

# TWS Manitoba Chapter Conservation Affairs Committee Meeting Minutes

*Date: June 19, 2018*

*Location: 200 Saulteaux Crescent, Winnipeg, MB –and via conference call*

*Time: 6:00 p.m.*

**Attendees:** 5 members

**Regrets:** 4 members

- 1) Welcome/introductions
- 2) Review of previous minutes – **Approved**
  - a. Two additional action items:
    1. TWS Wolf Management Statement inquiry to J. Duncan – **Action Item – Committee member**
    2. Request for certification update from Fisheries Branch – **Action Item - Committee member to prepare letter**
- 3) Agenda additions/approval - **Approved**
- 4) Recap of recent business – **No Action Items**
  - a. Fisheries Consultations
  - b. MWF Letter of Support
  - c. Birtle Transmission Project
  - d. Bill 7 – Sustainable Watersheds Act
- 5) New/ongoing topics
  - a. Catfish commercial harvest
    - i. Province announced new marketing options for commercial sale of catfish
    - ii. **Action Item - Committee member to investigate and potentially include in letter to Fisheries Branch**
  - b. Moose management in Manitoba – Some recent updates on populations in province, but put on hold till next meeting
  - c. Black Bear Rehabilitation Centre
    - i. Desire to inquire about specifics of permit, including veterinary care, habituation prevention, release and monitoring protocols.
    - ii. **Action Item – Committee member to circulate letter by June 20<sup>th</sup>, 2018.**
  - d. Qamanirjuaq/Beverly caribou survey
    - i. No results released yet from recent population survey. Interest due to declines in other caribou populations and COSEWIC's recent Threatened assessment for barren-ground caribou.

- ii. **Action Item – Await for Nunavut government press release.** Put on hold till next meeting.
    - e. Bill 29 – Safe Hunting and Shared Management
      - i. Province intends on making amendments to The Wildlife Act to regulate night hunting and initiate share management within the Province. Group would like to determine if the proposed actions would affect the sustainability of wildlife in Manitoba. TWS has several position statement on safe hunting, sustainable use and the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation that the Chapter can use.
      - ii. **Action Item – Committee member to draft proposed letter to Legislative standing committee by June 25<sup>th</sup>.**
    - f. Canadian Food Inspection Agency CWD Programing.
      - i. CFIA is currently revising their programing on cervid farms, which will change how CWD infected sites in Saskatchewan and other provinces are monitored and managed, with potential risk of infection to wild populations in Manitoba and other jurisdictions.
      - ii. Co-Chair has proposed this topic to the Canadian Section CAC, since it is a Canada-wide issue, and they are interested in collaborating on a joint letter.
      - iii. **Action Item - Committee members to work on this issue with Canadian Section TWS CAC.**
    - g. Manitoba CWD Regulations
      - i. Committee member suggested that Manitoba should adopt a regulation prohibiting the import of any cervid carcass (including processed) into Manitoba without and associated “CWD-free” test accompanying it.
      - ii. Manitoba appears to be at least exploring this option.
      - iii. **Action Item - All interested members to research and investigate this topic for discussion at next meeting.**
    - h. General wildlife issues update: Polar Bear Population – decline in Southern Hudson Bay polar bear population being reported. Potential land swap with Nunavut could affect Manitoba’s wildlife near Churchill. Manitoba Endangered Species and Ecosystems Advisory Committee could merge with Ecological Reserve Advisory Committee.
    - i. Pellet feeding and CWD; Owl baiting; City of Winnipeg “Shape Winnipeg for Tomorrow”; Feral cats; Wildlife feeding; Neonics and effect on wildlife; White-nose syndrome in Manitoba - Put these issues on hold and await for the appropriate moment to make MB Chapter TWS position policy known.
- 6) Topics for Wildlife Management course students - **Action Item - Committee member to circulate via email to members**
  - a. Review of previous projects
  - b. New ideas for 2018/19:
    - i. Urban sprawl and loss of habitat around Winnipeg
    - ii. Science based revision of the “Manitoba Standards” for polar bears

- iii. Policy for baiting wildlife for photos
- iv. MB contribution to COSEWIC – look over recent attendance at SAMs
- v. Unsolicited COSEWIC Status report for EM caribou in Manitoba

7) Next meeting tentatively scheduled for **early September 2018** at the call of the chair

**8) Adjourned 8:10 pm.**