



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

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Minutes

WMAC(NS) Teleconference

October 12, 2005

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Danny C. Gordon – Inuvialuit Game Council (Member)
Ernest Pokiak – Inuvialuit Game Council (Member)
Ron Larsen – Government of Canada, Parks Canada (Member)
Doug Larsen – Yukon Government (Member)
Wendy Nixon – Government of Canada, Environment Canada (Alternate)
Michelle Sicotte – Secretariat

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:00 am. The Chair welcomed Danny back to the Council.

B. Review of Agenda

The Council will review YESAA legislation and the Yukon *Wildlife Act* Amendments. Danny noted that he did not have access to the information as the mail into Aklavik has been slow due to weather.

The Council adopted the agenda.

C. *Wildlife Act* Amendments

The Council discussed the amendments to the Yukon *Wildlife Act*. Members circulated comments prior to the teleconference.

Consistency with the Umbrella Final Agreement

- Members expressed concern over the proposal to change the definition of wildlife. The lack of clarity and uncertainty introduced in the proposed definition of wildlife undermines the

certainty provided in the current definitions in the Wildlife Act and the Inuvialuit Final Agreement.

- Further consultation with WMAC(NS) and the Inuvialuit Game Council is necessary to ensure the proposed amendment are not in conflict with Part 19- Yukon North Slope.
- The proposed amendments to the *Wildlife Act* for Species at Risk require further consultation and discussion.
- There has not been a discussion of broadening the definition of wildlife beyond vertebrates.

Species at Risk

- Species of special concern are not included in the proposed changes
- The Council would prefer to comment on the proposed regulations as opposed to the information booklet

D. Comments on YESAA Regulations

- Protocols must be developed explaining how this process will work with other screening processes (such as the IFA-based EISC).
- The Chair pointed out that the Inuvialuit Game Council and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation have withdrawn from direct involvement in the process to develop regulations.
- The Wildlife section is difficult to follow. It would be useful to have the wildlife section written with a similar approach to the fisheries section.
- Regulations should require a review of any species that come into the Yukon (not just species not found in Canada, but also species not found in the Yukon).
- The assessment process should involve IFA boards and councils.
- In the proposed process activities including flying into a wilderness area (e.g. Margaret Lake) would require screening.
- Inuvialuit do not meet the definition for First Nations. There was a question about when the consultation will involve the Inuvialuit.
- There is no relief from duplicate screening for projects on the Yukon North Slope from these regulations.
- There are no provisions for the triggering of exemptions of Government initiated wildlife research projects on the Yukon North Slope by the WMAC(NS) or other IFA bodies. Similar projects in other areas of the Yukon and on the Yukon North Slope can be exempted through the Renewable Resources Councils and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board. WMAC(NS) and other IFA bodies (as appropriate) should have equivalent standing.

WMAC(NS) Chair

Date

WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Date