

Conference of Management Authorities – meeting minutes, approved

**Conference of Management Authorities (CMA)
Meeting Minutes, July 25, 2019
Conference Call**

Attendees	Organization
Jody Pellissey	Chairperson, Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board
Nancy Pacquette	Athabasca Denesuline
Nicole Hardisty	Dehcho First Nations
Bruce Lauritch	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Brett Elkin	Environment and Natural Resources
Rita Mueller	Environment and Natural Resources
Roger Fraser	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Sam Bullock	Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board
Jessica Hurtubise	North Slave Métis Alliance
Shin Shiga	North Slave Métis Alliance
Deb Simmons	Sahtú Renewable Resources Board
Larry Carpenter	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Rosemin Nathoo	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Claire Singer	Species at Risk Secretariat
Michele Grabke	Species at Risk Secretariat

Final review of proposed draft *Recovery Strategy for Barren-ground Caribou*

The Conference of Management Authorities received the proposed draft *Recovery Strategy for Barren-ground Caribou* for final review on July 18, 2019. This meeting is a final opportunity to discuss significant outstanding concerns about the recovery strategy. The recovery strategy will be posted as a public document on August 1, 2019. It will be open for public review until the end of November. Feedback from each organization on the conference call is as follows:

Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)

- Noted that owing to difficulties with email receipt, they did not receive the draft recovery strategy until today. WMAC (NWT) did provide comments on the second draft though, and were fine with how it was progressing at that time.
- Because of the difficulties with email, they will review the draft immediately, and send any substantive comments by the end of the day July 26, 2019.

Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board

- No significant concerns about/changes to the draft.

Dehcho First Nations

- At this time, there doesn't seem to be anything of concern. We may have additional comments during consultation.

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North Slave Métis Alliance

- Questions regarding the addition of the Łutsel K'e Dene First Nation caribou plan in table 1 of the recovery strategy. What role do these community plans have in the implementation of the recovery strategy? What kind of review opportunity will the NSMA have for the LKDFN plan? What effect will it have on other plans we're working on?
 - Community conservation plans fall under the objective/approaches related to the development of herd-specific management plans and the like. Regarding input into that plan, ENR will look into that and follow-up to get clarity. However, that clarification will have to come from the LKDFN.
- No other comments at this time.

Athabasca Denesuline

- Okay with the draft and willing to go along with it.

Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board

- Fine with the draft as is at this stage. The board has identified one knowledge gap to consider in the next draft regarding switching.

Environment and Climate Change Canada

- Reviewed proposed draft and like the changes made. Happy to proceed.

Environment and Natural Resources

- No concerns about the draft. It was reviewed internally by both the department and the Interdepartmental Species at Risk Committee (GNWT-wide committee).

Sahtú Renewable Resources Board

- The board submitted final comments prior to today's meeting. The most significant comment was to express kudos to the person making revisions. We're happy with a lot of the revisions that were made. The one point that our science advisory made was a question about focus – is it appropriate to include the Ahiak, Beverly, and Qamanirjuaq herds in the document? A core territory approach might be advisable to simplify. However, this isn't a major issue for the board if others here feel strongly otherwise.
 - The preference is to use the longer term herd range, knowing that herds go up and down, and knowing that they'll need to retain use of their traditional use areas. The Beverly herd has been consistently in the NWT (every year), the Qamanirjuaq herd is in the NWT fairly regularly, and the Ahiak herd has traditional use areas in the NWT.

The proposed draft recovery strategy will be prepared for release on August 1, 2019. That will mark the start of the consultation/engagement period (August-November).

The CMA has received a request from CBC for an early embargoed copy of the draft recovery strategy. This is in preparation for an in-studio interview on August 6, 2019. The CMA has never received this kind of request before. Do Management Authorities have concerns with this?

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- Concerns were raised regarding communities seeing things in the news before learning of it personally. This being a concern related to the timing of the interview, the Secretariat will share the press release with the CMA so members can use the same wording if they would like to. Further, the Secretariat will ensure no interviews are aired until after the August 1 release date for the recovery strategy (when the document is already public). This will ensure Management Authorities have a chance to inform their communities about the release of the recovery strategy before any interviews are aired. In this context, the CBC will not be provided with an embargoed copy of the recovery strategy.

Finally, ENR brought forward the topic of this fall's territorial election. During elections, there is a transition period between governments. This transition period is September 1-October 25. During this time there are very prescriptive rules about what departments can do and who they can engage with. ENR still anticipates being able to meet CMA deadlines for the barren-ground caribou recovery strategy and the bat management plan, and will be requesting receipt of comments by November 1, 2019, but the department will not be able to respond to individuals/organizations until after November 1, 2019.

-End of meeting-