

Sahtu Renewable Resource Board Meeting
7-9 February 2006
Deline, NT

7 February 2006

ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS

Walter Bayha
Paul Latour
Bruce MacDonald
Steve Hannah
Ronald Pierrot

STAFF

Glen Guthrie
Lori Ann Lennie
Jody Snortland

GUESTS

Frank Beyonnie – Behdzi Ahda’ RRC
John B Gully – Behdzi Ahda’ RRC
Alfred Taniton – Deline RRC
Leon Modeste – Deline RRC
Ed Reeves – Deline RRC
Michael Jackson – Fort Good Hope RRC
Winter Lennie – Norman Wells RRC
Jackie McDonald – Norman Wells RRC
George Campbell – Tulita RRC
Michael Neyelle – Translator
Leon Sewi – Public
Hughie Ferdinand – Public
Frank Elemie – Public
Mary Rose Yukon – Public
Jane Quitte – Public
Ken Caine – Public
Charlie Neyelle – Public

Shannon Haszard – DUC
Armin Johnson – INAC, Sahtu Region
Cindy Sawchuk – INAC, Sahtu Region
Alasdair Veitch – ENR, Sahtu Region
George Low – DFO
Gary Stern – DFO
Rob Smith – DFO
Simon Wiley – DFO
Magnus Bourque – EPB-EC
Aaron Marshall – DFO
Gerald Fillatre – DFO
Johnny Vital – Public
Rosie Sewi – Public
Dora Vital – Public
Morris Neyelle – Deline First Nation
Jimmy Dillon – Public

Meeting convened @ 9:48 a.m.

No quorum – due to prior commitments, Ronald Pierrot & Leonard Kenny scheduled to arrive late

1. Opening Prayer/Introductions

- Opening prayer by Leon Modeste
- Round table introductions

2. Swear in Members

- Steve Hannah, Paul Latour & Bruce MacDonald sworn in by Cst. Jarret MacDonald

3. Review of Agenda

- Additions:
 - Item #7: Traditional Knowledge Policy & Clarification of Helicopter Recommendations to ENR Minister

4. Business Arising from Minutes

- a) **Environmental Assessment Specialist Position**
- Re-advertised with 3 February 2006 deadline
 - Screening committee to review and short-list

b) Clarification of Helicopter Recommendations to ENR Minister

- SRRB letter to ENR Minister, 16 Dec 05, tabled
- Letter from ENR Minister to be forwarded shortly requesting clarification of the following:
 - Prohibit hunting from helicopters for muskox only or all big game?
 - What activities are considered connected with hunting and what to be used to distinguish when connection to helicopter is broken?
 - No bag limit identified for wolves
 - Aware of conservation issue related to April 15th closing date for wolverine season (females with cubs)
 - No bag limit identified for wolverines
- Prohibition of helicopter use for hunting is to apply to all big game
- Time limit of 12 hours must expire before any class of harvester, including beneficiaries and GHL harvesters, may begin harvesting activities (similar to Mackenzie Mountain regulation)
- Bag limit of two wolves; high number of wolves in the Sahtu
- ENR biologists were consulted prior to original recommendation about wolverine season end date; biologists suggested rollback of end date from May 31st to April 15th to reduce impacts on sensitive life cycle periods
- Bag limit of one wolverine

ACTION (ED): To write letter to ENR Minister re: clarification of issues identified above

5. Agency Update – Department of Fisheries & Oceans (DFO), George Low, Gary Stern & Rob Smith

- PowerPoint Presentations, entitled “*Presentation to Sahtu Renewable Resources Board – George Low*” & “*Temporal Trend Studies of Trace Metals and Halogenated Organic Contaminants (HOCs), Including New and Emerging Persistent Compounds, in Mackenzie River Burbot, Fort Good Hope, NWT*”, tabled
- Rob Smith – new Fisheries Biologist
- Plans to continue Keith Arm monitoring/patrol, fish collection and lodge surveys
- NWT Fishing Regulations – currently being re-written to remove references to Nunavut and to reflect current management; SRRB to review and comment on draft
- Study conducted to link climate change with variations in contaminants in loche over time; whitefish – very healthy (low mercury); trout – healthy but suggested to eat smaller, less contaminated fish

6. Agency Update – Indian & Northern Affairs Canada (INAC), Armin Johnson & Cindy Sawchuk

- PowerPoint Presentation, entitled “*SRRB Meeting February 2006 – Armin Johnson*”, tabled
- Steve Deschene – new Pipeline Inspector; currently hiring Water Inspector
- Devolution will change current INAC responsibilities, which include: inspections on crown land (leases & reserves), distribution of quarry permits, and inspection of fuel spills into water
- Current land use activities: Husky Oil Summit Creek & Keele River drilling (recent inspection indicated that very responsible company following land use permit); Explor-Data 2D seismic (Deline); Department of Transportation permanent bridge installations (Big Smith, Little Smith & Bluefish Creek); Alberta Star Diamond exploration (Contact Lake); and Diamondex camp & drilling (north of Colville Lake)
- RRC Monitors – improve coordination between INAC and RRCs by having monitors accompany inspectors and providing regular updates on spills to RRCs

7. **Agency Update – Environmental Protection Branch (EPB) – Environment Canada, Magnus Bourque**
- PowerPoint Presentation, entitled “*Environment Canada, Environmental Enforcement Division, Enforcement Branch, Northern District – NWT*”, tabled
 - Responsible for protection of the environment (fuel spill investigations, pollution prevention, facility/operation inspections) through compliance promotion and enforcement of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act and the Fisheries Act
 - Lead agency for spills at federal facilities and in National Parks; accompanied INAC, DOT and SRP at Fort Good Hope community meeting to discuss 2005 Hanna Creek spill in December 2005
8. **Agency Update – Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS) – Environment Canada, Paul Latour**
- Brochure, entitled “*Ts’ude’hliline – Tuyetah: Ramparts River and Wetlands*”, and Map, entitled “*Waterfowl Breeding Population and Habitat Survey of Western Canada, traditional survey area of Western Canada and the United States*”, tabled
 - Annual waterfowl surveys conducted as part of continental management; Willow Lake Banding Project part of this overall waterfowl management
 - Conducting shorebird surveys along Mackenzie River from Norman Wells to Wrigley; identifying sensitive areas and development impacts on shorebirds
 - Participation in both Joint Review Panel & National Energy Board Hearings
9. **Agency Update – Department of Environment & Natural Resources (ENR) – GNWT , Steve Hannah**
- New positions – Environmental Officer, Environmental Assessment Officer & replacement Wildlife Officer
 - Anticipated projects: vegetation mapping, sheep & caribou surveys
 - Participation in Joint Review Panel Hearings
 - Check stations (one permanent & one mobile) to be established in the Sahtu; funding from CIMP
10. **Ducks Unlimited Canada (DUC) Presentation – Shannon Haszard**
- Brochure, entitled “*Western Boreal Program in the Northwest Territories*”, tabled
 - For ongoing support of Ducks Unlimited Canada’s Middle Mackenzie Project (vegetation mapping), prints were presented to Walter Bayha, SRRB, and Steve Hannah, ENR

Meeting recessed @ 4:35 p.m.

8 February 2006

ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS

Walter Bayha
 Paul Latour
 Bruce MacDonald
 Steve Hannah
 Ronald Pierrot
 Leonard Kenny

STAFF

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 Lori Ann Lennie
 Jody Snortland

GUESTS

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Andrew John Kenny – Deline RRC
Ed Reeves – Deline RRC
Michael Jackson – Fort Good Hope RRC
Roger Boniface – Fort Good Hope RRC
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George Campbell – Tulita RRC
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Leon Sewi – Public
Gary Elemie – Public
Ken Caine – Public
Jonas Modeste – Public
Mary Rose Yukon – Public
Johnny Vital – Public
Morris Neyelle – Deline First Nation

Michael Neyelle – Translator
Jari Heikkla – GRRB
Simon Wiley – DFO
Alasdair Veitch – ENR, Sahtu Region
Boyan Tracz – ENR, Sahtu Region
Malcolm Robb – INAC, Mineral Development
Val Gordon – INAC, Mineral Development
Gwenda Luxon – INAC, Mining Recorders Office
Deb Bain – INAC, Communications
Angela Norris – INAC, Petroleum Development
Teresa Joudrie – INAC, Environment & Conservation
Charlotte Henry – INAC, Environment & Conservation
Leah Lardel – INAC, Communications
Kerri McDonald – INAC, Land Administration
Stephen P. Goff – INAC, Geologist
Raymond Taniton – INAC, Advisor
Jimmy Dillon – Public
Fredrick Kenny – Public
Moise Bayha – Public

Meeting reconvened @ 9:32 a.m.
Morning Prayer – Alfred Taniton

Due to other commitments, Ron Pierrot left meeting at 9:48 a.m.

11. Acceptance of Agenda

SRRB Motion #02-08-06-01

- To accept the agenda with revisions noted on 07 Feb 06

Moved by: Steve Hannah

Seconded by: Leonard Kenny

Carried Unanimously

12. Funding Proposal Presentation – Alasdair Veitch

- PowerPoint Presentation, entitled “*Wildlife Management and Sahtu GIS Project*”, tabled
- Review of January 2006 Wildlife & Wildlife Health Community Tour, Wildlife Health Monitors Program & Sahtu GIS Project

13. Recommendations to ENR Minister re: Caribou

- Draft Sahtu Caribou Recommendations (Communities & Schools) tabled
- Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board's Executive Director, Jari Heikkla, reviewed actions taken to date by his Board; tabled GRRB Winter 2006 Newsletter
- Although SRRB must ensure that beneficiary rights are not affected, conservation of caribou may be considered more important; elders taught to respect & protect the land and animals; if we do not listen, within 30 years, the caribou will be gone
- Recommendations: eliminate resident, non-resident and commercial harvests, study caribou predators (grizzly bears & wolves), protect important caribou areas, eliminate hunting from helicopters and from the winter road, and continue youth education programs

14. Boreal Woodland Caribou National Recovery Strategy – Bruce MacDonald

- PowerPoint Presentation, entitled “*National Recovery Strategy for Woodland Caribou*”, tabled
- Boreal Woodland Caribou are listed as threatened under the Species at Risk Act
- National Vision – to conserve and recover woodland caribou & their habitat across Canada; NWT strategy to be incorporated into National Recovery Strategy

15. Boreal Woodland Caribou Conservation in the NWT – Boyan Tracz

- PowerPoint Presentation, entitled “*Boreal Woodland Caribou in the Northwest Territories*”, and Brochure, entitled “*Are Caribou Important to You?*”, tabled
- Boreal caribou are currently not in danger of extinction in the NWT but they are vulnerable to habitat destruction, human disturbance and predation
- Developing an action plan that details the conservation of boreal woodland caribou in the NWT; seeking input from communities and SRRB about threats to and management of boreal caribou

16. Funding Proposal Presentation – Simon Wiley

- PowerPoint Presentation, entitled “*Update on Stock Assessment Studies on Great Bear Lake 2005*”, tabled
- Final year for both stock assessment studies; 2006 fieldwork to be conducted in Smith Arm and Russel Bay

17. Mining Recorder’s Office Presentation – Malcolm Robb

- PowerPoint Presentations, entitled “*Mineral Rights and Exploration – Deline*” and “*INAC Managed Contaminated Sites within the Deline District and Proposed 10-year plan*”, tabled
- Mineral & Petroleum Resources Directorate – responsible for organization and administration of mineral, oil, and gas resources in the NWT (Mining Recorder’s Office, Mineral Development Division, Petroleum Development Division & NWT Geoscience Office)
- Mining Recorder’s Office – responsible for administering subsurface rights, issuing prospecting permits, mineral claims & mineral leases and maintaining mineral database under the Canada Mining Regulations
- Different rules apply for oil/gas activities and mineral activities; while land corporations have input into which lands will be open for oil/gas nominations, they do not have the same input for minerals
- Land corporation permission must be granted if mineral exploration is to occur on Sahtu private lands with surface/subsurface rights; however, if Sahtu private lands with surface rights only, company need only give seven (7) days notification to SSI before going on land
- Review of prospecting permits occurs in January only; Mining Development Division and Mining Recorder’s Office to forward information about annual permits to SRRB and affected RRCs to allow for review and comments (e.g. caribou migration timing, etc)
- Raymond Taniton – new community liaison for involvement in management of contaminated sites within the Deline District

ACTION (ED): Provide contact information for SRRB and community RRCs to Mineral Development Division and the Mining Recorder’s Office

18. Rescheduling COSEWIC-listed Species to Species At Risk Act – Bruce MacDonald

- PowerPoint Presentation, entitled “*Canada’s Species at Risk Act (SARA) – Consultation for Species Listings*”, tabled
- Grizzly bear and wolverine – current Northwest Territories’ species that are scheduled for re-listing from the COSEWIC list to Schedule 1 of SARA as Species of Special Concern; SRRB letter of support required

ACTION (ED): To write letter of support to Environment Canada re: listing grizzly bear and wolverine on Schedule 1 of SARA

Meeting recessed @ 5:00 p.m.

9 February 2006

ATTENDANCE:

BOARD MEMBERS

Walter Bayha
Paul Latour
Bruce MacDonald
Steve Hannah
Leonard Kenny

STAFF

Glen Guthrie
Lori Ann Lennie
Jody Snortland

GUESTS

John B Gully – Behdzi Ahda’ RRC
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George Campbell – Tulita RRC

Michael Neyelle – Translator
Alasdair Veitch – ENR, Sahtu Region
Leon Sewi – Public
Jimmy Dillon – Public
Jonas Modeste – Public
Johnny Vital – Public
Mary Rose Yukon – Public
Ken Caine – Public

Meeting reconvened @ 9:30 a.m.
Morning Prayer – Alfred Taniton

19. Traditional Knowledge Policy – Walter Bayha

- Currently developing first draft of a comprehensive traditional knowledge study with the aid of the Deline TK Pilot Project report & MVEIRB’s Traditional Knowledge Policy
- RRC input will be sought in the future

20. RRC Concerns

- RRCs are still being left out of Access & Benefit Agreement negotiations; process should be created that consideration for any kind of development should immediately involve RRCs to address community wildlife issues and recommend conditions for land & water use (e.g. current best practices such as heli-seismic)
- RRCs are aware of their responsibility for community wildlife issues; however, not consulted by Land Corporations; at recent AGM in Fort Good Hope, the District Land Corporation ensured two seats on management team (one for Fort Good Hope RRC and one for Colville Lake RRC)
- SRRB support requested for no further use of traditional seismic methods

ACTION (ED): Resend letter to Land Corporations & District Land Corporations re: RRC inclusion during Access & Benefit Agreement negotiations

**** RRC Caucus (Deline Land Corporation Board Room)** – to review and provide recommendations to the Board regarding research priorities and other RRC issues

21. Review of Previous Minutes

- 13 -15 September 2005 Board Meeting

SRRB Motion #02-09-06-02

- To accept the 13-15 September 2005 minutes as presented

Moved by: Leonard Kenny

Seconded by: Paul Latour

Carried Unanimously

- 28 October 2005 Conference Call

SRRB Motion #02-09-06-03

- To accept the 28 October 2005 minutes as presented

Moved by: Paul Latour

Seconded by: Leonard Kenny

Carried Unanimously

- 15 December 2005 Conference Call

SRRB Motion #02-09-06-04

- To accept the 15 December 2005 minutes as presented

Moved by: Leonard Kenny

Seconded by: Steve Hannah

Carried Unanimously

22. Review of the Financial Statement and 2006/2007 Core & Harvest Study Budgets/Work Plans

a) Financial Statement as of 25 January 2006

- 25 January 2006 Financial Statement tabled

SRRB Motion #02-09-06-05

- To accept the financial statement as presented

Moved by: Steve Hannah

Seconded by: Leonard Kenny

Carried Unanimously

b) 2006/2007 Core & Harvest Study Budgets and Work Plans

- 2006/2007 Core & Harvest Study Budgets and Work Plans tabled

SRRB Motion #02-09-06-06

- To accept the 2006/2007 Core & Harvest Study Budgets and Work Plans as presented

Moved by: Leonard Kenny
Seconded by: Steve Hannah
Carried Unanimously

23. Northern Native Plant Development for Reclamation & Revegetation in the NWT

- Aurora Research Institute letter, 26 Jan 06, and proposal, entitled “*Northern Native Plant Development for Reclamation & Revegetation in the Northwest Territories*”, tabled
- Native seed source development has been identified as a response to increased development and the need to develop land reclamation practices and environmental mitigation strategies
- SRRB in-kind support and representation on steering committee requested

ACTION (ED): Clarify obligations of in-kind support and steering committee participation

SRRB Motion #02-09-06-07

- To go into an in-camera session

Moved by: Leonard Kenny
Seconded by: Steve Hannah
Carried Unanimously

SRRB Motion #02-09-06-08

- To come out of the in-camera session

Moved by: Leonard Kenny
Seconded by: Steve Hannah
Carried Unanimously

24. Renewable Resource Communications Officer (RRCO) Update – Glen Guthrie

- PowerPoint Presentation, entitled “*Communications Report*”, and February 2006 Newsletter tabled
- Comments: good hands-on trapping programs that introduce both traditional and modern education; separate programs for young men and women

25. Recommendations to ENR Minister re: Caribou

- Recommendations for the Management of Bluenose-West & Bluenose-East Barren-ground Caribou Herds tabled
- RRCs satisfied with recommendations as presented
- Past Bluenose-east caribou harvest of 3067 animals suggests that the total allowable harvest of 3300 will not be exceeded
- Although a public wildlife management board, to err on the side of conservation, the SRRB will request a closure of the resident hunting season for barren-ground caribou in the Sahtu

ACTION (ED): To write letter to Minister of ENR re: management recommendations for the Bluenose-west & Bluenose-east Caribou Herds

26. RRC Funding Priorities & Recommendations

- Priority list for funding proposals (1st to 9th):
 - Bluenose-West & Bluenose-East Photocensus

- Fort Good Hope/Colville Lake Traditional Knowledge Pilot Project (good to balance out scientific knowledge)
- Wildlife Health Monitors & Tour
- Mackenzie River Fish Stocks
- Sahtu-Specific Development Density Plan (important with proposed pipeline)
- Stock Composition of Great Bear Lake Trout by Basin & in the Russell Bay and Manitou Island Areas (ensure Deline RRC fully behind projects)
- Sahtu Geographic Information System Project
- 2006 NWT Ice Patch Project (little concern for mountain caribou)
- Recommendations: increase wolf and muskox tags for commercial harvesting, support enforcement of exclusive hunting rights, support the creation of a Trespass Act, support the quick completion of the Sahtu Land Use Plan, resolution of Special Harvesting Areas conflict, and support the hiring of elders as wildlife monitors

ACTION (ED): To forward RRCs information about previous SRRB actions related to above recommendations

ACTION (ED): To write letter to community RRCs requesting feedback from wildlife monitors

27. 2006/2007 Funding Proposals

- Options for automatic renewal of Sahtu GIS Project
- Reduce funding of Fort Good Hope/Colville Lake Traditional Knowledge Pilot Project from \$44K to \$30K
- 2006 NWT Ice Patch Project - low priority from RRCs and more academic than management oriented

ACTION (ED): Work out options for automatic renewal of the Sahtu GIS Project

SRRB Motion #02-09-06-09

- To approve the following research projects for the listed costs:
 - Photocensus of Bluenose-West and Bluenose-East Herds of Barren-ground Caribou, July 2006 – \$40,000
 - Sahtu Geographic Information System Project – \$24,534
 - Community-Based Monitoring of Wildlife Health in the Sahtu – \$23,600
 - Assessment of Stock Composition of Great Bear Lake Trout by Basin – \$34,000
 - Assessment of Stock Composition of Lake Trout in the Russell Bay and Manitou Island Areas of Keith Arm, Great Bear Lake – \$36,500
 - Delineation of Fish Stocks in the Mackenzie River by Means of Population Genetics – \$12,000
 - Sahtu-Specific Development Density Plan – \$10,000
 - Fort Good Hope/Colville Lake Traditional Knowledge Pilot Project: K’ahsho Got’ine Ways of Respecting the Land – \$30,000
- The total funding of \$210,634.00 will be taken as follows from the Core Budget and Wildlife Studies Fund:
 - Core – \$25,331.38
 - Wildlife Studies Fund – \$185,302.62

Moved by: Leonard Kenny
Seconded by: Paul Latour
Carried Unanimously

SRRB Motion #02-09-06-10

- To go into an in-camera session

Moved by: Steve Hannah

Seconded by: Leonard Kenny

Carried Unanimously

SRRB Motion #02-09-06-11

- To come out of the in-camera session

Moved by: Paul Latour

Seconded by: Leonard Kenny

Carried Unanimously

28. Next Board Meeting

- 11 – 15 or 18 – 22 September 2006, Tulita

29. Adjournment

SRRB Motion #02-09-06-12

- To adjourn meeting at 3:10 p.m.

Moved by: Steve Hannah