

**TORNGAT WILDLIFE & PLANTS CO-MANAGEMENT BOARD
REGULAR MEETING
OCTOBER 6-7, 2015**

Minutes of the Torngat Wildlife & Plants Co-management Board meeting scheduled October 6-7, 2015, Komatik Real Estate Board Room, Happy Valley-Goose Bay NL.

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ron Sparkes, Chairperson	Henry Lyall
Doug Blake	Frank Phillips
Colin Carroll	

REGRETS:

Ross Firth
Ron Webb

ALSO PRESENT:

Rosamond Andersen, Finance and Administration Officer	Jamie Snook, Executive Director Bev White, Executive Assistant
Serge Couturier, Consultant (via teleconference)	Bryn Wood, GIS Analyst

PREPARATION OF MINUTES:

Bev White, Executive Assistant.

MEETING CONVENED

With a quorum being present, Ron Sparkes, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 9:17 a.m.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Review and Adoption of the Agenda

Record of Decision

That the Agenda for the Torngat Wildlife & Plants Co-management Board Meeting scheduled October 6 - 7, 2015 be adopted as amended:

- Topics may not be discussed in order of agenda
- Add: Meeting with Nunatsiavut Government to the morning of Day 2, October 7 2015
- Remove In Camera discussion

CONSENSUS ACHIEVED (TWPCB-01)

Review and Adoption of Minutes from Last Meeting

Record of Decision

The minutes from the following meetings were adopted as presented:

- TWPCB meeting March 25, 2015
- Joint meeting June 17-18, 2015
- TWPCB meeting June 18, 2015

CONSENSUS ACHIEVED (TWPCB-01)

The Board briefly discussed the letter that was received from the Minister of Environment and Conservation dated August 17, 2015 re Consultation on George River Caribou. The Board isn't clear on the Minister's stance with respect to the Board's reference to a small aboriginal harvest.

J. Snook, Executive Director, joined the meeting.

Financial Report

Document titled "TS statement of expenses 31 Aug 15"

Document titled "TWCPB statement of expenses 31 Aug 15"

R. Andersen, Finance and Administration Officer, discussed the documents with the Board. There were no decisions, recommendations or action items to record.

R. Andersen, Finance and Administration Officer, departed the meeting.

DISCUSSION ITEMS

2015-2016 Work Plan Update

Presentation titled "15-16_TWPCB_WorkPlanPres_Oct2015mtg"

J. Snook, Executive Director, discussed the presentation with the Board. The following points were made:

- The Board would like to transfer \$20,000 from the Moose Inuit study budget to the budget for a Moose survey methodology design
- It was suggested the Secretariat staff look into the use of drones for future research projects

Request for Action (TWPCB-01)

It was requested that the Secretariat approach the Implementation Committee (IC) with the Board's request to transfer funds from the Moose Inuit study budget to the Moose survey methodology design budget.

Request for Action (TWPCB-02)

It was requested that the Secretariat research the use of drones as a consideration for future research projects.

Health Break: The meeting recessed at 10:27 a.m. and reconvened at 10:50 a.m.

B. Wood, GIS Analyst, joined the meeting.

2016-2017 Work Plan Discussion

Document titled "16-17 Work Plan Ver 3.0"

J. Snook, Executive Director, discussed the document with the Board. The following points were made:

- Caribou collaring program – The Board needs to consider whether or not it would like to place more collars on the Torngat Mountains Caribou Herd
- The Board would like the Secretariat to discuss the possibility of training workshops being held in the Nunatsiavut communities re bear fur and meat preparation to reduce wastage and improve fur quality.

Request for Action (TWPCB-03)

It was requested that the Secretariat contact J. Goudie, Wildlife Manager, Nunatsiavut Government, to discuss the possibility of training workshops being held in the Nunatsiavut communities re bear fur and meat preparation to reduce wastage and improve fur quality.

Communications Discussion

J. Snook, Executive Director, informed the Board of the process to develop a communications plan.

IC Meeting Update

R. Sparkes, Chairperson, updated the Board on the meeting he attended on August 26, 2015 with the IC, J. Snook, Executive Director, and John Mercer, TJFB Chairperson.

Lunch Break: The meeting recessed at 11:55 a.m. and reconvened at 12:38 p.m.

Conferences Discussion

Document titled "DRAFT ReSDA Makivik Workshop General Program"

Document titled "Invite letter for Torngat Secretariat"

R. Sparkes, Chairperson, discussed upcoming conferences with the Board.

ReSDA Makivik Workshop – The Board would like the Secretariat to follow up with R. Webb, Board member, and R. Firth, Board member, to determine whether or not either of them would like to attend the meeting. F. Phillips, Board member, is willing to attend if neither is able to.

16th North American Caribou Workshop – At the next scheduled board meeting the Board would like to discuss attendance at the workshop.

CITES meeting – The next CITES meeting is scheduled for September 24 - October 5, 2016. The Board members will consider interest in attending and discuss at a later meeting.

2016 Moose Conference and Workshop – the next Moose Conference and Workshop is scheduled for September 6 – 10, 2016. The Board members will consider interest in attending and discuss at a later meeting.

Request for Action (TWPCB-04)

It was requested that the Secretariat contact R. Webb, Board member, and R. Firth, Board member, re the upcoming ReSDA Makivik Workshop.

Request for Action (TWPCB-05)

It was requested that the Board members consider their interest in attending the upcoming conferences in preparation for discussion at later scheduled Board meetings.

UPCART Update

J. Snook, Executive Director, discussed the topic with the Board. The Board would like to retain observer status with UPCART.

Request for Action (TWPCB-06)

It was requested that the Secretariat contact UPCART to express the Board's interest in retaining its Observer process in the UPCART process.

Arctic Ungulate Conference Update

Document titled "Notes on Roros, Norway 14th International Arctic Ungulate Conference August 2015"

F. Phillips, Board member, updated the Board on the conference he recently attended in Roros, Norway with J. Mitchell-Foley, Wildlife and Plants Research Program Manager.

Health Break: The meeting recessed at 1:50 p.m. and reconvened at 2:08 p.m.

S. Couturier, Consultant, joined the meeting via teleconference.

Spring Classification Presentation (Serge Couturier)

Document titled "Monitoring_Method_Torngat_caribou_20150903"

Presentation titled "Torngat Mountains Caribou Herd: First Steps Toward a Monitoring System"

S. Couturier, Consultant, discussed the presentation with the Board. The following points were made:

- Having a monitoring system using radio collars is expensive. Having only 10 radio collars on the study size will not be effective enough.
- Having good census data and good calf recruitment data will provide a way to estimate adult mortality.
- Consider eliminating the transects on the tip of the study area, along with the transects in the south. There were very little sightings of caribou in the southern area of the study area, and no sightings of caribou in the tip of the study area. Leaving these areas out for the next study will save time and money without having much effect on the results.
- An opportunistic search between Hebron and Saglek may be a consideration.
- The Board would like to carry out a classification study before the end of March 2015, and a census using Simulation 1 from S. Couturier's presentation in the next fiscal year.
- The Board would not like to place more radio collars on the Torngat Mountains Caribou.

Request for Action (TWPCB-07)

It was requested that S. Couturier, Consultant, refine the survey design considering the Board's feedback.

Moose

The Board reviewed the Moose census methodology provided by S. Couturier, Consultant.

S. Couturier, Consultant, departed the meeting.

Health Break: The meeting recessed at 3:25 p.m. and reconvened at 3:38 p.m.

The Board would like to continue to work with S. Couturier, Consultant.

Next Meeting Discussion

Briefing Note titled "TWPCB meeting rationale - Date to be determined"

The next meeting of the Torngat Wildlife and Plants Co-management Board is tentatively scheduled to be a teleconference to discuss Moose and Polar Bear.

The Board would like to tentatively schedule its next face to face meeting for some time between January 14 and 22, 2016 in Corner Brook. Specific meeting dates to be determined based on Board members' schedules.

ADJOURNMENT

The Torngat Wildlife & Plants Co-management Board Meeting held October 6 -7, 2015 adjourned at 3:54 p.m. on Day 1, October 6, 2015; and determined to reconvene at 8:30 a.m. on Day 2, October 7, 2015.

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MEMBERS PRESENT:

Ron Sparkes, Chairperson
Doug Blake
Colin Carroll

Henry Lyall
Frank Phillips
Ron Webb, via teleconference

REGRETS:

Ross Firth

ALSO PRESENT:

Jamie Snook, Executive Director
Carl McLean, Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Nunatsiavut Government

Bev White, Executive Assistant

PREPARATION OF MINUTES:

Bev White, Executive Assistant.

MEETING CONVENED

A quorum being present, Ron Sparkes, Chairperson, called the meeting to order at 8:43 a.m. The Board wished F. Phillips, Board member, a happy birthday.

Moose Discussion

J. Snook, Executive Director, informed R. Webb, Board member, of the Board's discussion on Day 1. The Board would like to move \$20,000 from the Moose Inuit knowledge budget to the Moose survey methodology design budget.

The Board expressed its concern and dissatisfaction with the information made available on the moose jaw bone return program. The Board would like J. Mitchell-Foley, Wildlife and Plants Research Program Manager, to follow up with John Pisapio, Senior Biologist, Government of NL Wildlife Division, and Jim Goudie, Nunatsiavut Government Wildlife Manager, regarding jaw bone return analysis.

In the next Moose decision, the Board would like to express their concern to the Government of NL Minister of Environment and Conservation about the missing piece of important information of analyzing the jaw bone returns.

Request for Action (TWPCB-08)

It was requested that J. Mitchell-Foley, Wildlife and Plants Research Program Manager, contact J. Pisapio, Senior Biologist, Gov NL Wildlife Division, and J. Goudie, Wildlife Manager, Nunatsiavut Government, to discuss the Board's dissatisfaction with the analysis of the jaw bone returns.

Request for Action (TWPCB-09)

It was requested that the Secretariat include in the Board's next Moose decision correspondence to the Government of NL Minister of Environment and Conservation, their concern with the lack of information being provided by the jaw bone return analysis.

Polar Bear Update

J. Snook, Executive Director, updated the Board on discussions that are continuing regarding a joint hearing process that could possibly be held to discuss harvest management of the Davis Strait polar bear population. Discussions between representatives of the three stakeholder parties are ongoing.

The Board would like the Secretariat to continue to work toward a joint hearing process with representatives of Nunavut and Nunavik.

Nunavik has expressed interest in having a joint hearing process with only Nunatsiavut as Nunavut hasn't yet expressed readiness to participate.

Health Break: The meeting recessed at 10:04 a.m. and reconvened at 10:37 a.m.

C. McLean, Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Nunatsiavut Government, joined the meeting.

Meeting with Nunatsiavut Government

The Board discussed the UPCART process, the Torngat Mountains Caribou Herd (TMCH), Moose, and Polar Bear with C. McLean, Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Nunatsiavut Government.

UPCART – J. Snook, Executive Director, discussed the Board's interest in retaining its Observer status of the UPCART process.

C. McLean, Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Nunatsiavut Government, stated the Board's status is an UPCART management decision; and UPCART hasn't yet scheduled its next meeting. The Nunatsiavut Government supports the TWPCB continuing to be an Observer of the UPCART process.

TMCH – J. Snook, Executive Director, discussed the Board's intention to build on to the Traditional Knowledge. They intend to carry out a spring classification this upcoming spring and another census in 2017.

C. McLean, Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Nunatsiavut Government, stated that the Nunatsiavut Government (NG) will be open to assist where possible. He suggested the Board identify their intentions to the IC as soon as possible in an effort to get additional funding. He also requested the Board inform the Nunatsiavut Government on cost and timing of the projects as early as possible to allow NG to consider the projects when preparing budgets.

C. McLean, Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Nunatsiavut Government, suggested the Board attempt to discuss TMCH management measures with Makivik Corporation.

Moose Survey – J. Snook, Executive Director, discussed the Board's interest in moving \$20,000 from the Moose TK budget to the Moose Survey budget. A request to move the funds will be submitted to the IC within the coming weeks.

The Board discussed its dissatisfaction with the lack of information it received from the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador's Wildlife Division on jaw bone returns.

The Board expressed their views on the moose populations being lower in the northern communities than in the southern communities, based on local traditional knowledge. They question whether

adjusting allocations so that there are more licenses given in the southern areas and less in the northern areas would be feasible.

The Nunatsiavut Government supports a scientific study of moose.

C. McLean, Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Nunatsiavut Government stated that although Nain has been pretty successful in harvesting their allocations in the last 3 years, he is of the understanding that there may be an impact by the hunt. Less moose are being seen in the area now. He suggests it's another reason why it would be good to do a moose survey. The Nunatsiavut Government has asked staff to interview moose harvesters to determine things like what the harvesters have seen and how long where their hunting trips were for.

C. McLean, Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Nunatsiavut Government, inquired about the Board's interest in signing a data sharing agreement on the harvest study the Nunatsiavut Government is carrying out. The Board expressed interest in the harvest study.

Polar Bear – J. Snook, Executive Director, updated C. McLean, Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Nunatsiavut Government, on the discussions that have been had and are ongoing regarding a joint hearing process between the representatives of the three stakeholder parties. The Board will continue to work towards a joint hearing process and will consider participating if Nunavut chooses not to participate.

The Board discussed the management possibilities should Nunatsiavut's allocation be increased to 20 bears. It's still to be determined what information the Board will have to base its future recommendation on.

C. McLean, Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Nunatsiavut Government, acknowledged issues that were brought up regarding wastage during last year's harvest. After discussion with the Government of Newfoundland and Labrador, the Nunatsiavut Government decided to plan community consultations in an effort to address the issue and discuss harvesting in general with the community members. He invited the TWCPB to participate in meetings that will be held in each community. All wildlife, fish and plant species will be discussed.

C. McLean, Deputy Minister of Lands and Natural Resources, Nunatsiavut Government, will share the tentative schedule of the upcoming community consultations with J. Snook, Executive Director.


Whether or not a polar bear sport hunt is an option was discussed.

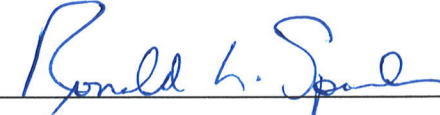
Conclusion

The Torngat Wildlife & Plants Co-management Board Meeting held October 6-7, 2015 concluded at 11:24 a.m.

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This is a true and correct copy of the Minutes of the Torngat Wildlife & Plants Co-management Board Meeting held October 6-7, 2015 and incorporates any and all corrections made at the time of adoption at the Regular Meeting held January 19-20, 2016.





Bev White, Recording Secretary

Ron Sparkes, Chairperson

