

Porcupine Caribou Management Board Minutes of Meeting

October 22 and 23, 2012
Old Crow, Yukon

In attendance

Members/Staff

Joe Tetlich, Chair
Marsha Branigan, Government of the Northwest Territories
Kelly Milner, Government of Yukon
Mike Gill, Government of Canada
Steve Taylor, Tr'ondëk Hwëch'in
Lance Nagwan, Vuntut Gwitchin
Wilbert Firth, Gwich'in Tribal Council
Jimmy Johnny, Nacho Ny'ak Dun (Alternate)
Charles Pokiak, Inuvialuit Game Council (Alternate)

Roberta Joseph, Trondek Hwechin (Alternate)
Torie Hunter, Government of Yukon
Deana Lemke, Executive Director

Welcome and Opening Prayer

The Chair, Joe Tetlich, called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting, including those in attendance from the community. Jimmy Johnny offered an opening prayer.

Roger Kaye welcomed PCMB members to Old Crow and spoke about the significance of the Porcupine Caribou to the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation people.

Review Agenda

The Agenda was reviewed by the Board and approved.

Motion to accept agenda
Moved by Kelly Milner
Seconded by Wilbert Firth
Carried

Review Minutes and Action Items

The Minutes of the June 26 and 27, 2012 meeting were approved by the Board and the action items were reviewed and discussed.

Motion to accept Minutes of the June 26 and 27, 2012 meeting as distributed

Moved by Mike Gill

Seconded by Lance Nagwan

Carried

The action items were reviewed and discussed.

12-04: Government of Yukon regulation process is consistent with the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board (YFWMB) process. Any legislative changes require consultation with the YFWMB on those changes. It is an annual process that deals with regulatory changes. Any removal of regulation cannot be done unilaterally. It would need proper consultation. If the regulation affected aboriginal subsistence rights, there would be a requirement to consult with the relevant First Nation(s).

Marsha Branigan will report on GNWT process with respect to removal of regulations at the Board's next meeting.

Administrative and Financial Report

The Executive Director provided an administrative and financial report. The variance report was reviewed.

The funding agreement with CWS has recently been signed for the restored amount of \$31,000.

The HMP Communications Working Group held a meeting on October 12 to discuss current and upcoming HMP communication and hunter education activities.

CARMA meeting will be held Dec. 4-6 in Vancouver.

Chair's Report

Joe Tetlich advised of his recent activities and meetings he participated in, presenting information related to the Board, co-management and the Harvest Management Plan:

- Attended the Gwich'in Gathering in Fort McPherson on July 18.
- Attended the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation GA in Old Crow August 13-17.
- Attended the James Bay Hunters and Trappers Committee.

- Attended the North American Caribou Workshop was held Sept. 24-28 in Fort St. John.
- Attended the North Slope Conference in Whitehorse from October 2 to 4; two posters were presented and an information table was set up.

Joe advised that, at the North Slope Conference, he participated in a panel regarding co-management and the HMP. Steve Taylor also represented the Board at the North Slope Conference.

Joe stated that the International Porcupine Caribou Board (IPCB) meeting was postponed until November 30.

Herd and Check Station Update

Martin Kienzler and Mike Suito provided a GY herd update to members by email. Hard copies were provided in members' meeting information binders. Kelly Milner reviewed the information with the members.

Mike Suito and Dorothy Cooley weren't able to make it to this meeting due to a conflict with a departmental regional staff meeting.

Marsha Branigan added information related to the harvest data program and work on the database. A further workshop will be held with user groups in the coming months, once MS Access database programs have been set up with the user groups.

Marsha said the check station was run by the Tetlit RRC in collaboration with the GTC. The check station closed on October 15 due to lack of caribou present. Two HMP signs have been erected at the Peel River on the Dempster Highway just past the ferry landing, and in Inuvik. It appears that there were not six signs delivered. Marsha will check on that.

Kelly added that the south check station is ready to go and will be opened if caribou arrive in the area. The HMP highway sign has been erected on the south end of the Dempster Highway.

Mary Gamberg from the Northern Contaminants Program has reported that the study on potential radio-activity resulting from the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear accident in Japan has been finalized. The study shows that there has been no impact on the PCH.

There was some discussion about holding a collaring workshop, at the request of IGC and some RRCs and HTC's. Marsha advised that Saturday, February 16 is the date proposed for the workshop. Marsha will keep the Board apprised of developments as planning occurs.

The HMP annual summary report is due November 15 from the PCTC. Shannon Stotyn is now the Canadian Co-Chair for the PCTC. Terms of reference for the PCTC have been sent to the IPCB for approval.

Strategic Framework

The Board sent letters to all stakeholders acknowledging their feedback on the Strategic Framework (SF). The draft SF was finalized and will be sent to stakeholders for review. A cover letter will accompany the draft SF document asking for comments by December 15, 2012.

Operating Procedures

The Board's revised operating procedures were reviewed and finalized.

***Motion to approved PCMB Operating Procedures, as revised
Moved Mike Gill
Seconded by Marsha Branigan
Carried***

Harvest Management Plan

The Milestones for the HMP Implementation Plan were reviewed. Harvest data for the period June 1, 2011 to May 31, 2012 was due by June 1 (from GNWT and GY); and July 15 from user communities. ED will check and confirm who has submitted harvest data. A letter will be sent to all Parties outlining who has not yet submitted data and reminding of the deadline and the impact of not meeting deadlines on other HMP IP timelines. Parties will also be reminded of the AHM February 12-14, 2013 in Inuvik, NWT.

Action 12-12: ED to send letter to all Parties asking for harvest data ASAP and reminding of milestones and AHM dates.

Cumulative Effects project update

Don Russell joined the meeting by phone to provide an update on the Cumulative Effects project. He provided two executive summaries – one regarding the Long Term Distribution Responses of the PCH to Human Disturbance (prepared by Chris Johnson and Don Russell); and the other: Porcupine Caribou and Cumulative Effects: Climate (prepared by Don Russell).

Don also provided a Powerpoint slide presentation which he reviewed with the Board members as a progress report. Some tasks identified to do include:

Input data:

- Develop input datasets to reflect the role of climate in population trends
- Develop input datasets to reflect role of density in changes in body condition

Scenarios

- Develop, run and evaluate future climate scenarios
- Major updates – especially recent use of 1002 (third Summer Ecology report?)
- Determine how to handle one-off development projects

Output

- Thorough review of linkages of vital rates (birth, death, etc.)
- Develop easy way to output key factors

Caribou “estimator”

- Develop linkage to EP model output
- Develop easy way to output key factors
- Determine if role of predator should be carved out
- Develop, run and evaluate population level policies (e.g. predator control)
- Develop, run and evaluate other actions (e.g. 1002 mitigations)

Other organizations may be interested in running this model – e.g. CIMP and the Bathurst group.

Don also provided a brief update with respect to CARMA. The next CARMA meeting will be held in Vancouver from December 4 to 6, 2012.

Closing comments

Board members made closing comments following the meeting. There was concern expressed regarding implementation of the HMP and the need for Parties to meet timelines agreed to under the HMP. Members expressed appreciation for Vuntut Gwitchin hosting this meeting. It was suggested that the Board should return during Caribou Days if possible. There is always solid support at the community meetings held in Old Crow.

Next Meeting and Closing Prayer

The next Board meeting will be held in Whitehorse, Yukon December 17 and 18, 2012 to deal primarily with the Dempster Highway regulations.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 a.m. and a closing prayer was offered by Joe Tetlich.