



Board In-Person Meeting

August 6-8, 2019, 9:00 am-4:00 pm

Two Rivers Hotel Boardroom, Tulít'a

Minutes by Deborah Simmons based on notes by Katarina Kuhnert

List of Acronyms/Terms Used

ʔehdzo Got'ine	Renewable Resources Council(s)
ʔehdzo Got'ine ʔots'ę Nákedi	Sahtú Renewable Resources Board - SRRB
ACCWM	Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management
CCP	Community Conservation Planning
Dene ts'ııı	Dene ways of life or identity
ENR	NWT Environment and Natural Resources
SRRB	ʔehdzo Got'ine ʔots'ę Nákedi (Sahtú Renewable Resources Board)
SSI	Sahtú Secretariat Inc.

Agenda

Tuesday, August 6

8:30 am	Coffee and mingling
9:00 am	Welcoming remarks, opening prayer, introductions/quorum check
9:30 am	Public Hearings Part 1: Hearings in Canada: Brief History
Noon	Catered lunch
1:00 pm	Public Hearings Part 2: The Power of Hearings
4:00 pm	Wrap up for the day and review of Day 2 agenda

Wednesday, August 7

8:30 am	Coffee and mingling
9:00 am	From Hearing to Listening in the Sahtú Region: Looking Back, Looking Forward
Noon	Catered lunch
1:00 pm	Public Listening Rules
4:00 pm	Wrap up for the day and review of Day 3 agenda

Thursday, August 8

8:30 am	Coffee and mingling
9:30 am	Public Listening Workplan

Noon	Catered lunch
1:00 pm	Public Listening Workplan continued Next steps
4:00 pm	Wrap up for the day and review of Day 3 agenda

Participants

Board Members

Michael Neyelle, Chair, George Barnaby

Special Advisors

Wilfred McNeely Jr., Walter Bezha, Harry Harris, Gordon Yakeleya, Paul Latour (by phone), Rhea McDonald (by phone), James McPherson (Day 1 afternoon only).

Staff

Deborah Simmons, Kirsten Jensen (by phone), Danny Yakeleya, Alexa Scully, Kyanna Lennie Dolphus (Days 2-3), Camilla Rabisca (Day 2 by phone), Catarina Owen (by phone)

Legal Counsel

Lorraine Land, OKT Law

Special Guests

- Kevin Chan, NWT Environment and Natural Resources – Sahtú Region
- Katarina Kuhnert, Graduate Researcher (University of Manitoba)
- Dr Rhodri Jerrett, Dr Bart Van Dongen, and Emily Dearing Crampton-Flood at the University of Manchester; Professor Gregory Price and Dr Sabine Lengger from the University of Plymouth (Day 1 afternoon, 1 hour presentation only)
- Joanne Krutko, Nááts'ihch'oh National Park Reserve (Day 3 only)

Day 1 (August 6)

Opening

Opening prayer by Walter Bezha; welcoming remarks by Michael Neyelle

- Quorum check: ¼ Board Members present; there are a number of nominees awaiting appointment.
- Although we do not have quorum, the Board felt it was important to meet to prepare for the Colville 2020 Public Listening Session.
- Round of introduction.
- This is Danny Yakeleya's first SRRB meeting as temporary Board staff, and Kevin Chan's first SRRB meeting in his new position with ENR.

Public Hearings Part 1: Hearings in Canada: Brief History

Presentation by Lorraine Land and Deborah Simmons

- Review of Public Listenings concept as discussed at April 12, 2019 Board meeting following Wek'èezhì Renewable Resources Board Bluenose East Hearing.
- History of SRRB Hearings in the Sahtú Region (since 2007).
- Scope of Public Listenings: three ecotypes of caribou (ʔekwé/ʔədə/barren-ground, t̚dɔ́/boreal, and shúhta goʔepé/Northern mountain).
- Highlighting individual community plans as each community hosts a session in turn.
- “Hot topics” approach to address five priority questions.
- Priorities on quality interpreting and youth involvement.
- Co-management and decision-making.
- Relationships among community plans
- Community plans and enforcement.
- Community training and education in preparation for Public Listening Session.
- Hearings in a cross-cultural context.
- Next steps in community conservation planning: Délı̨ę, Colville, and Níó Nę P'ęné – Trails of the Mountain Caribou.
- Coordination across regions.
- Planning in the context of self-government.
- Importance of youth involvement
- Roles of the SRRB and communities
- Regional and community models of governance in the Sahtú
- Caribou herd definition and ecotypes
- Traditions in consensus decision-making

Break for lunch

Geology and Climate Change Research Presentation

Presentation by Dr Rhodri Jerrett, Dr Bart Van Dongen, and Emily Dearing Crampton-Flood at the University of Manchester; Professor Gregory Price and Dr Sabine Lengger from the University of Plymouth

- The project focuses on the turbulent and large climatic shift that is associated with one of the ‘big five’ mass extinctions, where the land-based dinosaurs and other forms of life became extinct. The research explores the tempo and magnitude of temperature change during the Cretaceous-Paleogene boundary.
- This major mass extinction saw a dramatic decrease in diversity and abundance of terrestrial flora and fauna - including the dinosaurs. However, estimates of terrestrial temperatures during this mass extinction are poorly known, thus limiting our understanding of these purported environmentally-driven changes in biodiversity.
- During the late Cretaceous to Eocene (100-34 million years ago), global mean annual temperatures were up to 8C warmer than today. This is referred to as the 'Greenhouse World'. Fossil data suggest that temperature-sensitive flora and fauna, such as reptilians and frost

intolerant trees, were living in the Arctic-circle during this period. This indicates a climate system that operated in a fundamentally different way to the modern 'Icehouse World' that we live in.

- However, General Circulation Models of climate do not reproduce this warmth which has important implications for the prediction of future climates and might suggest that we may currently be underestimating future climate change in such polar regions.
- The National Environment Research Council, United Kingdom (NERC) funded 'Equable Earth' project seeks to provide evidence to answer a critical question about past greenhouse climates: Was the difference between equatorial and polar temperatures was substantially reduced?
- Dust in layer in coal with iridium which is very high in meteorites. We know sites are the same same age because iridium landed at same time, looking at change from before and after meteorite impact.
- Attempting to look at sites from New Mexico to Tulita – look at exposed coal representing squashed peat with temperature molecules.
- Will produce public dissemination and report to the board – results will come out in the next two to three years.
- Nę K'ə Dene Ts'ıłı - Living on the Land Forum could be place to present in December – They are happy to skype in and participate in any way that is wanted.

Public Hearings Part 2: The Power of Hearings

Presentation by Lorraine Land and Deborah Simmons

- Role of the SRRB as an administrative tribunal
- Canadian law and Dene law
- Role of ʔehdzo Got'ıne
- Hearings, collaborative management, self-government, duty to consult, capacity-building
- Cross-regional decisions: ACCWM (Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management)
- Minister of ENR's role in decision-making
- Funding framework for supporting community participation
- Conflict of interest, bias, and fairness
- Testing evidence
- History of hearings in the NWT and Sahtú
- Hot topics: wildfires, climate change
- Culturally appropriate process
- 2016 Sahtú Bluenose East Hearing and Délıne's *Belare Wıle Gots'ę ʔekwé Plan*.
- Including and using traditional knowledge

Adjourned for the day at 4:00 pm approximately.

Day 2 (August 7)

Opening prayer by Michael Neyelle

From Hearing to Listening in the Sahtú Region: Looking Back, Looking Forward

Presentation by Lorraine Land and Deborah Simmons

- Youth participation in hearings
- Key issues
 - What are the threats to caribou?
 - Ideas from the people
 - Boots on the ground/ sampling
 - Sharing across boundaries
 - Sharing across ecotypes
 - Finding a respectful process
 - Educating young people
 - Our ancestors' way
 - Climate change
 - Fire suppression
 - Predator control
 - Food security
 - Harvest regulation
- Working together as one and differences; we don't have time for conflict (the caribou can't wait).
- The land claim, self-government, and caribou conservation.
- Species At Risk status assessments and listings.
- Sahtú Harvest Study, Minimum Needs Level and Total Allowable Harvest
- ACCWM *Taking Care of Caribou* plan for Bluenose West, Bluenose East and Cape Bathurst barren-ground caribou.
- Community conservation planning training and supports, and decolonizing caribou conservation.
- The role of Indigenous Guardians.
- Dene ts'ìlì (way of life) as an approach to conservation.

Break for lunch.

Hearing Rules Amendments

Presentation by Lorraine Land

- Governance and consensus
- What makes for good process in a hearing? Learning from the past.
 - Valuing oral evidence and traditional knowledge
 - Creating space for elders
 - Bridging Dene language and English; using plain language
 - Pre-hearing informal workshops or activities
 - Creating a conducive room setup
 - Youth involvement
 - Media strategy
 - Atmosphere of respect for caribou and people
 - Preparing the Board ahead of time
 - Connecting with schools
 - Combining a talking circle model with back and forth to test the evidence – recognizing that doesn't have to be hostile or adversarial
 - Pre-hearing scoping

- Opening remarks to clarify process

Adjourned for the day at 4:00 pm approximately.

Day 3 (August 8)

Public Listening Workplan

- Challenges in building trust with communities.
- SRRB Strategic Planning, 2017
- Truth and Reconciliation Commission report and public hearing processes
- Educating ʔehdzo Got'ıne about their powers under the land claim
- Setting up a process that all parties consider to be legitimate
- Pre-Public Listening “community conservation planning” workshops
- Plan for five Public Listening Session topics:
 - Dene tsili and harvesting CL January
 - Caribou knowledge and monitoring Deline
 - Caribou predator relationships
 - Wildfires climate change and caribou habitat
 - Caribou and industrial development
- Building flexibility into the process, so evidence in transcripts relevant to future public listening topics can be used in those Sessions.
- Highlighting the caribou plan developed by the hosting community.
- The SRRB can work with community Parties and ENR on how evidence can best be presented.
- Review of Public Listening budget.
- Reporting: interim reports after each Session, and final roll-up report.
- Scope of Public Listening Session 1: considering the entirety of all plans, or one plan, or one hot topic?

Break for lunch.

Joanne Krutko joined the meeting.

- The Nıo Nę P'ęne plan and urgency of decisions for mountain caribou conservation.
- Urgency of decision-making with respect to barren-ground caribou harvest regulation and Dene ts'ıı.
- Importance of giving communities time to prepare what they want to say.
- Need to avoid creating a process that is confusing for people and makes them angry.
- The challenge is that the final report on all the Public Listening Sessions will be years in the future. This could mean a delay in plan approvals. The Board can make interim decisions after each Public Listening Session, and can also approve portions of plans, encouraging iterative plan development.

- Option of holding workshops instead of hearings; the tradeoffs are the decisions are less weighty from the standpoint of the Minister of ENR, and may be more difficult to fund workshops.
- Chronic issue of securing funding for Community Conservation Planning (CCP) processes.
- Proposed approach for Public Listening Session 1, to take place third week of January 2020 per Colville's suggestion: focus on harvest regulation with a spotlight on Colville plan; regional CCP workshops to help all communities prepare as well as funding for local preparation activities, and more substantial funding to help Colville prepare and host. Funding is also budgeted for participation of organisations from neighbouring regions, as well as technical advisors to the SRRB.
- Backup plan if Colville declines the invitation to partner on 2020 Public Listening Session.

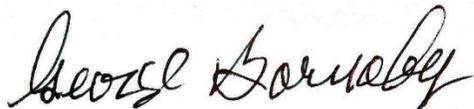
Next Steps

- Revise workplan
- Research on key things like how does consensus work in our process
- Board review of revised work plan
- Formal invitation to CL to host and collaborate on a workshop
- Presentation to Sahtu leadership about the workplan
- There are different voices in the meeting. Staff and legal council will work to reconcile the voices grounded in the discussion we just had
- Agreed that this process needs to be set up for success by having communities, and youth, take ownership of the process

Meeting adjourned at 4:00 pm approximately.

Approval of Minutes

Approved by Board decision, February 12, 2019.



George Barnaby, Acting Chair

Summary of Motions

No decisions, since there was no quorum of the Board.