

**Conference of Management Authorities (CMA)
Meeting Minutes
October 15-16, 2015
Nunasi Building, Genesis Boardroom, Yellowknife, NT**

In attendance:	Representative for:
Jody Pellissey	Chairperson, Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board (Day 1)
Amy Amos	Alternate Chairperson, Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Ron Allen	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Eugene Pascal	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Misty Ireland	Dehcho First Nation
Jack Bird	Environment and Natural Resources
Lynda Yonge	Environment and Natural Resources
Stephen Charlie	Environment and Natural Resources
Joanna Wilson	Environment and Natural Resources, technical support
Myra Robertson	Environment Canada (Day 1)
Peter Redvers	Kátł'odeeche First Nation (Day 1)
Shin Shiga	North Slave Métis Alliance (Day 1)
Arthur Beck	NWT Métis Nation (Day 1)
Don Aubrey	Parks Canada (Day 1)
Deb Simmons	Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
Leon Andrew	Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
Ray Tourangeau	Salt River First Nation
Ron Schaefer	Salt River First Nation
Sjoerd van der Wielen	Tłı̨chǫ Government (Day 1)
Larry Carpenter	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Rob Gau	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Lisa Worthington	Recovery Strategy/Management Plan preparer
Kelly Joy	Species at Risk Secretariat
Claire Singer	Species at Risk Secretariat

DAY 1

8:30 am – In-Camera Session (representatives from Management Authorities only)

Action #A2015101501: In March 2016, upon expiry of current observer invitation, Conference of Management Authorities (CMA) to extend invitation for participant status to the North Slave Metis Alliance (NSMA) for a period of one year. Secretariat to draft necessary materials for Chairperson review and approval.

9:30 am – Meeting Call to Order

Opening prayer – *led by Leon Andrew, Sahtú Renewable Resources Board (SRRB)*

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

2. Agenda – *led by Jody Pellsissey, Chairperson*
Review and amendment of draft agenda.
3. Minutes from last CMA meeting – *led by Jody Pellsissey, Chairperson*
Review of draft minutes from September 3, 2015 conference call.

Decision #D2015101501: Decision to approve September 3, 2015 meeting minutes as amended.

4. Review of action items – *led by Claire Singer, Secretariat*
Review of outstanding action items from past meetings and action items from previous meeting.
5. Decisions made since last meeting – *led by Claire Singer, Secretariat*
Review of decisions made since last meeting for incorporation in the minutes.

Decision #D2015101502: Approval of wording for Notice of Extension for boreal caribou and Peary caribou recovery strategies and polar bear management plan.

6. Letters sent and received – *led by Claire Singer, Secretariat*
Reviewed all letters sent and received since September 3, 2015.
7. Member updates – *led by Jody Pellsissey, Chairperson*
Roundtable of status updates from Management Authorities, participants and standing observers.

Government of the Northwest Territories (GNWT):

- Regarding boreal caribou – Environment and Natural Resources (ENR) working towards range plans to show how critical habitat will be protected, as required by federal recovery strategy. Meetings held recently with community harvesters to identify areas that are important - done in the Dehcho communities and in the process of conducting South Slave community meetings. Also working on a guidance document on how a range plan will look. Trying to get the next draft of that ready for wider review.
- Various management plans and recovery strategies – providing input into federal plans/strategies and working on the territorial ones (boreal caribou, polar bear, Peary caribou, Dolphin and Union caribou, and amphibians).
- Every two years collaborate with Environment Canada, Parks Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada (DFO) on an NWT species at risk booklet. Last one done in March 2014. Next due to come out March 2016.
- Have distributed results of 2015 barren-ground caribou photo surveys. Results are not encouraging. Now looking at new actions for this season and longer term.

Government of Canada:

- Environment Canada:
 - Trying to reduce backlog of recovery plans under federal *Species at Risk Act* (SARA); one major file is Peary caribou, including knowledge assessment report with traditional and scientific knowledge to inform critical habitat. Have a draft knowledge assessment at this point; will be working with partners for input on that this fall. Still determining whether this kind of knowledge assessment will form a standard component of recovery plans in the future.
 - Wood bison consultation took place in spring 2015.
 - Bat recovery strategy – 3 species listed nationally as an emergency posting – close to posting this recovery strategy for comments.
 - Working with GNWT and other partners on Dolphin and Union caribou management plan.
 - NWT species at risk booklet.
- Parks Canada:
 - Jonah Mitchell started as new Superintendent. David Britton has returned to Nahanni National Park Reserve.
 - Entering second year of cooperative management discussions regarding management in and around Wood Buffalo National Park.

Tłı̨chǫ Government:

- Sjoerd van der Wielen has replaced Marjorie Matheson-Maund on the CMA.
- Received barren-ground caribou photo survey results. In discussions with ENR and Wek'èezhii Renewable Resources Board (WRRB).

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (WMAC (NWT)):

- Had regular meeting in September in Whitehorse.
- Still struggling with capacity issues. Following Gwich'in lead, going to be pursuing supplementary funding request.
- Good discussion with Government of Canada on critical habitat approaches for Peary caribou recovery. Council felt work was good but still preliminary.
- Continuing to work with Gwich'in and Sahtú on collaborative barren-ground caribou issues.
- Good discussion with ENR representatives on compliance approaches.
- Council members going to Winnipeg this coming week to discuss how successful polar bear management happens in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.

Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB):

- Had regular fall board meeting last week in Fort McPherson.
- Still have species at risk biologist but haven't yet been able to secure permanent funding; still working towards that.

- Working on 2016 conservation calendar – opportunity to highlight species at risk messages.

Sahtú Renewable Resources Board (SRRB):

- Tədzi work (boreal caribou) ongoing. Trying to work with Ross River to develop a management plan on caribou.
- Last month had elders' traditional knowledge workshop.
- Worked on traditional knowledge guidelines for the Sahtú.
- Sahtú in the process of having two hearings regarding Bluenose-East and Bluenose-West caribou.
- Authored traditional knowledge report submitted to James Hodson (GNWT). Question regarding whether this report is publicly available. Confirmed later in the meeting that the report can be shared with other CMA members.

Action #2015101502: Secretariat to circulate Sahtú traditional knowledge report submitted to James Hodson to CMA members.

Wek'eezhii Renewable Resources Board (WRRB):

- Had a meeting at the end of September in Behchokǫ; caribou were the focus. Discussed interim harvest measures for Bathurst/Bluenose-East caribou in anticipation of management proposals being submitted for these herds.
- Additional proceedings this winter for these two herds. Bluenose-East proceedings to be done collaboratively with SRRB.
- Board responded to review requests for the proposed NWT Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy and the draft barren-ground caribou status report from both traditional and scientific knowledge perspectives. Allice Legat looked at the traditional knowledge component while Boyan Tracz looked at the scientific knowledge component.
- Conducted boreal woodland caribou traditional knowledge project over the summer with Whatì (led by community). Led by Allice Legat along with Whatì community researchers. Looking at having a report released for this work.

Dehcho First Nation (DFN): no updates.

NWT Métis Nation: no updates.

Salt River First Nation (SRFN):

- Currently reviewing notes from *Wildlife Act* section 15 meeting, held October 13-14, 2015 in Yellowknife.
- Reviewed NWT Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy.

North Slave Métis Alliance (NSMA): no updates.

Kátl'odeeche First Nation (KFN):

- Participated in federal bison recovery strategy consultation process. Consultation meeting was productive - KFN was looking for a role and some ideas were generated for follow-up.
- Submitted comments on proposed NWT Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy.
- Will be participating in a boreal caribou range planning meeting taking place in the community. Will be sharing some previously gathered traditional knowledge information.
- Regarding the number of comments received on the proposed NWT Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy and its consequent postponement, wondering what implication this will have, given the impacts on this animal and the increased pressure from harvesting related to restrictions on barren-ground caribou and bison harvesting. It was noted that management actions for any species are not contingent on what's in the recovery strategy or management plan. Management actions can happen at any time for any species. No impact anticipated.

Species at Risk Secretariat:

- Financial reporting touch base. Given the number of contribution agreements that are handled by the Secretariat and delays that sometimes occur in receiving appropriate financial reporting, the Secretariat will be closely observing the terms of the contribution agreements from this point forward. This includes requiring detailed financial reporting (i.e., transaction reports) that permit the verification of the expenses, and the issuance of invoices following the lapse of the 60 day reporting deadline. Also noted that contribution agreements are linked – if there is outstanding financial reporting, or an outstanding invoice payment associated with one contribution agreement, no further payments under other contribution agreements can be made until the issue has been resolved. This also applies to multi-year contribution agreements – any advance payment requires the submission and acceptance of reporting requirements from the previous payment.
- Request to put this decision in a letter to contribution agreement recipients.

Action #A2015101503: Secretariat to prepare letter for all contribution agreement recipients detailing approach to financial reporting and payments under contribution agreements. A cover letter summarizing these requirements will also be included with every future contribution agreement.

8. Incorporation and Accommodation of Traditional Knowledge – *led by Jody Pelleissey, Chairperson*
Review of workshop report from January 2015 and identification of path forward.

CMA discussed the recommendations listed in the executive summary of the report and noted that while some recommendations have already been implemented and some may not be possible owing to funding or capacity constraints, a detailed review of the recommendations and determination of a path forward was important. The CMA is

therefore interested in hosting a workshop on these matters at their next face-to-face meeting.

Action #A2015101504: Secretariat to coordinate the inclusion of a half day traditional knowledge workshop, meeting the scope outlined in recommendation #8 of the report titled *Traditional Knowledge in SARC and CMA Processes and Procedures*, in the next face-to-face meeting agenda. Work with SRRB and perhaps report preparer to build this workshop.

Action #A2015101505: Secretariat to complete a detailed report on the status/priority of all recommendations and sub-recommendations included in the report titled *Traditional Knowledge in SARC and CMA Processes and Procedures*, including barriers to those recommendations not yet implemented and suggestions for moving forward, for submission to the CMA prior to the next face-to-face meeting.

Action #A2015101506: Secretariat to circulate the original traditional knowledge implementation report, developed by the SRRB, Kristi Benson and Janet Winbourne, to the CMA.

Action #A2015101507: CMA members to submit any procedural traditional knowledge-related information that may be useful for CMA work to the Secretariat for possible inclusion in the traditional knowledge workshop scheduled for the next face-to-face meeting.

Action #A2015101508: Larry Carpenter to provide polar bear traditional knowledge reference guide to the Secretariat for circulation to the CMA.

9. Roles and responsibilities – *led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson*
Follow-up from January 2014 workshop with Alistair Bath. Discussion to identify a path forward.

It was generally felt that the CMA operates well. The primary weakness noted was the need for better communication regarding federal/territorial processes and the perception of redundancy. Noted that now we're delving into specific species, communication in this regards has become easier because the conversation has become less abstract.

Moving towards joint consultation/work with the federal government and other agencies where possible to minimize duplication and redundancy (e.g., Peary caribou recovery planning, national roundtable on species at risk, polar bear management plan, NWT Species at Risk booklet). One of the challenges with conducting joint recovery/management planning is legislative timelines. If organizations aren't on the same trajectory, collaboration becomes more difficult. Here, it might make sense to have a general awareness of others' timelines and be able to anticipate future consultation

needs. It's also important that all participating organizations retain some flexibility in recovery/management planning so that needs of multiple organizations can be met.

Suggestion for ENR, Environment Canada and Parks Canada to meet locally to discuss these issues. Some higher level meetings have taken place and agencies also work together locally, particularly ENR and Environment Canada. This type of conversation could include priority setting, data sharing, communication, compliance, etc. Many areas for potential collaboration.

Decision #D2015101503: Complete an analysis of CMA work every five years as an opportunity to take stock and identify further steps forward. Next analysis should take place in 2019.

10. Barren-ground caribou – *led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson*

Decision on herd splitting for assessment and inclusion of 2015 photo survey results in draft species status report.

SARC requested direction from the CMA regarding how to assess the nine barren-ground caribou herds. Unless otherwise directed, SARC will either: (1) assess all nine herds together or (2) will assess the eight central/eastern herds together and will assess the Porcupine herd separately on the basis of geographic distinctness. The CMA has more discretion in the identification of a 'distinct population' and can direct SARC to assess different herd groupings.

Members were initially evenly split between directing SARC to complete two assessments (one for the Porcupine herd and one for the eight central/eastern herds) and directing SARC to complete nine assessments concurrently (one for each herd). Some members felt that a collective assessment would miss the subtleties of range, habitat and threat differences among herds and may actually contribute to the endangerment of some herds if their specific needs were not adequately addressed. It was also noted that if the herds were assessed collectively, difficulties in perception could result if regional users see the situation differently when compared to the status of NWT barren-ground caribou as a whole.

In contrast, it was noted that traditional knowledge sometimes doesn't see a distinction between herds; they may only see two different kinds of caribou – barren-ground caribou and boreal woodland caribou. Doing a different assessment for each herd may make assessment of traditional knowledge difficult. Further, in conducting a collective assessment there's a recognition that there is interchange among herds.

It was also noted that it is important to observe the difference between assessment and management. Herd-based management will continue regardless of how SARC assesses barren-ground caribou. Under the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*, we must also ask ourselves whether the species (not the herd) is in danger of going extinct.

Ultimately, in understanding that the assessment wouldn't change the herd-based management regime and that the status and threats of each herd would be considered during the assessment and will remain in the final species status report, it was agreed that the CMA would recommend that SARC complete two assessments, one for the Porcupine herd (geographic distinctness) and one for the eight central/eastern herds.

Decision #D2015101504: Consensus to direct SARC to complete two assessments for barren-ground caribou; one for the Porcupine herd and one for the eight central/eastern herds.

Action #A2015101509: Secretariat to prepare materials directing SARC to complete two assessments for barren-ground caribou, for review and approval by CMA Chairperson.

Decision #D2015101505: Consensus to include 2015 photo survey results in the barren-ground caribou status report.

Regarding the assessment of the Porcupine herd, since the Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB) is the authority, members questioned whether the PCMB should also be involved in subsequent CMA work on this herd. The answer here is unclear. The GNWT has committed to research this question.

Action #A2015101510: GNWT to determine whether the PCMB should be involved in CMA decisions related to the Porcupine caribou herd.

11. COSEWIC-ranked species – *led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson*
Direction on response to SARC's question regarding the continued prioritization and assessment of COSEWIC species.

SARC requested direction from the CMA regarding whether the continued prioritization/assessment of COSEWIC species was necessary if the status of those species was not of concern in the NWT. In general, CMA members supported the continued prioritization of COSEWIC species, but felt that assessment was not necessary if a species did not receive a high priority score. The assessment of species of low concern in the NWT was generally seen to be an ineffective use of resources. Factors that were felt to be important in prioritizing species included community concern, whether the species is harvested, whether the NWT represents a refuge for a species nationally, and the possibility of management practices that could be implemented at a later date. It was also noted that there are both federal and territorial processes at play. If a species is considered at risk nationally, the NWT can still be part of that federal process and will ultimately be bound by any management decisions at a national level.

Decision #D2015101506: Consensus for SARC to continue with the prioritization of COSEWIC species but, for species determined to be of low priority in the NWT, not be bound to an assessment.

Action #A2015101511: Secretariat to draft letter to SARC reflecting this decision.

12. Lesser known species – *led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson*
Direction on path forward for lesser known species. Review of options paper.

In previous meetings where this topic was discussed, there was general recognition of the importance and interconnectedness of all species; however, concerns were raised with respect to capacity, community buy-in, and consultation burn-out as it relates to assessing, listing and managing lesser known species (e.g., non-harvested species). Some Management Authorities have indicated that owing to these concerns, they will step back from a lead position on consultation and management/recovery planning for lesser known species.

Further discussion supported the understanding that a lesser known species is not necessarily a less important species. Rather than ceasing consideration of lesser known species entirely, Management Authorities felt that it would be better to work with SARC to refine the *Checklist for Establishing Assessment Priority* and the *Guidelines for Preparation of a SARC Status Report*. This discussion could include the removal of species for which there are no threats from the assessment schedule, raising the threshold priority score for assessment, introducing weighted prioritization scores, considering the seriousness or imminence of threats during prioritization, considering the ecological significance of the species, and the development of simpler/shorter species status reports. The CMA can also consider whether efficiencies in consultation and management/recovery planning/implementation are possible.

It was also felt that 'lesser known' status might be a function of language barriers. An English or Latin name might not mean anything to traditional knowledge holders. It's important to identify and use traditional species names. Additionally, information gathering for species status reports should consider indirect information as well. Even if people aren't aware of a particular species, they could still provide information on general landscape and climate trends in the area in which it occurs.

Action #A2015101512: Secretariat to share *Official Taxonomic References* document with the CMA so additional traditional species names can be added to Appendix B by CMA members.

Action #A2015101513: Secretariat to draft letter to SARC, asking them to consider the revision of their *Checklist for Establishing Assessment Priority* and *Guidelines for Preparation of a SARC Status Report* at their next face-to-face meeting. The draft letter will be circulated to all CMA members prior to being sent and will include a request to send the CMA Chairperson to the next SARC face-to-face meeting and an invitation for SARC representatives to come to the next CMA face-to-face meeting to discuss this matter further.

Action #A2015101514: Secretariat to circulate key SARC procedural documents (assessment process, *Checklist for Establishing Assessment Priority*, and *Guidelines for Preparation of a SARC Status Report*) to CMA members to help inform the content of the letter to SARC.

13. Website – *led by Claire Singer, Secretariat*
Discussion regarding member use of 'Search' function on website and whether increased functionality there is necessary.

Action #A2015101515: Secretariat to update properties of all documents on website to facilitate the improvement of the search function on the website.

14. NWT Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy – *led by Joanna Wilson, GNWT*
Update on recovery strategy progress.

Changes to attendees: Lisa Worthington (report preparer) joined the meeting.

Timelines to completion have been revised based on last conference call. Have now prepared a draft containing the proposed revisions and in the process of discussing them internally to ensure that the product put forward can be supported by the government as a whole. Will provide the proposed revisions to the CMA once internal discussions are complete. After that, anticipate meeting with the CMA early in 2016 to discuss all proposed revisions. Will use the results of this discussion to build a final proposed recovery strategy that will be provided to Management Authorities for their internal decision-making processes. The revisions are substantial but it is not yet clear whether they are substantial enough to warrant additional regional consultation and engagement.

With respect to the meeting to review the proposed revisions, CMA members expressed a preference for a face-to-face meeting, rather than a teleconference. The meeting will need to be scheduled prior to fiscal year end to ensure that CMA members can draw on funding in their existing contribution agreements, and should avoid the GRRB board meeting on February 23-25, 2016.

The consensus agreement accepting the recovery strategy must be developed in fall 2016 and be submitted to the Minister of ENR by November 27, 2016.

15. Media release – *led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson*
Review of draft media release announcing the submission of consensus agreements listing western toad as 'threatened' and accepting the NWT Hairy Braya Recovery Strategy to the Minister of ENR.

No concerns expressed with content of draft media release, although it was noted that it will be updated slightly to reflect the actual submission date of the consensus agreements

and the actual date of the media release. The final media release will be shared with CMA members prior to its release.

Action #A2015101516: Secretariat to circulate final media release to CMA members for their information prior to its release. Deadline to submit further changes is November 15, 2015.

Consensus agreements will be submitted to the Minister of ENR on November 27, 2015. The media release will follow on November 30, 2015.

Action #A2015101517: Secretariat to arrange for the submission of the consensus agreements for listing western toad and accepting the hairy braya recovery strategy to the Minister of ENR on November 27, 2015, and the media release on November 30, 2015.

16. Lessons learned – *led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson*

Two years into recovery/management planning, is there anything that needs to change for future strategies/plans? Is there anything that worked well?

It was felt that although looking for efficiencies and working jointly with other governments/jurisdictions was desirable overall for better agreements/management and to reduce duplication, it is important to recognize that proceeding in this manner is harder and takes longer. This is especially true for species whose management is complicated or controversial. Further, joint planning is only effective if all parties have an equal voice right from the beginning of the process. It's difficult to bring in additional parties towards the end of a process. Flexibility is also important – joint planning requires some compromise (e.g., format, content, approach, etc.). In retrospect, the first four species were perhaps too large a workload when considered together, especially given the associated learning curve.

Recently, report preparers have begun using working groups early on in the preparation of recovery strategies/management plans. The purpose of these groups is to encourage the provision of feedback earlier on the process. The trade-off though is an increase in administrative work for the report preparer; time that might otherwise have been spent on writing. It is anticipated that this will help later on in the process, but early on it represents a heavier workload.

The template and guidelines for development of recovery strategies and management plans has been problematic. They were built before any strategies/plans had been attempted. In practice, each species' strategy/plan has evolved in a different direction. It may therefore be worth revising the template and guidelines. It may also be worthwhile to consider building simpler strategies/plans. The background information currently included largely repeats what was already included in SARC's status report. To help facilitate this, it was suggested that the ultimate goal of the strategy/plan should always be kept in mind. If a simpler strategy/plan can accomplish the goal(s), then that should be sufficient.

Ultimately however, while these thoughts were generally met with support, without suggestions and without being immersed in the template, it's hard for Management Authorities to consider how to amend the template. They have encouraged the report preparer to bring forward any suggested changes for additional direction early on in the development of any future strategies/plans; perhaps while a table of contents or outline is being reviewed.

The report preparer requested direction on timeline reporting. Should work plans be developed with built-in allowances for the inevitable delays that occur (i.e., a more realistic projection of timelines)? Or should they be reflective of the 1-2 year period provided for the development of these strategies/plans in the Act? Should an extension be requested immediately if delays are observed early in the process? Some concerns were expressed with the optics of requesting extensions early on in the process and long term consequences associated with extensions (i.e., with some species being considered federally, recovery/management planning is now overlapping with re-assessment and listing). There was general support for the submission of a realistic workplan, but one that also keeps in mind legislative timelines. This information can help Management Authorities plan their resource allocations appropriately. Management Authorities also noted that it was important that the work plans be developed collaboratively so they can ensure their internal rules and procedures are accommodated.

Given the amount of work that needs to take place in the development of a strategy/plan, it was felt that procedural decisions (i.e., how to build a strategy/plan) should be discussed earlier on in the process; possibly even before a species is listed. This would allow the CMA to maximize the use of the time available to them.

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

Next meeting is May 10-12, 2016 in Yellowknife. There may also be another meeting scheduled early in 2016 to complete the review of proposed revisions to the NWT Boreal Caribou Recovery Strategy. The date of this meeting will be determined at a later date.

Break in proceedings. Species-specific discussions that follow did not require the attendance of all Management Authorities. Updates to attendance are provided in the notes below, as appropriate.

DAY 2

9:30 am – Meeting Call to Order

18. Amphibian Management Plan – *led by Rob Gau, Ad-hoc Chairperson*
Discussion of latest draft of framework, outline and work plan.

Attendees: Lynda Yonge (GNWT), Stephen Charlie (GNWT), Joanna Wilson (GNWT), Ron Allen (GRRB), Amy Amos (GRRB), Deb Simmons (SRRB), Lisa Worthington

(GNWT), Misty Ireland (DFN), Rob Gau (WMAC (NWT)), Ray Tourangeau (SRFN), Ron Schaefer (SRFN), Kelly Joy (Secretariat), Claire Singer (Secretariat).

The management plan working group includes the SRRB, GRRB, GNWT, and Suzanne Carrière. The opportunity to sit on the working group was extended to all CMA members – those participating have self-identified as interested. If others are interested, they are still welcome to join the working group.

The working group has been proceeding with an NWT-wide approach to address the needs of both listed amphibians (northern leopard frog and western toad) and other NWT amphibians (wood frog, boreal chorus frog, Canadian toad). Formal approval of this approach was approved by the Management Authority for northern leopard frog and western toad (GNWT) at this meeting, in accordance with the Act.

The working group met for the first time on September 1, 2015 to prepare the outline and framework for the management plan. This was circulated to the CMA as a whole on September 23, 2015 for comment and has been revised based on comments received.

The report preparer will incorporate the additional comments/direction received during this meeting and circulate an initial draft management plan in late November 2015. Uncertain whether this initial draft should be provided just to the working group or to all Management Authorities. Early engagement by Management Authorities is optimal – later stage engagement could result in delays if feedback is substantive.

Decision #D2015101601: Consensus to post initial draft amphibian management plan to the website and notify all Management Authorities of its availability, understanding that that will also include the working group members.

Action #A2015101601: Report preparer to verify with Management Authorities their preferred level of engagement. The GRRB has a template for doing this that could be helpful.

19. NWT Hairy Braya Recovery Strategy – *led by Rob Gau, Ad-hoc Chairperson Preparation of consensus agreement on accepting recovery strategy.*

Changes to attendees: Misty Ireland (DFN), Amy Amos (GRRB), Ron Allen (GRRB), and Deb Simmons (SRRB) left meeting. Ray Tourangeau (SRFN) and Ron Schaefer (SRFN) remained as observers until consensus agreement was signed.

- Of note, a researcher on Cape Bathurst found that based on where hairy braya were located in 2004, 75 meters of coastline have disappeared.

WMAC (NWT) pleased that their earlier comments were incorporated. Some wording changes were suggested by the Government of Canada after the last review of the

recovery strategy. All suggested changes accepted at this meeting, with further minor edits to acceptance statement and formatting throughout the document. Recovery strategy is considered approved by the Management Authorities (WMAC (NWT) and GNWT). Consensus agreement accepting the recovery strategy was signed by the Management Authorities at the meeting.

Following the submission of the consensus agreement to the Minister of ENR on November 27, 2015, the Minister has three months to make the consensus agreement and recovery strategy public. Circulation will be to the CMA, land administration, and consulted groups; the consensus agreement and recovery strategy will also be posted to the website and circulated to the species at risk distribution list. A press release will be developed by the GNWT once the Minister has made the consensus agreement and strategy public (February 2016). A notice in the NWT Gazette is not necessary.

An implementation consensus agreement is required by November 27, 2016. As a lesser known species, WMAC (NWT) will largely be allowing the GNWT to take the lead on hairy braya recovery actions. Will participate in annual review provision though.

Action #A2015101602: Secretariat and report preparer to develop draft consensus agreement on implementing the NWT Hairy Braya Recovery Strategy.

Action #A2015101603: ENR to make the consensus agreement and hairy braya recovery strategy public by February 27, 2016.

Action #A2015101604: Rob Gau to work with WMAC (NWT) regarding a future consensus agreement implementing the NWT Hairy Braya Recovery Strategy (December 2015).

20. NWT Polar Bear Management Plan – *led by Rob Gau, Ad-hoc Chairperson Update on management plan progress.*

There will be a final face-to-face meeting of this working group the first week of November 2015. The dates are still to be finalized. There were some concerns raised in the Inuvialuit region that the CMA was not working more closely with Nunavut on this management plan. CMA will provide Nunavut with the public review draft when it's available but does not feel that additional engagement is necessary at this time.

There are no updates available on the national polar bear management plan. Polar Bear Advisory Committee (PBAC) call scheduled for November 5, 2015 at 11am. An update should be available after that meeting.

21. NWT Peary Caribou Recovery Strategy – *led by Rob Gau, Ad-hoc Chairperson*
Update on recovery strategy progress.

Update from the Government of Canada indicates that the knowledge assessment for critical habitat is still under review. Some maps contained in the assessment weren't complete. The first jurisdictional technical review is now scheduled for winter 2015/16. Community consultation is still scheduled for winter 2015/16. CMA felt that it would be beneficial to work with the Government of Canada on the community meetings in preparation for the future adoption of this strategy. Marsha Branigan will likely be best placed to participate in these meetings.

22. NWT Dolphin and Union Caribou Management Plan – *led by Rob Gau, Ad-hoc Chairperson*
Schedule to completion.

Working group had a conference call in mid-September and have another one scheduled on October 26, 2015, including participants from Kugluktuk, to discuss harvest management. Following that, the working group will next meet on December 1-3, 2015 in Cambridge Bay. This date may need to be moved to January though because of a conflict with field work.

23. Western toad listing - *led by Lynda Yonge, Ad-hoc Chairperson*
Preparation of consensus agreement on listing.

Changes to attendees: Larry Carpenter (WMAC (NWT)) left meeting. Rob Gau (WMAC (NWT)) remained as observer.

Consensus agreement to list western toad as threatened signed at the table. The Management Authority did not identify any immediate conservation actions as necessary.

The consensus agreement will be submitted to the Minister of ENR on November 27, 2015 along with the consensus agreement accepting the hairy braya recovery strategy. The press release is scheduled for November 30, 2015. Deadline for the Minister of ENR to legally list western toad as threatened is February 27, 2016.

Action #A2015101605: ENR to ensure western toad is legally listed as threatened by February 27, 2016

Listing of western toad as threatened requires the development of a recovery strategy within 2 years of listing. These requirements are being addressed through the development of an NWT Amphibian Management Plan.