



## EEYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

### Regular Meeting

Held via conference call  
April 14, 2020

<b>Present:</b>	Gordon Blackned Fred Tomatuk Peter Hale Robbie Tapiatic G. Daniel Caron	Chairperson Member (GCC(EI)) Member (ECCC) Member (GCC(EI)) Member (DFO)
	Angela Coxon Félix Boulanger Priscillia Wesley	Wildlife Management Director Wildlife Management Biologist Administrative Assistant
<b>Absent:</b>	Aurélie Bourbeau-Lemieux Vacant	Member (GCC(EI)) Member (GN)
<b>Guests:</b>	Angéline Therrien-Lapointe Sam Clemente	Gowlings Aon

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**Tuesday, April 14, 2020**

### 1. WELCOME & QUORUM

Members present constituted a quorum, and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) meeting was called to order at 9:22 a.m. Gordon Blackned welcomed the members of the EMRWB.

### 2. OPENING PRAYER

Gordon Blackned provided the opening prayer.

### 3. CHAIRPERSON AND RECORDING SECRETARY

Gordon Blackned chaired the meeting and Félix Boulanger was the recording secretary.

### 4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

The EMRWB reviewed the proposed agenda and made no amendments.

After review of the proposed meeting agenda, it was motioned to adopt and approve the agenda; Fred Tomatuk proposed, and Peter Hale seconded. The motion carried and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board adopted **Resolution EMRWB2020/21-01**

In favour: 5                  Opposed: 0                  Abstained: 0                  Absent: 2

## **5. CORPORATE MATTERS**

### **5.1 CORPORATE MATTERS - Revision to List of 2020-2021 Statutory Holidays**

The EMRWB Director suggested a change to the list of statutory holidays for the EMRWB staff. She suggested replacing the Civic holiday (which is a Statutory holiday in Ontario and not in Quebec), with Waskaganish Day, on September 29. Waskaganish Day is a new annual holiday that was passed by Chief & Council after the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the community. It is meant to encourage community members to participate in the traditional fishing and celebratory activities at Smokey Hill, in an effort to annually recognize the founding date of Waskaganish.

After some discussion, the Board agreed to the changes. It was motioned to adopt and approve the replacement of the Civic holiday by Waskaganish Day; Fred Tomatuk proposed, and Peter Hale seconded. The motion carried and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board adopted **Resolution EMRWB2020/21-02**

In favour: 5                  Opposed: 0                  Abstained: 0                  Absent: 2

### **5.2 CORPORATE MATTERS - Minute Taking – Discussion of New Option**

The EMRWB Director described the chronic problems associated with minute taking (e.g. timely production of a draft, need for heavy editing, late submission to the board, etc.,) and the methods previously employed for minute taking (e.g., Gowlings, EMRWB staff, professional minute-taking company). She suggested that the Board hire a consultant to record the minutes. This specific consultant was previously a Director for the EMRIRB (EMR Impact Review Board) and EMRPC (EMR Planning Commission), and the EMRWB Director argued that she would have the proper context and knowledge of our organizational structure and mandate, which would allow her to produce quality minutes that would require minimal editing. A quote was presented to the Board. Some Board members expressed their preference to have our own staff work on our minutes, to keep sensitive topics “in-house”. The issue of chronic absenteeism of

the current Administrative Assistant was discussed. It was suggested by the Board to include this task in the job description of the Biologist that will be hired shortly. In the meantime, Félix Boulanger will record the minutes.

### **5.3 CORPORATE MATTERS - Meeting Minutes – Public Information**

The EMRWB Director raised the subject of posting the meeting minutes from previous years on the new website. The Board agreed to have the content of minutes reviewed prior to posting them, to make sure that in-camera and internal discussion are separated from regular meetings. The EMRWB Director will ask legal counsel to proceed with the review. For future meetings, the new Meeting Guidelines should clarify in what circumstances Board meetings should be held as in-camera or internal meetings.

## **6. FINANCES AND ADMINISTRATION**

### **6.1 FINANCES AND ADMINISTRATION - Final Review and Approval of Governance Policy**

Angeline Therrien-Lapointe from Gowlings presented an updated draft Governance Policy, including edits submitted by the Board at the previous meeting. She reviewed the document and highlighted the minor changes.

After a review of the document, it was motioned to adopt and approve the Governance Policy; Peter Hale proposed, and Fred Tomatuk seconded. The motion carried and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board adopted **Resolution EMRWB2020/21-03**

In favour: 5            Opposed: 0            Abstained: 0            Absent: 2

### **6.2 FINANCES AND ADMINISTRATION - Final Review and Approval of Meeting Guidelines**

Angeline Therrien-Lapointe reviewed the draft Meeting Guidelines and explained the minor changes.

After a review of the document, it was motioned to adopt and approve the Meeting Guidelines; Fred Tomatuk proposed, and Peter Hale seconded. The motion carried and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) adopted **Resolution EMRWB2020/21-04**

In favour: 5                  Opposed: 0                  Abstained: 0                  Absent: 2

## **6.2 FINANCES AND ADMINISTRATION - Review of Investment Advice from AON**

The EMRWB Director read a briefing note which outlined three potential scenarios going forward with our Fund managers: 1) Continue investing through Industrial Alliance with a few changes, 2) Request that Aon perform a comparative analysis of services provided by Industrial Alliance vs Beutel Goodman Ltd. Investment Council (Fund manager for the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board), or 3) Further explore the option of switching to a wealth management platform through Bank of Montreal (BMO) after obtaining the additional information recommended by Aon in the summary document.

Sam Clemente from Aon presented a document and explained his analysis and recommendation about BMO's proposal. He reiterated that BMO provided very little information. The Board was unable to reach agreement on whether to continue investing with Industrial Alliance (iA), or to move to BMO. A Board member explained his perspective on the subject and suggested that we delay any changes to our investment strategy for now and wait to have a fund performance review completed in the fall after the stock markets have stabilized (at which point the situation could be further discussed). After some discussion, the Board agreed that Aon should perform a detailed comparative analysis of investing between iA and BMO, at an approximate cost of \$9,000. The results of the analysis will be presented at the October Board meeting, during which time the Board can choose between iA and BMO.

## 7. RESEARCH

### 1) EMRWB RESEARCH FUND

The application process to the Research Fund was discussed. The EMRWB Biologist presented three documents to the Board: 1) the Research Fund Application Scoring Criteria, 2) the Research Fund Application Guide and 3) the Research Fund Application Form. He explained the three documents and some comments and minor edits were expressed by the Board members. The Board approved the documents to be used for the first call for applications to the EMRWB Research Fund in the coming weeks. The EMRWB Biologist agreed to make some minor corrections and send the documents to the director for a final review before being made public. It is understood that these documents are intended to be fluid, and can be fine-tuned as our experience with the process grows.

The EMRWB Director suggested that a conservative funding level of \$150,000 be set for 2020-2021, in the light of the recent losses suffered by the investment during the Covid-19 onset. A Board member suggested that we could reassess the funding level later in the year and keep the option of allocating more funds for late applications in the fall.

After some discussion, it was motioned to allocate up to \$150,000 from the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board Research Fund for qualified projects and reassess that amount in October depending on fund performance. Peter Hale proposed, and G. Daniel Caron seconded. The motion carried and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) adopted **Resolution EMRWB2020/21-05**

In favour: 5                  Opposed: 0                  Abstained: 0                  Absent: 2

### 2) VARIA

No additional topics were raised under Varia.

**3) CLOSING PRAYER**

Fred Tomatuk closed the meeting in prayer.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The Chairperson motioned to adjourn the meeting of April 14, 2020; it was proposed by G. Daniel Caron and seconded by Robbie Tapiatic; the motion carried. The EMRWB adopted **Resolution EMRWB2020/21-06**

In favour: 5            Opposed: 0            Abstained: 0            Absent: 2

The Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board meeting was concluded at 3:20 p.m.