

**Conference of Management Authorities (CMA)
Meeting Minutes
September 3, 2015
Conference Call 9AM**

In attendance:

Jody Pellissey	Chairperson, Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board
Ron Allen	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Kaytlin Cooper	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Eugene Pascal	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Rob Gau	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Deb Simmons	Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
Leon Andrew	Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
Don Aubrey	Parks Canada
Ron Schaefer	Salt River First Nation
Lynda Yonge	Environment and Natural Resources
Joanna Wilson	Environment and Natural Resources
Lisa Worthington	Environment and Natural Resources (agenda items 9-13 only)
Claire Singer	Species at Risk Secretariat
Kelly Joy	Species at Risk Secretariat

- 1. Introductions – Led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson**
Meeting called to order at 9:30am.

- 2. Agenda – Led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson**

Decision #D2015090301: Consensus to approve agenda.

- 3. Minutes from last meeting – Led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson**
Review and approval of draft minutes from July 2015.

Decision #D2015090302: Consensus to approve minutes as amended.

- 4. Review of action items – Led by Claire Singer, Secretariat**
Review of outstanding action items from past meetings and actions items from previous meeting.

- 5. CMA decisions made since last meeting – Led by Claire Singer, Secretariat**
No decisions made since July 2015 meeting.

6. CMA letters sent and received – *Led by Claire Singer, Secretariat*
Review of letters sent and received since July 2015.

One letter sent/received since July 2015 meeting. Letter sent from CMA to Minister of Environment and Natural Resources (ENR), submitting the 2014-15 CMA Annual Report for tabling in the Legislative Assembly.

7. Updates on actions taken since last CMA meeting and changes to representatives – *Jody Pellissey, Chairperson*

Roundtable of status updates from Management Authorities, participants and standing observers.

Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT):

- Continuing work on recovery strategies and management planning under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act* and range planning in the South Slave and Dehcho regions for boreal caribou.

Government of Canada:

- Jonah Mitchell is new Field Unit Superintendent, starting shortly.

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

- Staffing change: resource person to be staffed.
- Next regularly scheduled meeting is September 19-21.

Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB):

- Ongoing work on field projects, including barren-ground caribou surveys.
- Have hired a summer student.
- Conducting community consultation on the NWT Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy.
- Participating in the development of an NWT Amphibian Management Plan.

Sahtú Renewable Resources Board (SRRB):

- Working on a number of projects including: a Délı̨nę conservation plan, NWT Amphibian Management Plan, a cross-cultural research camp, and traditional knowledge research on wolverine. Some community members have noticed some Peregrine falcons near the Canol Trail and an absence of swallows.

Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board (WRRB):

- Submitted board comments on proposed NWT Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy. Allice Legat contracted to review traditional knowledge component of the Species at Risk Committee's (SARC) draft *Status of Barren-ground Caribou in the NWT*. Will be submitting comments on this report prior to the September 15, 2015 deadline. Next board meeting scheduled for September 23-24, 2015.

Salt River First Nation (SFRN):

- Waiting for results of surveys of Bathurst, Beverly and Bluenose caribou that were carried out in summer 2015. GNWT circulated letter September 3, 2015 regarding Bathurst results; SRFN should be receiving something shortly.

8. **Barren-ground caribou** – *Led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson*

Discussion regarding timing of the assessment of barren-ground caribou. Bring forward from July 2015 meeting.

Final CMA direction on assessment date of barren-ground caribou required. Majority of meeting participants indicated support for a March 2017 assessment of barren-ground caribou (in lieu of March 2016) owing primarily to capacity constraints. Although it was generally agreed that this postponement will not have any adverse impacts on the species because of its high-profile nature and existing management regimes, some concern was noted regarding the delay of work on a species as important as barren-ground caribou.

Decision #D2015090303: Consensus to shift assessment of barren-ground caribou to March 2017.

Action #A2015090301: Secretariat to notify SARC of changes to assessment schedule, as approved at the July 24 and September 3, 2015 conference calls.

CMA also reminded that comments on SARC's draft *Status of Barren-ground Caribou in the NWT* report are due to the Secretariat on September 15, 2015.

9. **NWT Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy** - *led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson*

Discussion regarding possible need for extension to completion of NWT Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy.

Comment period on proposed *NWT Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy* recently closed. The GNWT received a large number of substantive comments on the proposed strategy. The GNWT would like to give these comments thorough consideration and put forward specific suggestions to the CMA for how to address each comment; however, this work will require a considerable amount of time. The report preparer is requesting a one-year extension to the completion date for the recovery strategy (to February 27, 2017, with submission to the Minister of ENR on November 27, 2016). This work can possibly be completed earlier than this, but the revised timeline accommodates potential delays owing the fall 2015 territorial election. New timeline to completion would be approximately:

Action	Timeline
Submission to CMA of specific suggestions to address comments received during consultation/engagement.	Mid-October 2015 (or February 2016 if election delays occur).

CMA discussion of proposed revisions and incorporation of final CMA direction by report preparer.	January 2016 (or May 2016 if election delays occur).
Development of internal Management Authority positions and determination of whether additional consultation/engagement is required.	2-4 months.
Approval of final recovery strategy.	April 2016 (or fall 2016 if election delays occur).

Upon receiving the suggested revisions to the recovery strategy, Management Authorities may require meaningful internal discussions prior to bringing their positions to the CMA table. This would be dependent upon the timing of scheduled face-to-face board meetings. The schedule should accommodate these internal discussions.

Decision #D2015090304: Consensus to grant 1 year extension for completion of NWT Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy.

10. NWT Amphibian Management Plan - led by Joanna Wilson and Lisa Worthington, GNWT

Discussion of latest draft of management plan and schedule/method to completion. Note that Management Authorities, participants and observers not required for subsequent species left the conference call. Attendee list updated as appropriate below.

Attendees: Rob Gau (Ad-hoc Chairperson, WMAC (NWT)), Joanna Wilson (GNWT), Lisa Worthington (GNWT), Lynda Yonge (GNWT), Deb Simmons (SRRB), Kaytlin Cooper (GRRB), Claire Singer (Secretariat), Kelly Joy (Secretariat).

Working group (GNWT, SRRB, and GRRB) recently met to discuss the development of an *NWT Amphibian Management Plan*, work plan to completion, and possible goals, objectives and approaches. Some changes to the outline and workplan were suggested; management plan preparer working to incorporate those agreed-upon changes.

Working group identified 5 management objectives, which will be integrated into the management framework and first draft of the management plan. The draft framework will be circulated early in October 2015. The first draft will be circulated in late October 2015.

WMAC (NWT) considers amphibians to be species of lesser concern and are deferring plan development to the working group. Encourage the working group to continue distributing material more broadly than just the working group, but this would essentially act as information until actual engagement or approvals are required.

11. NWT Polar Bear Management Plan – led by Joanna Wilson and Lisa Worthington, GNWT

Updates on management plan and schedule to completion, if necessary. Discussion regarding need for extension to completion of NWT Polar Bear Management Plan.

Attendees: Rob Gau (Ad-hoc Chairperson), Joanna Wilson (GNWT), Lisa Worthington (GNWT), Lynda Yonge (GNWT), Claire Singer (Secretariat), Kelly Joy (Secretariat).

In July 2015, a new version of the management plan was written and distributed to the working group. They seem content with this new version, notwithstanding minor changes. The working group will be meeting in September 2015 to discuss the threats to each subpopulation of polar bears. Plan is to include the threats assessment in the management plan. Also have decided to review comments received together as a working group to ensure there's group agreement in how to address each comment.

Report preparer is requesting a 16 month extension to the completion date for the management plan (to June 27, 2017, with submission to the Minister of ENR by March 27, 2017).

Action	Timeline
Submission of next draft management plan to working group.	October-November 2015.
Working group provides feedback to report preparer.	November-December 2015.
Report preparer integrates working group feedback and provides proposed management plan to Management Authorities.	December-January 2015.
Consultation and engagement on proposed management plan.	February-April 2016.
Management Authorities meet to discuss results of consultation and engagement and provide direction on incorporation to report preparer.	May-June 2016.
Preparer makes final revisions to management plan.	October 2016.
Final management plan provided to Management Authorities/working group.	November 2016.
Internal Management Authority decisions on accepting the management plan.	December-January 2017.
Management Authorities meet to develop consensus agreement on accepting the management plan.	February 2017.

Management plan submitted to the Minister of ENR.	March 27, 2017.
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Note that WMAC (NWT) meets every March, June, September, and December – when it comes time for the council to complete its final review/approval of the management plan, these meeting dates will need to be accommodated within the schedule to completion.

Decision #D2015090305: Consensus to grant 16 month extension for completion of *NWT Polar Management Plan*.

12. NWT Peary Caribou Recovery Plan – led by Joanna Wilson and Lisa Worthington, GNWT

Provide status update on federal recovery strategy. Discussion regarding need for extension to completion of NWT Peary Caribou Recovery Strategy.

Report preparer is requesting a 2 year extension to the completion date for the recovery strategy (to February 27, 2018, with submission to the Minister of ENR by November 27, 2018). An estimated timeline of the federal process was presented by the preparer. This amended timeline should adequately accommodate federal timelines.

Action	Timeline
Circulation of draft for consultation by the federal government.	Fall 2015.
Provision of community consultation results by Environment Canada. Will consult with Sachs Harbour, Paulatuk and Ulukhaktok.	January-March 2016.
Environment Canada to formally request support for the recovery strategy.	April-May 2016.
Internal Environment Canada review.	June-August 2016.
Final recovery strategy posted to Environment Canada website.	November-December 2016.

CMA processes to conduct consultation and engagement on the recovery strategy and adopt it, would likely start after the final recovery strategy is posted to Environment Canada's website.

Management Authorities suggested that it may be possible to complete some CMA-related work prior to receiving the final version; for instance, the CMA may want to consider participating in Environment Canada's community consultations as a way of completing at least a portion of the consultation/engagement that it will have to do (explaining that the CMA is planning on adopting the recovery strategy without the provisions for critical habitat). Regardless, Management Authorities do anticipate

needing to complete some consultation and engagement following the posting of the final recovery strategy.

Decision #D2015090306: Consensus to grant 2 year extension for completion of NWT Peary Caribou Recovery Strategy.

Action #A2015090302: Report preparer to submit updated schedule to completion for the boreal caribou and Peary caribou recovery strategies and the polar bear management plan to the Secretariat for incorporation in the minutes.

Action #A2015090303: Secretariat to draft Notices of Extension for the *NWT Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy, Polar Bear Management Plan, and Peary Caribou Recovery Strategy* for review by Management Authorities and future posting to the website.

13. NWT Hairy Braya Recovery Plan – led by Joanna Wilson, GNWT

Overview of significant comments and revisions to recovery strategy requiring discussion. Discussion of tentative preliminary Management Authority positions regarding accepting the recovery strategy.

Comments received during consultation and engagement have been integrated into a final recovery strategy and circulated to the Management Authorities. WMAC (NWT) will pass a resolution to sign a consensus agreement accepting the final recovery strategy prior to the next CMA meeting. ENR will be bringing the final recovery strategy through internal approval channels starting next week. Following that, the Minister of ENR will authorize Lynda Yonge to sign the consensus agreement.

A summary of the actions that Management Authorities took to prepare for the consensus agreement on accepting the recovery strategy is required by the Secretariat for incorporation into the consensus agreement.

Action #A2015090304: Management Authorities to submit summary of actions taken to prepare for consensus agreement accepting the *NWT Hairy Braya Recovery Strategy* to the Secretariat by September 21, 2015. Secretariat to circulate draft consensus agreement to Management Authorities to help inform this work.

14. Dolphin and Union Caribou Management Plan – led by Joanna Wilson and Lisa Worthington, GNWT

Discuss latest draft of management plan (or status update if not available). Schedule to completion.

Management plan being developed cooperatively with Nunavut and the federal government. Final layout of management plan will therefore deviate to some degree from the CMA template.

Working group met in July 2015. Discussed possibility of including section on harvest management similar to that of the Bluenose barren-ground caribou herds. Management plan was revised to reflect this. Harvest management planning is a significant departure from the standard CMA template for management plans though. How should the CMA discuss this concept? Government of Nunavut is in support of a harvest management section but Environment Canada is not. WMAC (NWT) discussions have also been focused on harvest management, given that Nunavut harvest has at times appeared to be unsustainable. The inclusion of a section on harvest management may well be warranted. Opinions differ among co-management partners though regarding how to do this.

Working group is considering scheduling a conference call at end of September/early October 2015 with co-management partners and others to discuss the inclusion of this new section. Next face-to-face meeting tentatively scheduled for the beginning of December 2015. Species information sent to Nunavut for their review.

First draft of the management plan will be circulated to co-management partners in October to November 2015. It will be discussed collectively at the December 2015 face-to-face meeting. From that meeting, the preparer will revise the management plan, and return changes to co-management partners in February 2016, in accordance with the work plan.

Completion of the management plan may ultimately require an extension from the CMA. Multi-partner plans are considerably more complicated than CMA-only plans. Co-management partners may want to consider bringing other groups in sooner rather than later to avoid receiving major requests for changes at the end of the process.

15. Western toad listing – Led by Joanna Wilson, GNWT

Discussion of tentative preliminary Management Authority positions on listing.

Attendees: Joanna Wilson (Ad-hoc Chairperson), Lynda Yonge (GNWT), Claire Singer (Secretariat), Kelly Joy (Secretariat).

GNWT is proceeding with necessary internal approval processes. They anticipate being able to sign the consensus agreement to list western toad at the next CMA meeting.

16. Next Meeting – Led by Claire Singer, Secretariat

Review of upcoming meeting dates.

Next meeting is currently scheduled for October 15-16, 2015 in Yellowknife.

[Meeting closed.]