



MEETING MINUTES

WMAC(NS) Quarterly Meeting

Whitehorse, Yukon
Alpine Bakery
October 23 – 25, 2007

Tuesday, October 23

Lindsay Staples Chair • **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Doug Larsen** Yukon Government (Member) • **Dorothy Cooley** Yukon Government (Alternate) • **Wendy Nixon** Canadian Wildlife Service (Alternate) • **Michelle Sicotte** Secretariat

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:10 am. The Chair congratulated Ernest and Evelyn on their re-appointment to the Council. The Chair also indicated that Frank Pokiak has been re-elected as the Chair of the IGC.

Action 07-10-01: The Chair will send a letter to Frank Pokiak congratulating him on his recent re-election as Chair of the IGC.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

Action 07-10-02: The Secretariat will contact the IGC regarding Research Day and the wildlife compensation meeting in December.

Motion 07-10-01

Motion to approve the agenda for the October 23 – 25, 2007 meeting as presented.

Moved: Danny C. Gordon

Second: Ernest Pokiak

Motion Carried

The Council discussed recent comments made by the Aklavik representative to the IGC at the September IGC meeting.

Action 07-10-03: The Council will send a letter to the IGC to identify the incident regarding Dennis Arey's comments on the Yukon North Slope Grizzly Bear Program at the September 2007 IGC meeting. The statements do not reflect the relationship between WMAC(NS) and the Aklavik HTC. The statements also do not reflect the implementation of the grizzly bear program. The Council will request IGC members collectively ensure members are acting on behalf of the communities they represent. The letter will be copied to the AHTC.

Action 07-10-04: The Council will request the Aklavik HTC reconfirm support for the grizzly bear program in light of recent comments made by Dennis Arey at the September 2007 IGC meeting. The communication will reflect interactions between Ramona Maraj, WMAC(NS) and the Aklavik HTC on the grizzly bear program.

C. Review and Approval of Minutes

1. *June 11 – 13, 2007*

Members reviewed the minutes of the meeting held June 11 – 13, 2007 in Whitehorse, Yukon. There were no requests for changes.

Motion 07-10-02

Motion to adopt the minutes from the June 11 – 13, 2007 WMAC(NS) meeting.

Moved: Doug Larsen

Second: Wendy Nixon

Motion Carried

2. *September 19, 2007 (Teleconference)*

Members reviewed the minutes of the teleconference held September 19, 2007. There were no requests for changes.

Motion 07-10-03

Motion to adopt the minutes from the September 19, 2007 WMAC(NS) teleconference.

Moved: Ernest Pokiak

Second: Danny C. Gordon

Motion Carried

D. Review of Action Items

The Council reviewed the status of ongoing action items:

Action 07-06-08: The Secretariat will contact the EISC for more information on the SDC location at Roland Bay including if the vessel was permitted, when it was permitted, who was consulted, and, if (and when) the information was sent to WMAC(NS). **Requested**

Action 07-06-09: WMAC(NS) will provide guidance to the contractor on themes and focus for analysis for the Yukon North Slope 10 year report. **Revised**

Action 07-06-12: The Secretariat will compile and review harvest data for the period from 1996 to 2006 in December. **Requested**

Action 07-06-24: The Council will review the draft recommendations for waste management at Shingle Point during the summer 2007 meeting. **Complete.**

Action 07-06-26: The Chair will re-draft the muskox management plan and the Council will review the management plan in October. **Ongoing. The Chair requested additional information from the Council.**

Action 07-06-27: The Council will review the report prepared by the consultant on research permitting and reporting process at the October 2007 meeting. **Complete.**

Action 07-06-28: The Council will review the recommendations on the Aklavik Harvest Study at the meeting in October 2007. **Complete.**

Action 05-12-01: Dorothy will provide an information kit for interviewers and participants associated with harvest reporting in Aklavik that explains the importance of the harvest reporting program for compensation and for wildlife management purposes. **Revised. See Action 07-10-23.**

Action 05-03-01: Dorothy will make a poster for the Aklavik HTC on what hunters should do with animals that are harvested that are collared. **Requested.**

Action 06-11-02: Dorothy will look into contracting an expert to review the information on parasites in muskoxen and the pros/cons of mixing the North Slope and NWT muskoxen sub-species. **Requested**

E. Correspondence

Members reviewed the following correspondence:

1. *Letter from WMAC(NWT) regarding management of the Kunnek Resources Reindeer Herd.*
2. *Letter from the GRRB regarding muskox studies in the Richardson Mountains.*
3. *Letter from Ron Larsen regarding resignation from Council.*

Action 07-10-05: Send Ron Larsen a letter and gift thanking him for his contribution to WMAC(NS).

4. *Letter from ABEKC regarding WMAC(NS) input into Coop structure.*
5. *Letter from YESAB announcing new Chair and new Executive Committee Member.*
6. *Letter from PCMB regarding WMAC(NS) concerns about meat wastage.*

7. *Letter from AHTC regarding information on wolf and wolverine studies on the North Slope.*

Action 07-10-06: The secretariat will draft a response to the request from the Aklavik HTC regarding information on wolf and wolverine studies on the North Slope (July 31, 2007). Dorothy will review the draft prior to sending.

8. *Letter from the EIRB and EISC regarding the management of the Kunnek Reindeer Herd.*
9. *Letter from the PCMB regarding the Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management Strategy Workshop.*
10. *Letter from YG regarding Amendments to the Wildlife Act for consistency with the Umbrella Final Agreement.*

The Council will not review the amendments to the *Wildlife Act* at this time. The Council will review the *Wildlife Act* when it is tabled to ensure there are no conflicts between the IFA and the amended *Wildlife Act*.

11. *Letter from NYPC regarding review of Draft Yukon Regional Land Use Plan.*
12. *Email correspondence from Steve Solomon regarding Yukon North Slope Coastal Monitoring Program.*
13. *Email from George McCormick regarding Yukon offshore oil and gas nominations.*
14. *Update from Dorothy Cooley regarding Old Crow Moose Project.*
15. *Information from Kristine Wray and Brenda Parlee regarding Porcupine Caribou Masters' research in Fort McPherson.*

Action 07-10-07: The Secretariat will request a copy of the questionnaire for the "Tetlit Gwich'in Ways of Respecting Caribou: Traditional and Contemporary Hunting Rules" from Kristine Wray.

16. *IPY Training, Communications and Outreach Call for Proposals.*

Action 07-10-08: The Council will consider options for submitting a joint proposal with WMAC(NWT) for the IPY Training, Communications and Outreach Call for Proposals which closes on January 15, 2008.

17. *YESAB letter regarding review of its Rules for Evaluations Conducted by Designated Offices.*

The Council discussed the extent to which EISC, EIRB and YESAB have agreed to consistency between processes.

Action 07-10-09: The Secretariat will contact the EISC to request information on the agreement between how the EISC and YESAB work together on screening. If there is no such agreement in place the Secretariat will inquire when they anticipate having such an arrangement.

18. *Letter from Shell Exploration and Production Inc regarding Kulluk Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit (MODU) 2007/2008 over wintering program in Herschel Basin, Yukon and letter from Aklavik Community Corporation and Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee regarding EISC decision on the Kulluk.*

The Chair noted that the WMAC(NS) correspondence dated September 12, 2007 was not included in the decision document package of information. The Chair also noted that there was concern raised over enforcement of the terms and conditions of two projects in the ISR. The Council raised concern that the timeline required for comment is not sufficient for the company to enact an alternative plan if the permit is not issued for the storage of the Kulluk at Herschel. The Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan identifies the lack of a coastal management plan or regime in place in the event of oil and gas activities on the Yukon North Coast. The Council suggested documenting the use of certain locations along the coast and the timeframe for use of locations by people and wildlife.

The Council identified the conflict of interest when the oil and gas companies are paying Hunters and Trappers to attend meetings and make decisions about oil and gas development.

Action 07-10-10: The Secretariat will send a letter to the EISC requesting their assurance that correspondence from WMAC(NS) on development projects impacting the Yukon North Slope are included in summary packages.

Action 07-10-11: The Secretariat will circulate the Draft Beaufort Sea Regional Action Plan to Council members.

The Council reviewed correspondence sent by WMAC(NS).

Action 07-10-12: Ramona Maraj will contact Parks Canada regarding development of roles and responsibilities for the grizzly bear program.

Action 07-10-13: The Secretariat will follow up with Norm Snow at the Joint Secretariat regarding the request for a review of the honoraria for the Chairs and Members of WMAC(NS), WMAC(NWT) and FJMC.

F. Report from Members and Secretariat

Ernest reported on the American Association for the Advancement of Science Conference held in Anchorage, Alaska September 24 – 26, 2007. A written report is included in the meeting binder.

Kelsey Russell, WMAC(NS) Summer Student, provided a written report that was included in the meeting binder.

Wendy reported that there has been no thaw on the budget freeze at Environment Canada. They have received \$5K for the ABEKC prior to the freeze but that it is unlikely that the office will receive additional funds for the remainder of the fiscal year. Wendy will advise the Council as soon as more information on the situation is known. All IFA bodies could express concern to the Federal Government regarding this funding freeze.

The remaining Council members did not have new information to report.

The Secretariat reviewed the status of all the WMAC(NS) projects.

Action 07-10-14: The Secretariat will send a letter of information to the Aklavik HTC requesting support for the proposed Porcupine Caribou Traditional Knowledge Project.

Action 07-10-15: The Secretariat will send a letter of information to the Aklavik HTC regarding the special event for Aklavik Elders planned for December 2007.

G. Report from the Chair

The Chair spoke about the WMAC(NS) summer student and felt the arrangement worked out well. He also mentioned that he was encouraged with the interviews for the new Secretariat and felt it would be useful for the Council to discuss arrangements for the position. Lindsay has been working on several WMAC(NS) files including securing a contractor for the ABEKC 10 year report.

H. Yukon Offshore Oil and Gas Nominations

The Council discussed the upcoming Yukon offshore oil and gas nominations. The Council sent a letter to YG requesting additional information.

Action 07-10-16: The Council will request a briefing from the appropriate person (Norm Snow or Jon Reid) on the Regional Action Plan for the Beaufort Sea.

Action 07-10-17: The Secretariat will circulate a colour version of the Yukon oil and gas nomination map to the Council.

Action 07-10-18: The Secretariat will send the relevant information regarding the Yukon oil and gas nomination process to the Aklavik HTC.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Tuesday, October 23

Lindsay Staples Chair • **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Doug Larsen** Yukon Government (Member) • **Dorothy Cooley** Yukon Government (Alternate) • **Wendy Nixon** Canadian Wildlife Service (Alternate) • **Michelle Sicotte** Secretariat • **Richard Gordon** Yukon Government (Guest)

The meeting was called to order at 9 am.

I. Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management Strategy

The members provided an update on the Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management Strategy Workshop held October 18 – 21, 2007 in Inuvik, NT.

The workshop was productive. The group was large – 60+ participants; Doug Uquhart was an effective facilitator. The purpose of the workshop was to provide the working group background information to draft recommendations to various governments and the governments will need to decide how to move forward.

The working group is comprised of the following individuals: Wendy Nixon, Carol Domas, Dick Mahoney, Doug Esagok, Roberta Joseph, Wilbert Firth, Esau Shafer, Marsha Brannigan, Joe Tetlich, and Deana Lemke.

Participants are aware of the declining status of NWT herds and it was easy to talk about population declines. Participants agreed that it is necessary to plan now for the PCH. There was an agreement on limiting cow harvest and phasing in limitations on harvest. The first limitation would be on cow harvest and limit on overall harvest would follow. There was agreement on the importance of managing conservatively.

It has been almost two and a half years since the process began. It was a challenge to get all the user groups signed on to the process. There are still some individuals who do not understand or believe the decline in population numbers.

Some members wished there had been more progress at the meeting.

Everyone recognized the need for reliable, verifiable, annual harvest data. It was also recognized that local and traditional knowledge would be important.

The Porcupine Caribou Technical Committee decided against using the 2007 air photos for a population count due to the poor quality of the photos. There will be a need to rely on the computer models that base population estimates on caribou survival data if it continues to be impossible to get the census photos. There may also be a place for local knowledge, as well as birth and death rates, in the absence of census data. Local indicators will not provide information on population size but will provide information on changes in distribution, body condition, weather events, etc.

There was a discussion about the role of traditional knowledge studies. The governments will look to the Aboriginal groups to gather traditional information for the education package. There is a role for WMAC(NS) and WMAC(NWT) to assist in gathering this information for Aklavik, Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk.

Members raised the issue of the international agreement. Workshop participants agreed that a strategy for Canada would come first as Canada is the biggest harvester.

The extent of the decline is not clear. Members discussed local observations of population decline.

Action 07-10-19: The Council will discuss possibilities of collaborative PC traditional project with WMAC(NWT).

J. Herschel Island Territorial Park

Richard Gordon provided an update on Herschel Island Territorial Park. More information on the season update can be found in the binders. The Council discussed input into the work plan for the Park. December is an optimal time to provide feedback on the monitoring program. The spring is an optimal time to provide feedback on operations.

Action 07-10-20: The Council will schedule a review of the Herschel Island work plan in December (monitoring) and March (operations) Council meetings.

The Council discussed the listing of Herschel Island on Canada's list of Top 10 Endangered Places. The Council is seeking additional information on the information base used to make this designation.

Action 07-10-21: The Secretariat will invite the Yukon Government Heritage Branch to an upcoming Council meeting to advise on heritage resource management at Herschel Island and recent heritage/climate change rankings.

The Council discussed the recent maintenance on the airstrip at Pauline Cove. The direction to clear the airstrip came from Yukon Government and the decision was based on operations and safety access. The Council raised concerns over the considerable work done on the airstrip. The screening requirements for airstrip maintenance and construction under the EISC was identified as an issue to be addressed. The Council reviewed the Herschel Island Management Plan as well as the Inuvialuit Final Agreement related to airstrip maintenance at Pauline Cove. Both documents provide clear direction that Herschel Island will be managed as a wilderness park. The Council discussed options for continuing regular park operations without access to the airstrip including float plane access, helicopter access, and access via ice road. Concern was raised regarding promoting use of the ice road for park operations.

The Council is interested in additional communication with Yukon Government regarding this issue, including: work planning for next season, role of WMAC(NS), designation of Herschel Island in the management plan and in the IFA, safety, and environmental issues.

Action 07-10-22: The Secretariat will invite Erik Val to discuss the issue of airstrip maintenance at Herschel Island with the Council.

Action 07-10-23: The Secretariat will circulate the text for the collared animals poster to the Council for discussion.

K. Aklavik Harvest Study

The Chair provided background information on the Inuvialuit Harvest Study. Since the IHS concluded it has been the responsibility of the communities and co-management boards to conduct harvest surveys. Yukon Government has been conducting the harvest study in Aklavik since 2002. The Council reviewed the following recommendations on the Aklavik Harvest Study provided by Catherine Pinard:

- Update the harvester list each year (Aklavik HTC)

- Provide interviewer with strong supervision and good training
- The Aklavik HTC should play an increased role in the survey
- A diary for individuals to record harvest would help people remember as they are interviewed so infrequently
- The interviewer requires a better map
- The Aklavik HTC should review the data annually to ensure the information is reflective of the harvest

Danny mentioned that the Aklavik HTC is interested in renewing the Inuvialuit Harvest Study and would like to discuss this issue with WMAC(NS) in December.

Harvest reporting is important for compensation and wildlife management. Harvest data has been used for compensation purposes in the past related to oil and gas developments. The system is not perfect; harvest data to support compensation claims serves groups of people better than individuals. The issue is if the IGC or the IRC is willing to work towards a claim on behalf of an individual. The Council stressed the need to educate people on the importance of collecting harvest data. The Council also discussed alternative means of obtaining the information including workshops. The Council highlighted the need to work closer with the IGC and the Aklavik HTC on the harvest survey, and that the Aklavik HTC should be more active in educating harvesters in the community.

It was mentioned that GNWT is producing a harvest calendar.

Catherine requested additional feedback from the Council regarding including furbearers in the survey. The Council made the following comments: Wolverine is in the COSEWIC process and therefore there is management purposes to collect data on wolverine, harvest of furbearers is generally restricted to wolf and wolverine, and there is no trapping on the Yukon North Slope.

The Inuvialuit Final Agreement states it is the responsibility of the Hunter and Trapper Committees to collect provide harvest data. It may be possible to have the HTC and the RRC collaborate on collecting harvest data.

Revised Action 07-10-24: The Secretariat will develop a special edition of the Wildlife Watch newsletter for interviewers, participants and others associated with harvest reporting in Aklavik that explains the importance of harvest reporting for compensation and wildlife management purposes. This special edition will also include harvest data.

L. Research Permitting and Reporting

The Council reviewed the recommendations provided by Christine Cleghorn on revising the current research permitting and reporting process. The Council is interested in knowing who conducting research on the North Slope is, and if the Council is aware of all research being conducted. The Council would like to adopt recommendation 2 and 3 as put forward by the contractor.

The Council suggested an additional recommendation to rationalize the two permit system within Yukon Government by combining Science and Explorers Permit with the Wildlife Permit for natural science research projects. The new permit system would be administered by Yukon Environment. This action would increase the input by Council into research and management on the North Slope. The Council needs to ensure it would have access to the proposals for review.

The Council would also continue to have access to the social science permits screened through the Science and Explorers Permit for integrated management purposes.

Action 07-10-25: The Secretariat will draft a letter to Yukon Government recommending recommendation 2 and 3 regarding the research permitting and reporting process. As well, the Council will recommend rationalizing the two permit system within Yukon Government by combining Science and Explorers Permit with the Wildlife Permit for natural science research projects.

Action 07-10-26: The Secretariat will request digital versions of the Science and Explorers Permit to provide opportunity for Council members to comment on research proposals.

M. Wildlife Programs

Dorothy reviewed the status of the Aklavik Harvest Survey, Herschel Island Ecological Monitoring, and the Porcupine Caribou Satellite Collar Program. Additional information on these programs is included in the binder. There is a \$2K surplus from the Herschel Island program.

Dorothy mentioned plans to do a roll-up of the six years of data collected at Herschel Island. The Council may consider recommending funds for this work next fiscal.

Action 07-10-27: The Secretariat will obtain the amount of remaining funds for Wildlife Programs from Yukon Government so that recommendations can be made to utilize those funds this fiscal year.

N. COSEWIC (Polar Bear)

The Council reviewed the Update COSEWIC Status Report on the Polar Bear. Doug Larsen provided additional information. Canada and the US will make decisions in January regarding the listing of polar bear. It is anticipated that the US will list polar bear as endangered which will have significant impacts on sport hunters in Canada as US citizens will no longer be able to export hides from Canada.

A debate remains over the border between the Southern Beaufort and Northern Beaufort polar bear populations. It is expected that this border will be adjusted to the west.

There was a question on how predictions for changes in pack ice are made. It is expected that changes in ice conditions will impact the Southern Beaufort population first in Canada.

The harvest of polar bears in Aklavik is well below the sustainable level.

The IGC and WMAC(NWT) have put a great deal of effort into polar bear management in the region. The Council needs to be well informed of their comments prior to making recommendations. The Species Status Reports prepared by WMAC(NS) were cited in the COSEWIC report. Comments are due January 25.

The Council suggested providing comments jointly with WMAC(NWT) and the IGC. It was also suggested that comments be provided to Tom Jung, Larry Carpenter and Marco Festa-Bianchet prior to the COSEWIC review.

The absence of Yukon in the descriptions from pages 30 – 33 was mentioned.

The Council discussed the potential cumulative effects including climate change and potential petroleum development in the Beaufort Sea related to polar bear management. The listing of polar bear would raise the profile of the climate change issue. The status reports are intended to be an objective un-political review of existing information. Socio-economic impacts of listing are not currently part of the COSEWIC review process; they are part of the recovery strategy development. The Council inquired if the IGC has communicated with Nunavut on this issue.

Action 07-10-28: The Council will provide recommendations on the COSEWIC Status Report on the Polar Bear. The Council will communicate with WMAC(NWT) and the IGC regarding recommendations.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:30 pm.

Wednesday, October 23

Lindsay Staples Chair • **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Doug Larsen** Yukon Government (Member) • **Dorothy Cooley** Yukon Government (Alternate) • **Wendy Nixon** Canadian Wildlife Service (Alternate) • **Michelle Sicotte** Secretariat

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 am.

O. Financial Report

The Council reviewed the October 2007 financial report.

The Council discussed the replacement for Michelle's maternity leave. The Council discussed the merits of hiring two staff as replacements. The additional capacity would enable both staff to work on projects that are typically contracted out. There would be additional staff for Lindsay to supervise. There would need to be a clear allocation of roles for each of the individuals. The Council discussed the workload for the secretariat office.

P. Grizzly Bear Research and Management

The Council reviewed the report on the Garbage Management System for Shingle Point. The Council discussed waste management systems at Herschel Island and Sheep Creek. These areas are isolated like Shingle Point, however there are park regulations and staff in place and the use is concentrated to a very specific area. This is a common issue across the north and a health issue for residents and the environment.

It will be a challenge to identify leaders at different camps at Shingle for waste management; a leader needs to be identified at each camp. The demonstration during Parks Day worked as there was a supervisor in place. There is a safety issue with fires associated with open burning.

There is a difference between garbage and human waste. A large cleanup is an important step. There is a perceived difference between behavior of weekenders and longer term users.

The HTC needs to take a lead role for this issue; under the IFA the HTC has a clear role for managing the activities of harvesters. It is possible to pass and enforce a bylaw on this issue. Including other agencies in the discussion confuses the key role the HTC needs to take on this issue. It needs to be clear that any role WMAC(NS) or other agencies takes would be in support of the leadership role taken by the HTC.

An education effort directed at the HTC may assist in having the HTC take ownership of the issue and the solution. If the HTC does not take action it may be required to have an alternative plan.

The costs for implementing the options provided are not clear. There would be an ongoing cost to hire a coordinator for the program.

It is not the role of WMAC(NS) to run a seasonal waste management program. The Council took a lead role by commissioning the options report. The Council could play a role in developing educational materials.

The Secretariat could work with the HTC to develop a one day meeting to look at the next steps on this issue, including:

- Looking for external funds to support the program
- Roles and responsibilities of other partners
- Options to deal with waste, including human waste
- Leadership role by HTC and role for individuals in camps
- Role for educational materials
- Most appropriate solution(s) for the unique nature of the site
- Role for homeowners at Shingle Point to develop an appropriate plan

Action 07-10-29: The Council will send a letter to the HTC outlining a plan for a one-day meeting to discuss options for addressing the waste management issue at Shingle Point. The report prepared by Andy McMillan and options outlined by Ramona Maraj will be included.

Q. Herschel Island, cont.

Erik Val joined the meeting to discuss the airstrip issue at Herschel Island. The management plan needs to be considered when making any future decisions on the airstrip. The management plan outlines a modest effort to keep the airstrip open and operational. The work done on the airstrip this season was to bring it up to the standard of the previous airstrip. If storm surges become a regular occurrence there are not funds to upkeep the airstrip and there is no mandate from the management plan to do so.

Erik outlined the plan to acquire a Bombi (equipment) to maintain existing airstrip. Smaller equipment that was used this season was not able to handle material and debris.

Screening requirements for this work are unknown. Requirements for researchers to bring in equipment must be considered. There may be restrictions to eco-tour companies if the airstrip is not maintained.

It was considered an emergency this season to have access via the airstrip. If this is an ongoing problem there will need to be alternatives to bringing in people and gear to the island including use of float planes, helicopters, and possibly ice road. It may be possible to use the airstrip for operational purposes only.

The Council would like a map and additional photos of the airstrip and maintenance this season. The Council is also interested in looking at the option of not using the airstrip to run the park. The Council inquired about the opinion of Steve Solomon on the likelihood of future weather events impacting the beach at Pauline Cove. Danny mentioned the conflict of using the ice road to the Kulluk to assist in operations at Herschel.

Action 07-10-30: Erik Val will produce a report which summarizes the events regarding the airstrip at Herschel Island this season. The report will outline management options for operational purposes as well as other purposes (research, tours, etc).

R. Wildlife Programs, cont.

Cameron Eckert provided an update on the black guillemot research at Herschel Island. A detailed summary of the work is included in the meeting binder. Cameron noted the changes on the Island that are being observed by the rangers and other people visiting the park. These changes include slumps in the interior of the island, grizzly bears denning on the island, loss of rough legged hawk nests as they are falling off slumps into the water, more rare bird sightings, abandoned red fox dens, etc.

Cameron also highlighted the importance of involving students in field work on the North Slope.

Cameron was asked to discuss the concerns regarding the airstrip on the Island. The issues with the airstrip caused considerable safety concerns this season. There was an expectation that researchers would have access to the airstrip. In the future researchers should plan to bring in gear early and not rely on airstrip access.

Action 07-10-31: Cameron Eckert will review the impacts of airstrip use on wildlife and vegetation at Pauline Cove.

S. NatureServe Yukon

Syd Cannings joined the Council to provide an update on species at risk on the North Slope.

T. Muskox Research and Management

The Council discussed next steps with respect to the development of the muskox management plan. The Council acknowledged the different management views for North Slope muskox in the Yukon and the NWT. Given the current management scenario in the NWT the Council would recommend a zero quota on the Yukon North Slope. The plan should emphasize the Council's view that management should be based on population and not jurisdiction. At this point VGFN and GRRB are taking a passive approach to muskox management in their jurisdiction. There

needs to be monitoring of movement in both jurisdictions. The Council will recommend GNWT create a muskox management zone in the appropriate area to ensure harvest is recorded.

The Council will take the following next steps to complete the plan:

- The Chair will re-draft the plan
- Dorothy will provide updated numbers
- The Council will review the plan with WMAC(NWT)
- The Council will send the plan to other partners for review
- The Council will recommend the revised plan to Yukon Government

U. Upcoming WMAC(NS) Meetings

The Council set the following dates for meetings: December 10 – 12, 2007 in Aklavik.

V. Adjournment

Motion 07-10-04

Motion to adjourn the October 23 – 25, 2007 WMAC(NS) meeting.

Moved: Doug Larsen

Second: Wendy Nixon

Motion carried

The meeting was adjourned at 5 pm.