

**Conference of Management Authorities (CMA)
Meeting Minutes, November 14, 2018
Conference Call**

Attendees	Organization
Jody Pellissey, Chairperson	Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board
Aimee Guile	Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board
Rhona Kindopp	Parks Canada
Sean Richardson	Tłıchq̓ Government
Shin Shiga	North Slave Métis Alliance
Troy Ellsworth	Environment and Natural Resources
Claire Singer	Species at Risk Implementation Supervisor
Michele Grabke	Species at Risk Implementation Specialist

Presentation of summary consultation/engagement results on Recovery Strategy for Wood Bison in the NWT by the Management Authorities and preparation for consensus agreement accepting the recovery strategy – led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson).

**Management Authorities for wood bison are: Tłıchq̓ Government, Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board, and Government of the Northwest Territories.*

Government of the Northwest Territories –

- Generally, it appears as though the recovery strategy is on the right track; it's much improved over previous drafts. Many of the comments we received during consultation/engagement were minor and editorial in nature. There were only a few additions and no substantive changes.

Parks Canada –

- No comments at this time.

North Slave Métis Alliance –

- We have no comments.

Wek'èezhìi Renewable Resources Board and Tłıchq̓ Government –

- Jointly completed a round of community engagement last week. Sean Richardson and Aimee Guile were in Whatì and Behchokq̓. Unfortunately, attendance in Behchokq̓ was very low (0) owing to deaths in the community. Additional time was requested to conduct an additional community focus group (with Whatì and Behchokq̓) to ensure that community voices were given the opportunity to be heard.
- From those who were able to attend community meetings, concerns were raised regarding the completeness of the survey areas (specifically that the surveys missed the Tłıchq̓ all-season road, Stagg River/Lake, and White Beach Point areas), the participation of Tłıchq̓ citizens in the surveys, and the implications associated with objectives focused on enhancing genetic diversity of the wood bison population in the NWT.

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- With respect to the question about genetic diversity, the GNWT noted that there are no plans to augment the existing populations in order to enhance genetic diversity. With respect to questions not directly related to the recovery strategy (e.g., survey boundaries, participation, etc.), the Tłıchq Government will contact Environment and Natural Resources at their earliest convenience to address these questions directly.
- The Tłıchq Government noted concerns regarding the possibility of achieving consensus based on the feedback they received in communities. However, there was little concern expressed about the recovery strategy itself.

Next steps – *led by Jody Pellissey (Chairperson)*

- According to the current work plan, the proposed final version is due to be submitted to Management Authorities for review in mid-December; however, to accommodate the Tłıchq community focus group, this date should be amended to January. Immediately following the completion of the focus group, all comments on the recovery strategy should be sent to the recovery strategy preparer (Michele Grabke) for incorporation prior to the February 2019 CMA meeting.
- The recovery strategy will then be discussed/possibly approved as scheduled at the February 2019 CMA meeting.
- The deadline for submitting the signed consensus agreement is April 13, 2019.
- In the case that consensus cannot be achieved, the responsibility for approving the recovery strategy shifts to the Minister of Environment and Natural Resources, who will have 3 months in which to make that decision.