



EYEUU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD
Regular Meeting (via Videoconference)
November 23-24, 2020

Present:	Gordon Blackned Fred Tomatuk Peter Hale G. Daniel Caron Robbie Tapiatic Elijassie Kavik	Chairperson Member (GCC(EI)) Member (ECCC) Member (DFO) Member (GCC(EI)) - (absent morning of Nov 23.) Member (Gov. of Nunavut) – (absent Nov. 24)	
	Angela Coxon Félix Boulanger Stephanie Varty	Wildlife Management Director Wildlife Management Biologist Wildlife Management Biologist	
Absent:	Aurélie Bourbeau-Lemieux	Member (GCC(EI))	
Guest:	Alexandra Langwieder Angeline Therrien-Lapointe Vincent Gautier-Doucet	McGill University Gowlings CERRI	Day 1 Day 1 Day 2

* all guests participated via videoconference

Monday, November 23, 2020

1. WELCOME & QUORUM

Members present constituting a quorum, the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) meeting was called to order at 9:26 a.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

Fred Tomatuk opened the meeting with a prayer.

3. CHAIRPERSON AND RECORDING SECRETARY

The Chairperson was Gordon Blackned and the Recording Secretary was Stephanie Varty.

4. APPROVAL OF THE AGENDA

After a review of the proposed meeting agenda, it was motioned to adopt and approve the agenda; Peter Hale proposed, and Eli Kavik seconded. The motion carried and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) adopted **Resolution WB2019/20-27 (In Favour: 5, Absent: 2)**.

5.1 CORPORATE MATTERS - Review of Regular Meeting Minutes

a) November 4-6, 2019

The EMRWB Director reviewed the meeting minutes from November 4-6, 2020 meeting. Minor edits were made. Meeting minutes approval was deferred until the next board meeting due to lack of quorum.

b) March 24-26, 2020

Meeting minutes approval was deferred until the next board meeting due to lack of quorum.

c) April 14, 2020

Meeting minutes approval was deferred until the next board meeting due to lack of quorum.

d) July 22, 2020

The EMRWB Director reviewed the meeting minutes from the July 22, 2020 meeting. Minor edits were made. It was motioned to adopt and approve the meeting minutes. Peter Hale proposed, and Eli Kavik Seconded. The motion carried and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) adopted **Resolution WB2019/20-28 (In Favour: 4, Absent: 2, Abstained: 1)**.

e) October 20-22, 2020

The EMRWB Director reviewed the meeting minutes from the October 20-22, 2020 meeting. Minor edits were made. It was motioned to adopt and approve the meeting minutes. Eli Kavik proposed, and Fred Tomatuk seconded. The motion carried and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) adopted **Resolution WB2019/20-29 (In Favour: 4, Absent: 2, Abstained: 1)**.

An EMRWB Member noted that they were not comfortable approving meeting minutes from meetings that had taken place months ago and asked that meeting minutes always be approved at the following regular meeting. The EMRWB Director noted that the

current situation was not ideal, and that the backlog of meeting minutes was mainly the result of a years' worth of meetings being shortened from 3 days to 2 days at the request of members after finding that 3 day videoconference format was too tedious. As such, the agendas required shortening and the items with the lowest priority (such as meeting minutes) were removed. The EMRWB Director recommended that all future regular meetings should be held in full (3 days) to avoid this situation from happening again.

The EMRWB Director noted that a full review of each set of meeting minutes during the regular meeting is very time consuming. She recommends that the EMRWB adopt the process used by the NMRWB for approving minutes: draft meeting minutes are distributed to Board members for review and edits prior to the next regular meeting. Board members submit their edits to EMRWB staff who will then update the draft meeting minutes with the suggested edits and post the final draft version in the meeting materials folder ahead of the next regular meeting. At the next regular meeting, a motion will be called to adopt the draft meeting minutes without the need for further review prior.

ACTION ITEM: The EMRWB Director will email the remaining unapproved draft regular meeting minutes to the EMRWB members for final review and edits to be received by EMRWB staff at the end of January.

5.2 CORPORATE MATTERS - Review of Special Meeting Minutes (Felix)

a) Joint Beluga Teleconference Meeting, February 21, 2020

The EMRWB Wildlife Management Biologist began to review the draft meeting minutes from the joint beluga teleconference meetings held between the EMRWB and the Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board (NMRWB). Minor edits were made. A Board Member pointed out that because of the joint nature of the meeting minutes, the EMRWB should hold off on approving the draft minutes until the NMRWB has had an opportunity to review and provide edits to the minutes. Both boards need to approve an identical set of minutes for each joint meeting. It was also noted by a Board Member that all sets of meeting minutes related to discussion of the beluga management plan decisions should be kept confidential and designated as *in camera*. The EMRWB Director suggested that all EMRWB Members should review and supply any edits to the joint minutes by the end

of January, at which point she would make the edits and send the draft joint minutes to the NMRWB for review and edits. Once the NMRWB supplied their edits, the minutes would become final and each Board respectively would approve that final set of minutes.

ACTION ITEM: The EMRWB Director will email the sets of joint meeting minutes the EMRWB members for final review and edits to be received by the end of January, at which point the edited versions would be forwarded to the NMRWB for review and final edits. The EMRWB Director will meet with the NMRWB Director to discuss a protocol for the review and approval of joint meeting minutes.

6.1 FINANCES AND ADMINISTRATION - Review of Draft Administration & Finance Policy

Angeline Therrien-Lapointe, from Gowlings, presented the draft Administration and Finance Policy. Angeline reviewed the wording of the financial policy including activity reports, audited financial statements, banking procedures, budget process, control and reporting, control of expenditures, and spending authority. She reviewed the wording of the administrative policies, including access to premises, absence of the director, credit cards, execution of documents, petty cash, physical assets, purchasing and procurement, security, service contracts, and document retention. After some discussion and minor edits to the policy, Angeline indicated that she would update the Administration and Finance Policy and send it to the EMRWB Board Members for final review prior to the next Board meeting.

The EMRWB Director then requested the opinion of the Board Members on whether this policy should be shared with the other two EMR Boards prior to approval, or whether they would like to move forward with approving this policy prior to sharing. After some discussion, the EMRWB Board Members agreed that the EMRWB should approve the policy for the EMRWB first and then share it with the other boards so they can edit the policy to suit their needs. The EMRWB Director and Chairperson were in agreement that due to differing operational needs, it was doubtful that the three EMR Boards could adopt a common policy.

ACTION ITEM: Angeline will make edits to the Administration and Finance Policy as requested and email the final version to the Board Members to ensure that the changes are accurate. The EMRWB Board Members will then adopt the policy at the next regular board meeting.

6.2 FINANCES AND ADMINISTRATION - Review of Draft Research Fund Policy

Angeline then presented the draft Research Fund Policy that was developed by the EMRWB Director, AON, and Gowlings. She reviewed the context of the policy, management responsibilities for the Research Fund, and the application process for research proposals. She explained the process by which the recommended Total Annual Allocation will be calculated every year, in collaboration with the Board's financial consultant, AON. After some discussion and minor edits, Angeline indicated she will update the Research Fund Policy and the EMRWB Director would then forward to AON for review and edits. The policy will be resubmitted to the Board for final approval the next regular meeting.

A Board Member asked Angeline if Chapter 13.6 (p.197) of the Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement Implementation Plan (IP) had any implications for the policy. Angeline indicated that she would need to take a closer look at the IP to answer this question.

ACTION ITEM: Angeline will examine section 6 of chapter 13 of the Implementation Plan to see if it has implications for this Policy document and will respond to the Board Members in a follow-up email. The EMRWB Director will send the final draft to AON for review and edits and will present the final copy to the Board for approval the next regular meeting.

8.3 RESEARCH & PROJECTS - M.Sc. Research Proposal on Polar Bear Ecology in the EMR

Alexandra Langwieder from McGill University presented her research proposal titled "Polar Bear Monitoring in the Eeyou Marine Region". Alexandra presented her personal research background and experience, the proposed project scope, objectives, and methods (e.g. TEK study, hair snares, camera traps). A discussion followed regarding the feasibility of the project and, touched upon the in-kind support that would be needed from the EMRWB and CTA-EMR staff. Alexandra expressed that she would need a letter of support from the EMRWB by early

January 2021, and noted that she may apply for funding through the EMRWB Research Fund if the project did not end up being fully funded through other sources.. The EMRWB Board Members showed enthusiasm for the proposed study and approval for the project was unanimous.

The EMRWB Director asked for Board approval to share the draft EMRWB Polar Bear TEK Report with Alexandra to aide her in her project planning. The EMRWB Board Members indicated that they were comfortable with sharing the draft report but that it was not to be further distributed.

ACTION ITEM: EMRWB Staff will share the draft polar bear TEK report with Alexandra (McGill University).

Tuesday, November 24, 2020

8.1 RESEARCH & PROJECTS - Photo Contest Winner Selection

An EMRWB Wildlife Management Biologist presented the final selection of photos received as part of the 2020 EMRWB Photo Contest. The top 12 pictures selected by staff from the 'open' category and the top 6 pictures selected from the professional category were presented to the Board for final selection. The EMRWB Board Members discussed the photos and were directed to a shared folder where they had access to the top picks and additional photo submissions. There was some discussion among the EMRWB Board Members about opening up the voting process to the public for the 2021 Photo Contest.

The EMRWB Director requested that the EMRWB Board Members vote on their top six of open photos and top three of the professional photos and submit their selections to EMRWB staff.

ACTION ITEMS: EMRWB Board Members will email their photo selections to EMRWB staff by November 27, 2020. EMRWB staff will tally the results, contact the prize winners, and announce the winners on the EMRWB Facebook page and EMRWB website.

8.2 RESEARCH & PROJECTS - Review of Annual EMRWB Calendar

An EMRWB Wildlife Management Biologist presented the photos and associated text selected for each month to appear EMRWB 2021 Calendar. The EMRWB Board Members discussed the photo selections and suggested minor edits to the calendar. An EMRWB Member suggested that Board members be sent multiple copies of the calendar for circulation in their respective professional circles.

ACTION ITEMS: The EMRWB Wildlife Management Biologists will incorporate the suggested edits to the calendar.

8.6 RESEARCH & PROJECTS - Research Collaboration: “Winipawk Climate Change, Contaminants & Ecosystem Community-Based Monitoring”

Directly prior to the presentation from the Chisasibi Eeyou Resource and Research Institute (CERRI), the EMRWB Director presented information received from CERRI that had been requested by the Board at the previous regular meeting. After some discussion of the information, Vincent Gautier-Doucet and Dante Torrio, from CERRI joined the meeting to present two proposed projects titled “Winipawk Climate Change, Contaminants and Ecosystems Community-Based Monitoring” and “Community-Driven Environmental Monitoring of the Chisasibi Coastal Ecosystems”. The EMRWB Board Members and CERRI representatives discussed several topics about their organization including the creation of CERRI (recommended by the Migratory Bird Task Force) and CERRI’s project team members. Additionally, they discussed details about CERRI’s proposed projects including project timelines, budgets, community participation, support of the tallymen, sampling methods, and alternative funding sources. CERRI representatives noted that they submitted a request for funding for each project from the EMRWB Research Trust Fund. The EMRWB Director inquired as to when CERRI would require EMRWB decision on each of the funding applications. Vincent indicated that they would need a decision regarding the funding for the “Winipawk Climate Change, Contaminants and Ecosystems Community-Based Monitoring” project before November 30, 2020 and a decision for the “Community-Driven Environmental Monitoring of the Chisasibi Coastal Ecosystems” project application by the end of December 2020.

8.3 RESEARCH & PROJECTS - Review and Approval of Research Fund Applications

EMRWB Management Biologists presented three project funding applications to the EMRWB Members for review and decision. It was explained that each project application had been reviewed, evaluated, and scored by EMRWB staff using the EMRWB-approved tools (e.g. criteria and scoresheet).

An EMRWB Wildlife Management Biologist presented Mitch Weegman's (University of Missouri) funding application titled "Ascribing the importance of Atlantic brant staging areas for holistic conservation planning". He reviewed the projects executive summary, methodology, and budget. He then reviewed the project evaluation scoresheet and final score, completed by both EMRWB Wildlife Management Biologists. EMRWB staff were in agreement that the project funding application should be supported by the Board. After some discussion, the EMRWB Board Members agreed that they would prefer to make a decision on each project after all of the applications had been presented to the Board.

An EMRWB Wildlife Management Biologist presented the second funding application, one of two applications submitted by CERRI. The first project was titled "Winipawk Climate Change, Contaminants and Ecosystems Community-Based Monitoring". She reviewed the projects executive summary, methodology, and budget. She then reviewed the project evaluation scoresheet and final score, completed by both EMRWB Wildlife Management Biologists. EMRWB staff were in agreement that the project funding application should be supported by the Board.

An EMRWB Wildlife Management Biologist presented the third funding application, the second of two applications submitted by CERRI. This second project was titled "Community-Driven Environmental Monitoring of the Chisasibi Coastal Ecosystems". She reviewed the projects executive summary, methodology, and budget. She then reviewed the project evaluation scoresheet and final score, completed by both EMRWB Wildlife Management Biologists. EMRWB staff were in agreement that the project funding application should be supported by the Board.

The EMRWB Director turned over discussion of each project to the Board for final decision.

After some discussion, the EMRWB Chairman called for a motion to approve the funding application for the project “Ascribing the importance of Atlantic brant staging areas for holistic conservation planning” from Mitch Weegman (University of Missouri). The motion was proposed by Robbie Tapiatic, and Seconded by Peter Hale. The motion carried and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) adopted **Resolution WB2019/20-30 (In Favor: 5, Absent: 2)**.

A lengthy discussion was held regarding the two project proposals and funding applications submitted by CERRI. While Board Member recognized the merit of the two proposed projects, concern was noted about the lack of confirmation of support by the coastal tallymen. Agreement on a decision could not be reached. The EMRWB Director suggested that the Board defer the decision on the two projects until the next regular EMRWB meeting, in order to give CERRI an opportunity to gather and provide proof of majority support from the coastal tallymen. The EMRWB Chairperson agreed with this approach.

ACTION ITEMS: The EMRWB Director will contact Vincent (CERRI) and notify him of the outcome of the discussion and Board’s request for additional information (e.g. letter of project support from a majority of the coastal tallymen).

7.1 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT – Southern Hudson Bay (SHB) Polar Bear Management Update

The EMRWB Director provided an update on the progress of the Southern Hudson Bay Polar Bear Management Plan. As agreed upon during the last Regular meeting, a letter was prepared and sent by the EMRWB Director and EMRWB legal counsel to the Grand Council of the Cree (EI) and the Cree Trappers’ Association. The letter requested a statement of position concerning the request from the Government of Canada and the Government of Nunavut for a joint consultation and decision-making process between the EMRWB, NMRWB, and the Nunavut Wildlife Management Board (NWMB). December 15, 2020 was given as a response deadline.

The EMRWB Director reported that she participated in a preliminary meeting with representatives from the NMRWB, the NWMB, the Hunting Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee (HFTCC), and EMRWB legal counsel to begin discussion of the feasibility of a joint decision-making process to establish a Total Allowable Take (TAT) and Non-quota Limitations

(NQLs) for the SHB polar bear population. She indicated that the four management bodies will continue to meet to discuss a vision for the process. Discussion is still needed with NWMB legal council in order to move forward with a proposal for a process that will satisfy the respective land claim agreements of all parties involved.

7.2 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT – Quebec Polar Bear Management Plan Update

The EMRWB Director reported that a meeting was held recently by the Quebec Polar Bear Management Plan Working Group as a final call for edits to the draft Quebec Polar Bear Management Plan. Makivik intends to finalize the management plan and distribute it to the respective management bodies in December.

8.5 RESEARCH & PROJECTS - Project Updates – a) FISHES – Year 1 Sampling Efforts

An EMRWB Wildlife Management Biologist presented an update on the year one sampling effort for the FISHES project (Louis Bernatchez, Laval University). The project focused on collecting genetic fish samples from Cisco, Whitefish, and Brook Trout from the five coastal communities. He provided a presentation that summarized the project objectives, traditional knowledge workshops, an update on the samples collected, and lessons learned for next year.

8.5 RESEARCH & PROJECTS – Project Updates – b) Whapmagoostui Community Monitoring Project (Hudson Bay Change)

An EMRWB Wildlife Management Biologist presented an update on the Whapmagoostui Community Monitoring Project (Hudson Bay Change). The project focused on community monitoring of coastal species, their habitat, and their diets to develop baseline data in important areas identified by northern communities. The EMRWB Wildlife Management Biologist summarized the project objectives, progress, next steps, and highlighted that the project was reduced this year due to COVID-19. The EMRWB Director asked if they plan on finishing the project next year or will they be planning an extra year because of COVID-19 restrictions. The EMRWB Wildlife Management Biologist indicated that they will inquire about the project timeline.

ACTION ITEM: The EMRWB Wildlife Biologist will inquire about the projects sampling timeline and provide information to the EMRWB Director.

10.1 VARIA - CNG EMR Access and Permissions Policy Development

The EMRWB Director informed the Board that staff and members from all three EMR Boards have been invited by the Cree Nation Government (CNG) to an information session concerning the development of new draft guidelines that will focus on requirements for access and entry to the EMR by non-Cree. The meeting was created after the EMRWB Director learned that the draft guidelines (which had already been presented at a public meeting in Chisasibi) had been developed without collaboration or input from the three EMR Boards, and an inquiry was made to the CNG about the lack of communication on the initiative. The meeting is expected to be held on November 30 and an invite from the CNG will be sent out in the next few days.

10.2 VARIA - EMRWB Director Performance Evaluation

The EMRWB Chairperson noted that the 2019/20 FY job performance evaluation for the EMRWB Director was overdue. The Director confirmed that a job evaluation form had been completed by an HR consultant and that she would forward the form to the Chairperson. The EMRWB Chairperson expressed that the Board should complete the evaluation before end of December, as it was six months overdue. The EMRWB Director noted that as per the EMRWB Governance Policy “The Chairperson shall be responsible for conducting the annual performance evaluation of the Director. “To this end, the Chairperson may request the assistance of two (2) other Board members in view of obtaining additional input with respect to the performance of the Director” (pg 32).

ACTION ITEM: The EMRWB Director will forward the performance evaluation form to the EMRWB Chairperson as soon as possible. The EMRWB Chairperson will evaluate the performance of the Director by the end of December 2020.

11. NEXT BOARD MEETING

Regular Board Meeting – February 23-25, 2021 (via videoconference).

12. ADJOURNMENT

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting of November 23-24, 2020.

EYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD MEETING

The Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board meeting is concluded at 5:20 pm and Gordon Blackned closed the meeting in prayer.