

**Conference of Management Authorities  
Meeting Minutes  
Conference Call, December 16, 2016**

Attendees:	Organization:
Jody Pellissey, Chairperson	Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board
Grant Pryznyk	Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board
Isabelle Duclos	Environment and Climate Change Canada
Brett Elkin	Environment and Natural Resources
Fred J. Mandeville	Environment and Natural Resources
Joanna Wilson	Environment and Natural Resources
Lynda Yonge	Environment and Natural Resources
Norman Snowshoe	Environment and Natural Resources
Peter Redvers	Kátl'odeeche First Nation
Shin Shiga	North Slave Métis Alliance
Nelson Perry	Parks Canada
Sjoerd van der Wielen	Tłıchǫ Government
Rob Gau	Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT)
Claire Singer	Species at Risk Secretariat

1. Preparation for consensus agreement on listing wood bison – led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson  
*Updates from Management Authorities on actions to prepare for listing wood bison.*

Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board

- Completed joint consultation with the Tłıchǫ Government in Behchokò in early November.
- Anticipating conducting Whatì consultations in early to mid-January, prior to the January 2017 CMA meeting.
- Board meeting date is set for February. Anticipate being able to sign the consensus agreement after that board meeting.

Government of the Northwest Territories

- Have not formed a formal position on listing at this time.
- Received a range of responses during consultation/engagement. Summary of consultation/engagement responses shared with other Management Authorities. Responses included concerns related to the creation of barriers to development, time to complete recovery planning, etc. Some of the responses represented misunderstandings of the Species at Risk Committee's (SARC) role.
- Surveys were conducted on the Mackenzie population in early 2016. These results were released after SARC completed its assessment, but can be considered by the CMA at this time. The 2016 survey showed a slight increase in the number

of animals in the population compared to the 2013 survey. This small increase doesn't change the relative size of the overall NWT population, which is still considered small. However, overall decline over the most recent bison generation would be estimated as 46% instead of 50%. Ultimately, not clear whether the increase in the Mackenzie population would have made a big difference to the assessment results.

- A new estimate for the Slave River Lowlands population will be available soon.

#### Tłchq Government

- Completed joint consultation with the Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board in Behchokò in November. Planning to complete the remaining consultations in January.
- During separate barren-ground caribou consultations in Behchokò and Whatì, community members expressed a desire to start harvesting wood bison again, and were concerned with how listing wood bison might impact that.

#### North Slave Métis Alliance

- Sent a letter to the GNWT supporting the listing.
- Wanted to make a note of that during this meeting since their support wasn't noted in the GNWT summary of consultation results. Concerned that perhaps the GNWT hadn't received their letter.

Discussed path forward if consensus cannot be achieved. Further discussion will be scheduled for the January 2017 CMA meeting, and ultimately, a decision on the matter of listing wood bison doesn't have to be made until mid-April 2017. There is time to do more work together to attempt to achieve consensus.

2. Polar bear management plan – led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson  
*Status update by Management Authorities.*

The ISR Polar Bear Management Plan was ready for approval in autumn 2016. It was provided to co-management at that time for their approval. Once those approvals have all been received, the management plan will be adopted by the GNWT.

WMAC (NWT) passed a motion to accept the management plan and also have agreed to sign the consensus agreement. WMAC (North Slope) is also recommending acceptance of the management plan. Formal approval has not yet been received from the Inuvialuit Game Council, but their approval is anticipated.

The consensus agreement to accept the management plan must be completed by March 2017.

3. Selection of new CMA Chairperson/Alternate Chairperson – led by Jody Pellissey, Chairperson

Reminded all Management Authorities on the conference call that current Chairperson/Alternate Chairperson terms expire in January 2017. Management Authorities were asked to consider putting their representatives names forward for these positions.