

**MINUTES
DENENDEH CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**

DRAFT

July 11-13, 1988, Yellowknife

The Denendeh Conservation Board meeting was held on the 11th, 12th, and 13th of July, 1988 in Yellowknife, N.W.T.

In Attendance:

John Bayly - Chairperson	Larry Hagen - Executive Director
Shirley Bohnet - Secretary	John T'Seleie
Pat Scott	Jack Van Camp
Harry Deneron	James Rabesca
Ken John	Greg Robertson
Joe McBryan	Albert Adams
George Kurszewski	

Review of minutes from last meeting:

Mr. Scott stated that the budget review should be mentioned in the minutes of the last meeting. The Board had requested \$160,000 and the Department approved \$120,000. This change will be recorded in the minutes of the last meeting.

Mr. Van Camp wanted the following added in the minutes regarding the Thelon Game Sanctuary resolution: "This same motion was also passed at the Canadian Wildlife Federation regarding the northern mineral policy."

MOTION 7-88-1

Be it resolved that the minutes of the last meeting be adopted as final with the suggested changes.

Moved by:	Jack Van Camp
Seconded by:	Greg Robertson

Carried - unanimously.

Strategy for D.C.B./F.W.G. meeting:

Mr. Van Camp asked what the priorities are for fighting fires.

Mr. T'Seleie asked who was responsible for accommodation of fire fighting crews.

Mr. Deneron stated that someone should monitor this whole fire fighting system. The issue is too much money going south for fire fighting. More should reach the communities in some way.

Procedures manual:

Mr. Van Camp suggested that the procedures manual remain as a draft so that changes can be made as the Board gains experience.

The sections on the Authority of the Board and Ministerial override required more detail to clarify the procedures.

The Board will formally inform the Department about the Board's draft procedures manual and will ask for comments before the next meeting.

MOTION 7-88-2

Be it resolved that the Denendeh Conservation Board continue to function regardless of the status of the Dene/Metis claims negotiations.

Moved by: Harry Deneron
Seconded by: Ken John

Carried -- unanimously.

Spring hunting of migratory birds:

Kevin Lloyd, Director of Wildlife Management, Department of Renewable Resources was asked to brief members on this issue.

Mr. Lloyd stated that the question was not whether spring hunting will be allowed, but rather when and how it would proceed. A Wildlife Ministers conference will be held in September or October to develop a strategy for public consultation and substance of background information. The G.N.W.T. plans on doing something similar. Implementation of a spring hunt probably would not happen until after 1990.

Mr. Lloyd mentioned that most geese populations are increasing. There are more geese now than ever before and there may be overcrowding to the point where disease problems can occur. This situation supports spring hunting. Alaska is also a very strong supporter of a spring hunt.

Mr. Lloyd stated that, until a spring hunt is implemented, the present laws governing migratory birds are in effect.

Mr. Lloyd was asked to provide copies of the brief the Department will be using for the Wildlife Ministers meeting and also a list of where harvest studies are in place.

Bison ranch proposal:

Gary Bohnet of Renewable Resources and Ken Hudson of the Fort Smith H.T.A. presented their Bison Ranch Proposal.



The H.T.A. plans to operate a bison ranch as a means to develop an economic base for the hunters and trappers.

The Metis Association and Fort Smith Sports Association support the proposal. The Dene Nation and Fort Smith Band seem supportive but have not put their support in writing yet.

An economic study was completed and it confirmed that the project is economically feasible.

Mr. Deneron felt that this project would benefit the hunters and trappers and the people of Fort Smith.

Mr. Van Camp asked if the Department would regulate the project by permit or otherwise and Mr. Lloyd said yes but the actual procedures are to be finalized.

Mr. Bayly was concerned that the ranch should not be sold or otherwise allowed to be taken over by other business outside the N.W.T. or into other private hands.

Mr. Deneron suggested that the Government should closely monitor the project to ensure it remains feasible rather than rescue it after it fails.

Mr. T'Seleie was concerned about the amount of time and money spent on bison at the expense of other wildlife. He felt some of the cost should be paid for by the Federal Government and others interested in bison management.

Mr. Raymond Beaver was concerned that there should always be wild bison for hunters in the future and that this should be contained in the proposal.

Mr. Van Camp felt that the ranch was also a way of increasing the numbers of bison available for the future.

Mr. T'Seleie felt that the project should be considered by the Board on the basis of wildlife management and conservation and that economic viability was the responsibility of others.

Mr. Ken John asked if sports hunting as a method of harvest was considered and was told that there were no specific plans for that.

Mr. Beaver was concerned about how the bison were going to be fed. Mr. Hudson responded by saying that they will watch from year to year to see how the range is doing compared to the number of bison in the ranch. Mr. Bohnet also mentioned that they were looking at options regarding drainage systems to improve the range.

MOTION 7-88-3

Be it resolved that the Denendeh Conservation Board grant approval in principle to the Fort Smith Hunters' and Trappers' Association's bison ranch proposal and request that, when final terms and conditions for an operating licence are negotiated, the Board be requested to provide its final recommendation.

Moved by: Jack Van Camp
Seconded by: Greg Robertson

Carried - John T'Seleie abstained.

The Board agreed that the questions raised by the bison task force regarding the Hanging Ice Bison Ranch proposal be provided to the Minister with a letter explaining the Board's position and its support in principle.

A letter will be sent to the Fort Smith H.T.A. advising them of the Board's agreement in principle of the bison ranch (by Friday, July 15/88).

Membership:

The Deh Cho Regional Council advised by telephone that it wished to replace Board Member, Pat Scott, with Daniel Sonfrere of Hay River. Mr. Scott submitted a letter which stated that he was prepared to resign immediately to accommodate Daniel Sonfrere's nomination by the Deh Cho Regional Council. The Chairman asked that Mr. Scott remain until his resignation was accepted and until the nomination of Mr. Sonfrere was confirmed by the joint Dene/Metis leadership in writing and approved by the Minister.

A letter was immediately drafted and sent to the Deh Cho Regional Council along with the terms of reference explaining the situation. Mr. Adams suggested that a letter be sent to all regions advising them of the procedure outlined in the terms of reference for appointment of members.

Deh Cho Regional Council nominee, Daniel Sonfrere, was invited to the table to participate in discussions as an observer pending his appointment.

Mr. Kurszewski wants Mr. Sonfrere appointed to the bison task force as soon as possible so he can familiarize himself with it before he formally becomes a member. The Board agreed that, upon Mr. Sonfrere's appointment as a Board member, he will become a member of the bison task force. Mr. Sonfrere agreed and is prepared to join the committee. The bison task force should meet once before the next meeting.

Mr. Kurszewski's nominated alternate is Felix Lockhart.

Forestry Working Group:

Mr. Hagen introduced Kathryn Emmett of Renewable Resources. She will be developing policy on Forest Management and Fire Management and will work with the F.W.G. to produce those documents.

The F.W.G. met with Ms. Emmett and developed a workplan to address the two policies. The policies will be divided into sections by subject and a brief on each section will be prepared by the Department for the F.W.G. The F.W.G. will review and prepare a critique of each brief at their regular meetings. The Executive Director will act as Chairman of the F.W.G. He will inform the Board of the F.W.G.'s activities. The next meeting is planned for late August/September.

Mr. Hagen described the process by which the F.W.G. would address the two policies required by Renewable Resources. The Board agreed to the process.

Mr. Eugene Patterson, F.W.G. member, suggested that reforestation fees should be used instead for forest enhancement. He felt that there should not be a fee until there was sufficient numbers of sawmills to warrant this program.

Mr. Deneron was concerned that too much of the officers' time was allocated to Forestry and Fire to the detriment of trapping.

Mr. McBryan was concerned that too much money was leaving the N.W.T. because of southern contractors being awarded all the large contracts.

It was suggested by the Chairman that many of these kinds of issues could be addressed during the policy review.

Mackenzie Sanctuary bison management:

Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge of Fort Providence spoke about their position on the bison tags. They basically feel that all bison tags should be controlled by Fort Providence because the herd is in their trapping area and the people have accommodated the herd for many years.

Mr. Bonnetrouge reactivated the Bison Committee, which has members from Fort Smith, Hay River, and Renewable Resources. The hope is that the committee will be involved in decisions concerning bison in the area.

Mr. Bonnetrouge explained that there were a number of things being done to enable the Board to proceed with outfitting for bison.

A proposal for a guide training program, where Renewable Resources will be asked to provide 4 tags, is pending.

They are waiting for the outfitters licence that has been applied for.

An ARDA application has been submitted and a response is pending.

Negotiations are proceeding with Indian Affairs to obtain a resource development officer to assist with this type of activity.

They were working with Economic Development in Fort Simpson on putting this package together but have not received a response.

Mr. Bonnetrouge concluded by saying that they are proceeding as if they had control of the distribution of tags and that they are ready to go ahead with their outfitting plans. They simply need the Board's support.

Mr. Lloyd remarked that the Department considers the bison management plan on hold as a result of the Board's previous meeting and that the Department is waiting for the Board's recommendations and direction (through the Minister).

Mr. Bonnetrouge agreed to send copies of the various proposals to the Chairman.

Mr. Deneron supported community-based outfitters because the meat from the hunts would be utilized by the community. He was concerned about where all the meat from other outfitters ended up because the hunters were only interested in the trophy and there certainly were not enough people at those camps to eat all the meat left over.

Mr. Robertson asked if there were people in Providence not supporting outfitting and he was informed by Mr. Bonnetrouge that the trappers of the area were concerned but would support a community-based outfitter.

Mr. Bonnetrouge also said that the only real problem was created when Government offered the Rae Band a share or a say in tag distribution when the bison were in Providence's area. Of course, he was not surprised that the Rae Band would accept this offer.

There was general discussion on how to assist in this project but Mr. Bayly reminded members that the real role of the Board was to advise the Minister on issues based on matters of conservation and wildlife management and not to get too involved in money issues and other such things--although, it was important to understand these things.

In reporting the work of the bison task force, Mr. Van Camp suggested that principle number two of the Board's draft bison management principles from the Fort Providence meeting be deleted. This principle stated that no hunting of bison in the Mackenzie Sanctuary be permitted until 1990. No one appears now to support this, including Fort Providence.

It was agreed that the Department be informed of this.

Mr. Van Camp tabled a motion for discussion purposes.

MOTION 7-88-4

Be it resolved that the Board recommend that the total number of tags for harvesting in the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary will be 40 in 1988-89.

Allocation of these tags will follow these guidelines:

1. Deh Cho Regional Council - 16 tags
 - a). Eight tags to be made available to the Fort Providence Dene Band for the purpose of outfitting non-resident big game hunters.
 - b) Eight tags to be allocated among those eligible for participation in the Dene/Metis land claim who reside in the Deh Cho region.
2. Dogrib Tribal Council - 8 tags
 - to be allocated among those eligible for participation in the Dene/Metis land claim who reside in the North Slave region.
3. South Slave Tribal Council - 8 tags
 - to be allocated among those eligible for participation in the Dene/Metis land claim who reside in the South Slave region.
4. Non-participants in the Dene/Metis land claim - 8 tags
 - to be allocated by a draw administered by the G.N.W.T.
5. Fort Providence to have the following responsibilities:
 - a) Distribution of tags allocated, ie. anyone hunting must obtain his tag from Fort Providence Renewable Resource office after reporting whatever information the Fort Providence bison management committee requires.
 - b) Successful hunters must report to Fort Providence after their hunt to have horns branded to provide whatever specimen sample or information required for management purposes.
6. The Board reserves the right to increase or decrease these allocations after an evaluation of the 1988-89 hunt and current information on herd status and trend.

Moved by:

Jack Van Camp

Seconded by:

Greg Robertson

(Note - no vote was called for this motion)

Mr. Van Camp stressed that the objective of the motion was to build interest in the resource and not isolate the interest and control of the resource.

It was agreed not to vote on the motion at this time but rather to use the motion as a draft, inviting response from the Dogrib Tribal Council, Fort Providence Band Council and H.T.A, and other members of the general public.

This draft motion will be advertised in full (along with the Ingraham trail corridor) soliciting public input for the September meeting in Lac La Martre.

Guest speaker Mr. Bourque, Deputy Minister, Renewable Resources:

Mr. Bourque said that the Department was considered by other organizations, nationally and internationally, as a leader in the field of wildlife management and was considered a world class operation. He was confident that the Board would also be a world class Board. The concept of a public Board involved in wildlife management was a new and innovative approach which has the attention of many people.

Mr. McBryan asked and Mr. Bourque agreed that a letter would be sent to the Fort Smith Fire Centre and other managers advising them of the responsibilities of the F.W.G./D.C.B. and to cooperate in their task.

Mr. Sonfrere asked and Mr. Bourque agreed that he would contact Parks Canada (Ken East) about the need to hire Hay River residents to fight fires in the Park.

Mr. Deneron suggested that the fire and forest management programs should be integrated into the communities as much as possible and not to operate the program on a regionalized basis.

The Chairman suggested that perhaps the Government should consider policy changes during its development and not wait for a final draft.

Mr. Beaver (F.W.G.) suggested that the Board inform the public of the work being done and who they were. The Executive Director will proceed with this.

Mr. Bayly suggested that, since the Board had so many responsibilities, the F.W.G., with assistance from the Executive Director, can carry out this responsibility and advise the Board as to their progress.

Mr. Patterson said that G.N.W.T. has even less manpower to support forestry than the Federal Government.

Mr. Bourque said they are working with DRIE to develop a forest management agreement to address this problem and he felt that the agreement was possible.

Mr. T'Seleie said that inexperience existed in Renewable Resources and the Board because of the new programs but things will improve. It was likely that the Board would, however, need more support from the Department.

Mr. Bourque said he agreed and the wildlife management section, for example, was being restructured to accommodate this. He recognized that the Board must:

- 1) meet the needs of local people;
- 2) meet the needs of Canada; and
- 3) because of the interest internationally, meet the needs of the world.

The Board needs the resources to do this.

Mr. Deneron said the Department should not issue timber permits without considering implications for land selection in land claims.

Mr. Bourque said he is aware of this problem and needs time to work on it.

Mr. McBryan said there was a multi-year, multi-dollar aircraft contract issued which residents were not aware of and which should be issued in the North.

Mr. Bourque said he would have to get more information and consider how to proceed.

Mr. Van Camp suggested that fire fighting should not be handled on cost effectiveness basis only, but also include the local people and communities who are affected by the economic opportunity.

Mr. Bourque agreed but said both cost effectiveness and economic opportunity must be considered.

Mr. Beaver felt there was a chance for change through the F.W.G. and D.C.B.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Bourque for participating.

Mr. Alfred Lennie (F.W.G.) suggested that we should advise the communities of our activities.

Mr. Kurszewski asked that minutes be sent to Board offices, metis locals, Dene Nation, and Metis Association on a regular basis and the Board agreed to adopt that practice.

Ingraham trail hunting restrictions:

Mr. Lloyd explained the proposal to restrict hunting on the Ingraham trail and ice road because of the public safety issue and the image problem associated with what the public perceives as a slaughter of caribou which is uncontrolled.

At the present, this is not a conservation concern as the caribou are increasing in numbers.

Mr. Kurszewski preferred to have the Board consult with the Dogrib people before considering the proposal but expressed a concern about the length of the corridor and the restrictions on hunting other animals.

Mr. Robertson was in favour of a hunting corridor but was not sure if the corridor was wide enough to protect cabins and people from dangerous use of firearms.

The Board wanted more technical information regarding the status of ice roads and highway regulations.

The Executive Director will seek input from the Dogrib Tribal Council, Metis locals, Bands and the Wildlife Federation prior to the September meeting.

Mr. Bayly said that there was general agreement around the table that there was a problem and that it was a matter of obtaining input and recommending accordingly.

Mr. Van Camp suggested public education is sometimes better than regulations.

Diashawa Pulp Mill:

Mr. Van Camp asked that more information be obtained from people involved in the Peace River pulp mill as he was very concerned about environmental impacts. The Alberta Government/Federal Government should have the information.

Concern was expressed by the Board regarding the pulp mill in the Slave River. A letter will be written to the Alberta Government and to the Mill asking for a response to our concern. A copy will go to the Environment Minister.

Thelon Game Sanctuary:

A letter will be sent to DIAND which includes the Board's resolution regarding the Thelon.

A letter was received from Gilles Patenaude stating that he wanted the Board's comments on an attached document by August 1, 1988. The document was about resource values of the Thelon Game Sanctuary. Mr. Van Camp (1) and Mr. Kurszewski (6) will be sent copies by courier to get their responses immediately since they were interested in this subject.

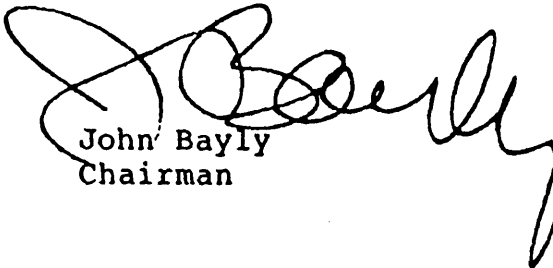
Other business:

Mr. John wanted the draft policy on the position of the Government on humane trapping before the next meeting. Another concern was the impending policy regarding creation of new outfitting areas. The outfitters are panicking and may be taking what they can now in case of losing out in the future. This is not in the best interest of the resources being exploited in this way.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be held on the 13th and 14th of September in Lac La Martre.

The meeting adjourned on July 13, 1988 at 11:00 a.m.


John Bayly
Chairman

October 17, 1988

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
DENENDEH CONSERVATION BOARD

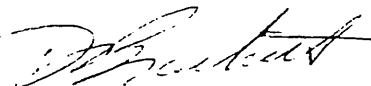
Minutes - September 13-14, 1988 Meeting

Thank you for the copy of the minutes of the above noted meeting. On reviewing them, I find a couple of places where the record does not reflect my notes from the meeting.

Under the topic Hanging Ice Bison Ranch, last paragraph, page 3 the phrase "in about one year" should read "in the new year" or the word "begin" earlier in the sentence should read "complete". I can not remember exactly how the information was stated but it will not be one year before the Panel begins its work unless there are a great number of unforeseen problems.

More as a matter of style than content, I would ask that commitments to provide information to future meetings be expressed as being made on behalf of the department. For example, under Other Business on page 9 the first sentence should read "Dave Brackett committed the department to provide ...". This should in no way affect the commitment to provide the information to the Board but will reflect the fact that someone other than the individual making the commitment may fulfill it. As a case in point, I will be unable to attend the next meeting in the Sahtu region but, someone from the department will provide the update on the migratory bird situation.

I would appreciate it if you would raise these points when the minutes of the September meeting are reviewed at your next meeting.



David Brackett
Assistant Deputy Minister

MINUTES
DENENDEH CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING #7

September 13-14, 1988, Lac La Martre

DRAFT

The Denendeh Conservation Board meeting was held on the 13th and 14th of September, 1988 in Lac La Martre, N.W.T.

In Attendance:

John Bayly - Chairman	Larry Hagen - Executive Director
Shirley Bohnet - Secretary	John T'Seleie - Member
Daniel Sonfrere - Member	Jack Van Camp - Member
Joe McBryan - Member	Greg Robertson - Member
Ken John - Alternate for Stan Stevens	Joseph Benoit - Alternate for Albert Adams
James Rabesca	

Observers:

David Brackett, ADM	Ray Case, Renewable Resources
Susan Bonnyman, Wildlife Mgmt.	

Absent:

Harry Deneron	George Kurszewski
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Review of minutes from last meeting:

Mr. Bayly suggested a minor change on page 5, paragraph 5 which was changed to read:

Mr. Deneron was concerned that too much of the officers' time was allocated to Forestry and Fire to the detriment of their wildlife and enforcement work.

MOTION #9-88-1M

Be it resolved that the minutes of the last meeting be approved with the noted change.

Moved by:	Jack Van Camp
Seconded by:	John T'Seleie

Carried - unanimously.

Business arising out of minutes:

Mr. T'Seleie asked what procedures the Board was going to follow in regards to nominating members to the Board.

Mr. Bayly explained that the Joint Executive of the Dene/Metis decided at an assembly recently that each Region could nominate a member directly for the Minister's approval. This motion was provided to the Minister so that his approval to change our terms of reference could be obtained.

The Executive Director will also write to the Minister advising of our support for the Joint Executive motion. (9-88-1A)

Mr. T'Seleie requested an update of the outfitters re-zoning situation. Mr. John suggested that a Board member attend the Renewable Resources November meeting regarding outfitting. It was decided that Mr. Brackett of Renewable Resources be asked these questions when he is at the meeting later in the day.

Mr. Robertson asked why both Mr. Kurszewski and his alternate were absent and he was informed that they were attending Regional meetings.

Mr. John asked for an update of the Diashowa pulp mill project. Larry said he will follow-up on his previous letter. Mr. Van Camp suggested that we continue to express our concern and to keep informed. The Board was advised that environmental information had already been sent to the Department of Renewable Resources and that it had been reviewed. The Executive Director and Chairman were directed to review this material and report to the Board at its next meeting. (9-88-2A)

Mr. Bayly said we will write to communities in the area affected and inform them that the G.N.W.T. feels that there is not an environmental concern but that we are concerned as a Board. c.c. Dene Nation and Metis Association. (9-88-3A)

Mr. T'Seleie said we should know what chemicals are being discharged from the pulp mill into the water and how monitoring and inspecting is done. Mr. John also wanted to know how pollution from this pulp mill is to be regulated. The Executive Director will obtain this information. (9-88-4A)

Outfitting

Mr. Bayly asked David Brackett for an update of the Department's plans for outfitting in the Mackenzie Mountains. David Brackett informed the Board that there are plans to create four additional zones. A fall workshop is planned in Fort Norman to discuss this.

Mr. T'Seleie and Mr. Deneron are invited to attend. Mr. Brackett will keep the Executive Director informed as the plans are finalized.

Hanging Ice Bison Ranch

John Bayly informed the Board that he had been advised by Mr. Ben Hubert, acting for the Hanging Ice venture, that the Fort Smith H.T.A. had identified a source of capital but O&M financing was not confirmed.

There was also a problem of exporting bison products to and through Alberta because of the status of wood bison. The Executive Director will obtain more information regarding Alberta laws and how they may affect this project. (9-88-5A)

The Executive Director will provide a copy of the Board's last minutes to the Hanging Ice Bison Ranch. (9-88-6A)

Mr. T'Seleie asked why the Board was involved in bison ranching as a business, and Mr. Bayly informed him that the Board had already decided that the bison ranch would impact on wildlife and habitat and was, therefore, a concern for the Board. Mr. Brackett informed the members that an Environmental Assessment and Review Process (EARP) panel was being implemented and that they would begin their review in about one year.

Thelon Game Sanctuary

Mr. Van Camp suggested that the Board thank Mr. Patenaude for the reports he sent and advise that the Board confirm its earlier motion regarding the Thelon Game Sanctuary (May 12, 1988). He said the report did not change our previous motion regarding the Sanctuary. The Canadian Nature Foundation, the Canadian Wildlife Federation, and the Beverly/Kaminuriak Caribou Management Board also support our motion. Mr. Van Camp said the Board should ask about DIAND's workshops in the summer, their progress up to date, and that DIAND continue to keep the Board informed. The Executive Director will draft this letter. (9-88-7A)

Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary

The Chairman invited Chief Joachim Bonnetrouge of Fort Providence, Metis Local President Mike McCleod, and HTA President Art Look, who had attended the meeting at the invitation and expense of the Board, to discuss the Fort Providence position on Mackenzie bison tags and bison management.

Mr. Bonnetrouge said he appreciated the work the Board was doing but wanted them to know that Fort Providence had been working on this subject for 2-3 years. He said attempts were made to clarify the distribution of tags with Rae but they were unable to agree. He felt that Fort Providence should have complete control over the bison including the distribution of the tags. They had an economic study done and they require:

- year 1 --> 15 tags for the initial operation
- year 2 --> 20 tags
- year 3 --> 30 tags
- year 4 --> 45 tags
- year 5 --> 60 tags (which will be the minimum for every year after that to set up an outfitting business)

They wanted control of the tags to ensure their business would succeed.

Mr. McLeod said Renewable Resources previously worked with Fort Providence to manage the herd and that they were surprised that the Board suddenly took over that responsibility. He felt that Fort Providence should, number one, control all tags and number two, manage the herd.

Art Look said Fort Providence was losing control when they should be gaining. He showed a letter to the Chairman from Cormack Gates of Renewable Resources with an agenda attached. It described the planning process in which the wood bison recovery team would be dealing with at the Oct. 11-15 meeting. The HTA was not informed of this planning process prior to the letter inviting Art Look to the meeting. The Executive Director will obtain copies of the letter from Cormack Gates of Renewable Resources. (9-88-8A)

Mr. Bonnetrouge said the bison were in the Fort Providence trapping area and that the presence of the bison affects the people of Fort Providence more than any other community. Therefore, they believe they should control the Mackenzie bison herd.

Mr. Bayly recalled that Art Look was concerned about the low cow/calf ratio and that hunting should not be permitted until this was reviewed. The Executive Director will ask the Department for the summer census of cow/calf ratios which were requested in March 1988 at Fort Providence. (9-88-9A)

Mr. T'Seleie said he supports Fort Providence. There was no reason why the people of Fort Providence should not control the tags. Aboriginal people view public lands as their own and the bison are on their aboriginal trapping lands. This goes beyond the simple numbers game put forth by the Fish and Game Association of Yellowknife in their letter which suggested that tags be distributed on a racial basis.

Mr. John asked what does control mean - is it allocation or deciding on the actual quota? Mr. Bonnetrouge responded by saying Fort Providence wanted absolute control. Mr. Bonnetrouge also stated that the Fort Rae Band is a member of the bison management committee which will decide on allocation as well.

Mr. Bayly asked how all hunters, including Dene and Metis, who are not from Fort Providence, would be treated. Mr. McLeod said they would be treated like resident sport hunting licence holders.

Ray Case of Renewable Resources was asked to describe the polar bear and muskox allocation system.

The quotas are set by the Department of Renewable Resources at levels which can be sustained or meet the management objectives for the population. The management areas are set up to reflect the wildlife population boundaries except when the population boundaries are not clear. In this case, community hunting areas are often used.

Tags are issued to Hunters' and Trappers' Associations. Some HTA's share management areas, especially if their respective hunting areas overlap the same population. Conflicts between HTA regarding the allocation of quotas are generally resolved by Regional Wildlife Organizations.

The allocation of the tags received is decided upon by the HTA's. Several methods are used including "first come, first serve", a lottery system, and restricting a hunter to have the tag for a specific length of time after which it must be returned to the HTA for reallocation.

Distribution of the tags is sometimes administered by the local Renewable Resources Officer, but upon the advice and recommendations of the HTA.

Kill information must be provided to Renewable Resources.

Mr. Van Camp said in the Inuit communities, it is easier for non-Inuit residents to get special GHL and trapping licences than in the Dene/Metis communities for non-Dene/Metis to do so. This is one reason he advanced for not supporting a single community having absolute control over tags.

Mr. Bayly asked what Fort Providence would do when the bison expand to occupy range beyond the Fort Providence area and Mr. McLeod said they would deal with that situation if it arises.

Dogrib Delegation - Chief Joe Rabesca, Chief Jonas Sangris appeared at the request of the Board. The Dogrib Tribal Council was meeting in Lac La Martre at the same time as the Board.

Mr. Sangris said he was not fully informed of all the details of the bison issue but he said his people were interested in having access to the bison. He asked Mr. Rabesca to speak on the subject.

Mr. Rabesca said he is aware that Mr. Bonnetrouge wants to control the bison because they are close to Fort Providence. Mr. Rabesca said his people believe that wildlife are a gift of nature to be shared and not owned. They were not interested in making money off bison but only want a share for food purposes. They did not agree with one community controlling wildlife--it should be controlled by the D.C.B. Mr. Rabesca summarized by saying, because of the large population of the Dogrib area which included Snare Lake, Lac La Martre, Rae Lakes, Edzo, Rae, Detah and Yellowknife, they would like 12 tags.

Mr. Van Camp asked how the Dogribs viewed outfitting and Mr. Rabesca said that it should be a low priority and that hunting for food should come first.

Mr. Bayly summarized the positions possible on Mackenzie Wood Bison as:

1. No hunting - transplant excess bison
2. Hunting - by whom and how many and in what manner.

Mr. Van Camp said the no-hunting option was not one that should be considered as it is obvious that the herd can support some hunting and transplants should only be considered when the disease problems are controlled.

Mr. Brackett said the transplanting will always be an option regardless of hunting or no-hunting because it is a management tool to ensure bison expand into other areas.

Mr. Robertson said that if hunting by outfitting goes ahead, the meat can be distributed in the communities. Until outfitting takes place Fort Providence can gain experience by working with Renewable Resource on the hunts.

MOTION #9-88-2M

Be it resolved that in 1989 the Board resolves that the hunting of wood bison from the Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary be restricted to resident hunters. Resident hunters are those who hold valid general hunting licences and resident sport hunting licences.

Be it further resolved that, although the Board recommends no non-resident (big game trophy) hunting of Mackenzie Wood Bison in 1989, the Board recommends that in the future, the Fort Providence Band, Metis Local and Hunters' and Trappers' Association be given the first option to outfit big game hunts of Mackenzie Wood Bison and that they be allocated any tags to be given out after 1989 for non-resident (big game trophy) harvesting of Mackenzie Wood Bison within the Fort Providence Group Trapping Area.

Be it further resolved that the Board recommends that all Mackenzie Wood Bison hunts in 1989 be group hunts accompanied by wildlife officers and that the Department of Renewable Resources invite a representative of the Fort Providence Hunters' and Trappers' Association to accompany the hunts. The Board further recommends that the Department find the financial resources to enable the Fort Providence representative to accompany the hunt.

Be it further resolved that the Board recommends that 40 bison hunting tags be issued to residence hunters to be allocated and distributed as follows:

- (a) 16 tags to the Fort Providence Hunters' and Trappers' Association for distribution to general hunting licence holders at the discretion of the Hunters' and Trappers' Association.

- (b) 12 tags to the Dogrib Tribal Council for distribution to general hunting licence holders at the discretion of the Tribal Council.
- (c) 12 tags to be distributed to holders of general hunting licences and resident sport hunters licences by the Department of Renewable Resources by means of a draw.

Moved by: Greg Robertson
Seconded by: James Rabesca

Carried - unanimously.

The Executive Director will write to Fort Providence and Fort Rae and Yellowknife to let them know the Board's decision and thank the Chiefs for their participation. (9-88-10A)

Ingraham Trail

Mr. Rabesca and Mr. Sangris were asked for their feelings about a no-hunting corridor along the Ingraham Trail.

Mr. Sangris felt that wildlife officers presently do not monitor the area enough and this leads to abuse. A check-point is needed at the City boundary to check for alcohol, hunting licences, proper clothing for cold weather, etc.

He felt that a lot could be done to inform people of regulations, safety and native traditions in a cooperative manner. A no-hunting corridor was one part of the solution he proposed. There were problems with drinking drivers and improper use of rifles which can be checked by the RCMP but little enforcement was being done. He felt that gut piles along the road were a problem even with a no-hunting corridor because many hunters will drag the caribou to the road for dressing. Hunters need help and should be taught how to hunt and to care for the meat.

Mr. Sangris agreed that a corridor be put in place in which big game hunting is prohibited along the gravelled portion of the road as long as this did not effect trapping and other uses of the corridor.

Mr. Rabesca was concerned about the safety of hunters and also about the caribou being butchered improperly so that meat was wasted. He also expressed concern that hunting practices such as butchering on the road and leaving meat and hides at the dump were particularly offensive to Dogribs. He felt public education was just as important as regulations. Regulations require someone to enforce them. Mr. Rabesca said he would support a no-hunting corridor if public education and enforcement were included.

Mr. T'Seleie said this hunting situation was an example of a lot of animals close to a large town with easy road access with little control and it should not be allowed to continue. There should be a minimum hunter awareness requirement before tags are issued.

Mr. Van Camp said people should not be given a licence simply because they have the money and are eligible. They should be required to be trained and have proper knowledge and skills.

Mr. Sangris summarized the Dogrib position as follows:

- a corridor one mile on each side of the road for the paved and gravelled portion of the road only
- not to affect small game hunting or trapping
- lift the corridor if there are no caribou
- put information packages in with the licences
- have a 24-hour check point with necessary authorities on duty
- place signs on the road advising of safety regulations and precautions--no alcohol, proper dress, etc.

Mr. Benoit agreed that hunting ethics should be passed on to all hunters by media messages or schools, etc.

The Executive Director will invite the Dogribs to participate in the next meeting to discuss traditional knowledge and hunting practices of the Dogribs. (9-88-11A)

Mr. Brackett said that traditional knowledge is becoming important to the Department and many of the subjects discussed will help in developing hunter education programs.

MOTION #9-88-3M

Be it resolved that the Board recommends a corridor be established from the City of Yellowknife boundary to the end of the all weather portion of the Ingraham Trail, extending 1.5 km on each side of the center line and extending 3 km from the end of the all weather portion of the road at Tibbit Lake in which the discharge of firearms for the purpose of big game hunting be prohibited from November 1, 1988 to April 30, 1989.

Be it further resolved that a letter to the Minister accompany this motion which identifies the concerns raised by the members and guests regarding enforcement and public education.

Moved by: James Rabesca
Seconded by: Jack Van Camp

Carried - unanimously.

Mr. Brackett said the Department will publicize the Ingraham Trail recommendation when it has been approved by the Minister so that the public is aware of the restrictions.

Conflict of Interest

The Chairman asked for comments on the Joachim Bonnetrouge communique which suggested that the Chairman and other unidentified board members were possibly in a conflict of interest when dealing with bison tags.

Mr. T'Seleie said that suggestion was poor strategy on Joachim's part and should be disregarded. He felt that members should always be careful when dealing with money to ensure no direct benefit is received which could be considered a conflict.

Mr. Bayly suggested that our work requires different kinds of guidelines for conflict of interest because all board members chosen to represent different interests and all have a general interest in preserving wildlife and habitat.

Mr. Van Camp felt the accusation was a cheap shot that didn't deserve a response but, because Joachim used the media, we should respond in the media to clarify the Board's position.

Mr. McBryan said we are all appointed because of our background and experience. Some people may consider this a conflict, others may see it as valuable to the board.

The Executive Director was instructed to draft a letter to the HTAs and Bands explaining the role of the Board and how it works and also a media message should be prepared saying that the Board has reviewed the communique from the Fort Providence Chief and believes the Chairman and members are not in conflict of interest with regard to the allocation of bison tags the Board may recommend to the Minister. (9-88-12A)

Other Business

Dave Brackett will provide an update of the migratory birds meeting for the next board meeting. (9-88-13A)

The Executive Director will send to the FWG a copy of the Deputy Minister's letter regarding aircraft contracts. This letter is to be considered in developing fire policy. (9-88-14A)

John Bayly asked how organizations would have input into licencing of forest harvesters other than influencing terms and conditions. Dave Brackett was not sure how the AIP will impact on this process but the Deputy Minister is committed to consultation.

The Executive Director will send to the FWG a copy of the August 23 letter dealing with issuance of timber permits. (9-88-15A)

U I A I I

Land Use Commission Membership

A letter from Ian Robertson was discussed, which dealt with nominations to the Dene/Metis land commission.

Recommended were: Pat Scott and Alex Hall. The Executive Director will pass this on to Ian Robertson. (9-88-16A)

Copies of the Beverly/Kamuniriak Annual Report will be obtained by the Executive Director and sent to members prior to the next meeting. (9-88-17A)

Dave Brackett will send the Executive Director a copy of the Inuvialuit Wildlife Management Board report. (9-88-18A)

The Executive Director will provide copies of the wildlife portion of the Dene/Metis AIP for the next meeting. (9-88-19A)

Greg Robertson asked when the sheep survey of zone E-18 will be available. Sue Bonnyman said she would advise the Executive Director of this. (9-88-20A)

Joe Benoit asked about Dene/Metis obtaining polar bear tags and was told by Dave Brackett that the Inuvialuit HTC allocated tags and the tags must be obtained from them. This is pursuant to problems of the Inuvialuit Settlement Agreement.

Joe also asked what the department's plans were for Dall sheep in the Mackenzie Mountains as he felt that the old rams should be hunted. Joe was informed by Dave Brackett that a management plan is forthcoming and will be provided to the Board.

The Executive Director will obtain the document for distribution. (9-88-21A)

Next Meeting

November 15 and 16 in Norman Wells. (9-88-22A)

M I N U T E S

MACKENZIE VALLEY RENEWABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Executive Summary

The Mackenzie Valley Renewable Resource Management Board Meeting No. 2 was held on the 3rd and 4th of November, 1987, in the Gold Room of the Yellowknife Inn, Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Board Members present:

Jack Van Camp
Joe McBryan
Greg Robertson
Pat Scott
Albert Adams

James Rabesca
Stan Stevens
George Kurszewski
Harry Deneron

Larry Hagen

- Executive Director

The agenda was reviewed and approved.

The minutes of the previous meeting were reviewed and approved.

Action items from the previous meeting were described.

- Honourarium was confirmed at \$200/member and \$275/chairperson.
- \$3,000 - \$5,000 was established as the budget for a logo and letterhead.
- A basic media program is in place whereby the media will be informed of the board's activities and invited to attend meetings.
- The Board was informed that the budget has been set by the Department for 1988/89 at the 1987 level of \$75,600.
- Bylaws will be developed by the Board on an as required basis.

Briefing for the Board

Members were critical of the briefings they received for this meeting. They requested more information. Pat Scott suggested that an options paper format would be better than a standard information brief. The Executive Director will pursue this further.

Bison

Considerable time was allotted to discussion on bison management in the N.W.T. It was decided that a bison task force be established as a committee to research this complex issue and report back to the Board its findings for the Board to deal with further.

The task force members selected were: George Kurszewski, Pat Scott, and Jack Van Camp.

The Executive Director will forward this recommendation to the Minister.

Forestry Working Group

Joe McBryan provided an update on the group's activities. They have been working on timber management and fire suppression policies and will continue with this at the November 12/13 meeting in Fort Smith.

The carpentry position which was moved out of the Fire Operations in Fort Smith was discussed. The Executive Director was directed to draft a letter of concern regarding personnel changes to the Minister.

The Assistant Deputy Minister, Operations, addressed the Board and confirmed that the position which was transferred out of Snowdrift will be reviewed, and perhaps will be returned to Snowdrift.

The Executive Director will write to each Regional Council to ask for feedback on changes to the fire fighting zones.

A recommendation will be made to the Minister that a zone review should be started since the zones presently protected are largely burnt.

MOTION

Whereas there are fire protection zones established; and whereas, within these zones, areas have been burned and no longer require protection; and whereas, regions have been asking for a revision to the zones; therefore, be it resolved that the Minister begin a revision process of the zones and seek the advice of the regions to establish a more current fire protection zone system.

Moved by: George Kurszewski
Seconded by: Greg Robertson

Carried - unanimously.

Dene Cultural Institute

Joanne Barnaby gave a presentation on a project to document traditional knowledge of the Dene. The Board supported this project. The Executive Director will draft a letter of support in this regard.

Compensation Policy

There was a general feeling that the Renewable Resource Compensation Policy needs to be broadened, redefined and strengthened. The Executive Director will request information from the Inuvialuit about their policies and also request more information from the Department on this subject.

Information on the Chevron/Fort Good Hope was also requested.

Dene/Metis Negotiating Secretariat

Robert Overvold, Chief Negotiator, described the development of the Wildlife Management Board and how it related to the MVRMB. A general overview of the claims process and timetable was provided.

Aboriginal Rights Secretariat

Charles Overvold gave a presentation on the role and responsibility of the Secretariat. There was some concern expressed that the Secretariat had not been adequately informing non-participants on the progress of negotiations. It was suggested by the Board that this be done in the future.

Northern Mineral Policy

Gilles Patenaude of DIAND gave a presentation on the Northern Mineral Policy. Most members of the Board were opposed to mining and exploration in the Thelon. They thought the Thelon should be left intact and that the Board be kept informed and more closely involved on an ongoing basis with the review.

A number of agenda items for the January meeting were tabled.

1. Land use and exploration (Harry Deneron).

DIAND should prepare a briefing or present a briefing to the Board. Pat Scott thought we should discuss this issue with someone at a senior level. George Kruszewski suggested that Ben Hubert as well as Floyd Adlem should meet with the Board.

The Board would like a recommendation of support through our Minister to Northern Affairs to increase handling time of a permit for land use and exploration.

2. Grizzly bears (Jack Van Camp).

Jack Van Camp requested a better briefing which includes background and options for management.

Greg Robertson would like to see defense kills and commercial harvesting of grizzly included in the briefing.

3. Firearm safety (Jack Van Camp).

The Executive Director will ask Renewable Resources for a presentation on the issue of firearm safety.

4. Sports hunting and commercial use of wildlife (Harry Deneron).

Sports hunting was considered a problem; especially when many outfitters are non-residents.

Jack Van Camp said that commercial use of wildlife is another problem.

The Executive Director will get a background position paper on outfitters.

5. Review of residency requirements for hunting (Harry Deneron).

6. Briefing information and agenda items (Larry Hagen).

There will be an indexed manual given to each member of the Board for the next meeting.

The next meeting of the Board will be in Yellowknife on February 11 and 12, 1988.

Larry Hagen
Executive Director
Mackenzie Valley Renewable
Resource Management Board

M I N U T E S

MACKENZIE VALLEY RENEWABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BOARD

Executive Summary

The Mackenzie Valley Renewable Resource Management Board Meeting No. 1 was held on the 19th and 20th of August, 1987, in the Deh Cho Boardroom of the Yellowknife Inn, Yellowknife, N.W.T.

Board Members present:

Jack Van Camp
Joe McBryan
Greg Robertson
Pat Scott

James Rabesca
Stan Stevens
George Kurszewski

Larry Hagen

- Executive Director

J. W. Bourque

- Guest Speaker
Deputy Minister, Department
of Renewable Resources.

Larry Hagen opened the meeting by welcoming the members to the first meeting of the Mackenzie Valley Renewable Resource Management board. Jim Bourque was introduced as the guest speaker. He gave a history of the Board's development and how it got to where it is today. He went on to describe the relationship of the Board to the Renewable Resources Department, to the Minister and to the public. He concluded by emphasizing the need to develop a coordinated approach to resource management and also emphasized the importance of a team approach for the Board to aim for.

The Board directed Larry Hagen to act as a Chairman for the first meeting and for the second meeting, at which time a Chairperson would be nominated. The members felt that the Chairman's role was a very important position because of the very controversial issues that would be discussed. It was important that the Board operate on a consensus basis and not resort to a majority-vote situation. A good Chairperson would help this process.

MOTION

George Kurszewski said that it was important that the Board immediately take control and that an early demonstration of that would be to select an Executive Director.

Moved by:

George Kurszewski

Seconded by:

Jack Van Camp

Be it resolved that Larry Hagen be nominated for the position of Executive Director to the Mackenzie Valley Renewable Resource Management Board.

Carried - unanimously.

There was open discussion on a reasonable compensation for Board members. A number of Boards/Committees were discussed and various rates were identified. There appeared to be quite a variation in rates; however, the Board felt that because of the direct reporting relationship to the Minister and because of the issues that would be dealt with, the Board would enjoy a high profile in the Northwest Territories. While the rates selected were not the highest in the Northwest Territories, they should reflect the stature of the Board.

MOTION

Be it resolved that the honouraria rate for the Mackenzie Valley Renewable Resource Management Board be set at \$200/day for members and \$300/day for the Chairperson.

Moved by: George Kurszewski
Seconded by: Jack Van Camp

Carried - unanimously.

There was considerable discussion about the role of members, the role of the Board and how to address overlap with other Boards and Agencies. This discussion flowed into land claims issues and how the Board would influence that process. It was generally agreed that because of the number and complexity of issues that we would, for a time, deal with overlap issues as they arose. Influence in the claims forum would be through the Minister to the Aboriginal Rights Secretariat.

The process of handling issues was discussed. It was agreed that while the Board was established by the Minister, the Board should be able to bring issues to the Minister's attention and not wait for issues to come from the Minister. The two-way street approach was agreed as the way to go.

It was decided that an orientation session by the Aboriginal Rights Secretariat would be useful to provide the background for the members.

MOTION

Be it resolved that the Forestry Working Group become a Committee of the Mackenzie Valley Renewable Resource Management Board and that the Committee report to the Board.

Moved by: Joe McBryan
Seconded by: George Kurszewski

Carried - unanimously.

The Board directed that a list of Boards and Organizations providing information or advice to the Minister pertaining to renewable resource issues be made available to the Board.

The Board directed that a logo and letterhead be put in place for the Board.

The Board directed that a program to deal with the media be established. A press release would be issued after each meeting.

The Board directed that a briefing be prepared on the Northern Mineral Policy.

The Board directed that the Minister advise how alternates for Members should be dealt with. Options:

1. No proxy.
2. Proxy and designated alternate.
3. Designated alternates only.

It was felt that regionalized interests should be represented on the Board at all time, so an alternate system was important. Interests from the general public were felt to be important and that they should always be represented. The importance of full attendance was emphasized.

One-half hour every meeting day would be set aside for Members' concerns.

The Director will check if honouraria covers travel days for meetings.

The Board directed that the terms of reference of the Water Board be obtained for comparison to the Mackenzie Valley Renewable Resource Management Board terms of reference.

The Board directed that an operational budget be prepared for the Board's review. The budget would be set up on a six (6) meetings per year basis.

The Board directed that information regarding by-laws/procedures be made available for their review; such as how to establish the Agenda, deadlines for Agenda items, etc. It was agreed that Agenda items be submitted two weeks before each meeting.

The Director will obtain a phone number for the Mackenzie Valley Renewable Resource Management Board.

It was agreed that notwithstanding withdrawals, the Chairman and Members will be on a two-year term.

After three (3) missed meetings, a letter would be sent by the Chairperson to the Minister indicating a concern.

The Board directed that a briefing be prepared on the Esso Pipeline in preparation for the Beaufort Pipeline.

August 20, 1987:

The meeting began with a discussion about how to deal with observers at meetings. It was generally agreed that the meetings should be open to the public; however, if a public issue was not on the table for review, then there would be no need for an open meeting. Administrative discussion would be closed meetings.

MOTION

Be it resolved that meetings be closed until such time as Members wish to open them to the public.

Moved by: Joe McBryan
Seconded by: Pat Scott

Carried - unanimously.

MOTION

The Mackenzie Valley Renewable Resource Management Board accepts the draft terms of reference dated October 30, 1986 as an interim guideline for the Board's operations.

The Board also recognizes that certain provisions of the draft are outdated and that there are ongoing land claim negotiations between the Dene/Metis and the Federal Government. The Board has no intention to prejudice future negotiations; however, since the board is intended to provide a test for provisions which may be legislated in the final settlement, it is important that the current Board simulate as closely as possible the Board which will be established in the final settlement. The Board requests that it be kept informed of the status and contents on wildlife harvesting and management as it pertains to the terms of reference of the Management Board so that the Board's terms of reference can be kept as current as possible.

Moved by: Jack Van Camp
Seconded by: Greg Robertson

Carried - unanimously.

The Board directed that the Presidents of the Dene Nation and Metis Association be requested to address the Board at the second meeting.

Discussion moved on to issues that were considered important to deal with at some time in the future:

1. White tail deer

An increasing population in the Northwest Territories needs to be managed. (Pat Scott)

2. Highway hunting

There is a need for a management plan for hunting along highways. (Pat Scott)

3. Fire Arm Safety

Northwest Territories accident/death rate is very high. A program is needed to address this. (Jack Van Camp)

4. Barrenground Grizzly

A management plan is needed to prevent unnecessary defensive kills and to manage this resource better. (Greg Robertson)

5. A Briefing from the Department of Energy, Mines and Resources is needed on:

- I.B.P. Sites
- Thelon Sanctuary.

and how the Northern Mineral Policy impacts on these. (George Kurszewski)

6. Fish Stocking/Enforcement of

Need better management. (Greg Robertson)

7. Commercial wildlife harvesting

The broad issue needs more careful study and planning. An Outfitter policy is needed. (Jack Van Camp)

8. Fire Suppression

The Board needs a briefing on the past fire season. (Joe McBryan)

9. Agriculture

A policy should be developed. There is considerable pressure to develop farms along the highway. (Pat Scott)

10. Hunting infringement

Yukon hunters are hunting in the Northwest Territories. This should be monitored and controlled. (Stan Stevens)

11. Mine Abandonment

A policy is needed to clean up all abandoned mines. (James Rabesca)

12. Muskox hunting

There is no hunting by resident hunters - but non-resident hunters can hunt muskox in the Northwest Territories. Need to review this situation. (Greg Robertson)

13. Hook Lake Bison

Need to review this situation and develop a policy for management.

The next meeting was set for November 3 and 4, 1987, in Yellowknife.

Larry Hagen
Executive Director
Mackenzie Valley Renewable
Resource Management Board

MINUTES

MACKENZIE VALLEY RENEWABLE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT BOARD MEETING

February 11/12, 1988

In Attendance:

John Bayly - Chairman	Larry Hagen - Executive Director
Shirley Bohnet - Secretary	John T'Seleie
Joe McBryan	Jack Van Camp
Greg Robertson	George Kurszewski

Absent:

Pat Scott	Harry Deneron
Stan Stevens	Albert Adams
James Rabesca	

The chairman welcomed the members and went on to express his appreciation to the members for their support in nominating him for the chairmanship.

Agenda Item 1. The agenda was reviewed and approved.

Agenda Item 2. The minutes from the previous meeting were reviewed, adjusted and approved with the following changes:

Bison Task Force - change to read:

That a Bison Task force be established as a committee to research this complex issue and report back to the Board its findings for the Board to deal with further.

George Kurszewski suggested that the Minister of Renewable Resources misunderstood the purpose of the Bison Task force which resulted in the recommendation being rejected. The Minister should be informed that the task force was simply a group to review, in detail, bison information on behalf of the Board; not to be a major public consultation group.

Northern Mineral Policy

George Kurszewski asked that the minutes be adjusted to:

Most members of the board were opposed to mining and exploration in the Thelon. They thought the Thelon should be left intact and that the Board be kept informed and more closely involved on an ongoing basis with the review.

The Executive Director will contact DIAND for an update of the Department's activities in the Thelon Review and Northern Mineral Policy.

Fire Protection Zones - add the following:

Whereas, there are fire protection zones established; and whereas, within these zones, areas have been burned and no longer require protection; and whereas, regions have been asking for a revision to the zones; therefore, be it resolved that the Minister begin a revision process of the zones and seek the advice of regions to establish a more current fire protection zone system.

Moved by: George Kurszewski
Seconded by: Greg Robertson

Carried - unanimously.

Aboriginal Rights Secretariat Presentation

Greg Robertson suggested that the following be added:

The Aboriginal Rights Secretariat was to keep non-participants informed of land claims issues and this was not being done.

Forestry Working Group - add to minutes:

That the zones presently protected are largely burnt and should be reviewed.

Budget - change to:

The Board's budget was set by the Department for 1988/89 at the 1987 level of \$75,600.

MOTION

Be it resolved that the minutes of the last meeting be accepted, with the changes, as final.

Moved by: Greg Robertson
Seconded by: Jack Van Camp

Carried - unanimously.

The minutes will record more information about members' reaction to presentations.

Minutes in draft form are not to be released for distribution. Chairman must approve release of draft minutes.

More background to resolutions will be put into minutes.

Two sets of minutes will be drafted:

- 1) General set for distribution.
- 2) Action set for follow-up.

Agenda Item 3. Follow-up/Action Items.

The compensation policy information from the Chevron/Good Hope deal will be pursued with George Barnaby.

- Cope/Inuvialuit policy will be investigated.
- Renewable Resource policy will be investigated.

Agenda Item 3a. The Board will be called "Denendeh Conservation Board".

Denendeh - to describe the geographic area that is included in the Board's mandate, being the Dene/Metis settlement area. Conservation - which is the wise use of a resource.

The Executive Director was directed to proceed with the necessary approval and develop the logo to include animal representation.

Agenda Item 3b. Bison Task Force

A letter under the Chairman's signature will be drafted to respond to the Minister's (R.R.) letter in which the Bison Task force was rejected.

The letter will clarify the Board's request to set up a task force/working group to simply review information on behalf of the Board.

- will seek clarification of financial support for the Task force.
- will suggest that the Board should be involved as a representative of the public in these matters. Presently, the Department of Renewable Resources is carrying out bison management with limited public involvement. George Kurszewski suggested that the letter be strong in the area of the Board's mandate to become involved in the public management of this resource.
- John Bayly said a well informed Board was important, so the Task force was needed to digest the volumes of information for the board.
- Jack Van Camp said not all Board members can travel around to deal with this issue. Therefore, a task force was necessary to carry out this responsibility.
- George Kurszewski said that Task force will simply review pertinent information for the Board; so the Board can be informed prior to the Bison briefing. Part of the information would be obtained by discussing the issues with HTAs in the Bison areas.
- the Minister should also be informed of the N.W.T. Wildlife Federation's motion regarding Bison.

The Department will be asked to provide any pertinent bison information before the Providence meeting.

John Bayly mentioned the long delay (requested Dec. 9 - briefing for March 8) in getting a Departmental briefing. It would take too long to get things done if the Board had to rely entirely on Government Briefings.

George Kurszewski suggested three main issues to be addressed:

- 1) Ask Department for information that is available now - the Board will decide what's valuable.
- 2) Support task force financially to carry out review and take part in Departmental committees on this issue.
- 3) The Board should be a part of management plans within and without the Department. The Department should not decide things in isolation but rather use the Board that they helped create.

John Bayly suggested that when the Board requests information, it should be provided with information available at that time, not wait for the department to form a position - we can assist them with the position and the problem.

Jack Van Camp said the role of the Board included keeping the public informed and if the Board is not properly informed, this could not be done.

John T'Seleie suggested that perhaps waiting for a Departmental briefing was reasonable because the information would help the Board to decide how to proceed. He felt that it was time to provide the public with a clear message as to what will be done with the Bison.

Agenda Item 4. Firearm Safety

Doug Stewart of Renewable Resources gave a presentation on Firearm Safety and the activities of the Department in the N.W.T. in promoting safety.

George Kurszewski suggested that the age of 14 years as a starting point for training should be lowered--children at 8-9 years begin learning bad habits and at 14 years are difficult to re-educate. Training with pellet guns could help with the 8-9 year group.

George also suggested that more use be made of TV and video in promoting safety. Video tapes could be prepared and sent to schools.

Jack Van Camp agreed that the younger group should be educated. The Department of Education should be involved as well as Renewable Resources. He also recommended that the Department set up a task force to develop a program for schools.

Doug Stewart agreed that the younger audience should be reached and that other techniques should be pursued. (TV, videos, etc.). He will contact the Department of Education also.

Joe McBryan suggested that gun clubs should be more involved.

The Executive Director will draft a letter to the Minister of Renewable Resources regarding:

- good work of the Department
- carry on with work
- expand program
- keep Board informed
- copy to Doug Stewart

Agenda Item 3c. Firefighting Zones

A letter will be sent to the Minister with the full text of the motion from the previous meeting. Included in the letter will be a request that the Department carry out the review and identify sufficient funds to do this--including funding for public input.

The Executive Director will also contact the N.W.T. HTAs and Lodge Owners Association to ask for their input.

Agenda Item 3d. Alternate Members

The Board was informed that the Minister approved Alex Hall as the alternate for Jack Van Camp.

The Chairman reminded other members to submit their alternate's names and also to ensure they are completely briefed. Alternates were to be utilized only when absolutely necessary.

Agenda Item 3e. Forestry Working Group

The terms of reference under Membership were changed to:

Two members will be nominated by the Department of Renewable Resources. All members will be appointed by the Board.

A letter will be sent to the Minister regarding this change and to request that a budget be identified for a 10 member working group. The Board was previously set at 10 members but only six members were appointed. This makes it difficult to carry out their responsibilities if some members are absent. All positions will be filled.

A letter will be sent to the Mackenzie Delta Regional Council and Dogrib Council seeking nominations for the Board. The Minister will also be asked to provide two members, keeping in mind various sectors of the public.

The budget of the Forestry Working Group and the Board were identified as being separate. The Executive Director will review these budgets and report back to the Board before the next meeting.

Agenda Item 3f. Carpenter Position

The letter regarding the carpentry position was tabled.

The Executive Director will follow up on Bob Wooley's commitment to move the fire operations position from Yellowknife to Snowdrift.

Agenda Item 3g. Membership List

An updated membership list was distributed.

Agenda Item 3h. Preparation Fee - Chairman

The Chairman suggested that a one-day honourarium for two days of meeting be provided to the Chairman for preparation and follow-up work. Members agreed.

Agenda Item 3i. Budget Update

The proposed budget for 1988/89 was presented. Members directed that the following changes be incorporated.

- add more detail of how figures were arrived at.
- add approximately 10-15 percent to expenses for meetings outside Yellowknife.
- add a cost for approximately three people to come to Yellowknife from the south for meetings.

The budget was approved with these changes.

Day 2 - February 12, 1988

Agenda Item 7. DIAND - Land Use Presentation

The presentation was by Floyd Adlem, Regional Manager of Lands, with Rick Herst, Regional Manager, Environment and Conservation.

Mr. Adlem gave a brief summary of the various land tenure systems in the N.W.T. and defined the Federal Government's responsibilities.

Members considered the presentation clear, concise and very informative. Floyd invited members to contact him directly if they wanted additional information.

Agenda Item 5. Fire Policy Review (Manual)

The letter from the Minister directing the Board to review the Department's Fire Management Manual was discussed. This project was assigned to the Forestry Working Group. Joe McBryan will report progress at the meeting after the Providence meeting.

Agenda Item 6. Humane Trapping - deferred.

Agenda Item 7. N.W.T. Wildlife Federation

Doug Barber, the Executive Director of the Federation, presented a number of motions to the Board for their consideration. He began by providing a brief overview of his organization. One of their functions was to represent non-beneficiaries to the claims in wildlife harvesting issues. The Federation is not funded by Government but operates on other donations. Joe McBryan asked that a more detailed brief describing the Federation's mandate and membership be submitted to the Board. This will be provided for distribution to members.

The Chairman explained also that all Board members should feel free to discuss any issue, whether members are involved in any other organization or not.

John T'Seleie suggested that we should review how presentations should be made to the Board--either directly or through a member. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

The Bison management motion was tabled as an information item.

The Bison tag allocation was tabled as an information item.

The Board was asked for a motion supporting the N.W.T. Federations motion on the Thelon Sanctuary.

Additional information was required before a decision could be made. The Executive Director will write to the N.W.T. Chamber of Mines requesting their position on the Sanctuary review. George Kurszewski will draft a supporting motion for consideration at the next meeting.

The Executive Director will obtain additional information regarding muskox and caribou protection measures around the Thelon. The Baker Lake measures would be investigated. The G.N.W.T. Economic Development, Mining and Tourism sections will be asked for information regarding the Sanctuary also.

The Dall Sheep motion was discussed. While some members were in support of the motion, it was agreed that the Board was not properly prepared to deal with the issue and, in fact, because of the urgency of the problem, could not deal with it.

A letter was to be sent to the Minister advising him of the problem and the N.W.T. Wildlife Federation motion regarding a quota on Dall Sheep in Zone EL-8(?). We will suggest that this is an urgent matter that we could not deal with and ask him to address the issue on a Departmental basis and advise the Board of their activities.

It was felt that the Big game outfitters as well as Regional organizations should be consulted regarding the perceived overhunting problems and the question of helicopter access.

The Chairman suggested to members that there will be other issues that arise which the Board will not be able to handle and will then have to ask the Department to address the problem in-house. This was a matter of prioritizing issues. John Bayly will meet with the Minister and Deputy Minister to discuss this further. He will also clarify the Board's role in allocation of tags in the Dene/Metis area generally, for all species which are on a quota system.

Other General Items

The Executive Director will write to the N.W.T. Wildlife Federation to advise them that their motions will be tabled for the next meeting.

The handling of issues generally was discussed. It was agreed that all issues, in terms of handling on first submission to the Board, will be tabled as information items only. Follow-up briefings will be done only for those issues that the Board decides to deal with. The individual organization submitting an issue(s) will be advised as to what course of action was taken, and if the Board could not deal with an issue, they will be advised to carry on as they saw fit--without the Board's involvement.

An updated list of issues from past meetings will be prepared for the next meeting.

The Chairman was asked to impress on the Department the importance of timely briefings. Because of the six annual meetings, there could be a considerable time lag if the briefings were not ready before the next meeting.

The Chairman noted the absence of some members and will send a letter to all members to encourage their participation, and if they could not participate, to consider resigning.

The Executive Director will obtain information from the caribou management Boards, water board, and Alberta Game Council regarding their operational procedures.

Next Meeting

The next meeting was set for March 8, 9, and 10, 1988 in Fort Providence.

John Bayly
Chairman

MINUTES

DENENDEH CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING

March 8-10, 1988

The Denendeh Conservation Board meeting was held on the 8th, 9th, and 10th of March, 1988 in the Snowshoe Boardroom in Fort Providence, N.W.T.

In Attendance:

John Bayly - Chairperson	Larry Hagen - Executive Director
Shirley Bohnet - Secretary	John T'Seleie
Pat Scott	Jack Van Camp
Harry Deneron	James Rabesca
Stan Stevens	

Absent:

Joe McBryan	Greg Robertson
Albert Adams	George Kurszewski

John Bayly, the chairperson, made an introduction to the meeting. Dan Frandsen from the Wood Buffalo National Park was invited to sit with the Board members at this meeting. John Bayly introduced the people who were to guide the renewable resource bison presentation which was to start immediately.

Bison Presentation by Cormack Gates:

Cormack Gates was present with Ray Case and Kevin Lloyd from the Department of Renewable Resources. They showed a video and a slide presentation. Questions were asked and Cormack answered them.

The Mackenzie Bison Sanctuary is located near Fort Providence. That is why the meeting was held in this area. It can accommodate over 7,000 bison. They are all free roaming pure wood bison which are classified as an endangered species.

The steering committee (Kevin Lloyd) of Renewable Resources put together a report for the Board's review.

Jack Van Camp - the use of bison as domestic animals is a problem which should be looked at.

John T'Seleie - concerned with the transplant policy.

There are seven issues which Renewable Resources is looking at. The Board called these issues challenges:

1. To find a solution to problem of diseased bison in the Slave River Lowlands and Wood Buffalo National Park.
2. To protect Mackenzie and other disease free populations from TB and brucellosis.
3. To ensure a healthy and viable Nahanni population.
4. To manage Mackenzie bison population for continuing growth.
 - a) for its own good as a healthy population.
 - b) as a base stock for transplants.
5. To plan for the best use for bison and bison habitat for the people of the N.W.T.
6. To plan for bison and habitat using a balance of community and scientific knowledge.
7. To provide for land use which does not put bison and domestic livestock in conflict for habitat.

John T'Seleie - wishes the Department to work with what they got for bison now instead of trying to transplant them elsewhere when the population expands or grows.

ISSUE: The Board should find out what it is managing the bison for. Eg. economic benefits, tourist benefits, etc.

Jack Van Camp - concerned that uses are incompatible with habitat. Wants the Board to ask the Minister and Deputy Minister to consider what options are available.

Pat Scott - wants to hear from the band as well (hunters and trappers) and raise question with Joachim Bonnetrouge (from band). What about the land use planning commission? We haven't heard from them yet.

March 9, 1988

Joachim Bonnetrouge, Chief of the Band in Fort Providence, joined the Board for discussion. He said that the Band accepted bison from the start in their area and saw themselves as protectors and guardians of the bison.

He wants to maintain the rights to the 16 tags and be able to distribute them. If there is going to be sports hunting, then people from Fort Providence should be the only outfitters who can take sports hunters into the sanctuary which is also their group trapping area.

The community also has a concern with the tags which were offered to the Rae Band. Chief Bonnetrouge says he has been in touch with Chief Joe Rabesca and they have agreed to disagree for the present time regarding tag distribution.

The Fort Providence Board wants to hold off on the hunting this year. They are seeking support from the Board to put a program in place (guiding program) and to go from that right into tourism development related to bison.

Pat Scott - wants controlled access in the sanctuary.

Following discussion, the Board set down tentative principles and strategies for wood bison management to be referred to the Board's task force to review and to discuss with people in affected areas.

Principles of wood bison management:

1. Conservation of wood bison and wood bison habitat so as to ensure the sustaining capacity of life support systems, the genetic diversity of the bison population and the use (including hunting) within the limits of sustainable yield.
2. Management should maintain as a high priority the maintenance of healthy populations of wood bison.
3. Management should ensure the survival of viable populations of wood bison as a unique subspecies.
4. There should be a coordinated management strategy for wood bison throughout the N.W.T.
5. Management of wood bison and wood bison habitat should take into account the other renewable resource uses of the habitat.

Strategies:

1. That non-renewable resource activity, which is inconsistent with the maintenance with wood bison habitat and the goals of wood bison management, be prohibited.
2. That, due to unresolved inter-community issues regarding allocation and concerns regarding the rate of increase of the bison population, hunting of Mackenzie wood bison not be permitted except for scientific and management purposes until

1990, before which time the hunting policy should be reassessed. Pre-1990 hunting should be conducted under the direction and supervision of departmental officials.

3. That wolf control programs utilizing local hunters and trappers be considered as a management strategy in the Mackenzie wood bison sanctuary or parts of it to help increase calf and yearling survival where appropriate in order to maintain population growth levels.

To better assess the needs for such predator control, the Board recommends data be collected in the June 1988 survey:

- a) to determine whether there has been a decline in calf or yearling survival,
- b) whether such decline can be attributed to increased wolf predation.

Such information is to be provided to the Board's bison task force by September 1, 1988.

4. That the Board encourage the Fort Providence management bison committee to remain active, and recommends that the Minister work with that committee and other interested parties to implement the Mackenzie Bison management plan in ways consistent with the principles and strategies recommended from time to time by the Board.
5. That the Mills Lake area be identified as part of the Mackenzie Wood Bison habitat and that the keeping and raising of the domestic livestock be prohibited throughout wood bison habitat within the Denendeh Conservation region.

Further, that the Minister prepare legislation for introduction into the legislative assembly to make it unlawful to keep or raise domestic livestock in or adjacent to wood bison habitat.

ACTION: Suggested a review of cow to calf ratio after calving this season.

ACTION: The Bison Task Force will be in touch with the local boards in Fort Providence, etc. to keep up to date with the progress and write a report from it.

ACTION: Inquiry to D.M. and Chief of Fort Rae for background. The Board can ask them what their interests are regarding bison management policy, diseases, etc. as well as in the tags.

March 10, 1988

Review of Agenda:

MOTION

Be it resolved that the minutes of the last meeting be adopted as final.

Moved by: Jack Van Camp
Seconded by: John T'Seleie

Carried - unanimously.

Business arising out of minutes:

N.W.T. Wildlife Federation motions were discussed.

Jack Van Camp - proposed that the draft resolution regarding Northern mineral policy, which George Kurszewski volunteered to prepare for this meeting, be made ready for discussion at the next meeting.

ACTION: Letter to George Kurszewski regarding the Northern mineral policy.

Kevin Lloyd briefed the Board regarding the barren ground grizzly bear.

The Department is drafting a policy regarding outfitters, grizzly bears, dall sheep, etc. and will present it to the Board within the next six months.

Harry Deneron - thinks that six months is too long.

ACTION: Letter to the Minister saying that we want to know about this issue as soon as possible--not six months.

John T'Seleie - doesn't think that the grizzly bear should be allowed to be over-hunted.

Kevin Lloyd - Dall sheep, grizzly bear, etc. should be dealt with the outfitters policy.

ACTION: Letter to Minister asking for material on ordinance and regulations on all grizzly bear hunting, draft outfitter policy, Miller report on grizzly bears in mountains before next meeting so members of the Board can get a copy before then.

Motion from the N.W.T. Wildlife Federation regarding muskox: GHL's can hunt muskox but only with a tag from a community.

ACTION: Kevin will table a draft plan for the Bathurst caribou herd for the Board by early summer, 1988.

ACTION: John T'Seleie will bring a report from Colville Lake regarding the muskox herd for the next meeting.

ACTION: Letter to Minister asking if we could look at the application to the region from Colville Lake and if we could get a report if they have one.

There was discussion on the request to reduce residency requirement from two years to one year.

Jack Van Camp - thinks the residency requirement should be lowered.

John T'Seleie - doesn't think it should be reduced to one year. There are many good reasons for keeping it to two years.

Harry Deneron - disagrees with Jack on the fact that waiting two years is not a punishment.

Pat Scott - thinks two years is appropriate.

James Rabesca - says that the native organizations will get back on it for sure if we change it to one year.

Jack Van Camp - issue should still be re-thought. Says that resident hunters do not feel welcome.

Pat Scott - thinks that residents waiting for two years for a hunting licence should take training courses in regards to hunting to get them prepared for their licence. They should earn their licence, not just acquire it after two years.

MOTION

Be it resolved that the residency requirement remain at two years.

Moved by: Pat Scott
Seconded by: John T'Seleie

Carried - unanimously. Jack Van Camp abstained.

Forestry Working Group:

A letter was received from the Department stating that they do not want to nominate members. They also want representatives from regional councils and not from the Government of the N.W.T.

ACTION: John Bayly will report back to the Board after talking to the Deputy Minister of Renewable Resources about this letter.

Logo:

Larry will get some caps made up for promotional purposes.

Quorum: (Alternate Members)

Discussion proposed that the quorum be four members plus the chairperson if two members who were nominated by the Minister and two members who were nominated by the Dene/Metis organizations are present.

Further proposed that the chairperson not be able to vote in the event of a tie.

MOTION

Be it resolved that the quorum be established as five members exclusive of the chairperson unless there are two members appointed by the Minister and two members appointed by the Dene/Metis organizations in which case a quorum may be four exclusive of the chairperson.

Moved by: Jack Van Camp
Seconded by: Pat Scott

Carried - unanimously.

MOTION

Be it resolved that the chairperson will not be able to vote on motions.

Moved by: Pat Scott
Seconded by: John T'Seleie

Carried - unanimously.

Next Meeting:

ACTION: The Executive Director will ask bands, hunters and trappers associations, etc. when they can make it to our meetings.

The next meeting is scheduled on May 11 and 12, 1988 in Fort Simpson.

John T'Seleie - we should travel around the communities all the time next year (rotate) and it should be reflected in the budget.

John Bayly - we should start this rotation right away and not wait until next year.

Meetings will be every two months every second week for two days in the middle of the week.

Harry Deneron - suggested Lac La Martre as a place to go into for a meeting.

John Bayly - says we should also stagger the months every year so we can have more flexibility. (If we meet in May in 1988, we should meet in June in 1989, for example).

ACTION: Larry and John Bayly will draft an agenda for the next meeting.

Issues for action - barren ground grizzly issue will come up again.

ACTION: Get information from the Inuvik region regarding muskox hunting.

Pat Scott - wants to discuss white tail deer in the next meeting (habits, concerns their presence may create)

ACTION: Letter to Minister inquiring on the issues for action.

ACTION: Thank Parks Canada, etc. for participating in this meeting.

Pat Scott - agenda item for the next meeting: fire fighting issue.

ACTION: Spring hunting and migratory birds - material will be sent to the Board by Kevin Lloyd.

Meeting adjourned.

John Bayly
Chairperson

**MINUTES
DENENDEH CONSERVATION BOARD MEETING**

**May 11-12, 1988
Fort Simpson**

Present:

John Bayly - Chairperson	Greg Robertson
Shirley Bohnet - Secretary	Pat Scott
Larry Hagen - Director	Stan Stevens
Harry Deneron	John T'Seleie
James Rabesca	Jack Van Camp

Absent:

Albert Adams	Joe McBryan
George Kurszewski	

Mr. Bayly thanked members for attending and welcomed them to the meeting.

Review of agenda:

Mr. Scott added to the agenda a resolution from the Deh Cho Regional Council regarding Mackenzie Bison and Radiation in Caribou.

Mr. Bayly added a draft table of contents for the Board's operations manual. The Director will complete the manual for the July meeting.

Review of minutes:

The following change was made to the minutes. On page five, the revised wording, as suggested by Mr. Van Camp, will be changed to read:

Mr. Van Camp proposed that the draft resolution regarding the Northern Mineral Policy, which George Kurszewski volunteered to prepare for this meeting, be made ready for the next meeting.

MOTION

Be it resolved that the minutes of the previous meeting be adopted with the changes.

Mover:	Mr. Scott
Seconder:	Mr. Van Camp

Carried - unanimously.

Business from the minutes:

Mr. Deneron asked that the draft outfitters policy be made available to the Board.

Mr. Bayly agreed to ask Jim Bourque of the Department what had transpired since the 1983 draft grizzly bear plan.

Members also requested information regarding the Bathurst caribou plan and issues regarding management of the herd.

Mr. Van Camp asked if the mining industry responded to our letter regarding the Thelon and Northern Mineral policy and was informed that they had not responded to date.

Mr. Van Camp was asked and he agreed to draft a resolution, in Mr. Kurszewski's absence, regarding the N.W.T. Wildlife Federation motion regarding the Thelon.

Mr. Stevens mentioned that the Yukon government allowed hunting in the mountains adjacent to ours and it seemed contradictory that the G.N.W.T. did not.

Mr. Deneron mentioned again that grizzly bear hunting should be reviewed in the context of the general outfitters policy.

Mr. Bayly summarized the members' concerns regarding grizzly hunting and outfitting this way:

1. What are the Department's plans for an outfitting policy?
2. What are the plans and what has been done with the 1983 grizzly bear plan?
3. Is there a plan to link the grizzly bear plan with the outfitter policy?
4. Is there a more recent draft grizzly bear plan (including barren ground grizzly)?

Muskox update:

Mainland muskox - Colville Lake/Fort Good Hope

Mr. T'Seleie provided an update on requests by Colville Lake and Fort Good Hope Hunters' and Trappers' Associations for a quota of muskox. John talked to the Fort Good Hope Hunters' and Trappers' Association. He was informed that, in July 1987, the Hunters' and Trappers' Association requested 100 muskoxen tags, half each

interest of the people of these communities in muskoxen and the impact of hunting from this population of muskoxen on the herd.

Mr. T'Seleie confirmed muskoxen were seldom taken by the people of this area because of their scarcity and the availability of other game. The request was not pursued further by the people of Colville Lake or Fort Good Hope at the time.

Mr. T'Seleie advised he had requested copies of correspondence between the Department and the Hunters' and Trappers' Association. This request was denied on the basis that such correspondence is not available to the public. No distinction seems to have been made between the Denendeh Conservation Board and the public.

The discussion continued in the presence of the Deputy Minister, Jim Bourque, and Assistant Deputy Minister, Dave Brackett on May 12. The Board was advised the Department did not have funds to conduct the muskox surveys and that, in all likelihood, they would have to wait until the settlement of the Dene/Metis claim and the availability of implementation funds for this purpose. It is out of those funds that mainland muskox population in the Paulatuk and Tuktoyaktuk areas have been studied and quotas made available to the hunters of those two communities from those populations. The Board was advised the Department was concentrating on bread and butter species; namely those that provide extensive protein to the North or money into the northern economy.

A letter has apparently been sent to the Board by the Minister regarding muskoxen on the mainland but, for some reason, that letter was not received by the Board and the Chairman was requested to ask for that letter to be re-drafted and sent to the Board again. The Minister will be asked whether the Department has an estimate of the number of muskoxen in this population or preliminary studies upon which their decision was based.

Migratory birds:

The Board discussed the special position of hunters in the Northwest Territories, particularly Dene and Metis who have historically depended on migratory birds in the spring. The Board further discussed the unavailability of birds in the fall and the unofficial policy of declining to enforce the Migratory Birds Convention Act and regulations regarding the subsistence harvest of migratory waterfowl by Dene and Metis hunters and trappers. The Board also discussed the collection of eggs in the spring which may have an even greater impact on waterfowl populations than hunting.

It was suggested that the Board ask for a briefing on migratory waterfowl and departmental policy from Bob Bromley of the Department.

Mr. Scott wanted to know what the Department's policy was regarding spring hunting and enforcement.

Mr. Bayly suggested all members discuss this subject with their regions and report back to the Board at the July meeting.

Forestry Working Group:

Nominations from the Mackenzie and Dogrib Tribal/Regional Councils will be sought for the Forestry Working Group. The Director will carry this out.

The Fire policy manual will be dealt with by the Director and the Department so that portions of the manual will be dealt with. These portions will be passed to the Forestry Working Group for further discussion.

Mr. Van Camp suggested and it was agreed that a joint F.W.G./D.C.B. meeting be arranged in July to discuss a number of issues including the Fire Manual. Mr. Bayly suggested members discuss those issues with their communities and provide the results to the Director for the agenda. One agenda item will be the evaluation of the F.W.G./D.C.B. proposed by the Dene/Metis association. In the interim, the Chairman will respond to inform the Dene/Metis association that the evaluation should be postponed until after the July meeting which Bill Erasmus/Mike Paulette could be invited to attend.

Mr. Scott suggested that the Department provide the following information:

1. The good and bad of the Forestry transfer.
2. What kind of fire season is expected.
3. Copy of the transfer agreement.
4. Budget expended last season.
5. How contracts and bids are handled.

Bison task force:

The bison task force did not meet since the previous board meeting. There was discussion on how to bring the members together to begin its work. The Director would act as the Chairman to organize the bison task force. John B. Zoe of the Dogrib Tribal Council will be invited to the next bison task force meeting. Mr. Bayly will be an alternate to all bison task force members in the event of absent members.

The Deh Cho resolution was discussed. The resolution suggested that Fort Providence controls the distribution of bison tags in the Mackenzie Sanctuary. Mr. Scott informed members that the resolution was also sent to the Minister. The Board did not state a position on the resolution.

May 12, 1988

Northern mineral policy:

Mr. Van Camp read the resolution regarding the Thelon game sanctuary:

Whereas the Minister of Indian and Northern Affairs has stated in his northern mineral policy released in December 1986, that he intends to review the status and boundaries of the Thelon Game Sanctuary for the purpose of permitting mineral exploration and development, and

Whereas the mining industry already has access to over 95 percent of the Northwest Territories for mineral exploration and development, and

Whereas the Thelon Game Sanctuary has been closed to hunting, trapping, mineral exploration and development since 1927, and

Whereas the boundaries of this Sanctuary were changed in 1956 to give the mining industry access to its western portion, and

Whereas the Thelon Game Sanctuary survives in a natural state as one of the most remote wilderness areas in the world, and

Whereas an island of boreal forest stretching 150 miles along the mid Thelon River within the Sanctuary has created a unique oasis of tundra and boreal wildlife in the heart of the Barren Lands, and

Whereas the Thelon Game Sanctuary contains a great variety and abundance of birds and mammals on the tundra including large populations of muskoxen, wolves, grizzly bears, moose, Canadian geese, tundra swans, and peregrine falcons, and

Whereas the Thelon Game Sanctuary is vital to the Beverly Caribou herd for calving and during the post-calving period, and

Whereas the unique wilderness qualities and wildlife resources of the Thelon Game Sanctuary are increasingly recognized throughout the world, culminating last summer in a two week Royal visit, and

Whereas mineral exploration and development would degrade the wilderness and wildlife values of the Thelon Game Sanctuary,

Be it resolved that the Denendeh Conservation Board is opposed to any reduction of the boundaries of the Thelon Game Sanctuary, and further that it is opposed to mineral exploration and development being permitted in the Thelon Game Sanctuary.

Mover: Mr. Van Camp
Secunder: Mr. Scott

Carried - unanimously.

A letter will accompany the resolution to the Minister of Renewable Resources with copies to the Minister, DIAND, Minister, Environment Canada, Minister responsible for mining, Beverly Kaminuriak Board, M.P., explaining our position with a suggestion that the Thelon be expanded, not reduced in size.

Mr. T'Seleie suggested the letter should include such things as:

- why create a sanctuary and then disrupt it. Non-renewable development will provide minimal benefit to northerners because it will be a fly in-fly out project, bypassing N.W.T. communities.

Mr. Bayly will provide a video of a Thelon River canoe trip for the July meeting.

Whitetail deer:

The Director informed the Board members that the Department does not consider the whitetail deer expansion into the N.W.T. a management concern. They do not intend to do any studies or other work in that area.

Departmental plans/strategies/priorities:

Mr. Van Camp suggested the Department should inform the Board about their plans and priorities for wildlife management.

Mr. Deneron suggested whitetail deer were not a priority (for spending the Department's budget). There were more important wildlife to be considered for study and management. He also suggested that the transfer of Forestry was a step backwards for wildlife management because wildlife officers now spend most of their time on forestry. Now, the people depending on wildlife services feel they are neglected.

Mr. T'Seleie suggested that an extensive amount of money was spent on bison at the expense of more important wildlife.

A request will be made to the Department to obtain their budget plans and strategic plans.

Pesticides in the Mackenzie River fish:

A letter from the Dene Nation to Jake Epp regarding contamination was read.

A letter will be sent to the Dene Nation and Jake Epp expressing interest in this matter and to ask what has been done as a result of the Dene Nation letter.

Administrative items:

Mr. T'Seleie asked the Board to approve his expenses to report to the Sahtu Regional Council meeting in Fort Norman.

MOTION

Be it resolved that the chairman, on such advice of the Board as he may require, review all requests for the attendance of Board members at Regional or other meetings and approve the necessary expenses to attend such meetings. Members may be required to report back to the Board following such meetings.

Mover: Mr. Deneron
Second: Mr. Scott

Carried - unanimously.

Mr. T'Seleie's travel was consequently approved.

Mr. Van Camp asked the Board to approve his travel from Calgary for one year to attend Board meetings.

MOTION

Be it resolved that the Denendeh Conservation Board incur the additional expenses in order to keep Mr. Van Camp on the Board during his education leave in Calgary for one year.

Mover: Mr. Robertson
Second: Mr. Scott

Carried - Mr. Deneron, Mr. T'Seleie, and Mr. Van Camp abstained.

Guest speaker - Jim Bourque, Deputy Minister, Department of Renewable Resources, G.N.W.T.

- Dave Brackett, Assistant Deputy Minister (Management), Department of Renewable Resources

Mr. Bourque advised that the G.N.W.T. began to take interest in a conservation strategy some two years ago with the World Conservation Strategy being proposed and discussed. The Department agreed to work on a circumpolar strategy for conservation especially with Alaska, Denmark, Sweden and Norway. The G.N.W.T. is prepared to work as well with the Soviet Union but so far there has been little contact.

The Department wants to limit the involvement of technical, professional, anthropologists, etc. and wants to include people who depend on wildlife for their subsistence and livelihood. For this reason, the conservation strategy has to be dependent to a large extent on traditional knowledge, belief and practice.

In this regard, the G.N.W.T. sees itself as taking a lead role. The Department is working with the World Wildlife Fund on a Whales Beneath the Ice project as part of the conservation strategy. The Department has met with a variety of people in Yellowknife regarding traditional knowledge including representatives of the Dene Cultural Institute. It is expected that there would be discreet conservation strategies within the Northwest Territories, all of which would complement one another. In other words, there might be a Baffin Island conservation strategy, a Mackenzie Valley conservation strategy, etc. The conservation strategy in the Denendeh Conservation region would be a part of the whole strategy. This strategy would be based on agreed principles which would be common to all.

According to Assistant Deputy Minister, Dave Brackett, the conservation strategy began with the ICUN and its internationally agreed upon definition of conservation. He advised that there needs to be a strengthening in the area of aboriginal and traditional knowledge and information. He advised that a compiler has been hired to work over the next two years with aboriginal knowledge and traditional information for the next strategy meeting for world conservation. He admitted that to date there has been very little community input and that this is required. He did state that there is no budget for this which has yet been specified. Nevertheless, the Department is coming out with a strategic plan for review. That plan is being reviewed by the Minister now. There will be an opportunity for the Conservation Board to review this.

The conservation strategy has concentrated on bread and butter species such as caribou, polar bears and moose. Caribou itself represents \$27 million in protein value to the people of the Northwest Territories. The Government decided that it must look at the economic return which might be derived from the species either in money or equivalent and decide that if the return was exceeded by the expenditure that studies and action would not be a priority. As Mr. Bourque put it, the Government cannot afford to spend money on loons much though it might like to.

Radiation and caribou:

The Department is being restructured to accommodate a program to monitor contamination and disease in wildlife, including radioactive contamination.

After the Chernobyl disaster, the Department of Renewable Resources began to measure radiation levels in caribou meat in the N.W.T. In some samples, a 25 percent increase over background levels was noted. Among the elements found was Caesium 137 which is a potassium analog. Assistant Deputy Minister, Dave Brackett, advised that some of the radioactive contaminants found in caribou meat are cumulative in humans. The Department has been advised that the levels are still within those considered safe by Health & Welfare Canada.

Pat Scott wondered whether tests had been conducted on humans in the North. Apparently, they had not.

After some discussion following the departure of Messrs. Bourque and Brackett, the Board instructed its Executive Director to obtain a copy of the studies upon which the Government's conclusions are based.

Uranium mining:

Mr. Bourque stated that the uranium mining is a general question, not just one specific to Baker Lake and the Urangeschelleschaft. In that regard, the G.N.W.T. is seeking ways to impose environmental conditions on specific resource projects. Environmental review is presently carried out under federal legislation and the Department is seeking ways of bringing territorial legislation into the House for passage on this subject.

Bison:

Mr. T'Seleie raised with Mr. Bourque the issue of whether bison is a bread and butter species. He acknowledged that bison may be important in national and world terms and if so, questioned why the already suffering G.N.W.T. Renewable Resource budget was paying for the entire maintenance and rehabilitation of bison, particularly wood bison in the Northwest Territories. He also questioned whether the people of Canada and the world should share the economic responsibility for guardianship of this species.

Mr. Bourque acknowledged that this was worth looking into. He stated that the Departmental priority is that bison is an extremely important species and that it is a multi-million dollar resource. He advised that the Fort Smith Chief and the hunters and trappers wanted to examine ways to re-establish herds. He further said that since the wood bison had been down listed on the rare and endangered species list, that they could now be hunted. He further stated that the Department would like to see four or five herds established. He advised that federal agriculture Minister, Mr. Wise, has written to Environment Minister, Mr. MacMillan, on April 22, 1988 requesting an EARP hearing regarding bison south of Great Slave Lake. He questioned whether the Conservation Board should play a role in this environmental assessment and review process. He agreed to discuss this further with the Board through its chairman.

Outfitters:

Mr. Deneron asked about the outfitters policy and reminded Mr. Bourque that it has been a year since he had begun to ask regarding this policy.

Mr. Bourque stated that, in his view, outfitters should be residents of the Northwest Territories and that benefits should go to the north from outfitting. He said he had tried to introduce such a policy but had failed. The government had finally agreed to insist that outfitters bring their tourists in and have their tourists leave through the Northwest Territories. There appears to be a concensus on a need for a change in the outfitting policy. There needs to be more obvious northern benefits and more northern participants in outfitting. At present, resident companies hold all the licences but not the shares in most of the companies.

With one exception, the shares are largely or exclusively held by non-resident shareholders.

Quality control is important for the hunts to be economically successful. Quotas on the number of animals and the number of hunters per annum may be important to consider introducing. More areas must be available for northern residents. At present, the possession of a licence does not guarantee transferability of the business. Outfitters may sell their buildings and equipment but there is no guarantee that the Government will provide the licence to their successors. Discussion has been had and there appears to be some need to modify the boundaries to create new areas. The Department has nothing on paper yet but it has received a legal opinion that it can re-organize the areas and the licencing requirements without expropriating. Nevertheless, it anticipates that it will be taken to court for changes in policy and regulations by one or more of the outfitters.

The Government has suggested a workshop regarding outfitting and wonders whether the Board wants to take responsibility for holding and conducting this workshop. Recommendations could then be made through the Board to the Department. The Department has decided to proceed with plans to restructure the outfitting zones to include four more outfitting areas.

Ingraham trail hunting restrictions:

The Department will provide a draft plan to the Board for their input for the July meeting.

Other business:

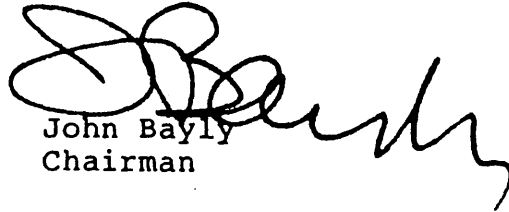
Mr. Stevens' nominated alternate is Ken Johns. Ken will be formally asked to be an alternate.

An invitation to the next Dogrib Tribal Regional Council meeting will be solicited.

The chairman will contact Albert Adams and the Regional Council regarding absenteeism.

Next meeting:

The next meeting will be on July 13 and 14, 1988 in Lac La Martre or, alternately, Yellowknife.



John Bayly
Chairman