

NUNAVUT WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Minutes: Regular Meeting No. 003 2011

Kugluktuk, October 17 and 18, 2011

Members and Staff Participating:

Mikidjuk Akavak	Chairperson & CEO
Raymond Ningeocheak	Member
Manasie Audlakiak	Member
Peter Kusugak	Member
Peter Qayutinuak Sr.	Member
Collin Adjun	Member
Jim Noble	Chief Operating Officer
Dave Rogers	Director of Finance and Admin
Adam Schneidmiller	Director of Wildlife Management
Rebecca Jeppesen	Wildlife Management Biologist (Terrestrial)
Sheila Pokiak Lumsden	Wildlife Communications / Admin Technician
Evie Amagoalik	Interpreter
Lazarus Arreak	Interpreter
Michael d'Eça	NWMB Legal Advisor

Not Available:

Harry Flaherty	Member
CWS Appointee	Vacant
DFO Appointee	Vacant
Anna Magera	Fisheries Management Biologist

Other Participants at Various Times:

Chris Lewis	DFO, Iqaluit
Bert Dean	NTI, Rankin Inlet
Ema Qaggutaq	KRWB Kitikmeot Liaison Officer with NIWS
Barb Adjun	Kugluktuk HTO
Doris Elatiak	Kugluktuk HTO
Peter Taktogon	Kugluktuk HTO
Tommy Pigalak	Kugluktuk HTO
Mathieu Dumond	GN DoE, Kugluktuk

1. Opening Prayer

Raymond Ningeocheak provided the opening prayer.

2. Swearing In Ceremony for Collin Adjun

Legal Counsel swore in new Board Member, Collin Adjun, appointed by the Government of Nunavut.

3. Review and approval of agenda

The NWMB's Director of Wildlife Management (DWM) explained that items 7 E) and 7 G) would be made via verbal update.

The Board decided to adopt the Regular Meeting No. 003-2011 as presented (**RESOLUTION RM2011-___**).

4. Introduction of Board members, staff and guests

All in attendance introduced themselves.

5. Environment Canada (EC) – Issues / Decisions

a) Extension of Spring Goose Harvest in Nunavut to June 30

The DWM presented the briefing note on behalf of EC. It was indicated that there is an overabundant population of Snow Geese and a request was made to extend the Snow Geese hunting season for non-Aboriginal hunters to be in effect from May 1 to June 30 (a modification of the current season of June 7).

A decision of the Board was deferred to the in-camera decision session (refer to IC No. 009-2011 minutes).

b) Approval of Recovery Strategy for the Ivory Gull pursuant to the Species at Risk Act.

A briefing note was presented by the NWMB's Wildlife Management Biologist (WMB). The Board was informed that the Ivory Gull is the only seabird found in the Arctic that has been listed as an *endangered species* on Schedule 1 of the *Species at Risk Act* (2009).

The Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) sought NWMB support on the draft Recovery Strategy for the Ivory Gull, which is a requirement for a species that is listed as Endangered under the *Species at Risk Act*. The Board was informed that the Recovery Strategy recommends several research and management activities relevant to Nunavut. Some of the examples presented included: a) the establishment of critical habitat as a

2km radius around the centre of all colonies that have had a gull present at least once since 2002, b) the surveying of all known colonies once every three years to determine if the population is changing, c) the conducting of a satellite telemetry study to determine migration and wintering areas.

A decision of the Board was deferred to the in-camera decision session (refer to IC No. 009-2011 minutes).

6. Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) – Issues / Decisions

a) Species at Risk Act, Northern Bottlenose Whale

Chris Lewis presented a briefing note.

As per 3.0 of the Species at Risk Act / Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), DFO informed the NWMB of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada assessment results for the Northern Bottlenose Whale. The Board was informed that the species may occasionally be found in small numbers in the Davis Strait and the Labrador Sea in summer. DFO specified that these whales are not hunted for subsistence and therefore adding it to the Species at Risk Act would appear to have little impact on Nunavut residents.

DFO proposed an abridged listing process, meaning that a modified process to the standard listing process would be negotiated between DFO and the NWMB.

A decision of the Board was deferred to the in-camera decision session (refer to IC No. 009-2011 minutes).

b) Update on SARA listing of Roundnose Grenadier, Roughhead Grenadier, Atlantic Redfish and Deep Water Redfish.

Chris Lewis presented a briefing note.

As per 3.3 of the Species at Risk Act / Nunavut Land Claims Agreement Memorandum of Understanding (MOU), DFO previously informed NWMB of the Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada (COSEWIC) assessment results for Roundnose Grenadier (endangered), Roughhead grenadier (special concern), Deepwater Redfish (threatened) and Acadian Redfish (threatened). The NWMB was provided with further information on the COSEWIC assessments for the four species.

DFO looked for the NWMB to: i) consider the information by Central and Arctic Region DFO and ii) provide the Board's position on the proposed abridged listing process for the four species by December 20, 2011.

A decision of the Board was deferred to the in-camera decision session (refer to IC No. 009-2011 minutes).

7. NWMB Items – Issues / Decisions

c) DFO Narwhal Management Consultation Plan

The DWM presented a briefing note on the proposed DFO draft narwhal management consultation plan. The presentation of the draft consultation plan included the identification of travel to eight communities, plus a regional meeting be held amongst those that harvest from the East Baffin / Eclipse Sound / Admiralty Inlet summering stocks. The Board was informed that NTI had provided DFO an agreement in principle to the current draft of the consultation plan.

The Board decided to support the draft consultation plan on Narwhal management (**RESOLUTION RM2011-_____**).

Manasie Audlakiak declared conflict of interest for items 7 (a) and (b).

The Board resolved to move into In-Camera (**RESOLUTION RM2011-_____**).

The Board resolved to get out of In-Camera (**RESOLUTION RM2011-_____**).

d) Update on Narwhal management process – NWMB public consultation / consideration

A briefing note was presented by the NWMB's DWM. The DWM informed the Board that DFO is drafting a management plan for a December meeting of co-management partners where the draft would be discussed and finalized prior to community consultations in Jan. /Feb. 2012.

The presentation also identified that in order to meet the timeline of January 2013 for a finalized Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) for consideration at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) Conference of Parties in the spring of 2013, there are certain timelines and commitments that the NWMB will need to adhere to in order achieve the objective.

The Board resolved to identify 2 different processes based on whether a joint Request for Decision (RFD) proposal, or a separate RFD proposal that would require in-person hearings (**RESOLUTION RM2011-_____**).

e) Update on Wildlife Management Advisory Council (WMAC) – NWT North and South Beaufort Polar Bear Sub-population recommendations

This was an informational item only, and a verbal update was provided by the NWMB's DWM. The update highlighted certain processes and clarifications that were ongoing, which included:

i) Discussions have been had on wanting to change the boundaries and total allowable harvests between the North and South Beaufort Polar Bear sub-populations.

ii) Nunavut does not harvest from the South Beaufort sub-population. Kugluktuk harvests from the North Beaufort sub-population, and currently represents a TAH of 6 annually, with NWT TAH of 49 annually. NWMB should be aware that through the MOU, the community has some large credits, 52 male credits and 25 female credits.

iii) Kugluktuk meets regularly with the Inuvialuit. The last meeting took place in August 2011; Kugluktuk supports the proposed changes to the North and South Beaufort sub-population as long as there are no negative impacts for Nunavut.

It was identified that a proposal for NWMB decision will be required once appropriate consultations have been completed.

f) South Hudson Bay Polar Bear Voluntary Agreement – User to User meeting results

This was an information item only. The Board was informed that there was a temporary voluntary agreement reached for the 2011/2012 season for the Southern Hudson Bay polar bear subpopulation that limited the total harvest to 60 (an increase of 10 allocated to Nunavik). The DWM indicated that the voluntary agreement was far different than the goal that was agreed to at the "Quebec Meeting", which was to have agreement to keep harvest in line with historical levels. The Board was informed that there was a commitment from all jurisdictions to consider changes to the harvest limits in 2012 following the review of scientific and traditional ecological knowledge research.

g) Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge in Polar Bear Management and Research Workshop results

This was an information item only and a verbal update was provided by the NWMB's DWM. The Workshop was held in Inuvik and hosted by Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami. There were a total of 27 delegates of whom the DWM and the Chair attended on behalf of the NWMB.

The Board was informed that one of the key outcomes of the workshop was the formation of a working group that will draft a protocol on how to better include Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge in polar bear research and management. It was specified that there would be one representative from each region, with Gabriel Nirlungayuk (NTI)

being Nunavut's designate. The Board was informed that when the working group has completed the draft protocol, it will be presented to the Board.

h) Renewal of Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for the Advisory Committee for the Cooperation on Wildlife Management (ACCWM)

NWMB's DWM presented a briefing note to the Board. The Board was informed that the NWMB has been a member of the ACCWM for 3 years and that participation in the ACCWM has provided an effective avenue to share information and coordinate wildlife management between inter-jurisdictional wildlife management boards. It was indicated that the MOU expired in September 2011 and it was recommended that the NWMB support extending the MOU for another 5 years, effective September 2011 to 2016.

The Board resolved to approve the extension of the MOU, based on the addition of a section 2.2. (**RESOLUTION RM2011-_____**).

i) Conservation Plan for Circum-Arctic Migratory Tundra Caribou and Wild Reindeer

A briefing note was presented by the NWMB's WMB. . The World Wildlife Fund (WWF) submitted a draft "Conservation Plan for Circum-Arctic Migratory Tundra Caribou and Wild Reindeer" to NWMB wildlife section for review. The wildlife staff identified to the Board that they did not see any conflicts with existing management or action plans or with the NLCA and recommended that WWF involve itself in co-management processes and initiatives to ensure that the numerous management plans, action plans, and recovery strategies that are in place for this wide ranging species are complimentary to maximize resources, lessen redundancies, and increase the effectiveness of conservation efforts.

j) WMAC – NWT Management and Conservation Concerns for Dolphin Union Caribou

A briefing note was presented by the NWMB's DWM. The Board was informed that the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (WMAC) wrote to the Board that identified current management and conservation concerns (e.g. level of harvest) for the Dolphin-union caribou herd and requesting collaboration to address these concerns.

It was recommended that the NWMB write to WMAC and state that all future inter-jurisdictional wildlife management issues go through the Advisory Committee for the Cooperation on Wildlife Management (ACCWM), as the ACCWM was created by associated jurisdictions to consider and develop recommendations to such management issues.

It was also recommended that the NWMB meet with GN, NTI, WMAC and GNWT to discuss scientific and traditional ecological knowledge (TEK) on the herd, discuss

current management challenges and concerns, and discuss interest in the development of a management plan.

The Board resolved to proceed as outlined and recommended in the briefing note by the NWMB's DWM (**RESOLUTION RM2011-_____**).

k) Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Marine Plan

A briefing note was presented by the NWMB's DWM. The Board was informed that the NWMB is being requested to sit on a national committee that deals with the Conservation of Arctic Flora and Fauna's Circumpolar Biodiversity Monitoring Program-Marine Plan (CAFF-CBMP). A decision of the Board was deferred until the December meeting, at which time the Terms of Reference for this body would be presented.

l) Section 24 of the *Nunavut Act*

A briefing note was presented by the NWMB's DWM. The Board was informed that the Government of Nunavut (GN), Department of Environment (DoE) was requesting NWMB support for the GN pursuing amendments to section 24 of the *Nunavut Act*. The Board was informed that the amendments are required in order to allow the full implementation of NWMB decisions as per the NLCA.

The Board made a decision to support DoE's pursuit of requesting amendments to section 24 of the *Nunavut Act* (**RESOLUTION RM2011-_____**).

8. Other presentations

a) Temporary Exemption Permit for 1 Year Muskox

Barb Adjun of the Kugluktuk HTO presented a briefing note. The Kugluktuk HTO requested a temporary exemption permit be approved for a period of one year in the MX19 zone to include the islands between the mainland (Kugluktuk area) and Victoria Island for the harvesting season 2011-2012 and to increase the total allowable harvest.

The NWMB's legal counsel recommended that if there were no conservation concerns then the NWMB should make an increase to the TAH for muskox along with boundary changes that is not limited to a particular time period.

A decision of the Board was deferred to the in-camera decision session (refer to IC No. 009-2011 minutes).

b) Temporary Exemption Permit for 1 Year Wolf Hunting Season

Bard Adjun presented a briefing note. The Kugluktuk HTO requested a temporary exemption permit to lift the wolf hunting season and allow wolf harvesting year round in the Kugluktuk area, which includes West of N/2 and West of N/3. There was support

from the GN's Department of Environment (DoE) as long as there are is no wastage and that the wolf pelts and/or carcasses are used for traditional or educational purposes.

A decision of the Board was deferred to the in-camera decision session (refer to IC No. 009-2011 minutes).

c) Kivalliq Muskox Management Plan 2010-2015

Bert Dean of NTI presented a submission from the Kivalliq Wildlife Board on this issue. The Kivalliq Wildlife Board sought approval for an increase in the TAH for Muskox in zone MX18 from 3% to 5% of the most recent population estimate as recommended by GN DoE and supported by the Kivalliq Wildlife Board.

A decision of the Board was deferred to the in-camera decision session (refer to IC No. 009-2011 minutes).

d) Draft Management Plan "Taking Care of Caribou, the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose West and Bluenose East Barren Ground Caribou Herds Management Plan"

NWMB's WMB presented a briefing note for information purposes on the status of the inter-jurisdictional management plan for the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose West and Bluenose East caribou herds. A full presentation on the management plan was deferred until the December meeting to allow for further consultations and revisions to the management plan prior to Board consideration.

e) Arviat HTO – presentation on NWMB funded NWSF project, IQ on Western Hudson Bay Polar Bears.

Alex Isholak presented an update on the NWSF project conducted by the Arviat HTO through funding from the NWMB. The presentation included a power point presentation, which will be filed in the NWMB library.

f) Report from Ema Qaggutaq, Kitikmeot Liaison Officer

The report provided was a verbal report. The Board was informed that the resolutions from the Kitikmeot Regional Wildlife Board's (KRWB) AGM would be sent to the Board in the near future.

It was noted that Cambridge Bay has asked for support to do research on a polar bear McClintock subpopulation, which is in line with the 15 year cycle identified in the MOU. It was noted that it has been over 18 years since the last survey. . The Board was informed that Gjoa Haven had expressed a concern, but it had not been discussed it yet

although noting that there is a ten-year moratorium on the McClintock Channel polar bears and it had been 11 years.

Bert Dean spoke to Ema's position, and how he brings 10 or so years of experience with his own HTO in Kugaaruk. There is a resolution from the KRWB AGM that the narwhal increase from 75 to 125 TAH in 2012, and again an increase request to 175 in 2013.

Other resolutions coming forward include the conditions of some of the HTO buildings in the Kitikmeot. Another resolution coming forward was requesting another letter to DoE and NWMB seeking explanation for lack of response to the McClintok Channel and the gulf of Boothia to be considered one population of polar bear.

The NWMB acknowledged that some of this information went to NWMB staff attention. The narwhal workshop with an overall management plan for narwhals and summering stocks and will be discussed during the in camera session.

9. Date and Location of next meeting, December 6-8, 2011

The Board identified December 6-8, 2011 as the dates for the next Regular Meeting to take place in Iqaluit (**RESOLUTIONRM2011-_____**).

10. Adjournment and Closing Prayer

Raymond Ningeocheak said the Closing Prayer.

Regular Meeting No. 003-2011 RESOLUTIONS

Resolution RM2011-_____: RESOLVED that the NWMB approve the Regular Meeting No. 003-2011 agenda as presented.

Moved by: Raymond Ningeocheak
Carried

Seconded by: Manasie Audlakiak
Date: October 17, 2011

Resolution RM2011-_____: RESOLVED that the NWMB support the draft consultation plan on Narwhal management scheduled to occur in January 2012.

Moved by: Raymond Ningeocheak
Carried

Seconded by: Collin Adjun
Date: October 17, 2011

RESOLUTION RM2011-_____: Resolved that the NWMB move to In-Camera session.

Moved by: Raymond Ningeocheak
Carried

Seconded by: Collin Adjun
Date: October 17, 2011

RESOLUTION RM2011-_____: RESOLVED that the NWMB move to get out of In-Camera.

Moved by: Peter Qayutinuak Sr.
Carried

Seconded by: Peter Kusugak
Date: October 17, 2011

RESOLUTION RM2011-_____: RESOLVED that if the management plan is a joint proposal, the NWMB will agree to hold a written hearing within 60 days after receipt of an acceptable proposal. If there is not a joint proposal on the management plan, the NWMB will hold one or more in-person public hearings within 60 days after receiving an acceptable proposal

Moved by: Raymond Ningeocheak
Carried

Seconded by: Manasie Audlakiak
Date: October 17, 2011

RESOLUTION RM2011-_____: RESOLVED that the Board approve the extension of the Advisory Committee for the Cooperation on Wildlife Management Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for a 5 year period from October 2011 to October 2016, subject to the addition of a section 2.2 of the MOU, that specifies the following: "The Committee's work shall fully respect NWMB's legal obligation to maintain independence and freedom from bias in carrying out its decision making responsibilities under the NLCA. Accordingly, the NWMB representative on the Committee shall not participate in the development of harvesting limitations for the recommendations for the NSA."

Moved by: Raymond Ningeocheak
Carried

Seconded by: Peter Qayutinuak Sr.
Date: October 17, 2011

RESOLUTION RM2011-_____: RESOLVED that the Board respond to the Wildlife Management Advisory Council's July 27th 2011 letter that identified current management and conservation concerns for the Dolphin-Union caribou herd, by indicating the following:

That the NWMB recommends that in the future WMAC identifies inter-jurisdictional wildlife management issues to the ACCWM, as the ACCWM was created by the associated jurisdictions to consider and develop recommendations to such management issues;

That the NWMB recommends that representatives from the NWMB, Government of Nunavut, Nunavut Tunngavik Incorporated (NTI), WMAC and the Government of Northwest Territories meet to discuss the following:

- a. The current scientific and Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) on the herd;
- b. Current management challenges and concerns (e.g. current harvest levels);
- c. Interest in the development of a management plan and the possibility of a joint proposal for funding for the development of such a management plan as required by the SARA.

Moved by: Raymond Ningeocheak
Carried

Seconded by: Peter Qayutinuak Sr.
Date: October 18, 2011

RESOLUTION RM2011-_____: RESOLVED that the NWMB provide a letter of support to the Government of Nunavut's-Department of Environment to support the Department's pursuit of amendments to section 24 of the *Nunavut Act* (Canada).

Moved by: Manasie Audlakiak
Carried

Seconded by: Peter Kusugak
Date: October 18, 2011

RESOLUTION RM2011-_____: RESOLVED that the date for the next Board meeting is December 6-8, 2011 in Iqaluit.

Moved by: Peter Kusugak
Carried

Seconded by: Manasie Audlakiak
Date: October 18, 2011