



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

October 21-22, 2021

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

Guests:

Mark Mills	ECCC	Day 1
Anne Provencher-St. Pierre	DFO	Day 1
Melanie Leblanc	University of British Columbia	Day 1
Eve Gendron	CIRNAC	Day 1
Felix Dionne	DFO	Day 1
Maya Longpre Croteau	CNG	Day 1
Ambroisine Boix-Meinnier	CIRNAC	Day 1
Natasha Louttit	CTA-EMR	Day 1
Mario Deslisle	AON	Day 2



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

October 21-22, 2021

Thursday, October 21, 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

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, Board Members requested that a discussion on the status of the EMRLCA renewal and the EMRPC be added within the Director's update. It was motioned to adopt and approve the agenda; Daniel Caron proposed, Peter Hale seconded. The motion was carried, and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board adopted the Agenda: **Resolution WB2021/22-22** (In Favour: 4, Absent: 1, Vacant: 1).

5.1 CORPORATE MATTERS - EMRWB Membership Updates

The EMRWB Director explained that both herself and the EMRWB Legal Counsel have made multiple requests to discuss the status of EMRWB Member appointments with the CNG Lawyer and have not received a satisfactory response. The EMRWB Director has asked the Chief of Waskaganish to add this issue to the next Executive Committee meeting of the GCC(EI) and she has contacted CIRNAC to ask them to step in to help



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

October 21-22, 2021

year projection plan. She explained that part of the delay in the overall renegotiation process is due to the fact that the EMRLCA Implementation Committee has not been active for over a year due to lack of Cree membership. The CNG has indicated to the EMRWB Director that a new Cree member has been appointed that the EMRLCA Implementation Committee should be resuming activity shortly.

The EMRWB Board Members discussed the EMRPC's current status including their search for a Director and Chairperson, and their activity over the past few years. The EMRWB Director indicated that the EMRPC has posted the EMRPC Director position for two application periods over the last three months and are currently holding interviews. Additionally, she explained that the EMRPC has advertised for a chair outside of its current board membership over the last few months. Finally, she highlighted that once a new EMRPC Director is hired, she will work with them to ensure the EMRPC 10-year projection plan occurs within the same timeline as the other EMR boards. The EMRWB Board Members agreed that they would like an update on the status of the EMRPC Director position in the following weeks and would discuss further if they need to request action from the CNG to ensure the progress for the EMRPC's staffing.

ACTION ITEM: The EMRWB Director will provide the EMRWB Board Members an update on the status of the EMRPC's search for a Director and Chairperson at the next EMRWB Board Meeting.

5.3 CORPORATE MATTERS – Logo Translation

The EMRWB Director explained that the EMRWB Administrative Assistant identified issues with the wording of the EMRWB and general EMR logo, explaining that the EMRWB logo infers that it is a hunting board rather than a wildlife board. She indicated



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

October 21-22, 2021

that over the last few months, they have been looking for a translator to interpret the current logo and provide an alternative translation to reflect our title.

The EMRWB Director shared our current logo and the Cree members and Inuit member indicated that both the Cree and Inuktitut syllabic translations do not reflect the EMRWB's title as a wildlife board. The EMRWB Director indicated that there is a similar issue with the general EMR logo. She provided alternative spellings supplied by a translator. An EMRWB Board Member expressed that it would be a good idea to have a small consultation to redevelop the syllabics and explore the potential of redeveloping the logos. The EMRWB Director suggested that the three EMR Boards hire a translator and have a half day meeting to re-translate the logos.

ACTION ITEM: EMRWB Director and Biologists will contact potential translators to set up a meeting.

6.1 FINANCES AND ADMINISTRATION - Review and Approval of 2021/22 FY Midterm Activity Report (Workplan & Budget)

The EMRWB Director shared the EMRWB workplan midterm update document. She reviewed the workplan items, highlighting any changes made to the workplan. Then, the EMRWB Director presented the midterm budget reallocations. She explained that the annual audit resulted in a slightly larger amount of carryover from the previous fiscal year than what was originally estimated, and this amount has been allocated throughout the midterm budget. The EMRWB Board Members briefly discussed some of the budget reallocations.

The EMRWB Board Members and Director discussed the possibility of reallocating some funds to incorporate Cree syllabics into some of our documents. The EMRWB Board Members and staff identified items occurring in the 2021-22 FY that could be translated into Cree. Based on this discussion the EMRWB Director reallocated \$2,000



EEOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

October 21-22, 2021

of the carryover funds to translation services. The EMRWB Board Members also discussed where the remaining carryover was allocated.

The EMRWB Director suggested that the EMRWB could explore the feasibility of asking CIRNAC for supplemental funding for translation and the EMRWB Board Members agreed with this suggestion.

ACTION ITEM: EMRWB Staff will explore the feasibility of supplemental funding with CIRNAC.

ACTION ITEM: EMRWB Director will compile and submit the midterm activity report to CIRNAC.

After some discussion, the EMRWB Chairperson asked if the EMRWB would like to adopt the 2021/22 FY midterm activity report. Fred Tomatuk motioned, Peter Hale seconded and the EMRWB adopted **Resolution WB2021/22-23** (In Favour: 4, Absent: 1, Vacant: 1).

7.1 RESEARCH/PROJECTS – 2021 EMRWB Photo Contest

An EMRWB Biologist presented the advertisement and rules for the 2021 EMRWB photo contest which was advertised online and in the EMR communities during October 2021. He visited the EMRWB Facebook page to show the EMRWB Board Members the top ten photos in each category (marine wildlife, marine landscape, cultural). The presentation was followed by a discussion on other interesting photo contest categories for the future and the use of Facebook in deciding on photo contest winners.



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

October 21-22, 2021

7.2 RESEARCH/PROJECTS – 2022 EMRWB Calendar

An EMRWB Biologist presented the photo selections for the 2022 EMRWB Calendar. The EMRWB Board Members discussed some of the photos in more detail and discussed some minor changes to the photos for certain months. The EMRWB staff indicated that they would send the final version of the calendar to the EMRWB Board Members for feedback.

ACTION ITEM: EMRWB Biologists will send a copy of the calendar to EMRWB Board Members for feedback before publication.

7.3 RESEARCH/PROJECTS – Developing a Standardized Approach to Responding to ECCC Requests

The EMRWB Director provided context to the topic, explaining that the EMRWB and NMRWB have been receiving an increasing number of requests from ECCC and COSEWIC to comment on species at risk status listings, recovery strategies, and management plans. She explained that even if a species is not of cultural importance, the EMRWB has a duty to make sure that a listed species is managed responsibly. From her discussion with the NMRWB Director, both WB Directors agree that they should create a standardized way to respond to the requests jointly when the species occurs in both jurisdictions. The EMRWB Director explained that we need to discuss what information we should include when responding to these requests and what types of requests require community consultation. She suggested that the EMRWB add this topic to the joint EMRWB-NMRWB meeting on October 28, 2021.

The EMRWB Director shared a presentation that provided examples of SAR in the EMR. Mark Mills (ECCC) provided some examples of recent ECCC requests to the WBs, explaining that there are currently 7 proposed SAR changes that fall within the EMR. He discussed that the EMRLCA and NMRLCA give the respective WB's the right to comment on changes to SAR listings. He explained that the EMRWB also has



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

October 21-22, 2021

permission to approve and hold public hearings on SAR management plans and recovery strategies. Additionally, he explained that critical habitat protection must be presented to the WB's. The EMRWB Director summarized our current process of responding to these requests, where the EMRWB provides any information they have on the species in a letter. However, the EMRWB Director questioned if this approach is fulfilling our duty. She suggested that the EMRWB needs to determine when we need to consult communities regarding ECCC or COSEWIC requests. She also suggested that the EMRWB and NMRWB have a half day workshop to determine what the WB duties are in responding to the requests. After some discussion, the EMRWB Board Members agreed that this item should be added to the EMRWB-NMRWB joint meeting on October 28, 2021.

7.4 RESEARCH/PROJECTS – Project Activity Updates

The EMRWB Biologists provided updates on current project activities, including the FISHES project, Bird Species at Risk (SAR) in the EMR, James Bay Expedition, SIKU Application, ARU pilot project, and CTA Food Safety Certification and Traditional Food Safety Training. The EMRWB Board Members did not have any questions regarding the project activity updates.

7.7 RESEARCH/PROJECTS – Research Fund Application Review and Approval

The EMRWB Biologists presented the four research fund applications from the CTA-EMR Department including an application for a Traditional Ecological Knowledge methods workshop, Necropsy sampling, Motus tower maintenance and repair, and BearWise (polar bear safety) training. The EMRWB Board Members discussed the polar bear safety training, acknowledging that there is a need for this training due to increases human-polar bear interactions in the last year. EMRWB Board Members discussed the incorporation of Inuit knowledge into the training, the potential recipients of the training, long-term capacity building for polar bear safety in the EMR, how similar topics are handled by the Inuit, and the definition of 'research' as previously defined by the



EYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

October 21-22, 2021

EMRWB. After much discussion, the EMRWB Board Members decided to defer decisions to Friday October 22.

The discussion was resumed the morning of October 22. The EMRWB Biologists provided a summary of the research applications presented the previous day.

After some discussion about the EMRWB's definition of eligible activities for the EMRWB Research Fund, an EMRWB Board Member decided to abstain from voting for the TEK training and the BearWise training because they were not supportive of training money coming from the EMRWB Research Fund. He indicated that he would be okay with funding for training coming from the operational fund. The EMRWB Director reiterated that in a past decision, the EMRWB Board Members decided to include CTA-EMR training as an eligible activity under the EMRWB Research Fund as per our responsibility to do so under the EMRLCA.

The EMRWB Chairperson asked for a motion to approve the TEK training funding application. Eli Kavik motioned, Fred Tomatuk seconded and the EMRWB adopted **Resolution WB2021/22-25** (In Favour: 3, Abstained: 1, Vacant: 1, Absent 1).

After some discussion, an EMRWB Board Member requested that the EMRWB staff communicate to the CTA-EMR that they should not collect samples from fox due to potential rabies infections. An EMRWB Board Member requested that EMRWB staff participate in the communications strategy for necropsy sampling. The EMRWB Chairperson asked for a motion to approve the Necropsy funding application. Daniel Caron motioned, Fred Tomatuk seconded and the EMRWB adopted **Resolution WB2021/22-26** (In Favour: 4, Vacant: 1, Absent 1).

ACTION ITEM: EMRWB Biologists will communicate to the CTA-EMR staff that they should not collect samples from fox due to the potential risk of coming into contact with Rabies.



EEOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

October 21-22, 2021

An EMRWB Board Member provided a suggestion for a potential Motus tower deployment location based on the high frequency of migrating shorebirds.

The EMRWB Chairperson asked for a motion to approve the Motus tower and maintenance funding application. Eli Kavik motioned, Fred Tomatuk seconded and the EMRWB adopted **Resolution WB2021/22-27** (In Favour: 4, Vacant: 1, Absent 1).

ACTION ITEM: EMRWB Biologist will confirm the suggested location with the EMRWB Board Member and will add it to a list of potential future locations for Motus tower deployment.

The EMRWB Board Members resumed their discussions about the BearWise training application. The EMRWB Director and Board Members agreed that this training is extremely important but that it falls outside of the EMRWB mandate and could be the responsibility of the regional CTA, ECCC, or MFFP. The EMRWB Board Members requested that that EMRWB Director and CTA-EMR Wildlife Liaison Officer contact the CTA, ECCC and MFFP to explore who should be responsible for funding this training. Additionally, the EMRWB Director and CTA-EMR Wildlife Liaison Officer should investigate if there is any funding available to support the CTA-EMR Department's BearWise training for the winter of 2021/22. The EMRWB Board Members expressed that they would like to hear an update on the pursuit of funding in the upcoming months.

ACTION ITEM: EMRWB Director will reach out to ECCC and MFFP to identify potential funding sources for Polar Bear Safety Training.

7.5 RESEARCH/PROJECTS – 2021 Aerial Beluga Survey Update

Anne Provencher-St. Pierre (DFO) shared an update presentation on the beluga aerial survey in James Bay and Eastern Hudson Bay areas. She provided a refresher on the project's intention to estimate beluga abundance in James Bay and Eastern Hudson Bay to provide scientific advice to support beluga management decisions. She



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

October 21-22, 2021

summarized that the aerial survey occurred for 17 days of between July 21 and August 23. She described that there were high coverage areas along the eastern Hudson Bay areas, and low coverage areas over certain areas in Eastern Hudson Bay, James Bay and certain coastal areas. She then presented photos from the survey including beluga, walrus, seal, polar bear, caribou and muskox. Finally, she presented next steps including data entry, mapping, analysis, and communication of results. She indicated that the results from the survey will be presented at the National Marine Mammal Peer-review meeting in February 2022 and should be available to the EMRWB following that meeting. After some discussion, she explained the DFO's methods to account for recounting the same animals and that she cannot make any inferences about the results at this time.

The EMRWB Director explained that it is within the EMRWB's mandate to collect wildlife observations in the EMR and asked Anne if she could share the observations from the aerial survey. Anne indicated that they should have a follow up discussion surrounding data sharing.

ACTION ITEM: The EMRWB Director will follow up with Anne Provencher-St.Pierre about obtaining wildlife observations.

7.6 RESEARCH/PROJECTS – Project Update: Fall Staging Habitat Use by Canada Geese in Eastern James Bay

Melanie LeBlanc (UBC) shared a presentation on Community-research project to better understand waterfowl habitat you in Eastern James Bay. She summarized that she would provide information on the results of Niskamoon's Coastal Habitat Comprehensive Research Program (CHCRP) and their Pilot Canada Geese surveys during 2019 and 2021. She provided background information and an example of some of the results from the CHCRP, she explained that her project will build upon the results of the CHCRP. She provided information on the pilot Canada Geese surveys in 2019 and 2021 which included goose observations at feeding sites, boat-based surveys, and



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

October 21-22, 2021

evaluating the stomach contents of harvested geese. She explained that based on their pilot surveys they decided to investigate goose diet through blood samples and stomach content analysis. She explained that she would collect samples by partnering with families to collect samples from geese while they are being cleaned. She also provided feedback from land users on the project and a list of project deliverables. Finally, she provided a breakdown of her current funding and her request for EMRWB funding in the spring of 2022.

The EMRWB Members discussed changes observed in other goose species (blue and snow) over time and the changes in Canada Goose hunting success over time. The EMRWB Director asked Melanie if land users were receptive to her joining them during the pilot project and which communities she would be targeting for her project. Melanie answered that the families she worked with in 2021 said they would participate in the project again and that she would be targeting one or two families in each of the four southern EMR communities. Melanie and the EMRWB Board Members also discussed the potential for her to host training workshops in each of the communities so community members would be able to analyze stomach content.

October 22, 2021

6.2 FINANCES AND ADMINISTRATION - Investment Fund Policy Revision

The EMRWB Director reminded the EMRWB Board Members that at the last EMRWB meeting, the Board agreed with Mario Delisle's (AON) recommendation to perform an asset mix review for the Research Fund and that he will now be reviewing the recommended changes to the investment portfolio and policy. Mario reviewed a document titled 'Draft – Statement of Investment Policies and Procedures'. He reviewed the changes made throughout the policy, including changes to the wording of certain sections, the investment guidelines, eligible investments, and additional policies for each of the funds.



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

October 21-22, 2021

The EMRWB Chairperson asked for a motion to adopt the revisions to the investment fund and policy. Daniel Caron motioned, Fred Tomatuk seconded and the EMRWB adopted **Resolution WB2021/22-24** (In Favour: 4, Absent:1, Vacant: 1).

ACTION ITEM: The EMRWB Director and Chairperson will review and sign the revised Investment Policy.

8. FOR INFORMATION

No information was presented.

9. NEXT BOARD MEETING

Joint NMRWB/EMRWB Meeting October 28 (Teleconference, 10am to 5pm)

EMRWB Regular Meeting February 22-24, 2022 (Eastmain?)

10. VARIA

No topics were added to the agenda.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting of October 22, 2021.

The Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board meeting concluded at 11:22 am and Eli Kavik closed the meeting in prayer.

Fred Tomatuk motioned, Daniel Caron seconded and the EMRWB adopted **Resolution WB2021/22-28** (In Favour: 4, Absent: 1, Vacant: 1).



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

October 21-22, 2021

ACRONYMS

AFSAR	Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk
ARU	Autonomous Recording Unit
CIRNAC	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
CNG	Cree Nation Government
COSEWIC	Committee on the Status of Endangered Wildlife in Canada
CTA-EMR	Cree Trappers Association-Eeyou Marine Region
CWS	Canadian Wildlife Service
DFO	Fisheries and Oceans Canada
EMR	Eeyou Marine Region
EMRLCA	Eeyou Marine Region Land Claims Agreement
EMRPC	Eeyou Marine Region Planning Commission
EMRWB	Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board
ECCC	Environment and Climate Change Canada
FISHES	Fostering Indigenous Small-scale Fisheries for Health, Economy, and food Security
GCC	Grand Council of the Crees
MFFP	Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs du Québec (Quebec Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks)
NMRWB	Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board
NRC	Natural Resources Canada
NQL	Non-quota Limitation
SAR	Species at Risk
SARA	Species at Risk Act (Federal)
SHB	Southern Hudson Bay



EYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

October 21-22, 2021

TAH

Total Allowable Harvest

UBC

University of British Columbia