



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD
Regular Meeting (via Videoconference)
March 2-4, 2021

Present:	Gordon Blackned	Chairperson
	Fred Tomatuk	Member (GCC(EI))
	Peter Hale	Member (ECCC)
	G. Daniel Caron	Member (DFO)
	Elijassie Kavik	Member (Gov. of Nunavut)
	Angela Coxon	Wildlife Management Director
	Félix Boulanger	Wildlife Management Biologist
	Stephanie Varty	Wildlife Management Biologist
Absent:	Robbie Tapiatic	Member (GCC(EI)) (expired)
Vacant:	Member	(GCC(EI))

Guests*:

Félix Dionne	DFO	Day 1
Mark Mills	CWS	Day 1
Sarah MacRitchie	CIRNAC	Day 1
Ambroisine Boix-Meinnier	CIRNAC	Day 1
Natasha Louttit	CTA-EMR	Day 1
Jacinthe Beaudoin	CTA	Day 1
Allan House	CTA	Day 1
Samuel Denicourt	iA	Day 2
Philippe Guimont	Aon	Day 2
Mario Delisle	Aon	Day 2
Barinder Mann	Aon	Day 2
Angeline Therrien-Lapointe	Gowlings	Day 2
Qajaq Robinson	EMRWB Legal Counsel	Day 2
Erin Ipsenn	DFO	Day 3
Kim Howland	DFO	Day 3
ZouZou Kuzyk	University of Manitoba	Day 3

* all guests participated via videoconference

Tuesday, March 2, 2021

1. WELCOME & QUORUM

Members present constituting a quorum, the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) meeting was called to order at 9:15 a.m.

2. OPENING PRAYER

Gordon Blackned 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, a Board Member proposed that we move the 'Action Item Update' from the 'For Information' section to 'Varia' so that it can be reviewed during the meeting. The EMRWB Director modified the agenda as requested. It was motioned to adopt and approve the agenda; Fred Tomatuk proposed, and Daniel Caron seconded. The motion carried and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board adopted the Agenda through **Resolution WB2020/21-31** (In Favour: 5, Absent: 1, Vacant 1).

5.1 CORPORATE MATTERS – EMRWB Membership Updates

The EMRWB Director provided an update on EMRWB Membership. She contacted Tina Petawabano (CNG) in December to inform her of the resignation of Board Member Aurelie Bourbeau-Lemieux and the expiration of Board Member Robbie Tapiatic's term but received no response. She then drafted an official letter with Qajaq Robinson (Legal Counsel) and the EMRWB Chairperson to request that the Grand Council of the Cree(EI) renew Robbie's membership and appoint a new member to fill the vacancy left by Aurelie's resignation. Despite several follow-ups there has been no response from the GCC(EI). The EMRWB Director will discuss next steps with Qajaq.

The EMRWB Director noted that in recognition of her service on the EMRWB, Aurelie would be presented with a letter of appreciation, a painting, and a custom plaque.

Fred Tomatuk mentioned that he would like to discuss his membership with the EMRWB. He mentioned that his term as CTA president is ending on March 31, 2021, and a new president will be appointed before his departure. Additionally, there have been some changes to the CTA structure, namely that the CTA President will now be a part-time position and will be elected from the CTA board of directors. Fred expressed that he would like to be appointed to a new term on the EMRWB but was unsure if he would qualify if he was no longer working for the CTA.

The EMRWB Director mentioned that they investigated EMRWB membership requirements previously and noted that it is not a requirement to have a CTA member on the EMRWB. In the past, this arrangement had been made as part of an effort to improve the working relationship between the EMRWB and the CTA but that it was no longer necessary. Fred indicated that he has forwarded a letter of interest to the CNG to express continued interest in sitting on the EMRWB, he is also interested in doing the same for the EMRWB to extend his term for another 4 years when his first term expires in August. The other EMRWB Board Members expressed their support to have Fred's term extended.

The EMRWB Chairperson indicated that the EMRWB needs to keep pressuring the GCC(EI) to appoint members in a timely fashion to the vacant positions.

ACTION ITEM: EMRWB Director and Chairperson will continue to follow-up with the GCC(EI) regarding Cree member Board appointments.

5.2 CORPORATE MATTERS – Approval of Meeting Minutes

a) EMRWB Regular Meeting Minutes March 24-26, 2020

The EMRWB Director indicated that the board was provided with outstanding meeting minutes after the last board meeting for review. She indicated that minor edits were made to meeting minutes based on EMRWB Board Members recommendations. It was motioned to adopt and

approve the meeting minutes for the March 24-26, 2020 meeting. Fred Tomatuk proposed and Peter Hale Seconded. The motion carried and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) adopted Resolution **WB2020/21-32** (In Favour:4, Absent: 1, Abstained: 1, Vacant: 1).

b) EMRWB Regular Meeting Minutes April 14, 2020

The EMRWB Director briefly reviewed the meeting minutes. It was motioned to adopt and approve the meeting minutes for the April 14, 2020 meeting. Fred Tomatuk proposed and Peter Hale Seconded. The motion carried and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) adopted Resolution **WB2020/21-33** (In Favour: 4, Absent: 1, Abstained: 1, Vacant:1).

c) EMRWB Special Meeting Minutes April 29, 2020

The EMRWB Director briefly reviewed the meeting minutes. It was motioned to adopt and approve the meeting minutes for the April 29, 2020 meeting. Fred Tomatuk proposed and Peter Hale Seconded. The motion carried and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) adopted Resolution **WB2020/21-34** (In Favour: 4, Absent: 1, Abstained: 1, Vacant: 1).

d) EMRWB Special Meeting Minutes September 25, 2020

The EMRWB Director briefly reviewed the meeting minutes. It was motioned to adopt and approve the meeting minutes for the September 25, 2020 meeting. Daniel Caron proposed and Peter Hale Seconded. The motion carried and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) adopted Resolution **WB2020/21-35** (In Favour: 4, Absent: 1, Abstained: 1, Vacant:1).

e) EMRWB Regular Meeting Minutes November 23-24, 2020

The EMRWB Director briefly reviewed the meeting minutes. It was motioned to adopt and approve the meeting minutes for the November 23-24, 2020 meeting. Eli Kavik proposed and Peter Hale Seconded. The motion carried and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) adopted Resolution **WB2020/21-36** (In Favour: 5, Absent: 1, Vacant: 1).

5.3 CORPORATE MATTERS - Selection of 2021-2022 EMRWB Regular Meeting Dates

The EMRWB Director proposed regular meetings for May 21, 2021, July 27-29, 2021, October 19-21, 2021, and February 22-24, 2022. All EMRWB board members indicated that they were available. The EMRWB Director indicated that she would send out meeting invitations for the agreed upon dates.

ACTION ITEM: The EMRWB Director will send out invitations to all EMRWB Board Members and Staff for the meeting dates indicated above.

5.4 CORPORATE MATTERS – Update from the Director

The EMRWB Director shared a PowerPoint presentation for the Director's update. The update covered topics including the status of the EMRWB 10-year funding agreement renegotiation, the EMR organization structural review, the status of other EMR boards, the status of the CTA-EMR staff, recent activities of the EMRWB staff not covered later in the meeting, structure of future updates from the Director, the EMRWB investment fund, the EMRWB call for funding proposals, policy guidelines for project approval, CERRI application status, and projects postponed to 2022/2023 fiscal.

Funding renegotiation and structural review –

The EMRWB Director reminded the Board that the current 10-year funding agreement between Canada and the EMRWB is set to expire at the end of the 2022 fiscal year. She reviewed the process of renegotiating the funding agreement with CIRNAC, including the structural review of the three EMR boards, hiring a consultant to complete a 10-year projection plan for the EMR boards, and the barriers the EMR boards are encountering throughout this process. She indicated that the EMR organization structural review report will be presented to the board during our May 2021 meeting and the three EMR boards will hold a joint meeting in June 2021 to make a final decision on the future structure of the EMR boards. Additionally, she indicated that work on the 10-year projection plan would start in late July.

Status of the other Boards -

The EMRWB Director summarized the membership status and activities of the EMRIRB and the EMRPC.

CTA-EMR Staff Updates –

The EMRWB Director provided updates on changes in CTA-EMR positions. Additionally, she summarized some of the CTA-EMR staff's new responsibilities, including the role of community ice safety reporting this year. Fred Tomatuk mentioned that we should request that the CTA-EMR staff include Cree knowledge in their weekly ice safety reports in addition to the satellite photos.

ACTION ITEM: EMRWB staff will communicate with CTA-EMR staff to determine a way to incorporate Cree knowledge into the weekly ice condition posts. This should include speaking with a local elder weekly and including their information in ice safety posts.

Recent EMRWB Staff Activities – The EMRWB Director explained that the Polar Bear Technical Committee meeting was attended by an EMRWB Management Biologist, and that a briefing note on this meeting was provided in the For Information folder. She reported on a polar bear defense of life and property (DLP) kill in December 2021 near Chisasibi, and noted that the CTA-EMR local officer put the bear down and collected biological samples for Quebec. The local land users made the decision to burn the bear and hide because the bear was in very poor condition; emaciated with sores on its body. This DLP kill has spurred renewed efforts of the EMRWB staff and the CTA-EMR staff to develop a DLP investigation and reporting protocol and kit and bear safety posters and brochures. The EMRWB Management Biologist and Peter Hale are working on completing the EMR Polar Bear TEK Report which will be presented to the board for approval at an upcoming meeting. Additionally, Alex Langwieder from McGill University, has arrived in Waskaganish to commence work on her research project 'Polar Bear Ecology in the Eeyou Marine Region'.

Communications - The EMRWB Director explained that the 2021 EMRWB calendar, research fund information brochure, and species fact sheets are available in the 'for information' folder.

The EMRWB staff have completed training on website maintenance and are working on wildlife viewing protocols for the Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association (COTA).

Equipment, Data & Resources – The EMRWB staff provided assistance to the CTA-EMR staff for the placement of equipment orders, completed an inventory of EMRWB equipment and assets, prepared old bird survey data for submission to the online bird observations database, and have continued to work on the organization of books, papers, and reports with Mendeley.

A Board Member mentioned that to better manage the CTA-EMR equipment in Eastmain we should discuss building a storage shed or get a shipping container. It would need to be an expense covered by the CTA. The EMRWB Director mentioned that a request was made to the CNG for a storage shed to be built next to the office in Waskaganish.

Status of Quarterly Directors' Update – The EMRWB Director asked the EMRWB Board Members if they wanted written quarterly reports submitted by the Director in addition to the verbal quarterly updates provided at the start of EMRWB regular meetings. The EMRWB Board members all agreed that written quarterly reports were not needed if the EMRWB Director agreed to include a review the action item tracking table and quarterly financial statements during the verbal update at the meetings.

Update on research planning for field season 2021/2022 – The EMRWB Director indicated that inter-community travel and travel outside of the region are still being strictly enforced, and she was doubtful that these restrictions will be lifted before the end of summer. Many organizations are making the decision to cancel the field season (COTA, Niskamoon, CWS). Other organizations are going ahead with planning (James Bay Expedition).

Status of CERRI Funding Applications - The EMRWB Director indicated that CERRI's applications to the EMRWB research fund have been withdrawn. The projects in question did not receive majority support from coastal tallymen, the EMRWB is to expect a letter from the Chisasibi Chief & Council detailing the interference that led to the lack of support.

Development of policy/guidelines for project approval and access to EMR - The EMRWB Director indicated she will be working with legal counsel to develop a guiding document that will address various protocols needed to approve research in the EMR based on the jurisdiction of the project proponent (Government of Canada, Nunavut, Research in the overlap area) and the area of research (e.g. overlap area, Crown land). The guidelines will also include the CNG's new permission to access process.

Status of Research Investment Fund 'Losses' – The EMRWB Director informed the Board that the approximate 600k loss reported as a result of the drop in the stock market during Jan-March 2020 has been recovered and the investment fund has accrued additional gains from April-December 2020. The details will be reported on by both iA and AON later in the meeting.

Status on the call for funding proposals – The EMRWB Director indicated that the call for funding proposals was not launched this past December and will likely not be for the 2021/2022 season because there are already several approved projects and pending projects for this year. The proposed projects will be reviewed later this week and a review of pending applications will be done by the board in May 2021.

Projects postponed to 2022/2023 – The EMRWB Director summarized projects which were postponed to Fiscal Year (FY) 2022/2023 due to COVID, including SHB polar bear aerial surveys, CWS bird surveys, Northern Contaminants Program project, In-person community consultation tour, full SIKU launch. All projects are pending a lifting of restrictions for EMR communities and other organizational policies. There was some discussion about the postponed projects by EMRWB Board Members, focusing on contaminants monitoring.

6.2 FINANCES AND ADMINISTRATION - Review of 2021-2022 FY EMRWB Annual Workplan

The EMRWB Director presented the proposed work plan for FY 2021/2022. The EMRWB Board Members reviewed each line item and after some discussion, the EMRWB Director made minor updates to the workplan and added an additional section on activities for financial and activity reporting, titled "Goal: Monitor and Report on research projects in 2020/21", which included the

following objectives: tracking project expenditures, reporting, timelines, and summarizing research projects in the annual activity report and on the EMRWB website.

6.3 FINANCES AND ADMINISTRATION - Review and Approval of Proposed 2021-2022 FY Budget

The EMRWB Director reviewed the proposed budget providing explanations for changes from the previous FY, including differences in northern allowance, staff salaries, operational travel, EMRWB staff housing, the CTA-EMR budget, and estimated carryover from the previous FY. The EMRWB Board Members requested that the EMRWB Director add a column that indicates the actual amount spent from the previous fiscal year and the carryover from each item.

ACTION ITEM: The EMRWB Director will add a column to the budget which shows the actual amount spent in FY 2020-2021.

7.1 & 7.2 CTA - Review of the 2021-2022 CTA-EMR Workplan and Budget

Natasha Louttit (CTA-EMR) reviewed the CTA-EMR Work Plan for FY 2021-2022. Minor edits were made while reviewing the document. The EMRWB Board Members, EMRWB staff and CTA staff discussed COVID mitigation strategies, CIRNAC requirements, future CTA-EMR staffing, and CTA-EMR ice monitoring training.

Natasha presented the proposed CTA-EMR project budget for fiscal year 2021-2022 and minor edits were made. The EMRWB Board Members, EMRWB staff and CTA staff discussed project costs, wildlife observation reporting and mapping, and necropsy sampling needs.

Jacinthe Beaudoin (CTA) then presented the proposed CTA-EMR Operational Budget for the 2021/22 FY. A discussion followed regarding the CTA's new salary structure, adjustments that will be made to the budget, CTA northern allowance, and CTA carryover procedures. The EMRWB Chairperson indicated that he would like the budget to include a comparison to last years budget in the future (how much was allocated, how much was spent and how it compares to this year's budget). After some discussion, the EMRWB Chairperson thanked the CTA staff

for their presentation. An EMRWB Board Member asked for clarification that they will be approving the budget with changes made during the presentation. The EMRWB Director clarified that the adoption would include the changes made during the presentation. It was motioned to adopt and approve the CTA-EMR workplan and budget with minor edits. Eli Kavik proposed and Peter Hale Seconded. The motion carried and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) adopted Resolution approved **WB2020/21-37** (In Favour: 4, Absent: 1, Abstained: 1, Vacant: 1).

7.3 CTA - Review of the 2021-2022 CTA Funding Agreement

The EMRWB Director briefly reviewed the draft CTA-EMRWB funding agreement. She drew attention to the fact that the amount of the 2021/22 FY FA is the same amount given in the 2020/21 FY FA. It was motioned to adopt and approve the 2021/22 FY CTA-EMR funding agreement. Eli Kavik proposed and Peter Hale Seconded. The motion carried and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) adopted Resolution approved **WB2020/21-38** (In Favour: 4, Absent: 1, Abstained: 1, Vacant: 1).

ACTION ITEM: EMRWB Director will send the CTA Funding Agreement to the CTA for review and signing.

Wednesday, March 3, 2021

6.6 FINANCES AND ADMINISTRATION - Annual Performance Report of the EMRWB Research Investment Fund

Phillipe Guimont (Aon) presented the Annual Performance Report of the EMRWB Research Investment Fund. First, he reviewed the market and economy for 2019-2021, demonstrating a stable market at the end of 2019, a sharp decrease in the beginning of 2020, and a rebound by the end of the year. All investments were positive by the end of 2020 other than the US real

estate market. He reviewed international and national sector returns from 2020. Next, he reviewed the EMRWB account summary and performance review, including the overall fund value, how the EMRWB fund is invested, gross returns of underlying funds, management fees. Finally, he covered international equity and global infrastructure and sustainable investment funds. The EMRWB Board Members and staff discussed the final returns of the research fund, changes in management fees, and ethical investments.

6.8 FINANCES AND ADMINISTRATION - Analysis of Fund Manager Performance and Annual Research Fund Allocation Recommendations

The EMRWB Director introduced Barinder Mann (Aon) who replaced Sam Clemente as our representative for Aon. Mario Delisle (Aon) presented the Analysis of the Fund Manager Performance. He presented the EMRWB Research Fund asset allocation and annualized performance from 2020, Annual Research Fund Allocation Recommendations including the method to determine total annual allocation to research projects, projected Total Annual Allocation (TAA) for spending of 1.25% based on market value, inflation, budget allocations to projects next year and the cumulative research budget. He then presented alternative projected TAA's with spending of 1.5% and 1.75%, noting that these projections are based on the research funds current investment portfolio. The EMRWB Board Members asked questions about the research funds performance, potential TAA projections, and the current investment portfolio.

The EMRWB Director clarified that the board could adopt a spending policy at a certain rate but can spend more in the upcoming years because we haven't used much of our profits from previous years. She also asked for clarification that we can reassess the spending policy in 5 years. Mario agreed with these statements and suggested that we could revise the policy in 6 or 7 years once we have spent the additional accumulated money unspent from previous years.

Mario then briefly reviewed the Draft Policy on the Wildlife Research Fund of the EMRWB document. He summarized the methodology used to determine the recommended TAA. He mentioned that, as the Board starts funding projects, the EMRWB Director will have to provide a log of all the expenses (funded projects), for them to be able to make adjustments to the TAA accordingly. The EMRWB Board Members discussed updating the Spending Policy to include the 5-year review in the policy or leave it up to the board members. The EMRWB Director

indicated that they could put it in the Spending Policy but leave the wording vague so the timing can be up to the board members.

8.9 RESEARCH/PROJECTS - Decision on management of investment funds

The EMRWB Director indicated that the EMRWB Board Members needed to decide if they will approve the recommendation from Aon to perform a new asset mix analysis for the EMRWB Investment Fund, which was overdue by 2 years now. Mario and the EMRWB Board Members discussed the appropriate timing to reassess the EMRWB Investment Fund asset mix. Mario indicated that it is currently a good time to reassess our asset mix. The EMRWB Director clarified that if the EMRWB decides to do this analysis it does not mean that they are committing to changing the asset mix. After some discussion about the asset analysis cost, the EMRWB Board Members agreed to take Aon's advice and proceed with the EMRWB Investment Fund asset mix analysis, to be completed and presented to the EMRWB at the July regular meeting

The EMRWB Chairperson motioned to approve the asset mix review. Peter Hale proposed and Fred Tomatuk Seconded. The motion carried and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board adopted Resolution **WB2020/21-39** (In Favour: 5, Absent: 1, Vacant: 1).

6.1 FINANCES AND ADMINISTRATION - Appointment of Auditor for 2020-2021 Financial Statements

The EMRWB Director explained that she has been approached by BDO, who has been performing our audits to date, to inquire about our 2020-2021 FY audit. The EMR Board Directors met and agreed that they recommend that BDO continue to do our financial audits. The EMRWB Chairperson asked if there were any objections to engaging with BDO for the 2020-2021 FY audit.

It was motioned to approve that the EMRWB engage with BDO for the EMRWB 2020-2021 Financial Audit. Eli Kavik proposed and Daniel Caron Seconded. The motion carried and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board adopted Resolution **WB2020/21-40** (In Favour: 5, Absent: 1, Vacant: 1).

ACTION ITEM: EMRWB Director to request a letter of engagement from BDO.

6.4 & 6.5 FINANCES AND ADMINISTRATION - Approval of EMRWB Finance & Admin Policy and EMRWB Research Policy

Angeline Therrien-Lapointe (Gowlings) presented the updated financial and administrative policy. The EMRWB Director flagged that the EMRWB decided yesterday that there is no longer a requirement for written quarterly reports, but the updated financial statements and the updated action item tracking table will be discussed at each EMRWB regular meeting. Angeline indicated that she would update this. Angeline reviewed the changes in phrasing throughout the policy to reflect the agreement as indicated an EMRWB Board Member in the last meeting. She reviewed changes to the disposal of assets section. The EMRWB Chairperson asked if there were any objections to the changes. All board members indicated that they do not have any objections.

It was motioned to approve that the EMRWB adopt the EMRWB Finance & Administrative Policy. Fred Tomatuk proposed and Daniel Caron Seconded. The motion carried and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) adopted Resolution **WB2020/21-41** (In Favour: 4, Absent: 2, Vacant: 1).

Angeline then reviewed the EMRWB Research policy, focusing on the spending allocation rate. After some discussion about the wording surrounding the period revisiting of the spending allocation rate, Angeline updated the policy to indicate that the board should revisit the spending allocation no later than every five years. The EMRWB Board Members all supported this change. The EMRWB Director asked the board to decide on a spending allocation rate. The EMRWB Board Members were all in support for the 1.5 % spending allocation rate.

It was motioned to adopt the EMRWB Research Policy. Fred Tomatuk proposed and Peter Hale Seconded. The motion carried and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board adopted Resolution **WB2020/21-42** (In Favour: 4, Absent: 2, Vacant: 1).

8.1a RESEARCH/PROJECTS - Quebec Polar Bear Management Plan Update

The EMRWB Director provided an update to the board, indicating that the EMRWB had just received the Quebec Polar Bear Management Plan draft from Makavik and it has been shared with the board for review. Discussions will need to be held with legal counsel and the NMRWB to discuss a joint hearing process.

Thursday, March 4, 2021

8.3-4 RESEARCH/PROJECTS - Hudson Bay Change Project (Whapmagoostui) Year 2/James Bay Biodiversity and Invasive Species Monitoring

The EMRWB Director introduced Erin Ipsen (DFO) and Kimberly Howland (DFO) to present their project 'Coastal Ecosystem Change in the Hudson Bay Complex', she mentioned that under the EMRLCA the federal government needs pre-approval from the board members to conduct research in the EMR.

Kimberly Howland and Erin Ipsen introduced themselves in the context of northern research and coastal ecosystems. The presentation covered an introduction to the DFO coastal ecosystem change project, completed portions of the project, plans for 2021, and the new grant proposal focusing on invasive species and biodiversity work in lower Hudson Bay. The HBC project started in 2019 and ends in 2022 involving Whapmagoostui, and other more northern communities. The goal of this project was to combine community led biodiversity monitoring with experimental testing and modelling for key species of local importance.

Kim presented the budget they submitted to the DFO grant for their new grant proposal titled 'James Bay Biodiversity and Invasive Species Monitoring'. She highlighted that they may ask the EMRWB for \$25,000 and may request funding from the Regional CTA. Kim indicated that they would know the results of the grant application by the end of March 2021.

The EMRWB Board Members, staff, and DFO representatives discussed some of the details of the project including some of the scientific details of the project, the budget, land user observations surrounding biodiversity and invasive species in the EMR, and EMRWB access to Hydro-Quebec data,

The EMRWB Director asked the board if they approve of this project, indicating that we do not need a resolution just a show of support. All EMRWB Board members indicated that they support the project.

The EMRWB Director asked if the DFO staff needed a letter of support. Kim indicated that they do not need one now but would need one before they begin sampling. The EMRWB Director indicated that the DFO should also get a letter of support from Whapmagoostui Council.

ACTION ITEM: The EMRWB Biologists will assist DFO with a request of support from the Whapmagoostui Council for the project.

8.2 RESEARCH/PROJECTS - EMRWB Youth Engagement Initiative

The EMRWB Management Biologist presented the Youth Engagement Initiative. She explained the goals of the initiative including engaging youth and building capacity among youth in Eeyou Istchee through classroom activities, youth workshops, bringing youth in the field, and creating youth employment. Additionally, she explained that the EMRWB could showcase Cree scientists through interviews and engage youth in the EMRWB's use of the SIKU application. Finally, she asked for the EMRWB Board Members opinion on how to incorporate Cree traditional knowledge in the youth engagement program.

The EMRWB Board Members discussed the initiative, including the potential to utilize currently existing youth employment programs, participation in science fairs, the use of technology for recording wildlife observations, and species fact sheets. The EMRWB Board Members all showed support for the EMRWB Youth Engagement Initiative.

6.3 Review of 2021-2022 FY EMRWB Budget

The EMRWB Director revisited the EMRWB 2021-2022 Budget with the requested changes - columns added to indicate how much we had allocated last year, how much was spent, the one-month projection for March 2021, the total spent, % unused, and the 2021-2022 FY Budget.

It was motioned to adopt the 2021-2022 FY EMRWB Budget. Fred Tomatuk proposed and Peter Hale Seconded. The motion carried and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board adopted Resolution **WB2020/21-43** (In Favour: 5, Absent: 1, Vacant: 1).

9. VARIA - Action Item Tracking Table

The EMRWB Director shared the Action Item Tracking Table with the EMRWB. The EMRWB Board Members requested that the EMRWB Action Item Table is shared before meetings and a working draft should be accessible to the EMRWB Board Members. The EMRWB Director indicated that she would add the tracking table to the shared EMRWB Teams folder. An EMRWB Board Member asked if we could include a 'date completed' column in the future. The EMRWB Director agreed.

The EMRWB Director reviewed some of the action items and the item of the EMRWB Director performance review was flagged as incomplete. The EMRWB Chairperson mentioned that he needed some clarification on this process. The EMRWB Director indicated that new policy outlined the procedure for the evaluation of the Director and that she would send the relevant information to the EMRWB Chairperson.

ACTION ITEM: The EMRWB Director will add a 'date completed' column to the action item tracking table and add it to the EMRWB Teams folder.

ACTION ITEM: The EMRWB Director will share additional information on the EMRWB Director performance review with the EMRWB Chairperson.

8.7 RESEARCH/PROJECTS - Bird Survey Plans Update (AFSAR Application, ARU Pilot Project)

The EMRWB Director explained some background info about the upcoming bird surveys in light of the COVID-related restrictions. One project that was considered is the deployment of song meters for breeding birds along the Coast or in the islands. The goal would be to complete a pilot project this year, in collaboration with a few tallymen in two communities. If successful, we

would aim at a greater scale ARU deployment for 2022. This work would gather information on breeding birds in the EMR. The EMRWB Management Biologist provided an update on the application that was submitted to the Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk (AFSAR). The AFSAR funding would focus on community engagement, capacity building for conducting TEK study in each of the communities, and bird surveys, involving youth and land users.

8.5 RESEARCH/PROJECTS - William Kennedy James Bay Expedition Project

The EMRWB Director introduced ZouZou and provided background information about the planning of the William Kennedy James Bay Expedition Project. ZouZou explained the purpose of the expedition for 2021 and 2022, funding for FY 2021-22/2022-23, the ship's research capabilities, the cruise map plan, the organizations involved, the project priorities, and potential outcomes. The EMRWB Board Members and staff asked ZouZou about the timing of the project, edible food sources in the bay, and paleoecology.

8.6 RESEARCH/PROJECTS - Winter Ice-fishing Campaign (FISHES Project)

The EMRWB Wildlife Management Biologist provided an update on the ice-fishing campaign for the FISHES project, that has been taking place since December 2020. In Eastmain, Waskaganish and Wemindji, some local technicians were hired, and the EMRWB staff and CTA-EMR staff gathered samples and partnered with the local CTA Access to Traditional Food Programs. She explained that sampling in Chisasibi and Whapmagoostui was still ongoing. Two of the EMRWB Board Members shared their experiences in ice-fishing and an EMRWB Board Member expressed his concern about the program not being able to hire CTA staff for projects.

8.8 RESEARCH/PROJECTS - Review of 2021-2022 Project Collaborations and Funding Commitments

The EMRWB Director reviewed the 2021-2022 Project Collaborations and Funding Commitments, summarizing the total costs of each project we have committed to. She reviewed how much we spent last year and how much Aon suggested we could spend for this FY and recommended that we allocate \$250,000 this year.

6.9 FINANCES AND ADMINISTRATION - Decision on Annual Total Allocation of Research Funds

The EMRWB Director requested that the board discuss the total annual allocation. There was some discussion among the EMRWB Board Members about on Aon's presentation, the difference between the total annual allocation rate and the actual total annual allocation for FY 2020-2021, and funding criteria.

It was motioned to adopt a TAA of \$250,000 for the FY of 2021-22. Fred Tomatuk proposed and Eli Kavik Seconded. The motion carried and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) adopted Resolution **WB2020/21-44** (In Favour: 5, Absent: 1, Vacant: 1).

9. VARIA – May 21 Special Meeting

A Board Member asked what the EMRWB meeting on May 21 would be about. The EMRWB Director answered that it would mostly focus on reviewing pending research fund applications.

10. NEXT BOARD MEETING

Regular Board Meeting – July 27-29, 2021 (video-conference)

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting of March 2-4, 2021.

The Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board meeting concluded at 4:18 pm and Eli Kavik closed the meeting in prayer.