



List of Acronyms/Terms Used

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Participants

Board Members

George Barnaby, Acting Chair

Staff

Melanie Harding (virtual)

Other Guest

Tulít'a Renewable Resources Board – Frederick Andrew

Agenda

1. OPENING PRAYER, INTRODUCTIONS
2. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER
3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA
4. APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MINUTES
5. DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST
6. OLD BUSINESS
7. FINANCIAL UPDATE
8. TODZI RANGE PLAN UPDATE

9. RIO TINTO PROJECT
10. PETROLEUM HISTORIES PROJECT UPDATE
11. ENVIRONEMNT AND CLIMATE CHANGE, GNWT UPDATES
12. ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE CANADA, SPECIES AT RISK
13. MACKENZIE VALLEY HIGHWAY ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT UPDATE

Opening/Quorum check

- Quorum check: 5/5
- Opening prayer by George Barnaby

Meeting called to order

Meeting called to order at 9:02 am

Approval of agenda

M2027-001

M2027-001	Approved meeting agenda. Gordon Hamre/Sam Haché	Consensus
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Approval of previous minutes

M2027-002

M2027-002	Approved meeting minutes from the February 9, 2026, meeting. Sam Haché/Camilla Rabisca	Consensus
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Declaration of conflict of interest

To be declared when/if it arises.

Old Business

M2027-003

M2027-003	Approved to rescind Motion 2026-021 and implement corrective actions to address overpayments. Camilla Rabisca/ Sam Haché	Consensus
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Financial Update

Balance Sheet and Income Statement were reviewed.

Ṯoḏzi Range Plan Update

Presentation by Melanie Harding

Update on the Sahtú Ṯoḏzi Nene (boreal caribou range) planning work

- Review of progress, key meetings and milestones
 - o March 2023 – in-person gathering in Déḻṉe
 - o Statement of understanding with GNWT
 - o February 2025 – in-person meeting in Colville Lake
 - o March 2025 – regional working group meeting in Yellwoknife
 - o Spring 2025- community mapping tour
 - o August 2025 – ʔoh kaibe gathering (Déḻṉe fish camp)
 - o Collaring resolution and GNWT response
 - o Community positions and principles – core positions Sahtú communities have agreed on through this process, community-based monitoring, asserting RRC authority, holistic planning approach and use of Land Use Plan
- Engagement activities
 - o Sahtú ṯoḏzi action committee established at ʔoh kaibe
 - o Focus on local areas and legal support

Rio Tinto – Project Scope and Plan

Presentation by Yasmin Ferrando and Sam Russell

- The project was renamed from “Keel River” to “Copper Cap” to better reflect that they are not exploring in the river itself, but in the surrounding area.
- This is an early-stage exploration project by Rio Tinto Exploration (separate from operating/closure projects like Diavik).
- Their role is to:
 - o Identify geological potential (in this case, copper)
 - o Understand environmental, social, and regulatory considerations early
 - o Integrate community and traditional knowledge into project planning
- They emphasized that most exploration projects never progress to development and that there is strong internal competition with projects in other countries (e.g., Peru, Chile).

Location, Permits, and Timeline

- They obtained prospecting permits for a defined area (shown in their map) in late 2023 / early 2024.
- Next step is a Type A land use permit application to the Sahtu Land and Water Board (SLWB)
- 8 weeks within June 15 – August 31.
- Fieldwork to be completed earlier than the end of August (likely by mid–late August).

Planned Activities (2024 Field Season)

- Prospecting and mapping: Geologists walking on the land, mapping outcrops.
- Sampling: Mostly hand sampling with a rock hammer (fist-sized pieces of rock) and some channel sampling using a small rock saw. Anticipated hundreds of samples across the area, depending on what they find.
- Airborne geophysical survey: A small magnetic survey by helicopter over the project area.

Access & Logistics:

SRRB In-Person Meeting Minutes, April 14, 15 and 16, 2026

- Helicopter-supported only: No tracked vehicles, no road building. Using existing disturbed sites/infrastructure for camp (NWT Outfitters site/Ten Stone camp within the permit area.
- Camp will be tent-based, set up around existing outfitter facilities rather than a brand-new site.

Mitigation, Wildlife, and Flight Practices

- They recognized the area as sensitive caribou habitat, including calving areas, and acknowledged community concerns (especially from Fred Andrew and others) about: caribou, ground squirrel and other wildlife

Commitments and mitigation described: Single helicopter for the project. Fly people out in the morning, back in the evening; some extra flights for fuel positioning. Follow Sahtu Land Use Plan guidance on aircraft height (e.g., ≥ 600 m above ground during transport, except when landing/taking off).

Petroleum Histories Project Update

Presentation by Jess Dunkin

Project Objectives

- To document the history and impacts of petroleum extraction in the Sahtú over the past century.
- To support Sahtú Dene and Métis participation in closure and reclamation of the Norman Wells oilfields.
- To strengthen present and future Indigenous roles in monitoring, stewardship, and decision-making.
- To understand and provide guidance about the impacts of climate change on remote sumps across the Sahtú.

Main Activities

- Study circles
- Oral histories
- Archival research
- Fieldwork/ground truthing
- Hı́dó gogha sę́nęgots'ı́zá – Planning for the future
- Sharing stories and knowledge

ECC Update

Presentation by Rhona Kindopp

Rhona Kindopp, Director of Wildlife, GNWT Environment & Climate Change (ECC), with managers Rob Gau, Karen Clark, Pete Cott were present.

1. Division Structure & Mandate
 - Wildlife Division is organized into three sections:
 - o Biodiversity & Conservation (Rob Gau): legislation, regulations, species-at-risk monitoring, wildlife management & recovery plans, central data repository, quarterly HQ updates to regions/boards.
 - o Wildlife Research & Management (Karen Clark): wildlife research, surveys, habitat studies, technical advice to boards and co-management partners.

- Habitat & Environmental Assessment (Pete Cott): advice to EA and land-use planning processes, development of guidelines/best practices, oversight of Wildlife Management and Monitoring Plans (WMMPs) for industry.
- Work is guided by the Wildlife Act, Species at Risk (NWT) Act, relevant regulations, and federal acts (e.g., Species at Risk Act, Fisheries Act, MVRMA).
- 2. Relationship to Sahtu Land Claim & Co-management
 - Division recognizes obligations under the Sahtu Dene and Métis Land Claim:
 - Mandate includes conserving wildlife and wildlife habitat in line with land-claim language.
 - Supports local-led conservation via contribution agreements and technical support to SRRB and RRCs.
- 3. Sahtu Region Staffing & Contact
 - Kevin Chan (regional biologist) starting extended leave (approx. 1 year).
 - Commitment: ECC will identify an interim Sahtú contact (biologist) and communicate this back to SRRB.
- 4. Project & Funding Opportunities for Sahtú
 - Wildlife Division is currently allocating HQ budgets to regions for 2026–27 work.
 - Regional biologists submit short proposals for surveys/monitoring; internal deadline mentioned as April 30.
 - SRRB invited to identify priority areas of work in Sahtú (e.g., moose/caribou health, data access for IPCA, ongoing monitoring). Co-develop proposals with ECC (HQ + regional staff) for inclusion in GNWT's internal decision process.
- 5. Range Planning & NWT Context
 - GNWT continues to advance boreal caribou range plans:
 - 2 of 5 NWT range plans are well advanced (cabinet review / public comment).
 - Remaining range plans (including Sahtú) will build on these templates but be region-specific and co-developed with partners.
- 6. Outfitting & Regulatory Reform
 - GNWT will engage SRRB and SSI (and likely RRCs/licence holders via open-house sessions) on options.
 - Target is to make meaningful progress this fiscal year.

Action Items:

Action – ECC: Identify and confirm interim Sahtú wildlife biologist contact while Kevin Chan is on leave and communicate to SRRB.

Action – SRRB & ECC: Explore co-developed proposals for Sahtú wildlife work for GNWT's internal 2026–27 funding allocations (short proposals coordinated quickly due to internal deadlines).

Action – ECC & SRRB: Consider ways to leverage HQ technical capacity (biodiversity/carnivore/data staff) in support of Sahtú priorities and SRRB's new biologist.

Action – ECC: Once internal legal/policy work is completed, re-engage SRRB on proposed reforms to outfitting licence framework (including 10-year horizon concept).

Canadian Wildlife Services – Species at Risk Update

Presentation by Kathryn Yarchuk

- CWS presented the federal Species at Risk process (assessment by COSEWIC → listing decision → recovery planning → implementation/evaluation) and focused on species relevant to the Sahtú.

- Grizzly bear was recently reassessed as Special Concern, with no change from its existing status; the current federal management plan remains valid and is moving through public comment.
- CWS is consulting on proposed federal listing of Snowy Owl (Threatened) and Short-billed Dowitcher – eastern subspecies (Threatened), both occurring in or near the Sahtú. Main threats highlighted include climate change-driven habitat change, altered prey dynamics, and in southern parts of the range, collisions, electrocution, and secondary poisoning (Snowy Owl) and wetland loss, drying and increased fires (Short-billed Dowitcher).
- CWS emphasized the need to capture northern and Indigenous knowledge, noted that regional trends may differ from southern trends, and invited the SRRB and communities to provide input during the consultation period (open until 14 October), including via an online Snowy Owl questionnaire and upcoming northern information sessions. A more formal request for SRRB support / position on listing will be brought back later (summer–fall) once consultation materials have been circulated.

Mackenzie Valley Highway EA Update

Presentation by Kelly Bourassa

Project scope & status

- Project is a 320 km all-season road from Wrigley to Norman Wells (Phase 1), following the existing winter road as much as possible and using existing bridges where feasible.
- The project is currently in Environmental Assessment (EA) with the Mackenzie Valley Environmental Impact Review Board.
- GNWT is preparing an addendum to the Developer’s Assessment Report (DAR) to reflect project changes and additional baseline work; target (ambitious) timeline is end of July for submission, which may trigger further information requests.

Phase 2 and federal direction

- Following federal-level discussions, GNWT has been told that funding support is tied to a full Mackenzie Valley corridor concept:
Phase 1: Wrigley–Norman Wells (current EA).
Phase 2: Norman Wells–Inuvik.
- GNWT initially considered folding Phase 2 into the current EA but now expects Phase 1 and Phase 2 will proceed on two separate but parallel tracks.
- The project is now under the Major Projects Office (federal “concierge” service) to help access federal funding and align with federal priorities (notably Arctic sovereignty and security, supply chain resilience).

Route realignments & Sahtu context

Significant realignment work has been underway:

- In the Dehcho (PKFN) area, alignment is being shifted 5–15 km in places to avoid sensitive cultural/traditional use areas (e.g., around Bear Rock) while still using the Blackwater River crossing preferred by PKFN.

- In the Sahtú, earlier feedback from Tulít’a led GNWT to move the alignment farther from the river and from sensitive areas, including around Portage Creek.
- Some Sahtú parcels (Sahtu lands in the Dehcho area) are being covered by TK work with PKFN / Dehcho RRC, but GNWT acknowledged they will rely on Sahtú parties (SRRB, RRCs, land corporations) for information and approvals where Sahtú interests are involved.

Community Readiness Strategy & socio-economic work

- The main socio-economic mitigation will be a Community Readiness Strategy (CRS), designed to:
 - Maximize benefits (jobs, contracts, training).
 - Minimize negative impacts, especially social impacts (drugs, alcohol, camps near communities, etc.), which were repeatedly raised in communities.
- CRS governance structure:
 - A Corridor Working Group, with sub-working groups on:
 - Road Safety & Security
 - Training & Employment
 - Social Monitoring & Adaptive Management

A separate Wildlife & Fisheries sub-working group will advance the Wildlife Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (WMMP) and fisheries-related measures.

GNWT has awarded the socio-economic impact assessment and CRS support contract to DPRA, who will help form and run these working groups.

SRRB and RRC participation in these working groups is expected and GNWT will cover travel/participation for designated reps.

Timeline & construction

- Near-term (this year and next):
- Complete the DAR addendum and additional baseline/engineering work.
- Advance community engagement, TK studies, and the Community Readiness Strategy.
- Seek regulatory approvals and additional federal construction funding.
- Indicative goal: begin construction around 2028, recognizing this depends on EA outcomes and funding.

Presentation by Shannon Bower

PlanIt North is supporting SRRB and RRCs to participate in the Mackenzie Valley Highway Environmental Assessment (EA) using SRRB’s participant funding.

Work Completed to Date

- Delivered plain-language info sessions to RRCs/SRRB on the EA process and DAR.
- Coordinated review of the Developer’s Assessment Report (DAR) and helped draft Information Requests (IRs) following the technical sessions.
- Engagement slowed/paused after technical sessions due to route realignment issues raised by PKFN and GNWT.

Key Lessons / Adjustments

- Initial model assumed SRRB would primarily aggregate RRC positions; experience showed SRRB needs its own dedicated regulatory support (e.g., drafting SRRB-specific measures and positions).
- RRCs still need targeted support, but SRRB must lead on region-wide regulatory submissions.

Proposed Next Phase of Support

- Mitigation Measures & WMMP:
 - o Planet North (with regulatory expert Harry) to support SRRB in drafting wildlife- and fish-related mitigation measures and input to the Wildlife Mitigation & Monitoring Plan (WMMP), in parallel with GNWT's Corridor Working Group / Wildlife & Fisheries subgroup.
- Hearing Preparation:
 - o Assist SRRB in preparing position statements and presentation for the public hearing (timed before hearing dates).
- Support to RRCs:
 - o Provide light regulatory and technical support (templates/examples of measures, help interpreting EA documents), ensuring RRCs can submit their own views.
- Communications Plan:
 - o Develop simple tools (e.g., posters, radio spots, social media text) so RRCs/SRRB can better inform communities about key MVH EA milestones.

List of Acronyms/Terms Used

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Participants

Board Members

Sam Haché
Gordon Hamre
Camilla Rabisca
George Barnaby, Acting Chair

Staff

Catarina Owen
Manisha Singh (virtual)
Cory Fournier (virtual)

Other Guest

Ivy & Dean – Risa Payant and Jacq Brasseur
Fisheries and Oceans Canada – Amy Amos, Sally Wong, Jackie, Kimberly Howland

Agenda

1. OPENING PRAYER
2. IMPERIAL OIL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT UPDATE
3. Níó Nę P'ęne Program update
4. FISHERIES AND OCEANS CANADA UPDATE
5. BOARD 101 TRAINING

Opening/Quorum check

- Quorum check: 4/5
- Opening prayer by Camilla Rabisca

Imperial Oil EA Update

Presentation by Skylar Lipman
Line 490 Flowline Replacement Project – canceled
Operations Authorization – canceled
Closure and Reclamation – ongoing

- Assess Imperial's proposal to abandon, remediate, and reclaim NWO. Address the impacts from ~100 years of operations in and around the Proven Area.
- Self referred to the MVEIRB on March 31, 2025
- Community scoping session held in 2025

- SRRB participated in technical scoping session
- Traditional knowledge studies is underway, SRRB not involved.
- Imperial is closing operations in Q3 2026
- Next Steps:
 - 2025-2028 Scoping phase – participatory process to inform Imperial’s project description, building off the most recent Interim Closure and Reclamation Plan
 - 2028 Analysis – assessment on the final closure and reclamation plan developed through the scoping phase.
 - 2029 EA Hearing
 - 2030 EA Decision

Níó Nę P’ęne Project Update

Presentation by Manisha Singh and Cory Fournier

Níó Nę P’ęne is a large, connected landscape across Sahtú and into Yukon, with long-standing travel, harvesting, and cultural use.

NNP Plan is grounded in:

- Ways of being, ways of doing, Indigenous resurgence.
- Respect for caribou, respect for each other, working together.

Timeline to Date

- 2014+ – Communities raise concerns re: mountain caribou, land use, increased access and mining.
- 2017–2019 – Broad engagement (Tulita, Norman Wells, Ross River) → draft Níó Nę P’ęne plan.
- 2019 – Draft plan endorsed at leadership gathering; COVID then stalls formal finalization.
- 2023 On-Land Gathering (Mile 222):
 - Participants from Norman Wells, Tulita, Ross River.
 - Threats confirmed: climate change; increased access; development/mining pressure.
 - Vision of plan still valid; plan must be updated, strengthened, and completed.
 - Priorities:
 - Update boundaries.
 - Add more Dene language and stories.
 - Strengthen planning tools and voice in land-use decisions.
- 2024 Gathering (Tulita – research results):
 - Moves from reflection to action:
 - Land/caribou protection priorities.
 - Stronger youth and elder involvement.
 - Improved monitoring and research.
 - Emphasis on capacity for community-led work and stronger partnerships.
- 2025 Norman Wells Workshop:
 - One-day reflection on mountain caribou and Níó Nę P’ęne.
 - Clear direction to move toward “Version 2” and formal completion of the plan.

Plan Status & Update Process

- Current plan (2019 draft):
 - Has been used informally to guide research and monitoring.
 - SRRB is working with EcoPlan International to:
 - Compile past research and existing plan.
 - Identify what needs updating.

- Develop a Version 2 that is practical, indicator-based, and supports community-led monitoring.
- Planned Process (Near-Term)

Current:

- EcoPlan reviewing prior reports, data, and the draft plan.
- May (2026) series of virtual working group meetings on:
 - Vision and goals.
 - Threats.
 - Indicators of health for caribou, land, communities.
 - Research updates.
- Fall (2026):
 - In-person workshop (funding permitting).
 - Produce a revised Nío Nę P'ęnę Plan – Version 2.
- Approval path:
 - Revised draft to SRRB for approval, then to Minister
 - Link to Sahtu Land Use Plan (SLUP)
- Intent to use Nío Nę P'ęnę to inform:
 - Upcoming 5-year SLUP review, and/or
 - A formal SLUP amendment.
- Goals:
 - Translate plan into binding land-use direction (e.g., added protection zones).
 - Bring elders' knowledge and community priorities into SLUP maps/zones.
- Next steps:
 - Work with Nío Nę P'ęnę working group and leadership to define amendment priorities and information needs.
 - Early discussions with Sahtu Land Use Planning Board on process and requirements.
 - No amendment submission yet; preparatory work underway.
- Funding & Capacity
 - Core funding: Boreal Caribou Knowledge Consortium (BCKC) / ECCC – final year of current support.
 - Renewal uncertain; risk to continuity of planning and engagement.
 - Nature United provides in-kind support for the geospatial hub.
 - Active search for longer-term, stable funding.
 - Special Projects Under Nío Nę P'ęnę

Understanding Caribou Landscape (ECCC & Dr. Blair Kennedy)

- Research and publication being finalized.
- Commitment to ensure data and products reflect Sahtu leadership and are returned in usable formats.

Livelihoods and Climate Change (PhD project)

- PhD student has withdrawn (personal reasons).
- Manisha is:
- Recovering all project data (including community interviews).
- Preparing a summary to share back with communities.

Nío Nę P'ęnę Geospatial Hub → SRRB Geospatial Hub

- Ongoing expansion into a broader SRRB hub.
- Goal: accessible, practical mapping and data platform for Nío Nę P'ęnę, caribou, and land-use information.

Mountain Caribou Fecal Sampling & Genetics

Project Overview

- Long-term community-led, non-invasive genetic monitoring of northern mountain caribou (Redstone and neighbouring herds).

Core objectives:

- Understand movement patterns and connectivity.
- Assess population health and status.
- Support habitat protection and Dene ways of life.

Methods & Partnership

- Community has consistently opposed collaring; project uses fecal sampling instead.
- Partnership with EcoGenomics Group (Trent University + ECCC):
- National-scale caribou genetics program (>50,000 samples).
- Allows Sahtú data to be integrated into national assessments.
- Group develops new non-invasive genetic methods (e.g., age estimation from feces).
- Field Program & Community Involvement
- Sampling history:
- Annual winter surveys since 2021; six seasons completed.
- 2,500 fecal samples collected from Redstone herd in Sahtu.

Results:

- Returned via community meetings, open houses, and Nío Nę P'ęnę gatherings.
- Interpreted jointly with Indigenous knowledge.

Key Findings – Structure & Movement

- Population structure:
 - o Redstone and northern Mackenzie Mountains:
 - o Form one large, well-connected group.
 - o Evidence of strong gene flow across much of the range.
 - o Nahanni complex (south): Genetically differentiated but still connected to Redstone (ongoing gene flow).
 - o Tay River herd (Yukon): Distinct administratively, but genetically linked to Redstone.
- Implications:
 - o Redstone functions as a core connector between several northern mountain caribou populations.
 - o Findings align with Indigenous knowledge of wide-ranging, long-distance movements.
- Over last 10–15 years:
 - o Smaller groups, fewer large bulls.
 - o Some areas quieter where caribou used to be common.
- Genetics to date:
 - o Low number of parent–offspring pairs detected in data, possibly signalling low calf recruitment.
- 2026 fieldwork update:
 - o Many groups with good numbers of calves.
 - o Preliminary composition survey results (with Biodiversity Pathways) are encouraging.
 - o Visual review (by Leon) suggests animals are in good body condition.
 - o Full demographic analysis is still being developed.
- Collaborations & External Work
 - o Biodiversity Pathways (BC): Conducted a composition survey of Redstone with GNWT and Mackenzie Mountain Outfitters Association. Shared reconnaissance data to improve fecal survey planning.
 - o Parks Canada: Joint analysis of samples from Nahanni and Nááts'ihch'oh.

Action items – to invite Danny Yakeleya to provide an IPCA update to the Board

DFO Update

Arctic Region Structure & Mandate –

Presentation by Amy Amos

- Arctic Region better reflects Northern realities and priorities.
- All senior executives for the Arctic Region are based in the North
- Recognition of co-management boards as partners.
- Willingness to provide regular updates to SRRB upon request.
- Commitment to maintain open communication on fisheries management, science programs, and habitat issues relevant to Sahtú.

Fisheries Management – Commercial, Sport and Emerging Fisheries

Presentation by Sally Wong

- Commercial/exploratory fisheries – Great Bear Lake is not currently a Schedule V commercial lake under NWT fisheries reg. Process started with exploratory fishery licence prior to insuing a commercial licence
- Délıne RRC has explored interest in small scale commercial harvest, all discussion are exploratory at this point
- Sport fishing licences are issues by GNWT while DFO retains management authority.
- Outfitter/lodge operations – goes through GNWT tourism, DFO reviews, comments and advises on fish sustainability

Great Bear Lake Fish & Aquatic Monitoring Program

Presentation by Kim Howland and Jackie Bernard

- Long-term fish and aquatic monitoring program on Great Bear Lake/“Sahtú” has run since 2000 (26th year) in partnership with Délıne RRC and SRRB, and is now transitioning to be community-led.
- Design uses rotating 5-year arm coverage plus three permanent stations near Délıne. Components include:
 - o Fish sampling (lake trout, herring, whitefish: length, age/otoliths, diet, contaminants).
 - o Ecosystem sampling (benthos, zooplankton).
 - o Water quality profiling (temperature, turbidity, chlorophyll, etc.).
- Key findings:
 - o Multiple lake trout morphs are genetically distinct and use different habitats; historically overfished areas (e.g., McTavish arm, near Délıne) now show increasing trout age and size, suggesting recovery under current harvest regimes.
 - o Long-term records show warming surface waters and earlier/stronger stratification, consistent with community observations of earlier ice break-up; ecological implications are being studied.
 - o Recent sediment coring work (with ECCC/Queen’s) documents climate and contaminant history; a new paper will be shared with SRRB when published.
- Guardians & data:
 - o Délıne RRC (Ed Reeves) now leads fieldwork; Guardians participated in 2025 sampling and will receive further training (field + data management) in 2026.

- DFO and Carleton University are developing a data atlas and moving some water datasets to federal Open Data and Mackenzie DataStream, with explicit credit to community partners.
- DFO acknowledged the need to balance open data with Indigenous data sovereignty and is working toward more formal data-sharing/ownership agreements with Déłıne and other partners.

Board 101 Training

Topics covered:

- What is a Board, Responsibilities, Accountability, Leadership
- Roles of Directors and Officers
- Fiduciary Duties
- Duty of Care
- Conflicts of Interest
- Duty of Loyalty
- Leaving a Board
- Ethical, Legal and Moral Concerns
- Leave of Absence

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George Barnaby

Staff

Catarina Owen
Cory Fournier (virtual)
Melanie Harding (virtual)

Other Guest

Ivy & Dean – Risa Payant and Jacq Brasseur

Agenda

1. BOARD 102 TRAINING
2. TAKING CARE OF CARIBOU EVALUATION, ACCWM
3. OTHER UPDATES
4. IN-CAMERA SESSION
5. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR HIRING
6. REVIEW OF BRUCE MCRAE'S MEMO
7. OTHER ITEMS
8. ADJOURNMENT

Board 102 Training

- Governance
- Decision Making
- Governance Structures, Policies and Processes
- Committees
- Board Meeting
- Meeting Minutes
- Chairing Meetings
- Meeting Structure
- When to go In-Camera

- Director Liabilities

ACCWM Update

Presentation by Cory Fournier and Melanie Harding

The ACCWM has initiated an evaluation of the Taking Care of Caribou plan to determine:

- Is it being implemented as intended?
- Is it working for caribou?
- Is it meeting original co-management and conservation goals?
- Each member board, including the SRRB, will complete an in-depth survey on their experience with the plan.

Main concerns:

- Lack of clear guidance for herd that are: in the lower/intermediate zone and stable (not increasing or decreasing)
- Evidence based for thresholds may no longer be adequate, may need re-examination
- Indicators lead heavily on western science, over-reliance on GNWT surveys
- Ministerial use of the plan
- Plan does not adequately reflect IPCAs, guardian programs, community based monitoring and UNDRIP

Opportunities to improve the Plan

- Clear guidelines for low or intermediate but stable populations
- Considering trends and broader context
- Re-evaluation scientific evidence used to set thresholds
- Strengthening indigenous knowledge integration
- Increase emphasis on adaptive, community led responses.
- Respecting regional approaches/community plans

Other Updates

Tulít'a Community Conservation Plan (CCP)

- Tulít'a RRC, with SRRB and EcoPlan support, launched its CCP April 14th in Tulít'a (working group meeting, public evening session, youth engagement at school).
- Legal support secured from OKT Law, improving confidence and clarity for Tulít'a
- Goal: complete the CCP by end of fiscal year, including:
 - o Summer on-the-land gathering;
 - o Fall community workshops.
 - o Ongoing work to clarify where the plan applies and how it overlaps with IPCA and regional “local areas” work.

Action: SRRB staff continue technical and coordination support to Tulít'a and report progress to the Board.

Caribou Curriculum Project

- Aim: bring SRRB/PLS caribou and co-management content into schools (K–12).
- Approach:
 - o Build from existing material (PLS stories, Sahtú Atlas, prior projects).
 - o Align with NWT curriculum to allow use from kindergarten art to high school land-claim/co-management modules.
 - o Project is in early scoping, using recent youth engagement as a foundation.

Action: Staff to keep developing concept and content inventory, and return with a draft structure for Board review.

Conservation History Project

- Purpose: examine the history of conservation, quotas/TAH, and colonial approaches in relation to modern treaties and Indigenous rights.
- To date: background legal and historical research organized by eras, closely linked to Bruce's memo on factors.
- Future plan: potential community-based research with elders, possibly in partnership with Indigenous Law Research Unit (UVic).
- Budget last year: ~\$30,000; may scale up if community research proceeds.

Action: Staff to continue cautiously, provide regular written updates, and seek Board direction before major expansions.

Public Listening Sessions (PLS 1–3) – Implementation Review

- Before PLS #4, SRRB will review and organize:
 - o All findings, recommendations, and decisions from PLS #1–3.
- Status of implementation and who is responsible (SRRB, GNWT, RRCs, etc.).
- Goal: avoid “barrelling ahead” and ensure follow-through on earlier commitments.

Action: Staff are building a tracking framework and will bring results and options (e.g., for PLS #4 design) back to the Board.

Forestry, Forest Fires & Climate Change

- Follow-up from PLS #3 themes:
 - o Values-at-risk system vs Indigenous fire knowledge.
 - o Forest dynamics, prescribed burns, mountain encroachment and links to caribou.
- SRRB is exploring:
 - o Its forestry-related mandate;
 - o Current GNWT and other work;
 - o A potential funded project (federal interest) that links forestry, climate, and wildlife in the Sahtú.
- Board members stressed this is about “forests beyond forestry” and is a strong entry point for SRRB into climate and habitat issues.

Action: Staff to further scope options and funding, and return with concrete proposals and SRRB's potential role for Board decision.

In-Camera Session

M2027-004

M2027-004	Moved to go on-camera at 2:05 pm. Gordon Hamre/George Barnaby	Consensus
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M2027-005

M2027-005	Moved to come out of on-camera at 3:02 pm. Gordon Hamre/Camilla Rabisca	Consensus
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The Board met in camera to discuss general HR, workplace issues, including gaps in conflict-resolution and harassment procedures. The Board directed staff to seek legal/HR advice, explore external HR support, and begin a review and update of SRRB HR policies.
Action – Catarina to connect with co-management boards and inquire about their procedures and policies.

Executive Director hiring

Board will focus on governance and HR before bringing in an ED. Board also discussed possibility of hiring an ED in-training and the current contract with Phelps.

Review of Bruce McRae's memo - SRRB Governance Assessment

Deferred to Next Meeting

Other items

The Board received a written request from the staff member for a salary increase and retroactive pay, noting that they have reached the top of their current pay scale.

The Board reaffirmed its previous decision to align SRRB salaries with the GNWT pay grid and their collective agreement structure, including step progression and maximum step limits.

On that basis, the Board declined the request for an additional salary increase/retroactive pay outside the established grid, noting that any future change would require:

- A revised job description and re-evaluation of the position, and/or
- A broader review of the SRRBB's compensation framework.

Closing prayer by Camilla Rabisca

Meeting adjourned at 4:41 pm

Approval of Minutes

Approved by Board decision, July 16, 2026



Donna Schear, Acting Chair

Summary of Motions

Number	Description	Result
M2027-001	Approved meeting agenda. Gordon Hamre/Sam Haché	Consensus
M2027-002	Approved meeting minutes from the February 9, 2026, meeting. Sam Haché/Camilla Rabisca	Consensus
M2027-003	Approved to rescind Motion 2026-021 and implement corrective actions to address overpayments. Camilla Rabisca/ Sam Haché	Consensus
M2027-004	Moved to go on-camera at 2:05 pm. Gordon Hamre/George Barnaby	Consensus
M2027-005	Moved to come out of on-camera at 3:02 pm. Gordon Hamre/Camilla Rabisca	Passed with one abstention