

**Manitoba Chapter, The Wildlife Society – Conservation Affairs Committee  
Draft Minutes  
December 1, 2015  
St. James Public Library – 1910 Portage Avenue, Winnipeg**

**Agenda**

The agenda was approved with several items added:

- Status of mourning dove hunt in Manitoba
- Treaty rights and harvest of endangered species
- The Beverly and Qamaniruaq Caribou Management Board update (<http://arctic-caribou.com/>)

**Minutes**

Minutes from the last meeting will be approved via email to give the committee additional time to edit

*ACTION: Edit minutes from last meeting and circulate to group for approval.*

**Moose Letter Update**

Moose letter has been sent to Minister NevaKshonoff and Deputy Minister Grant Doak on November 25, 2016. Letter was posted to the TWS Manitoba website on December 1, 2015 ( <http://drupal.wildlife.org/manitoba/node/22> ). We have/are contacting various media outlets and NGOs that may be able to promote our materials. So far, Bartley Kives, CPAWS, Rob Altemeyer, Canadian Section/TWS Head Office. We should be on the lookout to liaise with other organizations when we can.

A note for future materials that we release – we should further consider the phrasing around indigenous people, communities and hunting rights.

*ACTION: In April/May 2016, re-craft the moose letter and send to the Manitoba government post-provincial election*

**Fisheries**

CAC discussed using the recent momentum from the MB Gov announcement on fisheries (<http://news.gov.mb.ca/news/?item=36672&posted=2015-11-09> ) to heighten our presence and promote science-based decision making in government. It was decided that we should send a letter of support before the election, and a more technical background document post-election to ask for renewed support.

*ACTION: CAC member to draft congratulatory letter to the MB Gov on their choice to examine fisheries issues.*

*ACTION: CAC to examine fisheries letter and provide timely feedback to CAC member. (All) ACTION: CAC member to liaise with Executive/other MC Chapter members to receive approval before sending.*

*ACTION: CAC member to circulate Barb Schaff (sp?) WFP article.*

*ACTION: CAC member to circulate Minister Neva Shonoff's remarks during question period.*

### **TWS Review of Policy Priorities**

MB CAC decided that working on the more immediate priorities of the group, timely projects and reactionary statements, may be the best way to move forward at this time. We can review policy priorities at another time if we decide, or decide on a list of priorities and have other volunteers (students) to examine issues for our review.

Also discussed was creating a network of locals to discuss conservation concerns to foster the possibility of regional efforts.

*ACTION: CAC chair to connect with "local" chapters (Saskatchewan, Lakehead Student Chapter, Minnesota) to see what they are up to and how we can work together.*

### **Update on Action Items**

- a. Surface Water Management legislation – will see if it becomes enacted with the provincial election coming up
- b. East Side Road Authority ongoing public consultation – concern with short/absence of notice of public consultation
- c. Pointe du Bois transmission line – still on hold
- d. Keeyask Project – Full on construction <http://keeyask.com/> is a resource for information on the project
- e. BiPole III – construction is underway.
- f. Conawapa Generating Station – still on hold.
- g. MB – Minnesota Transmission Line - released the final line and there will be an upcoming review period. Connecting with a new line. In Minnesota.

*ACTION: CAC Chair to check in with ESRA to see if we are on contact list.*

### **Student Involvement**

Could get students involved in small projects through Rick Baydack's classes. We could define policy projects for students.

*ACTION: CAC chair to contact Rick Baydack to ask about parameters for class projects.*

*ACTION: CAC members to discuss student projects at next meeting if Rick Baydack is interested. (All)*

### **Status of Mourning Dove Hunt in Manitoba**

CAC member updated the group on the mourning dove hunt in Manitoba. It seems like MB Con will be allowing mourning dove hunt in the province. CAC members will both investigate to see if the regulations will be in effect for the 2016 fall hunting season and if there are any issues that we should be concerned with.

*ACTION: CAC members to check in with their contacts regarding the status of mourning dove hunt in Manitoba.*

### **Treaty Rights and Harvest of Endangered Species**

CAC member raised that this was an issue that we could discuss. In the future. CAC agreed that the issue was complicated and challenging to address.

### **The Beverly and Qamaniruaq Caribou Management Board**

The province will not be funding the board in the future, although there still seems to be issues with management of these two herds. Currently, the selling of animals to Baffin Island is strong, some are being paid up to \$1000 per. Airlines seem to be facilitating the shipping of animals up to Baffin Island. The 1993 Nunavut Land Agreement states that this is a legal practise. It seems like there are less caribou available in Northern Manitoba in the last few hunting seasons, potentially due to overharvest in the North. The board has supported this information becoming public, but the CAC would need to verify information and form a stance if we are to take action. (<http://arctic-caribou.com/>)

### **Next Meeting**

CAC chair will call/arrange the next meeting, likely early in the new year (late January, early-mid February), or earlier if required.

*ACTION: CAC chair to arrange next meeting in early 2016.*