

# Gwich'in Renewable Resources Board Bi-annual Meeting

Feb 17-19, 2010

Gwich'in Wellness Camp, Inuvik, NT

## Attendance:

**Board Members:** Robert Alexie Sr., Robert Charlie, James Firth, Liz Hansen, Paul Latour, George Low, Eugene Pascal, Dan Topolniski

**Staff:** Matthew Armstrong, Kristen Callaghan, Cheryl Greenland, Ron English, Amy Thompson

## Observers:

### Wednesday, February 17

<i>Name</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Designation</i>
Doug Matthews	Consultant to GTC	Allen Firth	GTC
Sarah Baines	SENES Consulting	Susan McKenzie	GLUPB
Marie-Anick Elie	NGPS	Norman Snowshoe	GNWT, ENR –Inuvik
Brian Chambers	NGPS	Joanna Wilson	GNWT, ENR – Yellowknife
Martin Callaghan	GNWT, ENR –Inuvik	Charlie Snowshoe	GLUPB (board member)
Stephen Charlie	GNWT, ENR –Inuvik	Larry Dow	GC, DFO –Inuvik
Mary Rose Tetlich	Tetlit RRC	Kevin Bill	GC, DFO –Inuvik
Ricky Firth	Nihtat RRC ( <i>half day</i> )	Alestine Andre	GSCI
Jason McLeod	Gwichya RRC	Sharon Snowshoe	GSCI
Kris Maier	None –observer		

### Thursday, February 18

<i>Name</i>	<i>Designation</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Designation</i>
Allen Firth	GTC	Jerome Gordon	Ehdiitat RRC
Dorothy Cooley	YTG - Dawson	Ricky Firth	Nihtat RRC
Kevin Bill	GC, DFO –Inuvik	Marsha Branigan	GNWT, ENR –Inuvik
Sarah Baines	SENES Consultants	Stephen Charlie	GNWT, ENR –Inuvik
Mary Rose Tetlich	Tetlit RRC	Robert Alexie	GLWB
Jason McLeod	Gwichya RRC	Margaret Nazon	GLWB (board member)

### Friday, Feb 19, 2009

In-camera discussion with Board members and Executive Director only

**Minutes:** Kristen Callaghan and Amy Thompson

Robert Charlie gave an update on the status of the Wildlife Studies Fund investments for the board members and took board members' questions on the investments and their returns and use of the funds.

#### ❖ **Draft GRRB Operating Budget**

The Board members will have a conference call prior to the March 31, 2010 to approve the 2010-2011 GRRB Operating Budget.

### **6. Chair update –Robert Charlie**

Robert Charlie provided an update of his activities to the Board. He's been involved in many discussions related to caribou and has been kept busy by his involvement with the Wildlife Act Review, Rat River Char work, work with RRCs and initiatives with management plans (char, caribou, etc..). Robert gave an over view of his work in each of these areas. He also described his work preparing for and meeting with the Implementation Committee and assisting in staff recruitment efforts.

Robert concluded his update and took questions.

*- MORNING BREAK 10:20- 10:30-*

### **7. Executive Director Update**

Amy Thompson mentioned that Robert touched on a lot of topics so she didn't elaborate on some of those items. She addressed her involvement in a number of activities including Rat River TK workshops and report, Dolly Varden char TK verification, Integrated Fisheries Management Plan, Forest Management Plan, COSEWIC assessments, FNP activities, ACCWM activities, regional RRC meeting, funding related activities including funding assistance from INAC for communications initiatives, relationship building with GRRB co-management partners and other regional authorities and agencies, and the status of staffing at the GRRB office.

Amy concluded her update and took questions.

(Robert Charlie provides permission for the Regulatory update to move up in the agenda).

### **11. Regulatory (TAB L)**

#### ❖ **Regulatory review process of the Mackenzie Gas Project – Brian Chambers**

Brian Chambers (Northern Gas Project Secretariat –NGPS) gave an update on the regulatory review process of the Mackenzie Gas Project. Brian gave handouts and a presentation. His handout was included in the meeting binders.

There was considerable discussion on this topic and Brian took questions from the Board members.

Robert Charlie thanked Brian for his presentation.

Key message: the more information SENES has, the better the audit will be. The questionnaires are long and it is hard to find the time for these reports but the more information and reports received, the better the State of Environment Report will be and this will help to improve cumulative impact monitoring.

Sarah explained that the final report is due to INAC on December 31, 2010, responses to Questionnaires are due March 31. Public meetings will be held in 12 communities in April & May.

Sarah took questions from the Board members and agreed to send the GRRB a copy of the first Environmental Audit and timelines at Robert Charlie's request.

↑ Follow up to GRRB expected

**-BREAK FOR LUNCH 12PM -1PM-**

❖ **National Energy Board (NEB) Submissions – Doug Matthews**

Doug Matthews reviewed the process developed for the GRRB, GTC, and GSCI to respond to the recommendations from the Joint Review Panel (JRP) Final Report that was released December 31, 2009. Doug explained the tight deadlines and how the tracking document assisted these groups to structure their responses.

Doug did not have a presentation notes or a written submission and so his oral presentation is included below:

Doug: JRP report included 176 recommendations in the report; it was a long report. The Joint Review Panel took 4 years to complete it. Other parties were given 6 weeks by the NEB to comment on the report. These comments were due February 11, 2010. A funding request to DIAND was made by GTC and Doug assisted. Doug developed a response process for the GSCI, GRRB, and GTC to follow to help structure their responses. This assisted these parties in making sure that each recommendation that was made by the GSCI, GRRB, or GTC was followed up and the report reviewed to see what the JRP said and what the proponent's response was.

Kim Hawkins worked with the staff of these parties to help prepare these recommendations. Kristi Benson was contracted to assist GSCI with their response. Kim helped develop the initial recommendations during the JRP Hearings.

GTC and GRRB each filed submissions to the NEB. (See tab L in the binder.) Only the GTC was an intervener with the NEB process so GSCI and GRRB can work with GTC to ensure interests are addressed. Don't know yet if Richard will speak at both NEB hearings or only at the Inuvik hearing. GTC supported positions taken by the GRRB in their response.

Next steps: Richard is limited in what he can say in public meetings. A Public Hearing should take place in April. Expect reasons for decisions in September. However, Doug is under the opinion

the GRRB meeting or they can contact GSCI directly for a copy. Projects that were addressed in their update included:

#### Heritage Projects

1. Arctic Red River headwaters Project –Phase IV
2. Aurora College –ARI TK Interviews (poster)
3. CBC Radio Legacy Project
4. Dempster Highway Grave Signage
5. Historic Places Initiative (HPI) Projects
6. Genographic Project
7. Gwich'in Elders Biography Book
8. Gwich'in Ethnobotany Module for GSCI Website
9. GLUPB Atlas
10. Gwich'in Legends Workshop (Aklavik, Jan. 20-21, 2010)
11. Gwich'in Place Names/ Oral History Atlas
12. James Jerome Photo collection Project –Exhibit
13. National Archival Development Program

14. Rat River Char TK –Phase 2 and Inuvik workshop
15. Review and Process GSCI Research material 1992-present
16. Steppe Bison Fossil Find

#### Projects Related to Implementation of Gwich'in Claims

1. Peel Watershed Planning Commission Northern Governance Policy Research Conference Land Use Permit, Archaeological Permit and Scientific Research License Applications

#### Language Projects

1. Gwich'in Language Plan projects
2. Second Language Curriculum projects

After their presentation Alestine and Sharon took questions from the meeting participants and a suggestion was given that they prepare a short booklet listing and describing all the projects being undertaken by the GSCI.

## **8. Staff Updates**

### **❖ GRRB staff: Kristen Callaghan, Matthew Armstrong and Ron English**

Kristen Callaghan, Matthew Armstrong and Ron English provided oral updates on their activities to accompany their written updates in the meeting binders and took questions from the Board on their updates. Chelsea Hermus and casual staff provided written updates in the binders which Amy reviewed with the Board.

(Robert Charlie granted permission for Government of Canada, Department of Fisheries and Oceans and Government of Northwest Territories, Environment and Natural Resources to move up on the agenda)

## **12. Local Agency Updates**

### **❖ Government of Canada: Department of Fisheries and Oceans - Larry Dow & Kevin Bill**

Larry Dow gave an office update for the DFO Inuvik region. Larry mentioned that much activity has been focused on the MGP and on DFO's recommendations and subsequent responsibilities & activities in the NEB process. He mentioned that additional funding, as was provided to the GRRB from his office in the past, is dependent on oil and gas funds. He updated the Board on the Oceans program on behalf of Kelly

❖ **Government of the Northwest Territories –Environment and Natural Resources -Inuvik  
–Steven Charlie, Martin Callaghan**

**Steven Charlie (Superintendent -Inuvik Region)** introduced himself as the new regional superintendent of the Inuvik ENR office and gave a short update on staffing & training and of a travel update on his own and staff travel activities. His update was included in the meeting binders in Tab H as well as an update from Bea Lepine (not present at meeting) on the GNWT's Traditional Knowledge Policy.

Steven concluded his update and took questions. During the questions, Steven clarified that the patrolmen's positions do not include enforcement but that there are enforcement officers in each community (at least one in each community) and there are also numerous enforcement officers in Inuvik. Steven said that the GNWT can support training for patrolmen if they wish to move into a compliance/enforcement role. Steven commented that there has been a good response to the patrolmen and their job and good compliance so far.

**Martin Callaghan (Forest Manager –Inuvik Region)**

Martin introduced himself and explained the handout he provided with his update. His written update expanded upon materials given to the Board at its last meeting. He directed attention to specific materials in his written update, describing the spruce budworm monitoring that is ongoing in the Mackenzie Delta and up the Peel and Arctic Red Rivers and noted that the levels are low and dropped last year. Martin described training as a wild fire specialist he recently undertook and updated the board on staffing at the forestry office and course training undertaken and planned by forestry staff.

He described the community protection work undertaken in Tsiigehtchic to expand the fire break around the community of Tsiigehtchic and other planned projects, including some permafrost work to be undertaken.

Martin added that Daryl English has been doing a lot of conservation education work with the students in the region. Last summer there were 4 fires and 3 were human caused. Two were started by youth in Inuvik so it is important to talk to the students about conservation and impact of their actions on the landscape. ENR staff have gone out at least a dozen times with students recently as part of their conservation education work.

Martin concluded his update and took questions. During the question period some questions were asked of Steven Charlie regarding issues with foxes in the communities. In answer, Steven explained that wildlife officers can dispose of foxes with shotguns but it is not preferred to use a firearm in the community. ENR has been using traps around communities to catch foxes and these are monitored to make sure pets are not caught. ENR is also doing routine patrols around the schools. Steven commented that lots of people feed foxes in the communities and this creates more problems. Steven emphasized that the education component mentioned by Martin is important. He emphasized that it is a violation of law to feed wild animals and that while a charge can be laid if necessary, a person found to be feeding wild animals would be talked to first before resorting to charges. Liz Hansen provided a suggested that poster contests could assist with conservation education and enhancing awareness for youth.

Joanna needs the GRRB to decide who they will appoint to the SARC, who to send to the CMA meeting in June and if the GRRB will support inviting the Akaitcho, Dehcho and NWT Metis to participate as observers in the CMA process.

↑The GRRB is expected to make three decisions and notify the SAR Secretariat of these decisions.

After her presentation Joanna took questions from the meeting participants. Topics addressed included funding to co-management boards to implement new responsibilities associated with the Wildlife Act, clarification of the CMA duties, inclusion of other First Nations as observers and then as management authorities once their land claims are settled and funding for assessments, who will write status reports and how Species at Risk habitat is evaluated and managed on private lands owned by land claim groups. Charlie Snowshoe expressed concern about animal populations in decline around the Fort McPherson area and wanted the Board and the ENR representatives to know about them. His comments were:

"I want to inform you that there is a problem up here with species at risk. There used to be millions of muskrats but today there is almost nothing. There used to be lots of rabbits around but you are lucky to see a rabbit track in Fort McPherson right now. I know why there are no ducks – the big developers in oil and gas are killing them off. I know that. I am bringing this to the Board's attention and to you as a SARA person to find out why there are no rats in the Delta. People aren't getting them and we don't know why and nobody is doing anything about it. This is why I am bringing it to your attention. Need someone with knowledge of that area to be involved. We know we have low water –maybe that is affecting it."

## 12. Local Agency Updates (Continued)

### ❖ Gwich'in Land Use Planning Board - Susan McKenzie, Land Use Planner

Susan updated the board on the status of the Gwich'in Land Use Plan and the recent activities of the GLUPB. She provided the board with her presentation and a map produced as part of the Land Use Plan. These are in the binders under Tab H. Her office is also working with help of GSCI to produce a Gwich'in Atlas. The board is developing a regional plan of action as part of their implementation of the plan.

After Susan's presentation, the question period included discussion on the development of pit management plans, land use issues surrounding Airport and Campbell Lakes, monetary endeavours being affected by the GLUP, identification of research gaps (such as water monitoring) and a suggestion by a meeting participant for the GTC to hold a board forum with local agencies and boards to better inform one another what everyone is doing in region.

Robert Charlie adjourned the meeting for the day at 5:30pm. The meeting was set to reconvene at 9 AM on Thursday, Feb 18.

**-MEETING ADJOURNED AT 5:30 PM -**

of the RRCs, she expressed happiness seeing Steven Charlie in the superintendent's position. As a Board member, she's recently helped with GRRB staffing interviews, with Gwich'in translations of the calendar and will attend the Boreal caribou meetings Paul mentioned. She commented that some of the Board's work may become stronger in this regard. Liz did reviews of Tim Byer's report. Liz expressed concern about the ongoing caribou issue that is going on down south (Bathurst herd) and how that could relate to government having the last say in this region, especially given the strength of the TEK of the Gwich'in.

❖ **Robert Alexie (Gwich'in Tribal Council)**

Robert commented that it is good to see Amy in her position. He noted that there are big changes as we go along now compared to 1992. He anticipates some difficult discussions to be had, especially with regard to caribou and climate change. Robert values being kept up to date on the issues that are ongoing. He is concerned about climate change issues (especially with respect to landslides) and what research is being done in that regard. He would appreciate knowing if someone is looking at the slides in the Fort McPherson region and in the GSA generally. He informed the group that a 600-700 ft cliff had a slide down all the way to the river.

❖ **James Firth (Gwich'in Tribal Council)**

James commented on issues raised in the last meeting on caribou regarding birthing grounds and early movement of caribou across the highway. He would like a study to see if there is calving in the Stony and Rat River headwaters area as well as a study regarding wolves and grizzly bear and if that can be addressed. James mentioned the loche study down south that had found contamination and wondered if that should be addressed in the local loche fishery.

❖ **Eugene Pascal (Gwich'in Tribal Council)**

Eugene mentioned a media interview he'd heard with a caribou biologist in Alaska and how it sounded as though they aren't having the same problems with the reindeer as in this region. He felt that the Board would need information on that to compare to what is happening with caribou in our region. The Alaskan reindeer have been studied for a long time. Eugene has requested a copy of the CKLB program that discussed this issue.

Eugene mentioned that he shared concerns about the previous caribou issues that have been mentioned by others at the meeting.

Eugene spoke to conditions in the Mackenzie Delta and around Aklavik: in the Delta, the small animals are healthy; there are lots of rabbits; a few packs of wolves north and south of Aklavik; concerns with the local loche population based on the results of the loche study done in Fort Good Hope; not much snow so far this year.

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After the Board members' updates were completed, Amy spoke regarding the burbot study that was in the news and that James and Eugene had brought up. She is following up on this and contacted the study's author, Dr. Gary Stern. She asked questions about whether the local burbot have the same type of changes and mentioned her contaminant samples collected over one year. His opinion was that based

Paul described what this aerial survey research is, what and how it is being done and why this is an international survey effort shared with the United States. As part of his presentation, Paul pointed out that in the Mackenzie Delta, there are increases documented compared to earlier surveys across all the species. However, there are some species locally that are declining (e.g. black ducks/scoters, scaup) as well as declining nationally. A few species nationally are increasing, such as bufflehead. Paul will mail some of their relevant annual reports to the Board.

❖ **Wildlife Management- ENR, Inuvik -Marsha Branigan, Manager of Wildlife Management**

Marsha provided a written update to the Board and went through her written update with the meeting participants. Her update was added to the meeting binder materials.

There were some particular issues that Marsha highlighted for the Board in her update:

**ENR is looking for feedback from the GRRB on a request for the increase of payment for wolf carcass collections to \$200 from \$100. The RRCs, WMAC (NWT) and IGC support this increase.**

↑ GRRB was asked to make a decision and give a recommendation to GNWT, ENR

Marsha spoke regarding the current status of Porcupine Caribou management planning from an ENR and PCMB perspective. These materials were provided in her written update. **Marsha asked the Board to consider a quick comment to the GNWT on its perspective on the Harvest Management Plan, possibly by conference call following the meeting. GNWT is looking for input on whether ENR should sign the HMP. GRRB should also discuss what they would like to see in an implementation plan.**

↑ GRRB was asked to make a decision and give a recommendation to GNWT, ENR

**ENR has given the GRRB two data requests:**

1. GRRB was given a **harvest data request** for the purpose of producing a harvest report produced by the PCMB. Dorothy & Marsha are hoping for Kristen's assistance with the report and assistance working with the GRRB harvest data.
2. ENR has put in a data request to the GRRB for **spatial data to use in the GIS layers for a cumulative effects project**. The GIS layers will include harvest, trails, fires, habitat, landscape features etc... to help in the future to look at cumulative effects on the PC caribou.

↑ GRRB has been given two data requests and a request for GRRB staff assistance.

Marsha informed the Board that there is discussion underway to get the International Porcupine Caribou Management Board running again.

than the males are. The HMP has a graph that shows the effect of taking a bull rather than a cow and there being 23 more caribou in the herd in 10 years just for that one choice of a bull over a cow. A change of just 2-3% in the harvest of cows can have a large impact on the herd size.

## 20. Wildlife Studies Fund Presentations

### ❖ Porcupine Caribou Breeding Female Population Estimate: June, 2010 - Proposed by Dorothy Cooley in consultation with the PCTC

Dorothy spoke regarding her research proposal to estimate herd size of the Porcupine Caribou herd. (Her research abstract was included in meeting binders and full project proposal in the Wildlife Studies Binder). She requested \$15,000 from GRRB to support the research.

During questions about her proposal, there was a desire to examine the breeding grounds of the caribou and the possibility of there being breeding areas not documented by radio-collared caribou. Robert Alexie Sr. noted that snow levels are different and that there are caribou wintering now down at Olgilvie and Eagle Plains this year. Dorothy noted that from the collar information this year the caribou seem pretty restless and are moving around.

### ❖ North Richardson Mountain Dall's Sheep Survey, June 2010 –Proposed by Dorothy Cooley in partnership with Marsha Branigan & Kristen Callaghan.

Dorothy gave the research presentation which supplemented the binder materials of the research abstract and full research proposal to survey the Dall's sheep population in the Northern Richardson Mountains this June. She requested \$18,000 from the GRRB to support the research and requested the assistance of the GRRB's wildlife biologist with the survey.

↑GRRB was given a request for feedback.

During the questions, harvest measures recommended in the Dall's sheep management plan came up and this reminded Marsha to mention that it would be helpful if the GRRB could think about how to improve the check station for next year and about how to increase the number of samples submitted for caribou.

↑GRRB was given a request for feedback.

Robert Charlie asked if there is a way of doing the calculations in conjunction with the next photo survey to check the accuracy of the caribou calculator model. Marsha said this is planned for and that the estimate obtained (either by one of or both the breeding ground survey and photo census) will be compared to outputs of the calculator.

There was discussion about the caribou sample kits, their distribution at the check station, the \$25 payment for returned samples and how few samples were returned. In response, there was a suggestion by James to hand out the kits when the harvest study interviews are done and to talk about the need for the sampling at the time of the interviews.

↑Suggestion to ENR/GRRB staff regarding protocols for the Harvest Study.

Questions and comments to Sharon included support for the work as it pertains to the Rat River. Concerns were expressed about the multi-year component of the system modelling and the diversity of species included and Sharon was asked what she would think if the GRRB supported this on a smaller scale and more focused on the Rat River char, as a one time partner for support to this research?

Sharon responded to say that that would be a very feasible approach. She did initially not want to stress out the Dolly Varden populations but in order to answer her research questions, she was proposing to investigate other species including the Dolly Varden Char among them.

Further discussion involved sampling times and protocols.

## 16. Document Approval

### ❖ Consultation Rules and Procedures -Matthew Armstrong

Matthew brought up the main highlights discussed at the last meeting. This last review includes final revisions based on comments by Matthew, Amy & Kristen. Matthew explained that the main highlight for this meeting is on the Appendix containing summaries of the policies and procedures for quick reference. In addition to describing the summaries, Matthew also notified the Board that there were a few disclaimers added at the beginning of the document relating to it being a living document and also regarding instances where the Board must respond to an urgent government request as per GCLCA that could affect the timelines proposed. Matthew reiterated that the summaries are a guide but do not replace the document itself.

Questions after Matthew's presentation included affirmation that a legal review of the document by Brian Crane was made and his comments were incorporated. Matthew and Amy pointed out that a definitions section was added as well as clarification made on procedures related to providing information to government staff versus a government Minister. Matthew noted that the document included a requirement to provide the RRCs with the summaries. Kristen noted that the document does not yet include a section on forestry but that as a living document this could be easily incorporated once it was written and finalized.

Amy affirmed her comfort with the document as a whole and in particular, with its new format making it more easily read and the summary section being of particular help for quick reference and review. She noted that changes to the wildlife management section were incorporated and that it now works well to describe how we would see a management plan be developed, as compared to just how a plan would be approved.

Liz wondered if there were forms to be used in conjunction with the Rules and Procedures, and that creation of these might be helpful, especially for the next person to use the document. Matthew answered that staff haven't foreseen the need for any forms yet.

**Motion #03/10**

**To accept (1) the *GRRB Rules and Procedures for Consultation* and (2) the *GRRB Rules for Public Hearing* documents.**

Moved by James Firth

Seconded by: Dan Topolniski

DFO priority stocks in the region, how priorities of the GRRB and FJMC are included in the DFO process and the timing of the GRRB priority setting cycle in relation to the DFO's priority setting schedule.

## 19. Project Updates (Continued)

### ❖ Rat River Monitoring and Research Update (no materials in binder)- Kevin Bill (DFO)

Kevin Bill presented an update on the Rat River char monitoring and research. As there were no written materials provided, his update is given below:

**Kevin:** There is upcoming Rat River work in 2010. We will continue monitoring work at Big Eddy and Destruction City on the Rat River. The numbers taken by each monitor in 2009 were not high; only one monitor actually caught the 75 char they were allocated. High water limited the fishing later in the season and because we asked them to spread their netting out over the season, this affected the number. We will be talking at the spring Rat River Working Group meeting if these numbers will change. Last year we supplied John Carmichael with a sampling kit for the kidneys. He sampled 47 fish but there was a problem with the study design which has now been addressed (by taking the whole kidney as proposed by Sharon Cloutier).

Other Rat River research –last year there was a tagging program at the fish hole in the fall. 462 char were tagged. This fall the plan is to go back and do some seining at the fish hole to get a sense of the population and to do some tagging again this year. We'll do that again for a few reasons: (1.) In support of the COSEWIC assessment, they feel it is good to get a few years of back-to-back population assessment to feed into the management processes (2.) Addressing the contribution of Rat River char to the coastal fishery on the North Slope; there a few programs ongoing to address this. If we can get tag returns from coastal fishery, this will help to assess this. There will also be tagging in the ISR to address this.

Something brought up in some meetings: there may be a portion of the population that goes into the river early to spawn or stays in the river instead of going out to sea. Collin Gallagher and Steve Sandstrom flew over and saw what they thought were char in the Fish Hole in July. We want to get a description of the work to provide to the Rat River Working Group.

Seining at the hole will help determine if these are fish tagged last year or if they are from another population that may not be going out to the ocean. They may want to tag those fish too. Lots of work for the Rat River is being proposed. Neil Mochnacz has also submitted his project description requesting support from the GRRB for his habitat research. His submission is in your binders.

**Questions** to Kevin included clarification of funding requests to the GRRB, clarification that the kidney sampling protocol could be done by a community member properly trained, when results are to be expected from the monitoring program (Kim Howland is in charge of this -catch per unit effort was provided at the earlier meeting and more information to come at the March meeting; lots of spawning females at the Fish Hole when DFO was there -70% were female spawning, 11% were male spawning), and clarification that the new ones staying behind are not dwarf but are large (>400mm) fish.

## 20. Wildlife Study Fund Presentations (Continued)

### ❖ Community Engagement Meetings for Round Two consultations on the Cape Bathurst, Bluenose West and Bluenose East Management Plan –Kristen Callaghan

Kristen described her WSF proposal and how the funds will be used to support the cost of the second round of community meetings in the GSA, in which the first draft of the management plan will be brought to the communities for feedback. Her proposal abstract and budgets were included in the Board's meeting binders.

## 18. Management Updates (Continued)

### ❖ Dolly Varden Char Integrated Fisheries Management Plan (IFMP) -Amy Thompson

Amy updated the Board on the Dolly Varden Char IFMP for Dolly Varden of the GSA and ISR, on the Traditional Knowledge Verification workshop and the COSEWIC process and status for Dolly Varden char. Amy's presentation was in the meeting binders which also included copies of the December draft discussion paper of the IFMP. Amy wanted to know if the Board is satisfied with the current work done on the plan?

↑GRRB opinion requested

Amy pointed out that the full IFMP draft document can be supplied to any interested members or public. A few copies were left at the meeting for those interested.

During the questions, there was further discussion about how much work is enough and how much money can be justifiably spent on a fishery, when to just have the bare minimum done and what is really necessary. There was discussion related to the need for the IFMP and how in light of a potential SARA listing by COSEWIC, the work on the IFMP and the management directives and the community involvement and direction it entails, gives strength to everyone involved that might not be given without the IFMP and by a federal plan as a result of a SARA listing alone.

Discussion also turned to the cost of community engagements and carrying out management actions. Kevin pointed out that if the species was listed under SARA, that this would open up new sources of funding related to protection of species at risk and these could help reduce the financial constraints currently being experienced.

Charlie Snowshoe inquired as to the status of the Rat River char and Amy gave a brief update on the decline in the early 2000s and an increase in 2007 and 2008. She said that she could give Charlie a further update when the next estimate is given this fall.

↑expectation of follow-up by the GRRB

### ❖ Gwich'in Forest Management Plan -Amy Thompson

Robert Charlie presented the WSF request by the ABEC to continue the Community Based Ecological Monitoring in the range of the Porcupine Caribou Herd. This time they are trying a focus group approach rather than individual surveys. There are concerns with the partners to the Borderlands on the usefulness of the information collected. At these meetings, they will get feedback from the communities on the new approach to be taken. The funding request from the GRRB is for \$10,000.

## 19. Project Updates (Continued)

### ❖ Gwich'in Harvest Data Collection Project - Matthew Armstrong, Marsha Branigan

Matthew went through the presentation provided in the meeting binders to update the Board on the harvest data collection project (Tab N). Matthew described the history of the GHS and the need for the data. He described the benefits of the current study, how the current study works and provided information on the collection efforts to date. He presented some preliminary data on harvests of the Porcupine caribou herd before and after the emphasis on voluntary bull-only harvests in the GSA.

During the question period, Robert Alexie Sr. commented on the PC harvest data comparison shown and said that at the time of year the data was collected (that demonstrated a potential response to a bull-only harvest emphasis) that most people normally take bulls in September. After rutting season, traditional harvesting is of cows and then back to bulls by April. Paul clarified that Robert's comments suggest that the data is not necessarily showing compliance with the voluntary measures. Paul also noted the different lengths of the sampling period in the two datasets shown.

There was some discussion related to persons' truthfulness when answering harvest survey questions and how this could vary depending on the perception people wanted to give. There was a suggestion to use the radio to communicate how important this (accurate) information is to management.

Discussion was also held regarding the survey methods and analytical strength in comparison to the GHS and how it is important that super-harvesters be included in the survey. Matthew and Marsha acknowledged that there are differences between the two studies and that this is mostly a result of the difference in money and consequent efforts involved so that we can't expect to have the same kind of data set. More work is certainly needed, and in particular with regard to the Porcupine herd when it will be closely scrutinized.

In response to discussion about issues related to collection efforts, there was discussion around the idea of involving the RRC coordinators as interviewers for the study. There was also discussion around focusing the efforts on a reduced number of species rather than getting harvest information for all species being harvested.

Discussion turned to funding needs for implementation of the PC Harvest Management Strategy as well as establishing and integrating communication messages before the check station starts up again and the need for current education messages. There was some discussion related to collecting harvest information at the check station as well as by the harvest study and possible comparisons that could be made as well as possible issues of reporting bias with two avenues for reporting. James commented that