



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

P.O. Box 31539, Whitehorse, Y.T. Y1A 6K8 Canada

Telephone: (867) 633-5476 Fax: (867) 633-6900

E-mail: wmacns@web.ca www.taiga.net/wmac

MINUTES

WMAC(NS) TELECONFERENCE

October 20, 1998

Present: Lindsay Staples - Chair
Joan Eamer - Canadian Wildlife Service - Member- Government of
Canada
Danny C. Gordon - Member -Inuvialuit Game Council
Nelson Green- Member -Inuvialuit Game Council
Brian Pelchat - Chief, Regional Management - Member -Yukon Territorial
Government
Dorothy Cooley- Alternate- Yukon Territorial Government
Alan Fehr - Parks Canada
Aileen Horler - WMAC(NS) Secretariat

A. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda and proposed to add a report from the recent meeting that was held in Inuvik regarding implementation issues with YTG. Alan Fehr requested an addition regarding the upcoming review of the Ecosystem Conservation Plan for Ivvavik National Park.

Motion

to adopt the agenda, as amended.

Moved: Brian Pelchat

Seconded: Nelson Green

Motion carried

B. Financial Review

1. September 1998 statement

The Secretariat explained that the budget as presented was a summary of the Council's expenditures to date. Expenditures are on track with spending levels about the same as in previous years.

2. 1998-99 proposed budget

There is currently \$9,158 unassigned in the Council's 1998-99 budget.

The budget reflects the \$7000 committed to the Environmental Youth Corp position by the Council at their meeting in September. An additional \$7000 has been committed by the FJMC to fund a second position under this program which it is hoped will be filled in Inuvik. The Chair proposed that \$2000 of the unassigned funds could be allocated to travel for the Youth Corp position as travel to Alaska to conduct research will be part of the project.

Joan Eamer suggested that some funds be assigned to Ecosystem Monitoring as the Secretariat has always contributed time toward the organization of the annual gatherings. Members agreed to assign \$2500 to Ecosystem Monitoring.

The Chair noted that funding is required for the editing of the WEB version of the Long Term Research Plan. Funds are also required for the editing and printing of the pamphlet which is to be distributed to describe the Plan. Members agreed to assign the balance of the funds to the Long Term Research Plan.

Motion

to allocate \$2000 towards travel for the Environmental Youth Corp position, \$2500 toward Ecosystem Monitoring and \$4658 toward the Long Term Research Plan, from the unassigned funds in the WMAC(NS)'s 1998-99 budget.

Moved: Nelson Green

Seconded: Joan Eamer

Motion carried

C. 1997/98 Wildlife Management and Research Updates

1. Muskox School Unit

Dorothy Cooley reported that this project still has not been completed, even though it was due to be done last spring. It is hoped that the project will develop school units about muskox for all grades.

Action 98-10-01: Danny C. Gordon will contact the Akalvik HTC to get a status report on the Muskox School Unit project.

2. Video - Count of Muskox and Moose on Yukon North Slope

The Secretariat reported that Lawrence Rogers at the Inuvialuit Communication Society is hoping to have the video complete to show the Council in December when it meets in Inuvik.

D. 1998/99 Wildlife Management and Research updates

1. Implementation of the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan

Dorothy Cooley reported that this funding was recommended for the implementation of three projects arising from WMAC(NS)'s actions for 1998-99 as described in the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan. None of the actions have been undertaken yet but meetings are planned. Dorothy anticipated that the funds would be spent.

2. Wolf sample analyses

Dorothy Cooley reported that YTG still has possession of the wolf heads that were collected by the Aklavik HTC last spring. Dorothy hopes to send them out to the lab in December along with some caribou samples that also need to be analysed. The main reason for doing the testing is to do DNA analysis. Some questions remain as to whether rabies testing will be done. Dorothy anticipated that all the funds would be spent.

3. Muskox ecology studies

Dorothy Cooley reported that the original proposal included a study of muskox/ caribou interactions but so far she hasn't been able to figure out how this kind of work could be successfully conducted. Opportunities in the field would be rare. A lot of money could be spent with little result. The Large Animal Research Centre at the University of Alaska in Fairbanks has proposed to do such a study under captive conditions but this has not yet been started. Dorothy commented that a captive study is probably the best way to go about getting the kinds of information that is needed. There were a lot of observations of muskox recorded this summer on Herschel Island but only one of them was related to a muskox and caribou interaction.

The Chair suggested that Dorothy could talk to a variety of people and try to compile their observations regarding muskox/ caribou interactions. Dorothy commented that it is her intention to collect anecdotal information from those who have worked on muskox and caribou. Nelson Green agreed to provide Dorothy with the names of people in Paulatuk who might be able to provide some information. Danny C. Gordon added that the concerns regarding muskox/ caribou interactions continue to be raised in Aklavik.

Dorothy noted that if the muskox/ caribou interaction work is no longer included in the proposal, the cost of the muskox ecology study would be reduced to \$38,840. The study will still include aspects such as the telemetry work, population monitoring and range use.

Action 98-10-02: Dorothy Cooley will provide the Council with an update regarding the muskox- caribou interaction studies, at the December 1998 meeting.

4. Herschel Island -vegetation map and muskox locations

Dorothy Cooley reported that she and Catherine Kennedy went to Herschel Island this summer to carry out the proposed work. Park rangers were trained to use vegetation and soils maps and recorded a total of 24 observations of wildlife over the summer. The next step is to develop a database of observations which can be kept and updated in the Park's office. It wasn't possible to carry out most of the ground truthing of the vegetation because there wasn't a helicopter available. Some of the vegetation had changed since the original work was done 10 years ago. Dorothy hopes to be able to set up an ITEX plot on the island. The Chair commented that the Council will be able to discuss research proposals for Herschel Island at the December meeting.

E. 1998 Caribou Census

Dorothy Cooley reported that the results from the census on the Porcupine caribou herd, completed in the summer of 1998, shows that the herd numbers are lower than expected at 128,856 animals. There were 152,000 in 1994 when the census was last done.

F. Next meeting

Members agreed that the next Council meeting will be held in Aklavik and Inuvik, between December 7 and 10. A public meeting is to be scheduled for the evening of December 7, in Aklavik.

G. Adjournment

The Chair acknowledged that there wasn't enough time remaining in the teleconference to report on the recent meeting that was held with YTG in Inuvik regarding implementation issues. Members agreed to add this item as well as Alan's requested discussion on the upcoming review of the Ecosystem Conservation Plan for Ivvavik National Park onto the agenda for the December meeting.

*Motion
to adjourn*

Moved: Nelson Green
Seconded: Brian Pelchat
Motion carried

WMAC(NS) Chair

Date

WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Date