

Conference of Management Authorities (CMA)
Meeting Minutes, September 12, 2018
Conference Call

Attendees	Organization
Jody Pellissey, Chairperson	Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board
Isabel Duclos	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Joanna Wilson	Environment and Natural Resources
Heather Fenton	Environment and Natural Resources
Kaytlin Cooper	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Jozef Carnogursky	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Sam Bullock	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Patrick Riley	Kátł'odeeche First Nation
Shin Shiga	North Slave Métis Alliance
Michael Birlea	Tłı̨chǫ Government
Tammy Steinwand	Tłı̨chǫ Government
Allison Thompson	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Jodie Maring	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Rob Gau	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Claire Singer	Species at Risk Implementation Supervisor
Michele Grabke	Species at Risk Implementation Specialist

1. Introductions – *led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)*
Round table introductions.
2. Agenda – *led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)*
Review of agenda.
3. Minutes – *led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)*
Review and approval of draft minutes from May 15-16, 2018 meeting.

May 15-16, 2018 meeting minutes approved with edits discussed.

4. Action items since last meeting – *led by Claire Singer (Secretariat)*
Review of outstanding action items.
5. Decisions made since last meeting – *led by Claire Singer (Secretariat)*
Review decisions made by email since last meeting and write them into the minutes.

Decision #D2018091201: Appointment of Aimee Guile to SARC as alternate to Moise Rabesca.

6. Letters sent and received since last meeting – *led by Claire Singer (Secretariat)*
Review of letters sent and received since the last meeting.

Four letters received since last meeting. The most recent (from September 11, 2018) will be discussed in more detail at the February 2019 face-to-face meeting.

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

Updates from Management Authorities and participating organizations.

Environment and Natural Resources

- Bathurst caribou range plan: A working group made up of Indigenous governments and organizations, environmental non-governmental organizations, and territorial governments (Nunavut and the NWT) met in late August to discuss final revisions to the Bathurst Caribou Range Plan. The purpose of the range plan is to manage human-caused and natural (e.g., fire) disturbance in the Bathurst range and the effects on caribou and caribou habitat. The range plan is now under review by GNWT departments and will undergo Cabinet review and approval later this fall. Upon approval, it will be submitted to WRRB as a management proposal.
- Bathurst caribou management planning: The Bathurst Caribou Advisory Council (BCAC) met on August 20, 2018 and agreed to a draft outline for the new Bathurst management plan (that was drafted by the Technical Working Group). The next step is to get a Request for Proposals out for a contractor to begin drafting the plan; this contractor will work with the Technical Working Group until a draft plan can be put back before BCAC, hopefully early in the new fiscal year.
- Barren-ground caribou surveys: The Bathurst and Bluenose-East calving ground photo surveys and the Bluenose-West, Cape Bathurst, and Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula post-calving photo surveys were all successfully completed this summer. Preliminary results are available for the post-calving surveys while the photos from the calving ground surveys are still being counted. The calving ground survey results are expected to be released in mid-November. A strip transect survey will be conducted on the Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula and Cape Bathurst herds in September.
- Bison management planning: The Slave River Lowlands management plan has been submitted to ENR for review. The Nahanni management plan will be submitted to ENR for review this fall.
- Boreal caribou range planning: We are conducting engagement and consultation on a draft range planning framework for boreal caribou range planning in the NWT. Two working groups have been convened: a northern group and a southern group. They had their first meetings this past summer. We are working to address the input provided in preparation for the second set of meetings.
- Bats: Surveys of little brown myotis maternity roosts were conducted in Fort Smith, Hay River, Kakisa, and Fort Providence this past summer. BatCaver cave experts travelled to the Sahtú (Tulít'a/Norman Wells area) to search for possible caves that could be bat hibernacula. To date, there is no evidence of white-nose syndrome in the NWT. We're very concerned about white-nose syndrome and

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have been trying to increase monitoring efforts and also promote to the public, ways they can help.

Government of Canada

- A number of species were recently listed federally – wolverine, western toad, grizzly bear, yellow-banded bumble bee, and gypsy cuckoo bumble bee. All except gypsy cuckoo bumble bee were listed as species of Special Concern. Gypsy cuckoo bumble bee was listed as Endangered. Work on management plans for the species of Special Concern is beginning; they are due to be completed in 2021. The recovery strategy for gypsy cuckoo bumble bee is due in 2019.
- For the proposed listing of barren-ground caribou, meetings in 12 Nunavut communities are planned for this fall.
- The recovery strategy for bison in Canada was posted in August 2018.

Tł'cho Government

- Our last meeting, at François Lake with the GNWT, included good discussions about caribou. There is a lot of work before us and we're looking forward to the community consultations that will be coming up.
- Jessica Hum, Lands Manager, has left to pursue further education. With her departure, the Lands Department was restructured. There are now two lands managers. Micheal Birlea, on today's call, is one. Violet Camsel-Blondin is the other. Each has 4-5 staff reporting to them.

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)

- Two meetings since last CMA meeting.
- Unfortunately, Wildlife Biologist Allison Thompson will be leaving in October. Currently in the middle of a competition process to staff that position.
- WMAC (NWT) has significant concerns with COSEWIC's draft status report on polar bears and the treatment of traditional/community knowledge throughout that report. Will be submitting comments to COSEWIC, including a possible recommendation to defer their planned November assessment.
- Got preliminary survey results for barren-ground caribou from this summer. WMAC (NWT) will discuss those for Bluenose-West and the implementation of the 4% total allowable harvest at the next ACCWM meeting.
- Community meetings were held for next steps for Dolphin and Union caribou management plan implementation. Multiple partners there. Strong desire to have regular meetings to discuss this transboundary herd. Looking forward to CMA implementation discussions at the February meeting in this respect. Also working on implementation consensus agreement.
- Moving forward a position paper for the management of the Cape Bathurst and Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula herds.
- Will be starting a 6 community tour shortly. Will be providing species at risk updates at those meetings.

Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board

- Species at Risk Biologist: Put out stationary acoustic bat detectors – one in each community. Have not looked at the data yet. Had planned to do some transect surveys, but once we got twilight, the weather was too cold and wet on the weeks Kaytlin was available. Attended boreal caribou range planning workshop, continue to review Wildlife Care Committee wildlife handling applications, reviewed SARC bumble bee status report, GNWT moose TK status report, federal swallows and collared pika working groups.
- Wildlife Biologist: Put out remote cameras in the Richardson Mountains for Dall's sheep monitoring, muskoxen, and vegetation sampling.
- Fisheries and Forestry Biologist – Lots of field work in the Rat River, Arctic Red River, and Vittrekwa River – eDNA sampling in part to investigate Dolly Varden habitat use and population in areas where we have little previous information (Arctic Red River headwaters, Vittrekwa River, Sheep Creek). So, characterizing distribution and abundance. Also installing water temperature loggers in speculated overwintering habitat (deep pools) in those regions to monitor habitat. Water sampling at Dolomite Lake.
- Renewable Resources Manager – Reviewed research applications, water permits, nature day at schools in each community focusing on species at risk.
- Hired summer student and youth for work experience program.
- Technician – Hired for the summer and extended to the end of March. He was our previous tech trainee (previous 2 summers). Yearly hare pellet survey and small mammal trapping, as well as assisting fisheries and wildlife biologist.
- Have Board meeting scheduled for later in September.
- Taking videos for Species at Risk Stewardship Program project.

Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board

- Bathurst caribou range/management plans – been involved in both processes. Range plan final meeting at end of August. Good document. Requested some additional traditional knowledge be added. Seems to be going in the right direction as it heads to Cabinet for approval. Also quite involved in the management plan and the Request for Proposals process. It is likely that the contract will be held with the WRRB.
- Wildlife Biologist attending boreal caribou range planning framework meetings on behalf of the board.
- Conservation biologist confirmed as alternate on SARC.

North Slave Métis Alliance

- Stewardship training for eDNA work. Hoping to do the actual survey, but the pump hasn't arrived yet, and we're now running out of time.
- More funding received for work on terrestrial eDNA.
- Working on various caribou plans.

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8. Stewardship Program – *led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)*

Inclusion of implementation activities within scope of eligible projects.

Follow-up action item from May 2018 CMA meeting (#A2018051502: Management Authorities to consider whether the scope of the Stewardship Program should include Management Authorities' species at risk implementation activities and come prepared to present their positions at a fall 2018 conference call).

Discussion indicated that view points on this matter were divided, with some supporting the inclusion of implementation activities within the scope of the Stewardship Program and others opposing it. It was agreed that this conversation would be easier to have face-to-face. The action item will therefore be brought forward to February 2019.

The importance of defining the term 'implementation' was also noted (does it refer to the core activities of Management Authorities; for example, conducting a community tour or developing a recovery strategy; or does it refer to the actual implementation of actions in recovery strategies?).

Action Item #A2018091201: Stewardship Sub-committee to provide recommended definitions for the terms 'implementation' and 'stewardship' to the CMA for discussion at the February 2019 meeting.

9. Species at Risk Committee – *led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)*

Consideration of SARC's request for an additional 3-day meeting to review/revise the TKCK status report instructions.

Discussion of this request indicated CMA support for SARC's work and for the activities SARC feels are necessary to do their work effectively. It was noted, however, that the meeting should be for SARC as a whole, given that members are required to complete assessments using the complete status report. Clearly defining the scope of the meeting and deliverables will also be important. The CMA requested that once SARC's status report guidelines are revised, the changes should be presented to the CMA to promote and ensure their understanding. Noting constraints regarding funding availability, the meeting could be held either this fiscal year or next.

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

Confirmation of upcoming meeting dates.

- November 14, 2018 at 10am – conference call to review results of wood bison recovery strategy consultation and engagement.
- February 19-21, 2019 – face-to-face meeting in Inuvik.

11. Wood bison recovery strategy – *led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)*

Touch base on consultation and engagement.

The WRRB and Tł'chǫ Government are working on scheduling consultations with communities (Behchokǫ and Whatì) in early November. The GNWT's public comment period is open. Consultation is getting underway.

12. Dolphin and Union caribou – *led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)*
Touch base regarding development of consensus agreement respecting implementation (due by December 29, 2018).

A draft consensus agreement has been developed. It was informed by an implementation table that WMAC (NWT) and the Inuvialuit Game Council are putting together as a recommendation for the Minister. The draft consensus agreement is currently proceeding through internal GNWT approvals.

13. Peary caribou – *led by Isabel Duclos (Environment and Climate Change Canada)*
Progress update.

ECCC is continuing to consider implications of critical habitat before completing the recovery strategy. Still working towards an anticipated completion date of September 2019. A 60-day public comment period is still required. Then the updated proposed recovery strategy will be posted as final. However, prior to that, need to go back to WMAC (NWT) and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board with the final draft.

Discussed implications to the CMA if the anticipated completion date could not be achieved. In this case, a notice of extension would need to be posted on the NWT Species at Risk website by early September 2019.

14. Bat management plan – *led by Michele Grabke (Species at Risk Secretariat)*
Goals, objectives, and approaches brainstorming and discussion.

In accordance with the work plan, this agenda item provides CMA members with an opportunity to review and discuss the draft goal, objectives, and approaches of the management plan, developed by the preparer. Information in these components is largely drawn from recommendations in the status report and from the listed threats for a number of the bat species in the NWT. The objectives and approaches were also framed based on the *Management Plan for Amphibians in the NWT*, which is the only other multi-species management plan prepared through the *Species at Risk (NWT) Act*. The objectives focus on knowledge enhancement, habitats, disease, public awareness/acceptance/stewardship, and managing adaptively/collaboratively.

Action Item #A2018091202: Review draft bat management goal, objectives, and approaches for completeness and appropriateness by September 28, 2018. Submit comments to the preparer.