



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

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MINUTES

WMAC(NS) Teleconference

January 12, 2006

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Doug Larsen – Yukon Government (Member)
Ernest Pokiak – Inuvialuit Game Council (Member)
Danny C. Gordon – Inuvialuit Game Council (Member)
Wendy Nixon – Government of Canada, CWS (Alternate)
Dorothy Cooley – Yukon Government (Alternate)

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10 am.

B. Review of Agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda.

Motion to adopt the agenda

Moved: Ernest Pokiak

Second: Doug Larsen

Motion Carried

C. Ongoing Business

1. Review 2005-2006 of Projects Funded by WMAC(NS)

Ernest asked about the Chairs attendance at Joint Secretariat (JS) Board meetings. The Chair explained that the JS has not held a meeting since last June. It is unknown when the next Board meeting will be held.

The Council reviewed the budget. With respect to WMAC(NS) funded projects, the budget remains underspent for this year. The council will review the projects budget during the March meeting of the Council and re-assign unspent monies to projects in the 2006-07 budget.

Review of WMAC Projects:

a. Traditional Knowledge Database Update

The Secretariat will hire a contractor to complete the database. There may be additional information from the Habitat Stewardship Program project (Grizzly Bear work) that will be entered as part of this contract.

b. IFA Educational Materials

The Chair reviewed the scope of this project (see minutes December, 2005). There was a discussion about the project budget. Doug suggested issuing the contract for \$4700 for interpretation and writing with a second contract for printing. Ernest expressed concerns about increasing the budget beyond \$4700. Members reviewed the list of priority topics. The Council has agreed not to include layout and printing costs into the statement of work at this time. There are requirements for Council Members and others to review the text. The deadline for completion of this project is March 31.

c. PC Harvest Management Strategy

The Secretariat will request an invoice from the PCMB so that the Council can make its approved contribution to the strategy.

d. Grizzly Bear Education Video

The Chair reviewed the outline provided by Aileen Horler which provides options for developing the video. Doug suggested the statement of work for the project should be revised include all of the tasks and related costs for developing a video on the YNS grizzly bear research program's field component. Danny questioned the purpose of the project. The Chair explained the original intent of the project was to show how biologists work with grizzly bears in the field. The audience includes general public, schools, boards and councils, and researchers. Distribution of the videos should be included in the cost of the contract.

The Council will issue a Request For Proposals to develop and complete the video and will review the cost of the proposals.

e. YNS 10 Year Report

There have been no new developments on this project. A list of candidates to conduct this work is being prepared.

f. Habitat Stewardship Fund (Grizzly Bear Traditional Knowledge Project)

This project is underway. Kyle Russell has been approached to conduct the work on a contract basis.

g. Muskox Plan Consultation, Printing and Distribution

The consultation on the plan is expected to happen following the Council's review of the plan and approval-in-principle. It is unlikely that printing and distribution will occur in this fiscal year.

h. Bylaws, Regulations and Legislation

This item is intended for activities such as trapping regulations and Wildlife Act amendments consultations. The Council anticipates being underspent on this item.

The Council had a discussion on the amendments to the Wildlife Act. Yukon Government has contacted WMAC(NS) to arrange a consultation. The Council would like to invite Yukon Government to the March meeting in Whitehorse for the consultation. The Council will review information from consultations two years ago concerning the introduction of stand-alone species-at-risk legislation to identify the differences between the current legislative proposal and the previous proposal. The Council would also like to meet with Tom Jung prior to the consultation to review the history of the initiative and what the previous model was attempting to achieve.

Action 06-01-01: The Secretariat will to invite the YG representatives to the March meeting in Whitehorse for a consultation on the new wildlife act amendments.

Action 06-01-02: The Secretariat will invite Tom Jung to meet and discuss the history of the amendments and differences between the previous and current proposal.

i. Climate Change Report

The Council has not made a financial commitment to final printing of the report.

j. Summer Student Mentoring Program + Rare Species Survey

The funds for these projects have been spent.

Action 06-01-03: At the March meeting the Council will also review line-items and re-allocate funds as appropriate.

Action 06-01-04: At the March meeting, the Council will review and approve-in-principle a budget for 2006 – 07.

2. Species at Risk

a. **Rusty Black Bird (Six Month Draft Status Report)**

Comments Due: January 20, 2006

The Rusty Black Bird is a boreal forest wetland species. It has been noted in the ISR but those eight occurrences are considered accidental. The Council recognizes that the bird is part of a continental population that has been declining but habitat on the Yukon North Slope for this species is negligible.

Action 06-01-05: The Secretariat will send a letter to Karl thanking for the opportunity to comment on the Rusty Black Bird (Six Month Draft Status Report) and indicating that the habitat on the Yukon North Slope for this species is negligible.

b. **Ivory Gull (Interim Report)**

The Ivory Gull is a high arctic species. Other than few accidental occurrences it does not occur on the Yukon North Slope. In the report the term “Canadian Arctic” is used for the range of this species. A more accurate description of the species range may be “East – Central Arctic”.

Action 06-01-06: The Secretariat will send a letter thanking for the opportunity to comment on the Rusty Black Bird (Six Month Draft Status Report) and indicating that a more accurate description of the species range may be “East – Central Arctic”.

c. **Polar Bear (Reassessment)**

The Council was provided with notes from the October 21, 2005 teleconference. The material was provided to keep the council up to date on the plans for reassessment for Polar Bear.

d. **Red Knot (Status Assessment)**

Breeding distribution is the high to central arctic. The Council has replied on this reassessment to this effect.

e. **Short Eared Owls (Status Assessment)**

This species does occur and breed on the YNS and has been a species of special concern nationally for several years but appear abundant in the Yukon. The Council does not have new information at this time.

Action 06-01-07: The Secretariat will send a letter thanking for the opportunity to comment on the Short Eared Owl Status Assessment, indicating that the Council

does not have any new information to offer at this time, and requesting the opportunity to comment on a the draft assessment.

Action 06-01-08: The Secretariat will draft a letter to Ivvavik National Park and Herschel Island Territorial Park to encourage the inclusion of the Short Eared Owl in their bird monitoring work.

f. Bearded Seal (Status Report Update)

This species falls within the mandate of the FJMC.

Action 06-01-09: The Secretariat will send a letter re: the Bearded Seal Status Report Update indicating that the Council does not have mandate for the species and recommending they contact the FJMC if they have not done so already. The Secretariat will include Danny and Ernest's comments/observation of bearded seal numbers in the letter.

2. Muskox Research and Management

The Council provided the following comments on the Draft Muskox Management Plan:

- Update the tables and figures with current survey data
- Add socio-economic section on wildlife viewing and tourism (Wendy)
- Include an Executive Summary (Doug)
- Update references to the plan duration (2006-2011)
- Update quota information
- Page 5: Benchmark data from 2005.
- Update section on parasite transfer (information from study by Susan Koots)
- Page 6: Delete Porcupine Caribou Management Plan
- Page 16 (line 5): Use three year period for population assessment because of population fluctuation and survey frequency.
- Difference between muskox management in the NWT and Yukon needs to be made more clear (harvest management section).
- Note different methods for collecting data in different management units.
- Change “collars will be maintained” to “collars will be considered”.
- Dorothy will obtain a quote to analyze genetic material.
- Calculate if the data from the last three years has changed the 306 (+/- 10%) target population size.

Action 06-01-10: The Secretariat will work with Dorothy and Ian MacDonald to revise, update and circulate the Draft Muskox Management Plan by January 31.

Action 06-01-11: WMAC(NS) will hold a teleconference to discuss the Draft Muskox Management Plan and consultation on the plan.

The Council discussed communication between GNWT and YG with respect to muskox management. There is a need for better communication between YG, NWT,

WMAC(NWT) and WMAC(NS) on management issues between YG and NWT. If one government is making management decisions about harvesting in the IFA it is important to communicate this information to other boards and governments.

Action 06-01-12: The Chair will contact the WMAC(NWT) and encourage communication between the two co-management bodies and the YG and GNWT with respect to the potential transboundary impacts of reduced harvesting of Porcupine and Bluenose West caribou herds in the ISR.

3. Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op

The Secretariat provided an update on the Co-op. The Council agrees to make the contribution of \$5000 to the co-op for the 2005-6 fiscal year. A review of the community survey and questionnaire for ecological monitoring on the YNS should be included in the WMAC(NS) workplan for next year. WMAC(NS) will consult with the AHTC and the IGC on this matter

Action 06-01-13: Michelle and Danny will attend the ABEKC Annual Gathering on behalf of WMAC(NS).

4. New Business

Doug highlighted the North Richardson Sheep Working Group meeting tentatively scheduled for the end of January. It was noted that there are attempts to keep the working group meeting at the technical level. Dorothy and Jean Carey (YG) are participating. The Secretariat will contact VGFN to discuss participation.

5. Upcoming conferences and workshops

a. North Slope Conference

The Chair suggested holding the conference between January and March 2007 to coincide with IPY and to ensure enough time between Costal Zone Canada 2006 and the North Slope Conference.

Action 06-01-14: The WMAC(NS) Secretariat will draft a letter to YG and the IGC recommending holding the North Slope Conference between January and March 2007.

b. Next WMAC(NS) Meeting

The next WMAC(NS) meeting is scheduled for Saturday, March 25, 2006 to 27 Monday, March 27, 2006 in Whitehorse.

D. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Moved: Doug Larsen

Second: Ernest Pokiak

Motion Carried.