

Porcupine Caribou Management Board

Minutes of Meeting

June 17-18, 2008

Fort McPherson and Tsiigehtchic, NWT

In attendance

Members

Billy Archie, Inuvialuit Game Council (A/Chair)
Sonny Blake, Gwich'in Tribal Council
Lorraine Peter, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation
Steven Buyck, Nacho Ny'ak Dun
Doug Larsen, Government of Yukon
Ron Morrison, Government of Northwest Territories

Deana Lemke, Secretariat

Regrets

Steve Taylor, Tr'ondëk Hwech'in
Ian McDonald, Government of Canada
Joe Tetlich, Chair

Presenters

Dorothy Cooley, Regional Biologist, Yukon Department of Environment
Robert Charlie, Chair, Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board

Welcome and Opening Prayer

Billy Archie agreed to serve as Acting Chair for this meeting as Joe Tetlich was not able to be in attendance. Lorraine Peter offered the opening prayer. Chief Wilbert Firth welcomed the Board to Fort McPherson and the Tetlit Gwich'in traditional territory.

Brief opening remarks were made by the A/Chair and Board members.

It is important to ensure we have full representation from membership at the Board meetings.

Review Agenda

The Agenda was reviewed by the Board and approved with the following addition:

- Vice-Chair appointment

Motion to accept agenda as presented

Moved by Sonny Blake

Seconded by Doug Larsen

Carried

Review of minutes

The minutes of the January 22-24, 2008, Board meeting were reviewed and approved.

Motion to accept minutes as presented

Moved by Doug Larsen

Seconded by Ron Morrison

Carried

Review of Action Items

Action items were reviewed and ongoing or outstanding items were discussed and reported on. Action items will include more information regarding how an item may have been completed or disposed of.

Action 08-05: Deana was requested to provide the PowerPoint presentations that were made at the Inuvik HMS Workshop, as they outline the roles and responsibilities of relevant stakeholders (to partially address Action 06-12).

Porcupine Caribou Herd Update – Dorothy Cooley

Dorothy Cooley updated the Board on various aspects of work with the PCH:

- The caribou have calved, results will be forthcoming in late June.
- PCMB STEP student hired for the summer. Brodie Smith is this year's Wildlife Technician Trainee who will work with Dorothy Cooley in Dawson
- Arctic Borderlands has contracted Don Russell to look at caribou dataset in the database
- PCMB proposal for \$5K was submitted to the Fish and Wildlife Enhancement Trust to fund a pilot project looking at Dempster dust and whether there would potentially be impact with increased traffic due to development. The proposal was approved and Brodie Smith's time with

the Board will be extended so she can start the work on this project (literature review, setting up study project and doing testing)

- Upcoming projects include:
 - PCH Census is planned again for this summer;
 - Caribou satellite collar program is ongoing;
 - An inquiry from a young student in England came in regarding naming a Porcupine caribou; Deana sent a box of information and promo items from PCMB;
 - Annual composition count is planned for March;
 - South Dempster check station will be run again this summer with an increased budget that will assist with functioning for longer hours;
 - Work is ongoing with the Alaskans on getting an estimate of over-winter adult cow survival;
 - Snow machine vegetation study is ongoing, will be doing measurements in mid-July;
 - GY made a contribution toward the GNWT project in Aklavik collecting harvest data (with Inuvialuit implementation funding);
 - Body condition study will occur again this year in Old Crow (GNWT will be doing the study in Fort McPherson). A proposal for CARMA funding for an expanded collection will be prepared (including intensive sample collection and CSI measurements from hunters);
 - Approval has been given to hire a half-time biologist; details will be worked out regarding what the position will do but it is hoped to include a rut count; and
 - Pilot project regarding wounding loss is being considered.

Ron Morrison indicated that a north Dempster check station can be funded by GNWT but the logistics of staffing in Yukon would need to be sorted out

Hunter education working group will be meeting this Thursday in Inuvik to continue to work on the Hunter Education Package for all user groups.

Harvest Management Plan Update

The PCMB was updated on activities around the HMS and the work of the HMS Working Group (WG). The draft Harvest Management Plan (HMP) was provided to the PCMB members.

Members' concerns to forward to the HMP Working Group include:

- There should be a greater sense of urgency reflected in the HMP; we should NOT be knowingly managing for a decline;
- This process should continue to progress; it should not be stalled any further;
- Change "Hunting like normal..." on page 3 to "Harvesting like normal..." and bold that sentence to highlight the urgency;

- Add a page that deals with the chain of life and how living things are linked and dependent on each other and we all rely on other life in order to survive;
- Page 15, reword “Clearly we are in the Yellow Zone” but still keep wording clear and strong that we are in an urgent situation, based on the modeling that shows we are in the Yellow Zone ;
- Reword page 18 regarding total allowable harvest to delete references to the agreements and speak more to how sharing will be allocated (wording from Doug/Ron, as agreed to by the Board); delete question; insert this information alongside the other information on total allowable harvest (beside page 23);
- Bubble with total allowable harvest example (wording from Ron/Doug, as decided by Board);
- Indicators should be separated into a “risk-management/assessment” section and the colour zones and actions related to each listed separately;
- Page 19, define hunting “for special purposes” for harvesting in the Red and Orange zones (wording recommendations from Working Group and discuss as question in the HMP);
- References to and quotes from land claim agreements and PCMA paramountcy to be put in a separate section (i.e. preamble);
- Send finalized draft HMP to Alaskans to keep them informed about what is happening on this side (North Slope Burrow; Council of the Arctic Athabaskan, each tribal council in each village, etc., include cover letter);
- Move Dempster questions (page 26) to the end along with other questions: “The Working Group would also like your feedback on the following questions:...” (including Dempster questions and sale, trade and barter questions);
- Page 29, delete reference to dollar amount for caribou, just indicate it is sold for profit; delete reference to “Have you heard about this kind of thing”, note PCMB’s mandate and ask question for input; and
- Communications plan should be developed with respect to timelines and who will be responsible to present in communities; same people should travel to all communities to present and take notes (Dorothy Cooley, Marsha Branigan and Deana Lemke).

Ron Morrison noted that GNWT is not prepared to approve the draft HMP to take out for public discussion until the above changes have been incorporated.

Action 08-06: ***Deana to forward Board recommendations regarding revisions to the Draft Harvest Management Plan to the HMP Working Group.***

Administrative and Financial Report – Deana Lemke

The Secretariat, Deana Lemke, provided an administrative and financial report (attached). In addition, the following was discussed:

- Draft “About the Porcupine Caribou Management Board” brochure – Board member comments should be forwarded to Deana by the end of June;
- Draft “Bull Only” brochure and mail-out campaign – approved, Deana will proceed with mail-out;
- Government of Canada school program that includes PHC component – Board member comments should be forwarded to Deana;
- PCMB hiring policy statement – discussion to be included on next meeting agenda;
- Draft Species at Risk Act – Board member comments should be forwarded to Deana; and
- Yukon Climate Change Action Plan – Board member comments should be forwarded to Deana.

Cumulative Effects proposal from Shawn Francis was reviewed contact other organizations who may be interested. Shawn will be asked to attend next meeting to present more details of his proposal.

Motion to contract Shawn Francis, offering contract in principle for the first three phases of his proposal and request that Shawn firm up his costs in proposal and present at upcoming meeting.

***Moved by Sonny Blake
Seconded by Doug Larsen
Carried***

Motion to approve 2008-09 Budget as presented

***Moved by Sonny Blake
Seconded by Lorraine Peter
Carried***

Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board – Robert Charlie

Robert Charlie, Chair of the Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board (GRRB) was in attendance and commended the Board on its good work during the past year, especially on the Harvest Management Plan. The Board's presence in the user communities is appreciated. Robert noted the following points:

- Over the past year, there have been some staffing transitions in the GRRB. The GRRB would like to be more involved in the Harvest

- Management Strategy. The approval process for the final document needs to be clarified. The GRRB has a role with respect to harvest management, especially since it pertains to defining a total allowable harvest and a Gwich'in minimum needs level. The GRRB does not want to stall the process of moving forward with the Harvest Management Strategy; however, the role of the GRRB in this process needs to be clarified.
- The GRRB hasn't seen an updated PCMB Management Plan for a few years; this is a useful tool that needs to be updated for the stakeholder organizations.
 - Obtaining a photocensus to get a population of the herd is important. In the absence of a census, though, we need to consider other ways of looking at getting an updated population of the herd. The situation with the Bluenose Caribou herd is a concern and this highlights the need to move on making appropriate management decisions regarding the Porcupine Caribou herd.
 - Dempster hunting is always an issue but the hunting impact is also felt in Old Crow and near Aklavik.
 - Arctic Borderlands Co-op has compiled much traditional knowledge regarding caribou that can be considered. PCMB does an excellent job putting out good information but more can also be done to communicate with the communities, for example, radio spots that inform and educate the public (especially the youth) regarding hunting issues and following the traditional practices. More should also be done by parents in the communities.
 - There is a concern regarding the Peel Watershed Plan development. PCMB has developed some position papers in the past that might be helpful for others to be aware of. There are significant concerns from community members regarding potential impacts of development in the Peel Watershed area.

Ron Morrison suggested to Robert that relevant board chairs come together to discuss their respective roles and authorities with respect to harvest management and how they might collaborate on issues of joint concern. Ron offered to fund such a meeting of chairs.

Billy Archie noted that the collection of harvest data in all user communities will be essential. Lorraine Peter added that even without a census this year, we have to ensure we are acting responsibly in respect to harvest of the herd. It is time we take this seriously as a Gwich'in Nation for our benefit and the benefit of the next generation of children. Education in the communities will be critical. Leaders speaking about this HMP at the upcoming Biennial Gwich'in Gathering would be a good opportunity to discuss this with community members.

Robert noted that it is important that not only the leaders and chairs speak about these issues, but community people need to take responsibility to speak about them with their elders, as well.

The Board thanked Robert for being in attendance and raising issues to the Board on behalf of the GRRB.

Tsiigetchic Public Meeting

The Board traveled to Tsiigetchic to continue its meeting and hold a public meeting in that community, including a question-and-answer session.

Vice-Chair Appointment

The Board discussed the need for a Vice-Chair for the Board. There has been a Vice-Chair in the past and this is useful for when the Chair might not be available.

Motion to appoint Billy Archie as Vice-Chair of the PCMB for the duration of his term of appointment from IGC

Moved by Doug Larsen

Seconded by Ron Morrison

Carried

Action 08-07: Board will advise IGC of Billy Archie's appointment as Vice-Chair of the Board and request renewal of his term of appointment for a five-year period, according to the PCMA

Set next meeting date and location

The next meeting will be held in Mayo, Yukon at the end of August (dates to be determined once members have been canvassed for availability).

The next agenda will include:

- PCMB hiring policy statement
- Shawn Francis' cumulative effects contract proposal

In-Camera Discussion

The Board decided to go in-camera to discuss party discussions related to reopening the PCMA and the legal opinion obtained by GY.

Motion for the Board to go in-camera

Moved by Sonny Blake

Seconded by Ron Morrison

Carried

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 5:25 p.m.