.

#A2013100805: Management Authorities to provide to the Secretariat names of organizations that would be interested in receiving SARC/CMA annual reports.

- Complete. No additional names provided.

#A2013100806: Management Authorities to consider ways of improving knowledge and understanding of the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* and its processes.

- Complete. Discussion included in agenda and minutes for this meeting.

#A2013100807: GRRB to share grizzly bear TK report, once it is at a level they are comfortable sharing.

- Outstanding, will keep bringing forward until it is completed.

#A2013100808: Management Authorities receiving funding from the Stewardship Program should send an update to the Secretariat if there is anything new to report.

- No new updates on completed Stewardship Program projects.

Action #A2013121301: Send out reminder to 2013/14 Stewardship Program recipients to send in reporting as required by the contribution agreement.

#A2013100809: Secretariat to send Stewardship sub-Committee a briefing regarding the status of Stewardship Program-funded projects in order to facilitate the allocation of the final \$5,000.

- Complete. Sub-committee is reviewing a submitted application from the SRRB to create a photo book.

#A2013100810: Secretariat to determine whether the Inuvialuit terminology report was circulated more widely than the website and if so, determine who it was provided to.

- Complete. The report was primarily mailed out to participants of the workshop and then it was up to them to distribute the report further if they desired. Also sent to WMAC(NWT) the Inuvialuit Cultural Resource Centre and Inuvialuit HTCs.

#A2013100811: Secretariat to draft media release for the listing decisions associated with all four species and circulate draft to all members of the CMA for review.

- Complete. Circulated draft to CMA members. Comments received and incorporated into final media release for listing decisions. Media release circulated December 13, 2013.

#A2013100812: Secretariat to work with SRRB if Michael Neyelle is contacted by CBC to do an interview, in his native language, about listing of species.

- Ongoing.

#A2013100813: Secretariat to track media conversations, which will be compiled and put in the relevant section of the next meeting binder.

- Ongoing.

#A2013100814: GNWT to check whether any of the comments received on listing recommended a deviation from the status of 'threatened' for boreal caribou.

- Complete. ENR submitted revised wording for the consensus agreement, which was incorporated into the final Consensus Agreement on Listing Boreal Caribou.

#A2013100815: Secretariat to ensure that Dahti Tsetso is on all emails to the DFN so that information is going to more than one person and doesn't get lost.

- Ongoing.

#A2013100816, #A2013100819, #A2013100822, #A2013100902: Secretariat to prepare consensus agreements for Peary caribou, polar bear, hairy braya and boreal caribou for review and approval by the Management Authorities.

- Complete. Consensus agreements finalized and submitted to Minister of ENR on December 12, 2013.

#A2013100817, #A2013100820, #A2013100823, #A2013100901: Management Authorities to provide summary of consultation/engagement activities and reasons for positions to the Secretariat for inclusion with the consensus agreement for Peary caribou, polar bear, hairy braya and boreal caribou by October 18, 2013.

- Complete. Summary of consultation/engagement activities and reasons for positions included in final signed consensus agreements.

#A2013100818, #A2013100821, #A2013100824, #A2013100903: Once consensus agreements are complete and associated attachments are received, Secretariat to draft letter to the Minister of ENR, submitting the consensus agreement.

- Complete. Signed consensus agreements submitted to Minister of ENR on December 12, 2013.

#A2013100904: GNWT to pursue the development and delivery of a Minister's statement regarding the consensus agreements on listing during the October-November sitting of the Legislative Assembly. The Minister's statement will be scheduled to take place after consensus agreements have been signed by all Management Authorities.

- Not applicable. Minister of ENR opted not to pursue a Minister's statement for the October-November sitting. Consensus agreements also not signed before session was closed.

#A2013100905: Secretariat to provide Management Authorities with relevant information regarding how other organizations develop management plans/recovery strategies, including any recommendations that may be available, prior to the December 13, 2013 conference call.

- Complete. Information contained in binder for this meeting.

5) CMA decisions made since last meeting – *led by Claire Singer, Secretariat*

*Review of decisions since October 2013 meeting.*

- Approval of content for consensus agreements on listing boreal caribou, Peary caribou, polar bear, and hairy braya.
- Approval of content of media release for listing decisions.
- Approval of letter transmitting consensus agreements to the Minister of ENR.

6) CMA letters sent and received since last meeting – *led by Claire Singer, Secretariat*

*Listing of letters sent and received by the CMA since the June 12, 2013 meeting.*

- CMA was copied on a consultation letter on listing boreal caribou as threatened. Written by GNWT, addressed to Akaitho Territory Government.
- Sent submission of 2013 consensus agreements to the minister.

7) Updates on participating organizations' actions taken since last CMA meeting and changes to representatives – *led by Amy Amos, Alternate Chairperson*

*Overview of actions taken by each management authority/board/organization.*

*Government of the Northwest Territories*

- No changes to representatives.
- Consensus agreements have been signed – letters sent to groups that were consulted to update them on the listing.
- A Minister's statement on the listing decision was not done during the October-November sitting of the Legislative Assembly. ENR will release a media announcement after the listing is formalized (placed on the NWT List of Species at Risk). This announcement will also be circulated via email to ensure the message is widely received.

Government of Canada

- No changes to representatives for Environment Canada or Parks Canada.
- No new actions to report.

Tłı̨chǫ Government

- No changes to representatives.

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) (WMAC (NWT))

- No changes to representatives.
- Had regular meeting at the beginning of December. Invitations to observers discussed and looked at paths forward for goals and objectives for boreal caribou, Peary caribou, polar bear and hairy braya.

Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB)

- Natalka's position was extended to the end of this year. She is working on material to help with future consultations.
- Discussed CMA invitations to observers at most recent board meeting.

Sahtu Renewable Resources Board (SRRB)

- No changes to representatives.
- Reviewed invitations to observers at most recent board meeting.

Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board (WRRB)

- No changes to representatives.
- Reviewed invitations to observers at most recent board meeting.

Acho Dene Koe

- New observing member. This is their first meeting. Alex Fanni will be their representative for the foreseeable future until the First Nation is able to hire full time staff in Fort Liard.
- Everything has been forwarded to chief and council to brief them.

8) Report on listing of boreal caribou, Peary caribou, polar bear, and hairy braya – *led by Claire Singer, Secretariat*

*Overview of activities since the decision to list in the October 2013 meeting.*

- The four consensus agreements successfully signed and submitted to the Minister of ENR on December 12, 2013.
- Copies of the signed consensus agreements are included in the binder for the records of Management Authorities.
- The CMA media release for the listing decision will be coordinated by ENR's Public Affairs and Communications section. Interviews will be brought to the attention of the Chair, as the designated spokesperson of the CMA.
- Minister of ENR has three months to legally list the species. This will be done by posting the Listing on the Northwest Territories Gazette. The List and the consensus agreements will then be kept on the species at risk website: [www.nwtspeciesatrisk.ca](http://www.nwtspeciesatrisk.ca)

If a request to do an interview in Slavey is received, the Secretariat will provide Michael Neyelle with speaking points for the interview. Otherwise, the Chair speaks for the CMA. Management

Authorities are still able to do interviews but they must speak on behalf of their organization rather than for the CMA.

Following actual listing, the CMA gets three months to develop a path forward for development of the recovery plans and management strategy.

Suggestion that the CMA ought to have a discussion regarding the process for developing management plans/recovery strategies, rather than just leaving it to the individual Management Authorities to coordinate among themselves. This is important because under the Act there are only 3 months in which to identify a path forward for the development of recovery strategies/management plans. Management planning can take a long time. The GNWT could provide a few suggested options as a starting point for this discussion. These would not be detailed; they would just act as a starting point for discussions.

Action Item #A2013121302: GNWT to put together starting points for the discussion of recovery strategies and the management plan for the meeting in January. Secretariat to ensure that these are circulated to Management Authorities prior to the January 2014 meeting.

9) Secretariat Report – *led by Claire Singer, Secretariat*

*Information on approaches other jurisdictions use to develop recovery strategies was requested by the CMA at the last meeting. Secretariat presented this information for CMA review.*

Action Item #A2013121303: Management Authorities to read through the Secretariat's report prior to the January 2014 meeting.

10) Invitations to Observers – *led by Amy Amos, Alternate Chairperson*

*December 15, 2013 deadline for Management Authorities to submit their positions on invitations to the Salt River First Nation (SRFN) and North Slave Metis Alliance (NSMA) to the Secretariat.*

GNWT: The SRFN has management authority on their reserve lands for wildlife. We should issue a standing invitation to SRFN at the participant level. We should issue invitations to the NSMA at the 'observer' level when a species is their region is being discussed.

Canada: Generally agree with the GNWT on this matter.

Tłı̨chǫ Government: Board supports a 'standing participant' invitation to the SRFN. Does not support a standing invitation to the NSMA because they are not eligible for a claim – they should however be able to request an invitation when the CMA is reviewing species relevant to the NSMA.

WMAC(NWT): Supports a 'standing participant' invitation for the SRFN. However, the NSMA is too early in their process to be invited on a standing basis. Council thought they could learn by observation but not participation. The Council is not comfortable with having them sit at the table, but in the gallery with no participation in any of the discussion.

GRRB: Agree to SRFN being invited as a standing participant when species within their territory are being considered. NSMA should be granted observer status only.

SRRB: SRFN and NSMA should both receive standing invitations for participation in CMA meetings. Generally feel that those with an interest in the species, that have information to contribute with

respect to the management of that species, and have the species within their traditional territory should be permitted to participate.

WRRB: Same position as the Tłı̨chǫ Government. NSMA could request participation at individual meetings where species relevant to them will be discussed.

ADKFN: The issue was mentioned to the Chief and Council, who suggested that they should be given same status as the ADKFN.

Everybody agrees that SRFN can be given a standing invitation at 'participant' level. Difference in positions regarding how involved the NSMA should be though. Additional concern raised that the territory being asserted by the NSMA is too broad and they are too early in the process. There are concerns that they could be infringing on areas that already have settled land claims. They also have a track record of using venues such as this for political purposes.

Under the Rules of Conduct, for an administrative matter such as this, a consensus decision is not required. If consensus is not possible, a simple majority will suffice.

Management Authorities agreed that, at this point, a single-meeting invitation for January 2014 at the 'observer' level is appropriate. The issue will be revisited in January.

**Decision #D2013121303: Consensus to provide single-meeting invitation to the NSMA at the 'observer' level for the January 14-15, 2014 meeting.**

Action #A2013121304: Secretariat to provide invitation to the NSMA for observation of the January meeting.

Action #A2013121305: Secretariat to add in-camera discussion about NSMA participation to January meeting agenda.

**Decision #D2013121304: Consensus to provide standing invitation to the SRFN for participation in future CMA meetings.**

Action #A2013121306: Secretariat to create and provide standing invitation for the SRFN.

Observer organizations are currently allowed to send up to three representatives and the participation of these representatives is being funded by the GNWT through the Secretariat. However, the costs of sending three people from each of the observing organizations are getting quite high. The GNWT proposes that, while observing organizations will still be able to send up to three representatives to meeting, the GNWT will only fund one representative from each observing organization. This would not affect funding provided to Management Authorities.

**Decision #D2013121305: Consensus to approve proposal by the GNWT – only one representative from each observing organization will have their participation costs covered (though they will still be allowed to send up to three representatives).**

Action #A2013121307: Secretariat to amend existing observer contribution agreements to cover costs associated with only one representative from each observing organization.

11) CMA Rules of Conduct – *led by Claire Singer, Secretariat*

*Review of amended rules of conduct.*

**Decision #D2013121306: Consensus to approve changes to the Rules of Conduct.**

Action #A2013121308: Secretariat to finalize changes to Rules of Conduct and post to the website.

12) Species at Risk Stewardship Program Update – *led by Amy Amos, Stewardship sub-committee*

*General updates about the program.*

*Discussion of the most recently awarded funding.*

- Subcommittee has reviewed request to award excess funding – SRRB species at risk photo book application was successful.
- No changes to format or content of application and brochure.

Action #A2013121309: Secretariat to ensure that the ADKFN is on the mail-out list for the 2014-15 Stewardship Program's 'call for applications'.

13) SARC 2013-2020 assessment schedule – *led by Claire Singer, Secretariat*

*Review of proposed changes to the assessment schedule.*

SARC feels that it is not possible for barren-ground caribou to be assessed in 2014 given delays in completing the status report. The draft status report is not of a quality that SARC would feel comfortable sharing with the public. SARC is requesting that the assessment be moved to 2015. Wolverine is ahead of schedule and could therefore be assessed in 2014, rather than 2015. Letter requesting amendment to the assessment schedule received by the CMA from SARC this morning.

Action #A2013121310: Secretariat to provide update at January meeting about the progress of the barren-ground caribou species status report.

**Decision #D2013121307: Consensus to approve changes to the assessment schedule.**

14) Species at Risk website – *led by Kendra McGreish, Secretariat*

*Update on the new Species at Risk website. Review of website usage.*

Member portals should now be functional. The Secretariat will use this portion of the website to post meeting binders and other documents for review. Administrators are able to remove email accounts from the website, so there will be no concern about past members being able to access information.

15) Communications – *led by Amy Amos, Alternate Chairperson*

*Discussion on how to improve the public's understanding of the CMA's role.*

GRRB: Currently working on their 2014 calendar, which talks a little bit about the CMA, but mostly about the act.

GNWT: As recovery strategies and management plans come forward we should make clear that it is a cooperative approach; these documents are not just developed by government. This could help reinforce an understanding of where this information is coming from.

SRRB: Got additional funding to publish terminology workshop, which will create capacity to more broadly distribute the workshop report, including putting on their web page – hope it will raise awareness of species at risk in the Sahtu region.

WMAC(NWT): Council discussed distributing the results of the terminology workshop in the Inuvialuit more broadly. WMAC(NWT) decided to approach other management bodies and do something jointly that would have a species at risk cooperative management component.

16) Next steps and action items – *led by Amy Amos, Alternate Chairperson*

*Review of next steps in the meeting and actions/decision items so far.*

Report by Nominating Committee (Rob Gau) for Chair and co-Chair positions: sent out email to representatives of Management Authorities to solicit interest. Some responses in their reply have suggested other people that they feel could take on the Chair or co-Chair role. For people that have not responded, Rob will follow up with a phone call before the January CMA meeting.

Action #A20131213011: Secretariat to add report from the nominating committee to the January meeting agenda.

January meeting to be held at the Explorer Hotel in the Janvier room.