

# Porcupine Caribou Management Board Minutes of Meeting

June 26 and 27, 2012  
Inuvik, NWT

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## 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  
Steven Buyck, Nacho Ny'ak Dun  
Lance Nagwan, Vuntut Gwitchin  
Billy Storr, Inuvialuit Game Council

David Frost, Alternate, Vuntut Gwitchin  
Jimmy Johnny, Alternate, Nacho Nyak Dun  
Stephen Charlie, Alternate, GNWT  
Dorothy Cooley, Government of Yukon  
Deana Lemke, Executive Director

### Regret

Wilbert Firth, Gwich'in Tribal Council

## Welcome and Opening Prayer

The Chair, Joe Tetlich, called the meeting to order at 1:20 p.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting, including alternates and those in attendance. Stephen Buyck offered an opening prayer.

## Review Agenda

The Agenda was reviewed by the Board and approved.

***Motion to accept agenda***  
***Moved by Steve Taylor***  
***Seconded by Kelly Milner***  
***Carried***

## **Review Minutes and Action Items**

The Minutes of the March 27 and 28, 2012 meeting were approved by the Board and the action items were reviewed and discussed.

***Motion to accept Minutes of the March 27 and 28, 2012 meeting as distributed***

***Moved by Marsha Branigan***

***Seconded by Steve Buyck***

***Carried***

The action items were reviewed and discussed.

12-02: The Board was advised that the Yukon Geological Survey's proposed project is not in fact going forward to EISC; therefore, a submission from the Board is not currently required.

12-03: The consultation process for putting hunting regulations in place has been challenged by First Nations. The Dempster hunting regulations are still on the books; they were implemented based on PCMB recommendations. If there is no interest in maintaining those regulations in question, removal would need to be done following an appropriate consultation process. GNWT and Yukon will provide an outline of their respective processes in writing to the Board.

## **Administrative and Financial Report (Deana Lemke)**

### **Administration**

The Executive Director provided an administrative and financial report.

The funding agreements for this fiscal year and the upcoming fiscal year were discussed.

The following upcoming meetings were noted:

- Gwich'in Gathering will be coming up on July 18.
- Vuntut Gwitchin Government GA is coming up on August 13-17.
- The James Bay Hunters and Trappers Committee has invited Joe Tetlich to present info at their upcoming meeting to present information on the Harvest Management Plan.
- North American Caribou Workshop will be held Sept. 24-28 in Fort St. John.
- International Porcupine Caribou Board (IPCB) meeting will be held in Dawson on Sept. 25 and 26.
- North Slope Conference will be held Oct. 2-4 in Whitehorse.
- CARMA meeting will be held Dec. 4-6 in Vancouver.

## Cumulative Effects project update

Don Russell joined the meeting by phone to provide an update on the Cumulative Effects project. He provided a one-page written summary. Two priorities were identified as interim products toward an assessment of cumulative impacts of climate and development of the Porcupine Caribou Herd: 1) an analysis of climate and climate trends, and 2) role of the Dempster Highway and seismic lines on habitat use of wintering PCH. By the end of June or early July, drafts of these analyses will be completed.

Climate summaries have been completed and summaries for other Alaskan coastal plain herds have been analyzed and will be compared.

Dr. Chris Johnson has been contracted to conduct a RSF analysis to examine what the role of the Dempster Highway and seismic lines have had on the habitat use on the winter range.

The Board will be assessing future direction of the CE project following the conclusion of our contract with Don Russell. This will be an agenda item for discussion at the fall Board meeting.

The Board has requested that Don Russell make the reports be simple and clear so they can be understood at a local level.

Mike Gill offered to do a first draft of a CE newsletter/bulletin for distribution to our Parties and stakeholders.

**Action 12-09:**        ***Mike Gill to do a first draft of a CE newsletter/bulletin for distribution to our PCMB Parties and stakeholders to inform them of the project.***

## Strategic Framework

The Board sent a letter to the Parties on January 30, 2012, regarding the Porcupine Caribou Herd Strategic Framework (SF). Input was requested by April 20 with respect to identification of Parties top priorities. A summary of responses was provided to the Board. Parties' concerns that are outside of the scope of the SF will be acknowledged by the Board.

The SF will outline what the Board is planning to do and coordinate the activities of other agencies and making sure the work is aligned.

Joe provided an overview of the history of the Management Plan. The SF will essentially be an update of much of the original Management Plan. All matters specifically related to harvest management were removed from the SF since they are now addressed in the Harvest Management Plan and its associated Implementation Plan. The PCTC has been asked by the IPCB to develop one-

year and five-year workplans. These workplans may address herd and habitat components of the SF.

The Board discussed the comments received from Parties and stakeholders. Members also provided the following comments on behalf of their representative organization.

Nacho Nyak Dun:

- Native User Agreement needs to be developed.
- Predator control plan if there is a caribou conservation issue
- Implementation of the IP
- Communication and education

Inuvialuit Game Council:

- Incorporate more traditional and local knowledge in the SF; not rely too much on science.
- Understand why caribou is not calving in traditional calving grounds.

Vuntut Gwitchin:

- Identifying bulls versus cows in all season.
- Support removal of gut piles where there is high concentration of hunters (e.g. highway, Crow Mountain).
- Protection of the calving grounds.
- Add condition of habitat to population indicators (e.g. fires).

Trondek Hwech'in:

- Implement the Harvest Management Plan.
- Develop PC harvest calendar for harvest recordings by harvesters.
- Develop total allowable harvest, user agreements.
- Influence Alaska to develop a harvest plan.
- Ensure that the caribou calculator incorporates traditional knowledge and accurate data upon being reactivated.
- Ensure that all users have the ability to review the indicators utilized with the caribou calculator upon being reactivated.
- Protect the fall, spring and wintering grounds of the PC from industrial activities.
- Recommend the removal of the 500-metre corridor and the one-week closure.
- Conduct study on the winter migration changes of the herd.
- Implement predation management program.
- Always keep the objectives of the PCMA and the final agreement objectives re fish and wildlife as a priority when making decisions.

The Board discussed the understanding of “traditional” versus “local” knowledge.

- Traditional knowledge is knowledge that is intergenerational going far back, from father, grandfather, etc. (historical context).
- Local knowledge is from people (not necessarily First Nation) active on the land, and observations from local residents.

### **Other matters related to the SF**

There was discussion about the Johnny Charlie Scholarship (summer student) funding provided by the Board. Dorothy Cooley spoke about the history of this funding. The Board has hired approximately 14 students over the years, who have worked with Dorothy in her capacity as regional biologist. Funding has also been provided by the Yukon Education STEP program. The Board agreed that it would continue to make the opportunity available to Parties, as appropriate.

The Board discussed the hunter education program. Initially, the intention was to incorporate traditional knowledge from the communities; however, the working group’s attempts to do this have not been successful. It is felt that traditional knowledge is unique to each community so these components would be best left to each community to incorporate individually. Therefore, the Board will work with Government of Yukon and GNWT to complete what we have for the hunter education program and then send it out to Parties and stakeholders for review.

A stakeholder working group was formed to discuss the problem with grizzly bear and human interactions primarily in Eagle Plains area re caribou gut piles, and discuss resolutions to address the concerns. Kelly Milner stated that the Parties had a conference call recently to discuss this issue. Three general actions came out of that discussion:

- Developing communication materials to distribute when check stations are open;
- Gathering more information on the location and timing of occurrences; and
- Conducting a bear hazard assessment, done by expert.

Since the Board has an education role, the PCMB should be engaged in the communication aspect of the importance to remove the gut piles along the highway and encourage hunters to field-dress their harvest away from the highway.

The Board talked about the relationship between the PCMB and the PCTC, which is an instrument of the IPCB. Terms of Reference for the PCTC are currently being developed by the IPCB. PCMB will write a letter to the IPCB listing research and monitoring priorities that many Parties touched on that would be relevant to the PCTC workplan.

**Action 12-10:           PCMB to write a letter to the IPCB listing research and monitoring priorities that would be relevant to the PCTC workplan.**

The SF will be distributed to Parties once the final draft version is complete.

**Action 12-11:** *PCMB to distribute final draft of the Strategic Framework once it has been completed.*

## **Closing comments**

Board members made closing comments following the meeting. They expressed their appreciation for Dorothy Cooley's work and support with the development of the Strategic Framework and wished her well in her new position with Government of Yukon.

## **Next Meetings and Closing Prayer**

The next Board meeting will be held October in Old Crow, Yukon.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:45 a.m. and a closing prayer was offered by Joe Tetlich.