



EEOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

July 26-27, 2022

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

Guests:

Felix Dionne	DFO	Day 1
David Pluta	BDO	Day 1
Mark Mills	ECCC	Day 2
Lauren Schmuck	ECCC	Day 2
Alex Langwieder	McGill University	Day 2
Lindsay Carlson	University of Saskatchewan	Day 2
Jeff Wells	National Audubon Society	Day 2
Shaunna Morgan-Siegers	National Audubon Society	Day 2
Kohl Barrault	National Audubon Society	Day 2



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

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Tuesday, July 26, 2022

1. WELCOME & QUORUM

Members present constituting a quorum, the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board (EMRWB) meeting was called to order at 9:16 am, proposed by Peter Hale, seconded by Daniel Caron (In Favour: 4 Absent: 2, Vacant: 1).

2. OPENING PRAYER

Fred Tomatuk opened the meeting with a prayer.

3. CHAIRPERSON AND RECORDING SECRETARY

The Chairperson was Fred Tomatuk, 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, Daniel Caron seconded. The motion was carried and the Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board adopted the agenda of July 26-2, 2022 with **Resolution WB2022/23-7 (In Favour: 4 Absent: 2, Vacant: 1)**.

EMRWB Board Members and staff introduced themselves to new observers.

5.1 CORPORATE MATTERS – Outgoing Chair Recognition, Cree Member Vacancy & Transfer of Signing Authority

The EMRWB Director discussed a going-away gift to recognize the contribution of the previous Chairperson. She then discussed the current membership vacancy, indicating that the request to the CNG for the appointment of a new Board Member was received



EEOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

July 26-27, 2022

during the week of July 17, 2022. The EMRWB Director reminded the Board that Members will need to pass a resolution to remove the previous EMRWB member signing authorities and add the new EMRWB Chairperson and EMRWB Co-Chairperson as signing authorities to the EMRWB BMO bank account and for cheque issuance. The EMRWB Chairperson asked for a motion to add Fred Tomatuk and Peter Hale as new signing authorities for the EMRWB BMO bank account, Daniel Caron proposed, Robbie Tapiatic seconded, and the motion was carried with resolution **WB2022/23-8 (In Favour: 5 Absent: 1, Vacant: 1)**.

ACTION ITEM: EMRWB Staff will update the website with the new EMRWB Chairperson, a going away message to the previous EMRWB Chairperson, and a post welcoming the new EMRWB Chairperson.

ACTION ITEM: The EMRWB Director will arrange appreciation gifts for the outgoing Chairperson.

ACTION ITEM: The EMRWB Director will initiate contact with BMO to secure the necessary forms for the changes needing to be made to the signing authorities.

6.1 FINANCES & ADMINISTRATION - 2021/22 FY Audit Report (David Pluta)

David Pluta (BDO) presented the EMRWB's annual audited financial statements for the FY 21/22. He explained that the major differences in expenditures included having a contract biologist for the entire FY 2021/22 and an increase in spending on research. The EMRWB Director, Board Members, and EMRWB accounting support discussed the Statement of Financial Position addressing questions about recoverable income tax refunds from previous years. David reviewed cashflows for FY 2021/22 and the EMRWB accounting policy.



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

July 26-27, 2022

The EMRWB Chairperson asked for a motion to approve the FY 2021/22 audit. The motion was proposed by Robbie Tapiatic, seconded by Eli Kavik, and the EMRWB moved to adopt the EMRWB FY 2021/22 audit and approved resolution **WB2022/23-9 (In Favour: 5 Absent: 1, Vacant: 1)**.

ACTION ITEM: EMRWB Director will follow up with Stephen Berry to ensure tax filings are up to date and refunds from previous years are claimed.

ACTION ITEM: EMRWB Director will follow up with David Pluta (BDO) to obtain the annual statements for signing.

7.1 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT - Introduction to DFO Arctic Region Liaison for EMR and NMR (Felix Dionne)

Felix Dionne introduced Martine Giangioppi, the new DFO Arctic Region Liaison for the EMR, NMR, western James Bay, and Nunavik. Martine introduced her role and her extensive history working for DFO. She provided some information on the new DFO Coast Guard Arctic Region, which began in 2018. Finally, she explained that she is in the process of organizing a meeting with the Cree Nation Government to update them on the DFO Arctic Region and discuss priorities for the region. Martine noted that organization of the new Arctic Unit was progressing slowly and that she would keep the Board informed of any updates.

Martine noted that both she and Felix Dionne will be attending EMRWB meetings as DFO observers in the future. An EMRWB Board Member asked if DFO Quebec will no longer be responsible for any roles in the north. Martine clarified that the future trajectory is not clear, but currently, many roles have been transferred from DFO Quebec to the Arctic Region. An EMRWB Board Member asked where they will be based, and Martine mentioned that DFO Arctic Region will be looking into working in the north in the future.



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

July 26-27, 2022

5.2 CORPORATE MATTERS - Approval of Meeting Minutes (Angela)

The EMRWB Director noted that she emailed three sets of draft meeting minutes to the EMRWB Board Members last week for review. She mentioned that she received and incorporated minor edits from two EMRWB Board Members.

After minor discussion, the EMRWB Chairperson asked for a motion to adopt the February 22-24, 2022, meeting minutes. The motion was proposed by Peter Hale, seconded by Robbie Tapiatic, and the EMRWB moved to adopt the February 22-24, 2022, meeting minutes with resolution **WB2022/23-10 (In Favour: 5 Absent: 1, Vacant: 1)**.

The EMRWB Chairperson asked for a motion to adopt February 22, 2022, in-camera meeting minutes. The motion was proposed by Eli Kavik, seconded by Peter Hale, and the EMRWB moved to adopt the February 22, 2022, in-camera meeting minutes with resolution **WB2022/23-11 (In Favour: 5 Absent: 1, Vacant: 1)**.

The EMRWB Chairperson asked for a motion to adopt May 25, 2022, in-camera meeting minutes. The motion was proposed by Robbie Tapiatic, seconded by Peter Hale, the EMRWB moved to adopt the May 25, 2022, in-camera meeting minutes with resolution **WB2022/23-12 (In Favour: 4 Absent: 1, Vacant: 1)**.

ACTION ITEM: EMRWB Biologist will review the acronym list for meeting minutes.

5.4 CORPORATE MATTERS – Director’s Report (Angela)

The EMRWB Director provided a brief update on the EMRPC, mentioning that the EMRPC Chairperson is still waiting to be officially appointed but has been attending his



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

July 26-27, 2022

The EMRWB Director provided an update on the EMRWB's decision on the proposed listing of the killer whale under SARA in the EMR. She explained that the EMRWB's decision to reject the proposed listing was rejected by the Minister and the EMRWB and the NMRWB have been asked to reconsider. She mentioned that the EMRWB and NMRWB will have a joint meeting to discuss this file in the near future.

The EMRWB Director provided an update on the Quebec-EMR-NMR Polar Bear Management Plan. She reminded the EMRWB Board Members that the EMRWB submitted edit requests to the authors in December of 2021. She indicated that the authors confirmed that they would incorporate most EMRWB/NMRWB edits into the plan. Mark Mills explained that the plan has been translated into French but some edits were made during the process, and they are waiting on a finalized version. The EMRWB Director explained that because the Plan has been edited, it will likely have to be posted for public review and comment again.

The EMRWB Director provided an update on the SHB Polar Bear Decision-Making Process. She reminded the EMRWB Board Members that the Governments of Nunavut, Canada and Quebec have asked the EMRWB, NMRWB, NWMB and HFTCC to undertake a joint decision-making process to determine a new TAH and NQLs for the SHB Polar Bear Management Unit. EMRWB and NMRWB legal counsel, NWMB legal council, and staff have been drafting a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between the management bodies for several months that would outline a plan for a coordinated process. She explained that edits were still being requested by the NWMB and that once the MOU has been finalized, it will be presented to the four management bodies for approval.

The EMRWB Director review the EMRWB Action Item Tracking Table, highlighting that all the action items created from the previous Board meetings had been completed.



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

July 26-27, 2022

The EMRWB Director summarized the details of EMRWB supplemental funding request submitted to CIRNAC for FY 2022/23, noting that the funds being requested were to cover expenses related to meetings and funding to support the cost of developing the EMRWB 10-year projection plan. She then announced that the request was approved by CIRNAC for the full amount. The EMRWB Director then reviewed the updated budget that included the supplemental funding and Q1 spending to date. She highlighted that their EMRWB Research Fund report by Aon cost a bit more than we had budgeted for but all other spending in the first quarter was on track.

6.2 FINANCES & ADMINISTRATION - 2021/22 FY EMRWB Annual Report (Angela)

The EMRWB Director shared the EMRWB 2021/22 FY Workplan updated with the status of completion dates. She reviewed each item line by line, with short updates on progress made throughout FY 2021/22.

The EMRWB Director shared the EMRWB FY 2021/22 Annual Activity Report and the EMRWB staff reviewed each section with Members. Minor edits were made throughout the reading of the report. An EMRWB Member noted that the length of the annual report had increased greatly in length in recent years and suggested that future annual reports include an executive summary.

The EMRWB Chairperson asked for a motion to adopt the FY 2021/22 Annual Activity Report. The motion was proposed by Robbie Tapiatic, seconded by Eli Kavik, and the EMRWB moved to adopt the FY 2021/22 Annual Activity Report, with resolution **WB2022/23-13 (In Favour: 4 Absent: 2, Vacant: 1).**

ACTION ITEM: EMRWB Director will follow up with EMRWB Chairperson about the FY 2022/23 Director's performance evaluation date.



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

July 26-27, 2022

8.1 PROJECTS AND RESEARCH - Research Fund Application Review: Polar Bear Biopsy Darting

The EMRWB Biologist presented a research funding application from Joe Northrup (OMNRF) for a project titled 'Polar Bear Biopsy Darting'. She summarized the project financial request, timing, and objectives. She highlighted that this project would provide essential genetic information for wildlife management decisions on polar bears and complement existing polar bear research in the EMR.

The EMRWB Chairperson asked for a motion to support the request for the Polar Bear Biopsy Darting research fund application. The motion was proposed by Eli Kavik, seconded by Robbie Tapiatic, and the EMRWB moved to approve the funding proposal for the Polar Bear Biopsy Darting Project with resolution **WB2022/23-14 (In Favour: 4 Absent: 2, Vacant: 1)**.

Wednesday, July 27, 2022

8.2 PROJECTS AND RESEARCH - Preliminary Results of Year 1 Polar Bear Ecology in the EMR Project (Alex Langwieder)

Alex Langwieder (McGill) shared a presentation to summarize year one of the Polar Bear Ecology in the EMR project. She presented a summary of the project, including video footage from the polar bear trail cameras, and early results for polar bear distribution, health, and genotyping. She highlighted sampling plans that are ongoing for the summer of 2022, presenting adaptations to the protocol to improve upon from the first year. Additionally, she proposed the possibility of leaving camera traps year-round to detect annual changes in wildlife and environmental events. She also proposed the possibility of expanding the project for additional years (changing her MSc. to a Ph.D.)



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

July 26-27, 2022

to further investigate some of the findings from years 1 and 2 of the project. The EMRWB Board Members made suggestions about potential locations, adding cameras

to increase the field of view, the time-of-day bears are active (no pattern), and the activity of swimming bears (some, but fewer than on land, may be an artifact of difficult weather making water observations hard), polar bear observations made by tour guides, and human presence on the Twin Islands (old CWS camp).

7.3 WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT - Upcoming SARA Requests for Board Decisions (Mark Mills)

Mark Mills shared a presentation to summarize requests for board decisions related to the Species at Risk Act. He requested that the EMRWB decide which species they would like to exercise their role to approve listings for, these species included the Canada warbler (Threatened to Special Concern), short-eared owl (Special Concern to Threatened), barn swallow (Threatened to Special Concern), lesser yellowlegs (new listing as Threatened), red knot (change in DU, new MP and RS), and red-necked phalarope (management plan). After some discussion, the EMRWB made a decision to exercise their authority to comment on/hold a public hearing on the short-eared owl, lesser yellowlegs, and red-necked phalarope. The motion was proposed by Peter Hale, seconded by Eli Kavik, and the EMRWB moved to approve respective hearing processes for the short-eared owl and red-necked-phalarope (joint EMRWB-NMRWB process) and the lesser yellowlegs. Resolution **WB2022/23-15 (In Favour: 6, Absent: 0, Vacant: 1)**.

Mark noted that it would be good idea to develop an MOU or protocol that would outline a process for receiving and making decisions on the various types of requests submitted to the Boards by ECCC and DFO. The EMRWB Director mentioned that a workshop between EMRWB, NMRWB, ECCC and DFO would be beneficial. It was



EEOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

July 26-27, 2022

brought to the EMRWB by Louis Bernatchez (Laval University). EcoGradient is a funding proposal led by researchers from Laval University, Institut National de la Recherche Scientifique, Montreal University, and UQAR. The proposal will be submitted

to the Canada First Excellence Research Fund for \$147 million dollars over seven years. The project focuses on addressing the ecological and social issues caused by global and climate change in Canadian communities from the South to the North, including Indigenous Peoples. The project proponents have requested a letter of support from Cree entities, including the EMRWB, to strengthen their application. After some discussion, the EMRWB Board Members decided that they would like more time to review the proposal and decide at a later date.

An EMRWB Biologist presented research updates on the 2022 Twin Island bird survey, Motus tower status, years 1 and 2 of the ARU project, the COTA/FaunENord Non-timber Forest Products project, and Bat ARU funding.

ACTION ITEM: EMRWB Director will send a reminder for board members to review the EcoGradient materials and get back with comments.

5.2 CORPORATE MATTERS - EMR and EMRWB Logos

In an effort to update the Cree syllabics in the EMR Board logos, Luci Salt (translator) joined the meeting and discussed the proper terminology for EMR and EMRWB in Cree. Specifically, Luci and the EMRWB Cree members discussed the proper terms to be used to describe the bay, water, and offshore islands, an alternative way to say wildlife, and how to describe a Board. Luci worked with the Cree members to write their decided translation in Cree syllabics. The EMRWB Members and translator agreed on a final version of the logo.



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

July 26-27, 2022

The EMRWB Chairperson asked for a motion to approve the new Cree syllabics for the EMR and EMRWB logos. The motion was proposed by Robbie Tapiatic, seconded by Jamie Moses, and the EMRWB moved to approve the logo translation with resolution **WB2022/23-16 (In Favour: 6, Absent: 0, Vacant: 1)**.

ACTION ITEM: EMRWB Director will follow up with the translator to obtain a final copy of the updated syllabics and will work with Beesum to update the logos and EMRWB letterhead and business card templates.

9. NEXT BOARD MEETING

Regular EMRWB Meeting: November 1-2, 2022 – Montreal, QC

Joint EMR Meeting: November 3, 2022 – Montreal, QC

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Chairperson adjourned the meeting of July 26-27, 2022.

The Eeyou Marine Region Wildlife Board meeting concluded at 5:08 pm.

The EMRWB Chairperson asked for a motion to close the meeting. Peter Hale motioned, Daniel Caron seconded, and the EMRWB closed the meeting of July 26-27, 2022 (In Favour: 6, Absent: 1, Vacant: 0).



EYYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

Regular Meeting

Virtual Meeting

July 26-27, 2022

ACRONYMS

AFSAR	Aboriginal Fund for Species at Risk
ARU	Autonomous Recording Unit
BDO	Binder Dijker Otte
CIRNAC	Crown-Indigenous Relations and Northern Affairs Canada
CNG	Cree Nation Government
COTA	Cree Outfitting and Tourism Association
CTA-EMR	Cree Trappers Association-Eeyou Marine Region
CWS	Canadian Wildlife Service
DFO	Department of Fisheries and Oceans
DU	Designable Unit
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
HFTCC	Hunting, Fishing and Trapping Coordinating Committee
iA	Industrial Alliance Financial Group
MFFP	Ministère des Forêts, de la Faune et des Parcs du Québec (Quebec Ministry of Forests, Wildlife and Parks)
MP	Management Plan
NMRWB	Nunavik Marine Region Wildlife Board
NRCan	Natural Resources Canada
NQL	Non-quota Limitation
OMNRF	Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources and Forestry
RS	Recovery Strategy



EEYOU MARINE REGION WILDLIFE BOARD

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Virtual Meeting

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SAR

Species at Risk

SARA

Federal Species at Risk Act

SHB

Southern Hudson Bay

TAA

Total Annual Allocation

TAH

Total Allowable Harvest

WB

Wildlife Board