

Porcupine Caribou Management Board Meeting Minutes

December 18, 2006
Teleconference

IN ATTENDANCE

Members

Joe Tetlich, Chair
Sonny Blake, Gwich'in Tribal Council
Steve Buyck, Nacho Ny'ak Dun
Ian McDonald, Government of Canada
Ron Morrison, Government of Northwest Territories
Dorothy Cooley, Government of Yukon (Alternate)
Donald Aviugana, Inuvialuit Game Council

Deana Lemke, Secretariat

Regrets

Georgie Moses, Vuntut Gwich'in First Nation
Steve Taylor, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in

Opening and Welcome

Joe Tetlich, Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:10 a.m., and he welcomed participants to this conference call. The meeting was opened with a prayer.

Review and Approve Agenda

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Motion

It was moved that the agenda be accepted as amended.

Moved by Ron Morrison
Seconded by Ian McDonald
Carried

Harvest Management Strategy

Deana provided an update on the HMS. Letters will be sent to all signatories, including a draft Protocol and budget. Responses will be requested by January 15, 2007.

There is still no letter of support from Gwich'in Tribal Council.

Letters will be drafted to governments, requesting funding for the HMS. Letters requesting an increase to core funding from the federal and territorial governments will also be drafted and distributed.

Hart River Regulation Proposal

The Board discussed the proposal that went forward from the Dawson District Renewable Resources Council regarding the Hart River Caribou herd and subzones that also overlap with the Porcupine Caribou herd.

Dorothy related that harvest numbers clearly indicate that subzone 2-28 is an important zone for Porcupine Caribou herd harvest. Most of the licensed harvest of Porcupine Caribou occurs within this subzone.

The Board was generally supportive of the recommended regulation changes regarding the subzones in question as it would also provide added protection to the Porcupine Caribou herd.

It was noted, however, that if harvest of Porcupine Caribou herd is a primary concern, should address that head-on. The HMS will ultimately be the main tool to addressing that concern.

It was confirmed that the changes to the subzones would not be applicable to First Nation harvesters, only resident and non-resident hunters. Sonny added that it would be good for aboriginal harvesters to "voluntarily" comply.

It was agreed that subzone 2-28 should be a flexible season zone, depending if the Porcupine Caribou herd were in that area. If and when the Porcupine Caribou herd arrives, then the variable subzones would be managed as Porcupine Caribou herd subzones with an allowable harvest from August 1 to January 31, or until the Porcupine Caribou leaves the subzone.

The Board will continue to encourage hunting of bulls, avoiding mature bulls during rutting season.

Deana will speak with the Fish and Wildlife Management Board about the PCMB's position and perspectives. A joint letter from the PCMB and the Fish and Wildlife Management Board will go forward to the Minister of Environment once

the discussions have been finalized and a decision has been made regarding the recommendation that will go forward.

Meeting with Minister

Joe and Deana met with Minister Fentie and Deputy Minister Kelvin Leary. Points discussed included:

- Lack of census of the herd
- Conservation Resolution passed by consensus by the Board
- Hunter Education Program
- Harvest Management Strategy – update
- Increase to core funding
- Commercialization/sale of Porcupine Caribou meat
- International Board (inactivity)
- CARMA network activities
- Status of the PCMA
- Status of current hunter regulations

Minister Fentie strongly supports the work of the Board, especially with their work involving development of a Hunter Education Program and the Harvest Management Strategy. He committed to government's financial support for the HMS and for increased core funding to the Board.

Dempster Hunting Issues

The Board is concerned about the Increased hunting pressure on the Porcupine Caribou herd due to the decline in the other NWT herds. Education is important but some are not responding to it. There are still concerns with over-harvesting and unethical hunting practices. The education must come from the community level.

Deana will meet with the Yukon Fish and Game Association to discuss collaboration on a hunter education component.

Ron related that the north Dempster Highway check station will be put in place soon. The tender has gone out for a mobile check station trailer that will include living quarters and storage space. The tender will be closing shortly and then the contract will be awarded, hopefully starting in the new year.

Recently, ENR has been patrolling the Dempster and this will continue on an ongoing basis.

Sale of Caribou

The Board discussed issues around the sale of Porcupine Caribou. The PCMA is clear that there is to be no commercial sale of Porcupine Caribou. However, the IFA, Gwich'in Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement and the Wildlife Act allow for sale, barter, trade of caribou so there are conflicting messages.

Ron indicated that he is still awaiting a legal opinion from GNWT regarding whether the PCMA takes precedence over the other legislation. The GY legal opinion is that the PCMA takes precedence. GNWT is limited with respect to enforcement.

A subcommittee of the Board is reviewing the trade and barter issue in detail and will be drafting Trade and Barter guidelines for review at the upcoming meeting. However, it is felt that guidelines will not solve the issue of sale. The subcommittee consists of: Ian McDonald, Ron Morrison, Deana Lemke, Sonny Blake and Dorothy Cooley

Administrative Update

Deana requested that any changes to the one-pager information sheets and/or the Annual Report be provided to her by no later than January 12.

Porcupine Caribou Technical Committee

Dorothy related that the PCTC is planning on meeting in Whitehorse (and linking to others via teleconference) January 29. Any items the Board would like the PCTC to discuss should be forwarded to Dorothy.

Next Meeting

The next PCMB meeting will be February 2-4, 2007, in Whitehorse, Yukon. Any agenda items are requested within the next two weeks.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.