

SAHTU RENEWABLE RESOURCES BOARD

BOARD MEETING, SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2, 1996

NORMAN WELLS, NT

**DRAFT**

MINUTES

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**Location:** Legion Boardroom, Norman Wells

**Present:**

Winter Lennie	Chairperson	Kevin Campbell	GNWT - MIAA
Isadore Yukon	Board Member	Ron Allen	DFO
George Barnaby	Board Member	George Low	DFO
Russell Hall	Board Member	Alasdair Veitch	GNWT - RWED
Paul Latour	Board Member		
Gerry LePrieur	Alternate Member		
Robert Nowosad	Executive Director		

**Monday, September 30 - 01:30pm**

Chairperson, Winter Lennie called the Board Meeting to order.

1. Opening Prayer - led by Isadore Yukon.

2. Introduction of Guests to the Board - Winter Lennie introduced the visiting guests to the Board. Those present during the first portion of the meeting included Ron Allen and George Low from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans as well as Kevin Campbell from the Ministry of Intergovernmental and Aboriginal Affairs.

3. Review and Acceptance of Agenda - agenda items were renumbered to accommodate several additions to the initial agenda. (additional items reflected in the Minutes)

SRRB 33-1996: Motion to approve the Agenda as amended - moved by Russell Hall, seconded by Paul Latour. Carried

4. Review and Acceptance of Minutes of the Previous Meeting, July 24-25, 1996 - a question arose relating to the current status of the Deline, Alternate Member, Jimmy Tutcho. The Board was advised the matter would be dealt with as an item on the current Agenda.

SRRB 34-1996: Motion to approve the July 24-25, 1996 Minutes - moved by George Barnaby, seconded by Paul Latour. Carried

(a) Business Arising from the Minutes - it was suggested that a summary of "action items and the person responsible for same", be included at the end of each set of Minutes - those present all agreed that the Executive Director should provide such a listing.

(b) Unfinished Business - all items of concern have been included in the current Agenda.

5. Sahtu Dene Metis Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement - Kevin Campbell provided an overview of the past and present organization of his Department and Division. He also discussed some of the other key organizations associated with the Claim such as the Implementation Committee and the Arbitration Panel. The Sahtu Claim came into effect June 23, 1994, this date being reflected as the start date for all five year Contribution Funding Agreements. While uncommitted annual Board funding may be reprogrammed to

future years (within specific parameters), Kevin advised that this arrangement may not be extended during the second five year portion of the ten year funding period.

Kevin provided copies of pages 63-71 of the Sahtu Implementation Plan and reviewed a few of the more important items contained in the material. Members inquired as to the assumptions utilized in the matter of calculating Board travel and meeting budgets. Referring to page 66, Kevin explained that it was assumed that most of the Board Members would reside in the Claim Region and therefore he suggested that budgeted funds may not be sufficient to cover actual operational costs. However, Kevin advised the Board that it was at liberty to adjust their annual operating budgets as they deemed necessary so long as it remained within the annual allotted total budget.

6. Territorial Land Claims - Don Vincent was not available to attend the Board meeting however, Kevin Campbell provided a short review of other NWT claims currently in progress.

7. Agency Updates - Migratory Birds - Paul, advised that updates to the 1917 Migratory Bird Convention Act were presently before the US Senate with the expectation that they would be passed in early 1997.

Endangered Species Legislation was presently in it's twelfth draft and would be going to Parliament in October 1996.

8. Sahtu Fisheries Research - Ron Allen provided an overview of his Department's activities and responsibilities for the western arctic region. DFO's major responsibility relates to the Fisheries Act with the exception of sport fishing which is handled by the GNWT. The federal Department of the Environment looks after pollution issues however, DFO deals with fish habitat destruction.

Ron requested that the Board provide his office with a "fisheries priority list" for the Sahtu Region. He informed the Board that his Department received a budget of \$74,000. annually, under the terms of the Comprehensive Claim to deal with fisheries matters in the Sahtu Region, matters that were supplemental to the Department's routine fisheries work in the area and those relating directly to having the Department meet it's obligations under the terms of the claim.

Following discussion it was decided that in future the SRRB would be copied in on all DFO communications with the community based Renewable Resource Councils and wherever possible all new fisheries matters requiring DFO involvement would be channeled through the SRRB regardless of the point of origin of the request.

George Low provided the Board with copies of old DFO reports one of which, A Fishery Survey of the Sahtu Communities 1995, provided valuable basic information on usage patterns, the importance of various species of fish, locations commonly fished and the type of fishing gear used by residents in the five communities of the Sahtu. George also reviewed the various fisheries projects that were being undertaken this year in the Sahtu. Results from the surveys should be available in the new year.

The question of data ownership and interpretation as it related to the results of surveys conducted by DFO but funded by other agencies received spirited discussion. The results and interpretation of contaminants surveys was of particular interest. George advised that while DFO might undertake both the sample collection and analysis, the results of the surveys belonged to the funding agencies and in the case of issues related to health matters the Department of Health was responsible for providing interpretation and advice, not DFO.

#### Tuesday, October 1, 1996 - 9:00am

8. (continued) - George provided the Board with copies of a 1979 National Health and Welfare report on, Methylmercury in Canada, a report that outlined the safe weekly consumption levels of fish containing various levels of mercury. Referring to this report George then reviewed the results of the fish surveys conducted at the Ramparts Rapids and Little Chicago, near Fort Good Hope during the summer of 1995.

While the meaning or significance of the mercury levels could be compared to the Methylmercury report no such report was provided to interpret the data associated with the levels of selenium and arsenic that were also measured during the surveys. The matter of data interpretation and significance appears to be a major stumbling block when it comes to dealing with requests to sample fish for contaminants. Getting the data is relatively straightforward but the interpretation of the findings, especially as it relates to human health remains a vague, gray area. While the Board agreed that DFO should continue contaminant sampling and should be prepared to advise the communities of the findings of the sampling the question of data interpretation and significance, remains unanswered.

George indicated that researchers at DFO would be interested in undertaking, "core sampling" of lakes in the region to determine historical mercury levels. He also indicated that researchers from McGill University undertook fish surveys in the region for many years and that the results of these surveys may be of interest to the Board. George would attempt to obtain the results of previous fishery surveys conducted in the Sahtu Region. Ron Allen offered to conduct a workshop with community representatives to explain what fisheries data was already available and where already determined, the meaning of the data. Gerry LePrieur would prepare a list of lakes and rivers identified as important to the communities. This material would be further refined and if necessary expanded once the Community Harvest Study results became available. George advised that he would soon begin preparing his 1997/98 work plan and would be seeking suggestions from the SRRB as to their survey priorities.

George provided a summary report and list of recommendations dealing with his aerial survey of Stewart Creek ( Sucker Creek). Though it did not appear that beaver dams were blocking grayling migrations up stream, George recommended that a spawning run survey be undertaken. He concluded that the perceived drop in grayling numbers was as a result of a natural situation and not a "caused" problem.

**9. GIS and Sahtu Wildlife Research** - a series of reports were provided and reviewed by Alasdair Veitch, Richard Popko and Lana Leverington. Alasdair advised that the final draft of the Bluenose Caribou Management Plan would be circulated to all participating communities sometime in October and that a workshop to review the latest draft would be held in Inuvik in early November. Acceptance of the Management Plan was still scheduled for the Yellowknife co-management meetings to be held at the end of November. Richard stated he had a very successful duck banding season this summer. Richard credited much of this years trapping success to relying upon traditional knowledge when selecting suitable lakes and trapping sites. Seventeen band returns had already been received from birds banded during last years field season.

Alasdair and his staff presented an excellent GIS information overview. The presentation was followed with the submission of a funding request for a, Sahtu Settlement Area GIS Mapping Project. The proposal was accepted, discussed and tabled for later review by the Board.

**10. Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board** - members of this Board joined the afternoon's proceedings but agreed to delay their presentation until later in the day.

**11. (a) Mackenzie Valley Outfitters** - the President of the Outfitters Association, Kelly Hougen and an outfitter Stan Stevens joined the Board Meeting. Kelly indicated that his organization had a communications problem, he stated that "people in the area just don't know us". Two questions they were routinely asked were; what were the employment possibilities for aboriginal residents and secondly, what happened to all the meat that was not consumed in camp or taken by the hunters? Kelly advised that most of the outfitters were more than willing to offer employment to interested, qualified aboriginal guides but that the problem seemed to related more to the lack of guide availability than to the lack of employment opportunity. As for meat, over 19,000 pounds of meat was distributed annually to communities in the region.

Concern was expressed as to the proposed legislative changes currently being considered for the outfitting rules. The ten year tenure arrangement may be eliminated and if so it would make it next to impossible for outfitters to obtain any form of long range bank financing associated with their operations. It would also

greatly limit an outfitters ability to sell his operation, as no new buyer would want to invest the amount of money necessary to purchase the business knowing he would only get an annual hunting lease. Grizzly bear hunting was also mentioned as a concern of the outfitters. They would like some form of limited harvest and quota/tag system that would allow them to offer grizzly bear hunts to their clientele and provide them with the opportunity to harvest "problem bears" and or bears "surplus" to the needs of maintaining a healthy, viable grizzly bear population in the region.

When asked if the outfitters currently had any management concerns related to the species in their areas, none were mentioned other than grizzly bears and the ten year tenure rule. Gerry stated he fully understood the outfitters concerns as they related to the ten year tenure arrangement and agreed to discuss the issue with his headquarters staff and would advise the outfitters as to the results of those discussions.

9. (continued) - Alasdair submitted a second funding proposal request to the Board seeking support and assistance for, An Aerial Population Survey of Muskox in the Sahtu Settlement Area - March 1997. Limited discussion followed most of which revolved around the area to be surveyed, project costs and the need to undertake the survey during March 1997. The Board accepted and tabled the proposal for later review and discussion.

10. Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board - Winter introduced Gordon Lennie, interim Chairperson for the MVEIRB who in turn introduced the members of his Board in attendance. Gordon stated that the Act establishing the existence of his Board, the Mackenzie Valley Resource Management Act was presently in it's 27 draft and should be presented to parliament early next year. The Board, comprised of up to eleven members, currently eight have been selected, would be responsible for reviewing all NWT development projects proposed for the area presently referred to as the western NWT, (all lands west of the Nunavut area). While Gordon indicated he expected to establish communication links with all of the other Boards in the western arctic he felt that their closest links would be with the area's Land and Water Boards.

11. (b) D.I.Z. - Frank Pope provided the Board with a short overview of the past and present, D.I.Z. organization. The organization was established several years ago to assist the communities in getting the most out of resource development in their areas. Three training projects were proposed for this fall; cooks helpers, seismic drillers and seismic blasters. The goal was to have local residents fill more of the available position associated with this winter's seismic season. Frank indicated that D.I.Z. would be holding their first organizational meeting with it's new members, later in October and agreed to report back to the Board as to the outcome of that meeting.

14. Renewable Resource Council Meetings - Tulita and Deline - Winter informed the Board as to recent meetings he and Robert attended in Tulita and Deline, with their Renewable Resource Councils. In Tulita their concerns included Band representation on Council and the fact that the Band altered it's representation without first consulting with the Council or even informing the Council of the pending changes; with accounting difficulties being experienced; and with the limited amount of operational funding provided to the Council by the GNWT. The Deline Renewable Resource Council expressed few additional concerns but echoed comments relating to limited GNWT funding. Deline's greatest concern related to their recent purchase of a new, very expensive boat and the fact that few sources of revenue generating work had been identified to help pay the approximately \$1,000./month loan payments. Both Councils supported the suggestion that all GNWT funding, presently provided directly through Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, should instead be given to SSI for distribution, without reduction, to the various Renewable Resource Councils, along with other funds SSI presently distributes. It was felt that following this practice would reduce funding accounting difficulties.

12. Canol Trail Committee Update - Warren Schmitke provided the Board with copies of a few of the publications associated with the Canol Trail. He informed the Board that a staff person, Tanya Roth Mainville had been hired on a shared bases with the Tulita community EDO position and that she would be working with the Committee helping complete the Canol Trail Development Plan. Warren also outlined Federal plans to hold a special Canol Road presentation in Tulita, October 16, 1996 to commemorate the Canol Road as a National Historic Site. Tulita had been selected for the presentation as it was the



community nearest the Canol Road at the time of construction, was the administrative centre for the area and had provided residents to work on the project.

**13. SRRB Membership Changes** - Winter updated the Board as to the current status of bringing the Board up to full membership. At the present time one member and one alternate member are needed for both Tulita and Deline as well as a new GNWT member to replace the retiring Isadore Yukon. (Isadore's retirement becomes effective following completion of the current Board Meeting.) Unfortunately replacement of both members and alternates can not proceed until SSI submits the required paperwork explaining why Board changes are being requested. Kevin advised that at the present time he has not received letters of resignation from SSI for Jimmy Tutcho or Morris Neyelle and that the Federal representatives are reluctant to put forward Board name changes unless it's an absolute necessity and unless all of the appropriate paperwork such as letters of resignations or retirement accompanies the nomination requests. Kevin requested that a letter outlining the Board's membership concerns be drafted and forwarded to SSI, with a copy sent to his office.

**15. Correspondence - Outfitter License Application** - Celina Stroeder, Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, submitted an Outfitter License Application for Board review from Ken Williams, o/a 164814 Canada Inc. Williams Tour Company. The application sought approval for Ken Williams to operate guided river trips and ecotourism treks into the Canol Road area. In accordance with Resolution - SAM 96-1 which was passed at the August 22-23, 1996 Sahtu Annual Leadership Meeting held in Tulita, the SRRB declined support of Ken Williams license application. (Motion - SAM 96-1, state's that no new land development activity would be permitted along the Canol Trail, DoDo Canyon Park Area, by non Sahtu participants until such time as the Canol Trail Management Plan was completed and accepted.) A letter stating the SRRB's decision not to support the license application was to be drafted and sent to Celina Stroeder, Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

### Wednesday, October 2, 1996 - 8:30am

#### Funding Proposal Review - In Camera Session

**SRRB 35-1996: Motion to approve support of the proposal submitted by Alasdair Veitch, Resources Wildlife and Economic Development to undertake, An Aerial Population Survey of Muskox in the Sahtu Settlement Area - March 1997, subject to the following conditions:**

- option C, approved (includes the Caribou Point area)
- project funding up to a level of the lesser of, thirty thousand dollars, \$30,000. or eighty seven percent, 87%, of actual project costs, (projected total project costs, \$34,460.)
- the proponent seek and submit letters of project support from all Sahtu Renewable Resource Councils, prior to commencement of the project
- moved by Paul Latour, seconded by Russell Hall. Carried.

**SRRB 36-1996: Motion to approve support of the proposal submitted by Alasdair Veitch, Resources Wildlife and Economic Development to undertake a five year, Sahtu Settlement Area GIS Mapping Project and to provide funding during the 1996-97 fiscal year subject to the following conditions:**

- project funding up to a level of sixty thousand dollars, \$60,000. during the remainder of the 1996-97 fiscal year
- the proponent is to prepare an itemized and costed list of outstanding project expenditures anticipated during the remaining five year project period, the information to be presented at the next Board Meeting (early February 1997) along with projected funding requirements
- it is the Board's understanding that the GIS project will receive additional financial support from both government and non-government agencies in the Sahtu. The proponent should provide information indicating the level of such support at the next Board Meeting
- moved by Russell Hall, seconded by George Barnaby. Carried.

(b) Wildlife Business Legislation - Gerry circulated a draft outline of proposed Wildlife Business Legislation for review and comment by the Board Members. He indicated that ways were being sought to directly penalize offenders and not to impose penalties that also impacted upon communities in the region. For example; outfitters would be heavily fined rather than shut down as the latter action would also have severe impacts on the region's communities. Gerry also indicated that the ten year tenure rule mentioned earlier by the outfitters was also being reviewed.

(c ) Mackenzie Mountain Check Station Closure - Gerry circulated a draft memo outlining options associated with the closure of a check station at mile 222 on the Canol Trail. Members wishing to comment were asked to submit their replies directly to Gerry. Gerry also advised the Board that it was the governments intention to change the NWT Wildlife Act within the next three years.

(d) Vehicle Purchase - Concern was expressed that approval was not sought from the entire Board prior to the purchase of the used, 1993 Ford Explorer. The Chairperson explained that it was his understanding that while the specific make, model and year of a vehicle to be purchased may not have been discussed, the Board had discussed and was aware of the intention to purchase large expenditure items associated with the establishment of the Norman Wells office. Several vehicle price quotes and purchase options had been obtained, both locally and from NWT based vehicle dealers, the vehicle purchase option had been reviewed at length by the Chairperson, the GNWT Alternate Member and the Executive Director prior to proceeding and it was concluded that purchase of the used 1993 Ford Explorer was the most economic course of action.

## **22. Adjournment**

**SRRB 39-1996: Motion to adjourn the Norman Wells Board Meeting - moved by Russell Hall, seconded by Paul Latour. Carried**

16. Financial Status Update - (a) Wildlife Studies Fund - following discussion it was agreed to proceed with the Wood Gundy, Proposal to place the Wildlife Studies Fund with their organization for investment purposes.

SRRB 37-1996: Motion to proceed with the placement of the Wildlife Studies Fund with CIBC and Wood Gundy. Initially the funds would be transferred from the lawyer's trust account to a separate CIBC account for short term investment in the money market fund or similar investment vehicle until a final decision was made on when to enter into long term investments with Wood Gundy. Further that Wood Gundy be requested to advise the Board as to the recommended timing and preferred investment options for long term investment of the Wildlife Studies Fund. The Board to then provide final approval on how best to proceed with investing the funds - moved by Paul Latour, seconded by Russell Hall. Carried.

(b) Harvest Study - Funds Transfer - following discussion it was agreed that the Harvest Study Fund should be requested from the Government and placed into a separate CIBC, SRRB account for utilization once the project got underway.

SRRB 38-1996: Motion to approve transfer of the Harvest Study Fund from the Government to a separate CIBC, SRRB account and to invest the Harvest Study Fund into a short term financial vehicle until such time as the Harvest Study Project commenced. The Executive Director to advise the Board as to the types of short term investment options available and seek the Board's approval before placing the Harvest Study Fund - moved by George Barnaby, seconded by Paul Latour. Carried.

17. Norman Wells Office - (a) Status Report - Robert advised that the temporary Norman Wells office was now open for business. While not all of the large office furniture had been received, sufficient was present to support operations. Robert stated the new phone number was, (403) 587-3055 and the fax number, (403) 587-2914.

(b) Staffing Progress - Robert advised that position descriptions and newspaper advertisements had been prepared for the Biologist, Harvest Study Coordinator and Administrative Officer positions. The Biologist and Harvest Study Coordinator positions will be advertised in mid October in; News North, The Globe & Mail, The Edmonton Journal and The Calgary Herald, with the staffing competition to close October 31, 1996. The Administrative Officer position will be advertised locally and may initially be filled on a part-time/contract bases until the volume of work warrants having a full time person.

18. SRRB Operating Procedures - Board members were asked to review the current draft Operating Procedures and advise the Executive Director of suggested changes or additions by mid November, at which time a new draft document would be prepared for review at the next Board Meeting.

19. Call for Renewable Resources Study Proposals - A call for research proposals seeking SRRB financial assistance during the 1997-98 fiscal year will be drafted and circulated to the Board members for review and comment prior to being issued in November. Requests for funding are to be received by December 31, 1996 at which time they will be reviewed for completeness, summaries prepared and copies circulated to the Board Members for review prior to a final Board review and approval or rejection to take place at the next Board Meeting.

20. Next Board Meeting - Date and Place - The next Board meeting tentatively schedule for the first week in February (Feb.3-7, 1997) will be held in either Colville Lake or Fort Good Hope. NOTE: Bern Will Brown, recently advised Robert that the Colville Lake community lacked sufficient accommodations to hold a winter Board Meeting in the community. He suggested a summer meeting in Colville Lake would be graciously received.

21. Additional Topics - (a) Proposed Amendment To The Forest Management Regulations - A letter was tabled from Robert McLeod, RW&ED, in which he indicated that NWT residents would now be able to obtain a free timber cutting permit to cut up to 60 cubic metres of building logs for personal use within the NWT.

ACTION ITEMS

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>RESPONSIBLE PARTY</u>
1. Sahtu fisheries priority list for Ron Allen of DFO.	The Board
2. Obtain results of previous fisheries surveys in the Sahtu	George Low - DFO ✓
3. Conduct fisheries based community workshops	Ron Allen - DFO
4. Prepare a list of lakes and rivers identified as important in the Sahtu	Gerry LePrieur - RW&ED
5. Provide a prioritized fisheries survey listing for the 1997/98 field season	The Board
6. SSI advised in writing of the Board's membership concerns	Executive Director ✓
7. Response sent to RW&ED indicating the Board's decision concerning Ken Williams, Outfitter License Application	Executive Director ✓
8. Advise Alasdair Veitch, RW&ED, of Board's decision concerning his funding applications for:	
a) An Aerial Population Survey of Muskox - March 1997	Executive Director ✓
b) Sahtu Settlement Area GIS Mapping Project	Executive Director ✓
9. Arrange transfer of Wildlife Studies Fund to CIBC /Wood Gundy	Executive Director ✓
10. Arrange transfer of Harvest Study Fund to CIBC	Executive Director ✓
11. Arrange placement of staffing advertisements	Executive Director ✓
12. Submit suggested changes and additions of the draft, SRRB Policies and Procedures by mid November	All Members ✓
13. Draft research proposal call material for Board review	Executive Director <i>ne</i>
14. Review and provide comment to Gerry LePrieur concerning:	
a) Wildlife Business Legislation - draft	
b) Mackenzie Mountain Check Station Closure	All Members <i>P</i>