



## DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

### WMAC (NS) Quarterly Meeting

Whitehorse, Yukon  
High Country Inn, Executive Board Room  
March 4-6, 2008

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Tuesday, March 4  
High Country Inn, Executive Board Room

**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 Christensen** (Secretariat) • **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat) • **Richard Gordon** Yukon Government, Herschel Island Park Ranger (Guest) • **Stephanie Muckenheim** Yukon Government, IFA Analyst (Guest)

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### A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 9:10am.

The Chair provided an overview of items to cover at the meeting. He noted that January was a busy month for outgoing correspondence; WMAC (NS) provided submissions on the Draft North Yukon Land Use Plan, the Draft revisions to the Environmental Impact Screening Committee Operating Guidelines and Procedures, Proposed Herschel Island Park Regulations, the Updated COSEWIC Status Report on Polar Bear: Provisional draft, and the Draft Beaufort Sea Strategic Regional Plan of Action. He highlighted new items to cover in this meeting including: financial reports, Arctic Borderlands (ABEKC) review, wildlife program proposals, Herschel Park issues, and more.

The Chair informed the Council that Wayne Wysocki would be briefing the Council on his work to date by teleconference. A Council member inquired about further details with

regards to this work. Michael Svoboda, with ABEKC, has been involved in the work as it has progressed. The work progressed differently than planned due to methodological issues; Wayne had to channel his work through people who were most familiar with the database. There are inherent difficulties in querying the database in its existing form; one must understand how the information was entered into the database in order to run effective queries. Wayne is about to conduct a trial run four or five queries; one related to Porcupine caribou, as the caribou data seems to be more consistent and has a longer history of collection with clearer interview questioning.

A Council member asked about recommendations that may result from Wayne's work specific to WMAC's approach to using ABEKC's information for management. At this point Wayne's contract is limited, but there is an option to extend it in order to carry out supplementary work on outcomes, recommendations or possible adjustments to ABEKC'S questioning approach.

Doug voiced his hopes to see recommendations come from Wayne resulting in more accessible data from ABEK in a format that is useable to interested groups.

Michelle added that ABEKC is currently undergoing their own review and they are using Wayne's work as a model.

The Chair also informed the Council that Don Reid, researcher, would be joining the Council for discussions and research perspectives related to airstrip landing options on Herschel Island. A number of other guest speakers have been invited to present.

## **B. Review and Approval of Agenda**

The Chair requested that the Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management study, presented by Dorothy Cooley be added to the agenda.

The Council agreed to remove the North Slope Conference report from the agenda. Copies will be circulated in draft to members; comments will go to the Secretariat. Stephanie Muckenheim will be the new contact on this project at Yukon Government

### *Motion 08-03-01*

*To approve the agenda for the March 4-6, 2008 meeting, as revised.*

*Moved: Ernest Pokiak*

*Second: Doug Larsen*

*Motion Carried*

## **C. Review and Approval of December 10-11, 2007 Minutes**

Members reviewed the minutes of the meeting held Dec 10-11, 2007 in Aklavik, NWT. Council members requested the following changes:

- Page 3: change to "Later, another researcher joined the same crew and was permitted to carry a firearm."

- Page 6: change to: “**Queries for the database were designed by Jadah** as she is now the one most familiar with it and what it is capable of.”
- Page 7: change to: “Danny also talked about reindeer being brought here in 1932. ....Danny talked”
- Page 8: change to: “Companies want to use **double hulled barges, but currently there are no double hulled barges available.** Another...”
- Page 13: change to “..and peregrine falcons. It ties...”

Motion 08-03-02

*To adopt the minutes from the Dec 10-11 WMAC (NS) meeting, as revised.*

*Moved: Doug Larsen*

*Second: Wendy Nixon*

*Motion Carried*

Members reviewed the minutes of the Joint WMAC (NS) and Aklavik HTC meeting held Dec 11, 2008 in Aklavik, NWT. Council members requested the following changes:

- Page 1: change to: Danny C. Gordon **WMAC (NS) Member**
- Page 9: change to: **Otter** are excessive and there have been ideas to put a bounty on **them**.
- Page 9: change to: Wendy directed people to concerns on the **seasonal range use** of the Porcupine caribou herd **as treated** in the Draft NYLUP.

Motion 08-03-03

*To adopt the minutes from the Dec 11 the Joint WMAC (NS) and Aklavik HTC meeting, as revised.*

*Moved: Doug Larsen*

*Second: Ernest Pokiak*

*Motion Carried*

The Council approved the minutes as revised and will wait for the AHTC to approve them as well.

Danny raised the issue that he sits on both WMAC (NS) and AHTC, and is interested in clarifying his role in joint meetings. The Chair pointed out that without Danny WMAC (NS) would not have quorum in these meetings. It was decided that in joint meetings, Danny will act as a WMAC (NS) member.

**D. Review of Action Items**

The Council reviewed the status of ongoing action items:

**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 HTC's. **Ongoing. The Chair will draft this letter and include the minutes from the IGC meeting where the comments were made, as well as a copy of the Grizzly Bear midterm report, and an attachment indicating all meeting dates held in Aklavik and Inuvik on the grizzly bear program.**

The Chair suggested also sending the letter to the AHTC directly as a result of Danny's concerns of the AHTC members not seeing the letter.

Doug requested clarification on the purpose of the letter. The Council agreed that there are two purposes 1) affirm the support of the AHTC for the grizzly bear project, 2) address the issue of individuals' responsibilities when speaking for a group. Responsibility includes being informed on issues and accurate with respect to statements made.

The Council believes that their concern should be stated strongly in the letter in order to avoid similar situations like this in the future. The Chair indicated that there has been ample partnership and opportunities for concerns to be brought forward with respect to the program. If concerns are not raised during meetings, the Council works under the assumption that all is going well and the project will continue to move forward.

Danny raised the feeling that lack of understanding may be behind comments made about the grizzly bear program.

Richard brought up experiences that he has had with miscommunication regarding tags, and the MOU for cabin use on Herschel Island. There are many ways for misinformation to feed into communities.

**Action 07-10-05:** Send Ron Larsen a letter and gift thanking him for his contribution to WMAC (NS). **Ongoing: The Secretariat has purchased a gift for Ron and the Council signed his card at the meeting. Secretariat will mail.**

**Action 07-10-12:** Ramona Maraj will contact Parks Canada regarding development of roles and responsibilities for the grizzly bear program. **Ongoing. Ramona has been in contact and continues to discuss this issue with Parks Canada.**

**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. **Revised. The Secretariat will be in contact with the AHTC on the design of the project, and will meet with them to establish an agreement.**

**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. **Deferred. The Regional Action Plan work is underway. The Council hopes to coordinate a briefing later with John Reid when he comes to discuss his work on the Council's Conservation and Management Plan.**

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

**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. **Revised. The issue will be produced without the harvest data included.**

The Chair explained WMAC (NS)'s agreement with respect to publishing harvest data. WMAC (NS) must be clear about its plans to circulate the data and must have sign off from the AHTC on the data. In the case of data for the special edition of Wildlife Watch, the HTC has not signed off on the data and is hesitant to do so because of the length of time passed since harvest occurred. In many cases they are being asked to comment on harvest numbers from six years ago that they are seeing for the first time now.

The Chair explained that in the past the Inuvialuit Harvest Study was a much more intensive study.

**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. **Ongoing. The Secretariat will draft this letter and send it to Doug to review and suggest the appropriate recipient, likely Jeff Hunston and Director.**

**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. **Complete.**

The Council suggested contacting Suzan closer to the end of the fiscal year to look into any leftover funds with the potential that they could be applied to the grizzly bear project.

The Chair briefed Stephanie, the new IFA analyst, on the allocation of surplus IFA funding. Funding is often split between wildlife program proposals, the Dawson regional biologist's position, and other areas.

**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.

**Retired. Shingle Point waste management issues will be rolled into a larger one day meeting planned with the AHTC.**

**Action 07-06-26:** The Chair will re-draft the muskox management plan and the Council will review the management plan. **Ongoing.**

**Action 06-03-01:** Dorothy will make a poster for the Aklavik HTC on what hunters should do with animals that are harvested that are collared. **Ongoing. Dorothy has completed text and a draft poster. Council reviewed draft at meeting. Marsha Branigan to provide photos.**

**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. **Complete.**

Dorothy discussed two muskox diseases with the Council. One is a sheep lungworm parasite that comes from sheep; she explained that muskox in the Yukon do come into contact with sheep.

The other is a parasite called ORF. Dorothy explained that in her capture work, a muskox was captured with scaly lips, an indicator of this parasite. The parasite specialist, Susan Kutz, has some concerns about this one. It is new and little is known about it, but based on current understanding, the spread of ORF could have severe impacts on the muskox population. This parasite is transmitted by sheep. The initial recommendations are that distinct muskox populations should not mix.

Danny brought up examples of past work done with parasites in animals, where people were warned not to eat large quantities of meat; they have since been informed that any level of consumption is fine. Doug reminded members that concern often comes from new parasites when little is known about them.

Dorothy provided some background information with respect to consuming meat with parasites in it. She explained that at low levels, most hunters are able to cut parasites out of meat. Many parasites can withstand freezing and it is important not to feed raw meat to dogs. Cooked meat is safe for consumption as cooking will kill parasites.

Dorothy brought up the idea of Susan doing more work on this subject, and failing that the potential to heed her advice on creating a “muskox free zone” until more is known.

Initial muskox work on parasites has been concerning as it is showing that with a changing climate parasites have often be able to complete a lifecycle in one year instead of in two years. Muskox that have many of those parasites are showing up in poorer condition.

Doug said that parasite work should be done on the NWT side to determine if there are parasites in that population.

Ernest mentioned that muskox harvest is low in Sachs Harbor.

Dorothy explained that Yukon muskoxen are descendents of Greenland muskoxen. The general consensus is that muskox as a species are not very genetically diverse so looking for ways to differentiate between populations is quite difficult. Kris Hundertmark (Univ of Alaska Fairbanks) is now looking for a new genetic marker using samples from Greenland muskoxen. He may be able to use any new marker he finds to compare Alaska-Yukon-NWT muskoxen to mainland NWT muskoxen. Patricia Reynolds (Arctic National Wildlife Refuge) may be able to contribute ANWR-Yukon-NWT samples for this project.

The Council agreed that the work is interesting to pursue. Doug raised questions about the management implications of the research. If it is determined that the populations are different, how will this information be significant?

In order to begin pursuing this muskox genetics work, an amount of \$5000 would be requested.

#### **New Action Items:**

**Action 07-12-01:** The Secretariat will contact WMAC (NWT) to set up a joint meeting in 2008 to discuss any relevant issues including the grizzly bear project, the muskox plan, and wildlife compensation issues. **Outstanding.**

**Action 07-12-02:** The Council will prepare a letter to be transmitted to the Minister responsible for Parks Canada concerning the need for new regulations for Ivvavik National Park to further the implementation of the revised National Parks Act, the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, and the management issues that require attention as outlined in the Park Management Plan and by the Council. **Outstanding.**

**Action 07-12-05:** The Secretariat will identify other co-management boards to engage in drafting a joint letter to the Minister responsible for Parks Canada concerning the need for new regulations for National Parks in the ISR to further the implementation of the revised National Parks Act, the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, and the management issues that require attention as outlined in specific Park Management Plans. **Outstanding.**

A Council member suggested highlighting important issues when writing the letter that explains why regulations should be completed. The issue of Inuvialuit carrying firearms in the Park when assisting researchers would be an example.

It was suggested that WMAC (NS) follow up with Christian Bucher from Parks Canada, to become informed on possible recent changes or exceptions granted to this rule. The Council would like to know if exemptions were made for Vuntut National Park only, or if a National Parks policy decision was made regarding the matter.

Richard explained a case on Herschel Island where rangers had to leave the park before researchers, who had no firearms for protection. This was a safety concern. Doug questioned whether issues like this were covered in the Parks and Certainty Act.

**Action 08-03-01: WMAC (NS) will contact Yukon Parks to find out if the current review of the Park Regulations deals with the rights of Inuvialuit to carry firearms within in the Park when assisting researchers and at other times.**

The Secretariat informed the Council that a color map of oil and gas nominations, and a document discussing roles of EISC and YESSAB were included in the binder. Michelle discussed the two environmental review processes and the workings of each; they appear to work independently of each other and without integration.

A member said that YESSAB is undergoing a five year review; which could be an avenue to resubmit concerns voiced in the past about the un- harmonized processes. A member suggested looking into past correspondence to see if any response was received from EISC in this regard.

Michelle informed the Council that the five year review has been postponed and is expected to resume in the next few months.

**WMAC (NS)/AHTC action item 07-12-01:** The WMAC (NS) Secretariat will work with the AHTC to plan a joint full day meeting to be held in 2008 to address all relevant issues. **Outstanding.**

## **E. Correspondence**

The Council reviewed the following correspondence:

- 1. Support letter from WMAC (NS) for "Using Traditional Knowledge and science to strengthen coastal and marine resource management", Thomas Suluk's IPY proposal.*
- 2. IPY Proposal "Using Traditional Knowledge and science to strengthen coastal and marine resource management"*
- 3. Letter from IGC responding to WMAC (NS)'s letter regarding honoraria.*

The Chair explained that the time for honoraria increases to occur would be during the IFA funding review every five years. The exception would be in cases of volume driven work. Four to five years ago this happened with increases in oil and gas interest. At this point we could ask for increases in honoraria, but it would require an appeal to the treasury board; the other option would be to move money within budgets, for example from the travel budget.
- 4. New Scientist Magazine article regarding oil spills in ice covered environments.*
- 5. Letter forward by EISC from DIAND regarding storage permit renewal for the SDC.*



Jennifer informed the Council that this renewal is a DIAND initiated review and the project has not yet been assessed through the EISC. It is unclear as to whether this project will be assessed through the EISC because it is a renewal; as well it is storage and not a “project”.

The Chair raised that under the IFA any development should go through the EISC review process.

Richard added that Parks has a concern with this renewal also.

The Chair informed the Council that current storage locations include Kay Point, for the Kulluk, and Roland’s Bay, for the SDC.

The Chair pointed out that many aspects need to be clarified about process for the storage of these drilling platforms and future potential platform storage. DIAND has no overall approach for dealing with these processes. Council concerns include:

- appropriate storage locations
- how platforms are maintained
- how platforms are monitored
- how is long term vs. short term storage defined

The Council’s view is that a five year permit for drilling platforms is too long.

Ernest commented that an ocean management plan should be in place before development happens. A precedent is being set with the storage of these vessels. Ernest believes that the Screening Committee will approve storage processes even with raised concerns because of the difficulty in proving environmental impacts from storage. If permits were issued for one year time frames, more opportunity would be given for comments.

Doug listed the following concerns on SDC storage that could be raised in comments:

- SDC detracts from park beauty;
- long term cumulative effects of continued storage of this unit and potential others in the absence of a plan;
- storage is in the middle of migrating char, seals, and whales; and
- traditional values and disturbance of travel routes.

Richard pointed out that when the vessel moves it lifts sand and clay sediments which are carried from one location to another.

The Chair stated that in addition to protecting and conserving wildlife, our mandate is to protect traditional use of the area. Long term cumulative effects need to be addressed in the absence of a plan. There are issues with project renewals where clarification is required. The length of the permit issued should be shortened to a two to three year period

**Action Item 08-03-02: WMAC (NS) will draft a letter to DIAND addressing concerns with permitting processes and cumulative effects of storage units in the absence of a plan.**

A draft will be circulated to the Council for review before sending out.

Doug commented that Yukon Government is not listed as an interested government with respect to the SDC permit renewal.

The Council made comments on sovereignty issues with respect to the SDC being kept in Canadian waters.

6. *Invitation letter for Beaufort Sea Partnership meeting in Inuvik March 11-13.*  
The Chair suggested sending Danny or Ernest to this meeting to keep informed on what is happening on the offshore. Danny agreed to attend.

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2:05pm – Deana Lemke (PCMB) joined the meeting.

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7. *Old Crow Moose project updates Jan, 2008 & Feb 2008.*
8. *Invitation from the Wildlife Society to participate in a Native People's working group.*
9. *Yukon Scientists and Explorers Act permit issued to Evan Richardson.*
10. *WMAC (NS) comments on the Beaufort Sea Strategic Regional Plan of Action.*
11. *WMAC (NS) comments on the Proposed Herschel Island Park Regulations pursuant to the Parks and Land Certainty Act.*
12. *WMAC (NS) comments on the COSEWIC Polar Bear Status Report.*
13. *WMAC (NS) comments on the Environmental Impact Screening Committee's Operating Guidelines and Procedures.*  
The Chair explained that the WMAC (NS)'s main comment was on the lack of weight given to co management bodies in the process.
14. *WMAC (NS) comments on the draft North Yukon Regional Land Use Plan.*  
The Chair explained that the main comments submitted were with respect to the withdrawal order, the range of the Porcupine caribou herd, exemption of the Dempster highway corridor in the cumulative effects assessment, transportation on the North Slope for port access, and on the commitment to establishing development thresholds: in the absence of cumulative effects thresholds, then the land use plan must be very confident in its land use designations and their application.

Doug explained that the PCMB is interested in carrying out a similar planning exercise to look at the same type of plan from the perspective of caribou. Doug

suggested that maybe this is an opportunity for the PCMB and WMAC (NS) to collaborate on.

Dorothy informed the Council that by the end of March the Plan is expected to be ready to recommend to governments at which time the Planning Council will be finished their work.

15. *Letter from EISC to WMAC (NS) on a project description for a North warning system.*
16. *Press release from the World Wildlife Fund regarding a moratorium on oil exploration in the Arctic.*
17. *Executive summary on the World Wildlife Fund report “the need for a regional agreement on management and conservation of the Arctic marine environment”.*
18. *Executive summary on the World Wildlife Fund report “Oil spill response challenges in Arctic waters”*
19. *Letter from DC Marine to WMAC (NS) regarding SDC inspection on Feb 16, 2008.*

#### **F. Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management Strategy**

Dorothy explained that the Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management Strategy was initiated by the PCMB a few years ago; the WMAC (NS) has not been briefed on it in a long time. Work on the strategy has commenced and a working group has been set up that has been tasked with building a plan. Dorothy presented the briefing designed by the working group.

The Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management Strategy has been designed in three phases. Phase 1- protocol development by signatories. This has been a time consuming process, as there are many user groups: hard to get everyone on side.  
Phase 2- plan development by the working group (current stage).  
Phase 3- agreement.

Dorothy is the technical support for the working group.

The goal of the strategy is to have a long-term plan regardless that will address herd increases and decreases to ensure that we know how to manage harvest in the future. The plan is focused on harvest management, not herd management. Of all the changing factors, harvest is one that we can control.

After the plan is complete, it will go to councils/ governments for review.

In the initial workshop there were 65 participants from both sides of the Yukon/NWT border including aboriginal groups, RRC's etc. It was a 3-4 day workshop with the first half entirely based on background info on the herd.

Dorothy presented “Esau Schafer’s zone idea” which is a zone based model for harvest. The model says that in times of high herd numbers (green zone) harvest of a certain percent is allowed. As herd numbers decline the zone changes to yellow (caution) zone and harvest numbers are reduced. If the herd numbers fall below a certain point the red zone comes into effect and harvest is severely limited or stopped. The management strategy would apply to all users of the herd.

Doug Urquhart facilitated the meeting.

### **G. Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co op database review**

The Chair brought the Council’s attention to the contract between WMAC (NS) and contractor Wayne Wysocki to carry out assessment work on the Co-op.

The Chair explained that Wayne would provide an activity report with his preliminary observations. The final product will likely be completed in April.

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3:10pm- Wayne Wysocki is contacted in Ottawa by teleconference.

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The Chair requested an activity report from Wayne, explanation of the tasks, comments on early challenges, and an explanation of what will be accomplished.

Wayne explained that he became familiar with the work in September when he was contacted to review the community monitoring program. He received a box with CD’s and books pertaining to ABEKC. The amount of information was quite overwhelming. He began working with Michael Svoboda and Jadah Follitt to explain to him how the data was entered and used. After early familiarization was done, a revised statement of work was put together.

He began his contract to assess the effectiveness of the database. He explained that for the last ten years communities have been asked questions in 11 subject areas ranging from caribou to berries. Information has been recorded by way of maps and text. Some of the questions are brief, some are long.

All of the known mapped data started in the access database so that organizations could look at it and pull out relevant information.

Wayne explained that he is focusing on three different aspects of the data:

1) Type of people interviewed- how many, sex/age, and who. This question should inform us as to which people were interviewed and if the same people were interviewed over time. If different people have been interviewed, perspectives will change as opposed to comparing one person’s perceptions over time. In addition to this component, it is also important to know who was being questioned as different individuals have different

practices and connections with the land, i.e. one person may know one area very well and not another.

2) Caribou- availability spring/fall, observations on migration.

3) Change- open ended question about what changes have been observed on the land.

Jadah is running queries which will result in an output. Challenges are that questions must be entered in appropriate language for the database to understand it. One query has been run and it went very well. Likely not all questions will be analyzed; prioritization will be required.

Wayne's final report will occur in three phases 1) intro to arctic borderlands program, 2) summary of interview process, 3) description of the database- what is it, how it works.

The Chair asked Wayne to comment on how the database lends itself to analysis. Wayne responded that when he received the original information he was discouraged and he didn't know how to extract the information. It wasn't until Jadah was engaged that the process become clearer. An early observation is that the database is very reliant on the knowledge of one or two people who are familiar with the questionnaire and how data has been entered. He explained that no manual exists for uninitiated users. It is difficult for people to get info out, not really accessible. Unless you have an experienced operator of the software, you'll still be faced with a storage vehicle that is not accessible for use.

The idea of the interview process is to get a sense of change, but the questionnaires don't have a baseline to give contextual information (i.e. no information from past 20-50 years) and as a result change over time hasn't been captured. Wendy explained that the original intent was to set up a tracking system that recorded changes from year to year from when the Co op started. Collection of past TK was not done largely because of intellectual property rights..

A member suggested that the Porcupine Caribou Traditional Knowledge study could provide some of the historical context for the Borderlands work. We may be able to generate some of that context. There may be opportunities for some dovetailing or linkages.

Wayne voiced that if the purpose is to track changes as perceived by local people 10 years is relatively short to see results. For example if 7/10 respondents say that caribou didn't come close to the community this year, one needs to know if caribou historically came close to the community. If caribou came close in the past, then there is a change, if that information is not available than the data stands alone. Also, there appears to be ambiguity in many of the questions. For information to be valuable for environmental change then we need to gather context information.

Doug suggested running a number of queries, generating an output, and then going back to gather more refined information to fill in contextual gaps.

Doug posed the question of whether there is a better “storage vehicle” to use. Wayne felt that the access software was user friendly, but that the learning curve was steep and users would be well served to be equipped with a user’s manual. Ease of access of information in the future will be critical to its success as a tool.

Wendy informed the group that the data is currently not readily available to the public. To use this data, one must make a request to the ABEKC to run and use the data. For WMAC (NS)’s purposes, and as a partner, use of the data would be for management purposes.

The Chair requested that Wayne provide a briefing on working with spatial vs. non spatial data.

Wayne informed that he is not looking at the spatial data due to time and budget. He believes that it may be useful to conduct a similar project for the spatial data. He explained that there is a fair amount of spatial data and much work has been done on it. It is probably an important component to look at especially if caribou is the focus. He explained that the spatial data may be easier to pull out; the textual information often produces a binary response with attached comments. From an analytical perspective it is very time consuming and subjective.

Wayne commented that for the purposes of the queries we are focusing on, the Aklavik dataset should work as a good case study.

Michelle informed the Council that Michael Svoboda just engaged a contactor to do very similar work to what Wayne is doing, but with the rest of the communities.

Wayne discussed recommendations; they will be included in his final report.

Deanna inquired whether Wayne had access to the completed questionnaires; she voiced that they are located at CWS.

Dorothy explained that we have lots to learn from Arctic Borderlands, and for the designing of the Porcupine Caribou Traditional Knowledge project we should look to Wayne for advice on the design of the survey instrument and questionnaire. Wayne wrapped up and the Chair thanked him for his time.

The Chair commented that the draft report may warrant a visit from Wayne.

The Chair commented that six months to a year’s time would be a good time to get together interested parties to refine work with ABEKC.

A Council member inquired about collaboration with Michael’s review. Michelle commented that we are sharing our information with Michael. Michael plans to take Wayne’s framework and then have contractors Henry Huntington and Jadah do the work.

The Chair commented that the way the work is being done is constructive as we could end up with information from two experts that have different backgrounds.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:20pm.

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Wednesday, March 5  
High Country Inn, Executive Board Room

**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 Christensen** (Secretariat) • **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat) • **Richard Gordon** Yukon Government, Herschel Island Park Ranger (Guest) • **Stephanie Muckenheim** Yukon Government, IFA Analyst (Guest) • **Don Reid** Wildlife Conservation Society (Guest) • **Ramona Maraj** Yukon Government, Carnivore Biologist (Guest)

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The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:13am.

The Chair provided an overview of the day which included research topics in the morning and Herschel island discussions in the afternoon.

#### **H. Polar Bear Management**

Ramona Maraj presented Yukon's position with respect to polar bear management. Ramona prepared a briefing note, which was handed to Council members, and points were discussed.

She explained that she had been in contact with various lawyers in order to better understand jurisdictional issues for polar bear management.

Polar bear issues have surfaced recently in response to revisions that COSEWIC is undertaking as well as discussions related to tag allocation.

Ramona explained that Canada delegates power to provinces and territories to manage wildlife along with co-management boards. Governments and boards manage polar bear under The Canadian Wildlife Directors Committee.

Since wildlife is managed territorially, users should be active in setting quotas. In Yukon, polar bear are listed as a big game species under Schedule H, Part I of the Yukon Wildlife Act. Schedule A defines the season (October 31 to May 1<sup>st</sup>), Schedule B defines the bag limits.

Setting polar bear harvest limits follows the same process as other species such as grizzly bear, and are issued under Yukon Wildlife Act. The difference is that Inuvialuit have exclusive rights to harvest polar bears. This is summarized in Section B of the Wildlife Act. Polar bear have not been identified as a subsistence species, which means that they don't have to meet the subsistence quota guidelines, but there is still a harvest limit.

The Chair explained that Inuvialuit have the same rights for polar bear on the Yukon side as they do in the NWT. Ramona explained the only difference is that if you hunt with a Yukon tag, the Yukon laws of general application apply.

Ernest mentioned that you need to get a tag from the HTC and an outfitters license to hunt them. Ramona clarified that if an Inuvialuit member hunts a polar bear without a tag they can be charged.

The Chair asked if Yukon has been issuing tags to Aklavik. Ramona explained that NWT has been issuing tags on Yukon's behalf. She explained that there are six Yukon tags, and one goes to Inuvik.

A member inquired about jurisdiction for the near and offshore areas. Ramona explained that the Yukon Act states that Yukon's jurisdiction ends 20 meters from the low watermark, moving seaward. The NWT Act is not as clear, but in interpretation it also appears to be 20 m from the low watermark. The Beaufort Sea outside of this boundary is under Canada and the IFA's jurisdiction.

The Chair asked Ramona to clarify why the jurisdictional issue is important for polar bear right now. Ramona explained that in COSEWIC's review there were many different opinions on jurisdiction provided. The broader South Beaufort polar bear population is declining and we need to know what our responsibilities are in participating in discussions, and what this Council's role is.

**Action Item 08-03-03: The Secretariat will distribute Ramona Maraj's briefing note on polar bear management to partners and get sign off on it so that it may be filed as an information item.**

**Action Item 08-03-04: The Secretariat will request jurisdictional maps from Yukon department of Energy Mines and Resources that delineate boundaries associated with oil and gas accords.**

Ramona explained current management issues with the Southern Beaufort population. Currently boundaries are being reassigned; meaning that the population inside those boundaries will change which impacts the quota and makes it smaller. If we want to become involved in the reassigning process we will have to notify and express interest to working group members.



The Chair commented that for the last 20 years WMAC (NS) has not had a role in polar bear management for many reasons, one being that WMAC (NWT) was largely dealing with them. Now, many things have changed and WMAC (NS) has an interest. The status of polar bears has changed internationally and populations are declining. After devolution, Yukon was given responsibility for oil and gas and so they now have interest in exploration of the near shore and offshore. With exploration comes increased attention to potential impacts on wildlife and the need for wildlife impact assessments; included in those assessments should be polar bear.

It was clarified that for assessment in the North Slope area, WMAC (NS) deals predominately with the EISC and defers to them in situations where there is overlap with YESSAB.

Ramona discussed how she visualized the next steps in this process. CWS should communicate with NWT to engage them and let them know that Yukon would like to be involved in polar status assessment. CWS is doing some work now, including looking at denning on the land.

Ramona explained that Yukon has an agreement with Alaska for a coastal bear survey, and are waiting to see if money is coming for this year. She explained that there has been no harvest on the Yukon North Slope for the last six years, argely because sea ice conditions have changed. Tags still go are issued every year. There is some concern that as harvest of polar bear decreases or ceases so does the knowledge associated with the area and with polar bears.

Danny inquired weather Ramona would be able to travel to Aklavik to brief the AHTC on the issue, as he believes that there is a lot of misinformation. He felt that this talk should happen soon. The Chair suggested incorporating it into our one day meeting with the AHTC.

Ramona and Richard discussed the potential for Rangers to become more involved in polar bear information recording. Richard could pull out the sightings from past years and there may be the possibility to tack on extra flights to the rangers shift change flights for survey work.

Ramona informed the Council that NWT and Yukon are looking at making an inter-jurisdictional agreement on polar bear which would be a template off of the agreement between NWT and Nunavut.

## **I. Wildlife Program Proposals Review**

Ramona Maraj presented three wildlife program proposals:

### Yukon North Slope Grizzly Bear Project

Ramona explained grizzly bear project funds. The total cost of the grizzly bear project for this year is \$310,950. Parks Canada has put \$50,000 towards the project that will be used

for DNA analysis covering half of the total DNA costs. The helicopter budget projections are still outstanding, but as discussed in December, this season will be focused on higher captures of females to collar and monitor survival. All project costs should be covered by available IFA and external funding minus \$50,000.

Michelle updated the Council that the amount of available funds for wildlife programs for 2008/2009 from YG is \$132,000 instead of \$124,000 as indicated in the hand out, bringing up the total available funds from \$174,000 to \$182,000..

#### South Beaufort Sea Polar Bear Surveys (Traditional knowledge)

This project aims to gather local and traditional knowledge related to climate change and polar bear by 1) performing a database search for existing information; 2) identifying gaps; and 3) conducting interviews to fill those gaps. \$8400 for year one (database search and annotated bibliography).

#### South Beaufort Sea Polar Bear Surveys (flights)

Part 1- Survey flights to monitor the impacts of climate change on polar bear. Lead by Alaska fish and wildlife service (AFWS). A similar survey arrangement to last year would be set up. AFWS conducts the survey and Yukon flies on two of six flights to look at timing and how ice extent is affecting coastal habitat use by polar bears. AFWS pays for the surveys (over \$80,000) and we pay for fuel costs when they land in Inuvik. If they get more funding it means more surveys, which also means more fuel from us: \$10,000. Part 2-CWS survey on polar bear denning to find dens along the coast and model how they might be affected by oil spills: \$5000.

Ramona concluded by saying that sea ice is changing and now is a good time to conduct this work. The knowledge of Elders and others who experienced with polar bear is being lost and so it is important to do the work now.

Michelle pointed out that we are missing one of the proposals in the meeting binder.

The traditional knowledge proposal was discussed: members thought it important, but worried about the lack of existing information about polar bear. Ernest mentioned to make sure that the study includes some people in Inuvik who used to live in the Aklavik area.

Ramona informed the Council that some Alaskan research shows that denning sites are changing.

Dorothy Cooley presented five wildlife program proposals:

#### Caribou satellite collar program

Parks and Yukon Government both contribute to the project and the request of the Council is the same as last year: \$6000. There are now 16 collars in the program. The overall cost is \$16,000, and CWS, PC, GNWT also contribute.

#### Aklavik Harvest Data Collection

Harvest data is collected in the community of Aklavik for moose, sheep, and caribou. It costs \$2000 to hire someone to conduct the interviews. A significant development for this work is that Marsha Branigan has been conducting a study which compares Gwitchin and Inuvialuit harvest data: Dorothy thinks that it makes sense to combine these efforts.

The Chair discussed issues with the last six years of data for the harvest study. Numbers were collected and the work was done, but the numbers were never validated by the AHTC and in recent discussions it was discovered that the ATHC was not comfortable in validating the numbers because 1) it had been too long since the data was collected, and 2) they felt that the numbers were not especially accurate.

Danny made a comment about the interviews being a little long, about 1.5 hours.

The Chair recommended adding the validation of data from the Aklavik harvest study to the next meeting with the HTC.

#### Herschel Island Ecological Monitoring and Report

The purpose of this project is to carry out monitoring on Herschel as well as to write up a summary report to be published that summarizes findings since the beginning of the program.

A large part of the project is to train three new rangers. The PCMB summer student would be used to summarize the data to be published. The intent of publishing is to have information more readily available. Dorothy informed the Council of preliminary discussions with Cameron Eckert to see if he is interested in taking on some of the monitoring program. Dorothy expects that it would be a long hand over of one or two years.

#### Black guillemot population monitoring and nesting success at Herschel Island, Yukon

The project would be similar to last year's work. In response to no chicks and adults dying the proposal will look at chicks again: \$4000.

Comments were made about the feasibility of park rangers adopting these studies as they turn into longer term monitoring projects. The Council wondered how it would fit into the ecological monitoring scheme, as guillemots have been identified as a great indicator for climate change. Guillemots live at the ice edge, and feed off of fish; fish can be identified to see if species are changing. Richard commented on the Rangers' ability to take over such a study. It would be dependent on timing, visitors to the park, training and work load.

Dorothy commented that the program is already contingent on the Rangers' help.

Ernest suggested alternating study years in order to keep costs down.

Don provided comments about the difference between research and monitoring. The current research includes looking at young of the year compared to adults.

Doug suggested having more clarity in the proposal to reflect the intent in years to come.

Muskox genetics work

As discussed earlier an initial amount of \$5000 would enable initial muskox genetics work

Wendy Nixon presented two wildlife program proposals:

Aklavik Community-based Ecological Monitoring through the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op

Money goes to honoraria for Aklavik interviewees, results, reporting at gatherings and overall maintenance of running the program.

Doug raised that WMAC (NS) may want to fit its support for the program into the work that Wayne is currently conducting. The Council felt that recommended money to ABEKC should be spent on the review, or on implementing changes that will come out of the review. Alternatively, if the Council is confident that changes will occur within the Borderlands review process then the allocation of money to the program is easier.

The Chair reminded the Council that WMAC (NS) has an outstanding project to review ecological monitoring regimes. \$20,000 was identified to host an event/workshop to do this. This could happen in late 2008 giving us time to review recommendations that come from Wayne's work.

Wendy suggested that an extra day could be tacked onto the biodiversity forum to do it.

The Chair discussed the recent North Slope Conference which focused on monitoring. Three questions were posed to researchers: 1) what work are you doing; 2) how is the information being used to serve management purposes; and 3) how are you communicating results of your monitoring program. Almost all of the discussions centered around question number 1.

Part of what should be driving the monitoring program are management needs.

Where to Roost in the Arctic Food Web – focus on Tundra Breeding Short-eared Owl

Wendy explained that this project fits in with a larger IPY project on Hershel Island. The project looks at short eared owl interactions with other birds of prey and nesting habitat. After its completion, the conclusions of the work have the potential to be applied to the North Slope.

Don Reid spoke about the WOLVES project that he is involved with. It is a three year, IPY funded program. The proposed owl work would be of interest to the overall WOLVES project.

The Chair suggested that Council members think about projects as recommendations will be put forward in budget discussions.

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1:00pm – Doug Olynyk (Yukon Government, Heritage Sites Manager for the Department of Tourism and Culture branch) joined the meeting.

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## **J. Heritage and Climate Change Rankings on Herschel Island**

Doug Olynyk presented heritage information for Herschel Island. He mentioned that a hard copy of his presentation would be available with WMAC (NS).

Doug presented the current rankings that Herschel Island has received:

- Heritage Canada Foundation's 2007 Top 10 list of Canada's most endangered places;
- World Monuments Fund's "2008 Watch list of the world's 100 most endangered sites; and
- Canada's 2004 tentative list of future nominations for designation as a World Heritage Site.

Doug discussed some of the impacts of climate change on Herschel Island including storm effects on Herschel, and predictions for future. Another potential issue with changing climate is the opening up of Northwest Passage which has potential negative effects on Arctic ecosystems.

Heritage resources are heavily impacted by changes in climate. Doug informed the Council that the Heritage branch is developing a Strategic Salvage Plan for the buildings on Herschel. The plan will be ready by fall 2008 and use of scientific and traditional knowledge will be employed; WMAC will be consulted.

The Chair asked Doug to comment on the implication of listings for Herschel. In summary:

- Increased attention to the area;
- World Monuments Fund can aid with provision of funding; and,
- Strategic Salvage Plan, when complete, will determine the amount of funding required.

Richard Gordon stated that additional funding for professional maintenance of the heritage buildings would be very valuable.

Doug's presentation went on to discuss Klondike, Kluane, and northern Alaskan regions.

## **K. Review of Herschel Island work plan**

Richard Gordon presented his work plan for summer 2008. Activities in the work plan mirror the management plan. Richard stated that the priority for the coming season is monitoring. He mentioned that Cameron Eckert would be taking over aspects of the Rangers' program.

The Chair inquired about how airstrip improvements would affect Rangers' operations this season.

Richard described the responsibilities placed on rangers last year with respect to the clearing of the airstrip. It took away from other important tasks, such as building maintenance, and preparing for visitation. However, so far this year it looks like the airstrip is clear. The only task associated with the airstrip should be straightening the runway which shouldn't require much time. The Chair suggested that an appeal could be made to the Treasury Board for more funds for airstrip maintenance if required.

With respect to the monitoring program, Don Reid provided suggestions that a program analogous to Kluane's program could be adopted. He mentioned that Charlie Krebs would be eager to help. The Chair suggested that this year a review of data, analysis, gaps/utility, and recommendations be made to re-tool the monitoring program.

The Council went on to discuss the system in place for building use by hunters and travelers at Herschel. It was suggested that communication between HTC, rangers, and other parties be improved in order to prevent misuse of cabins.

Danny Gordon brought up issues of safe travel around Herschel as conditions continue to change. He suggested using buoys to mark areas where navigability is affected by slumping, so that boaters can see them in poor weather. Richard will raise the issue with Coast Guard and see what can be done.

#### **L. Herschel Island Airstrip Options**

The Chair invited Don Reid to provide his opinion on access to Herschel from a research standpoint.

Don explained that the research community on Hershel has relied heavily upon fixed wing access because of work timing (June 1-July 7-10). Often at that time of year it is impossible to land on skis or by float plane. The only other option is by helicopter. Size is another factor; Don mentioned that the 206 with floats is the largest plane currently available (through Northwright) and Aklak doesn't have an interest in putting a twin otter on floats at this time. Don estimated budget increases to be \$30-40 thousand if airstrip conditions were to change.

Options were discussed to arrange logistics for equipment to be brought in early in the season on the ice, so that helicopter flights could be used later in the season (which can only transport three people plus personal gear, equipment and food) and so researchers are still faced with difficulty even if planning goes on in the early season. Ernest raised issues of storage on the island if supplies are brought in beforehand.

The Council reviewed the briefing note prepared from the December, 2007 meeting's discussion. The Chair stated that the IFA requires that Herschel be managed consistent

with the standards of a wilderness park with the provision that the area around the heritage buildings be managed differently. Sheep Creek was brought up as an example; the buildings there have been removed in order to reduce footprint, though a minimalist airstrip remains.

It was raised that the use and existence of the airstrip results in a trade-off with ecosystem values. Discussion ensued regarding length of strip; Aklak's safety requirements; storm effects; gear storage issues; monitoring nesting impacts; and lost tourism opportunities as a result of flight restriction..

The Chair concluded discussions by suggesting that members think about airstrip issues overnight, and re-adjoin in the morning by having an *in-camera* discussion.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:10 pm.

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Thursday, March 6  
High Country Inn, Executive Board Room

**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 Christensen** (Secretariat) • **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat) • **Richard Gordon** Yukon Government, Herschel Island Park Ranger (Guest)

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The meeting was called to order at 9:05am

The Chair explained the highlights of the day and asked Council members to refer to their material on the Herschel Island airstrip.

### **Herschel Island Airstrip Options- continued**

The Chair asked that the Council take all comments into consideration when determining recommendations for airstrip options for Herschel including those provided by Parks, the Rangers, YG, Don Reid, Heritage Department, as well as note the capacity of the air carriers.

After discussions, the Chair synthesized the Council's remarks on the airstrip options and laid out a number of recommendations to put forth:

1. The Council recommends an improvement of the existing airstrip to a length of 1000 feet. The improvements should be contingent on monitoring and survey work carried out in advance.
2. The maintained airstrip should be limited to twin otter access (fixed wing) and helicopter landings only. All other fixed wing access should be by float or ski plane.

It was noted that time periods for landing could be recommended to reflect sensitive nesting times of birds.

3. The recommended improvements should only take place this year. If there is a large alteration in the strip in the next five years, the Council would recommend reevaluating the policy, recommended approach, and implications of that. For example: no fixed wing landings on Herschel Island (except on skis or floats).
4. A case study on airstrip impacts on birds should be conducted as airstrip landings continue to occur. Monitoring and survey work would be done early in the season. Once plane landings are occurring, monitoring for airstrip disturbance would occur.

A Council member indicated that the critical time for nesting birds is between June 1<sup>st</sup> and July 15<sup>th</sup>. Other shore birds will nest earlier. Early June to early July is usually the time period when ski and float planes cannot land on or near Herschel, as result the largest constraints are at this time.

The Chair requested clarification of when the “improvements” (clearing) of the airstrip would begin. Richard informed that last year improvements began on June 15th. This seems like a suitable date to begin airstrip improvement work again this year, dependent on weather.

The Chair recommended that a proposal for the nesting bird monitoring work could be developed and submitted for wildlife program proposal funds. There is some space left in the budget for this year.

Wendy and Dorothy will discuss this, but initial thoughts reflect the potential complexities and size of this project.

**Action Item 08-03-05: WMAC (NS) will draft recommendations to submit to Yukon Parks regarding Herschel Island airstrip options within the week of March 10.**

### **Wildlife Program Proposal Review continued**

The Chair reviewed the list of wildlife proposals and flagged items the Council may want to consider.

### Black Guillemot Population Monitoring and Nesting Success



The Council would like to know how long this project will continue for and whether it has a long term monitoring scope. Cameron should resubmit this proposal separating out the monitoring components from the long term research components and plan to involve the Rangers. There is agreement in principle subject to a reworking of the study inventory component.

South Beaufort Sea Polar Bear Surveys (traditional knowledge)

The Council would like to accept the project for the first year, with no commitment for further interviews. Another project would have to be submitted next year for the remainder of the work. Funded for \$8,400 for data collection work.

Herschel Island Ecological Monitoring and Report

The Council requested that Dorothy put in a supplementary proposal for additional funds she may require for reporting.

Dorothy suggested doing this work in the next fiscal year which gives YG time to bring ideas together on ecological monitoring. Another idea is to produce a professionally designed report (not for this year).

Project summary:

<b>Project</b>	<b>Requested</b>	<b>Agency</b>
Yukon North Slope Grizzly Bear Project	\$75, 000	YG
Support for the Yukon North Slope Grizzly Bear Population Study	\$24, 000	PC
South Beaufort Sea Polar Bear Surveys	\$8,400	YG
Polar Bear survey	\$15,000	YG
Porcupine Caribou Satellite Program	\$3000	YG
Support for the Porcupine Caribou Satellite Program	\$6000	PC
Herschel Island Ecological Monitoring and Report	\$8000	YG
Black Guillemot Population Monitoring and Nesting Success	\$4000	YG
Aklavik Harvest Data Collection	\$2000	YG
Aklavik Community- based ecological monitoring through the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op	\$10,000	CWS
Support for the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op	\$5000	PC
Where to Roost in the Arctic Food Web - Short-eared Owl	\$5000	CWS
Muskox genetics	\$5,000	YG
<b>Total IFA funds requested</b>	<b>\$170,400</b>	

The Chair informed that in total there is a budget of \$170, 400 of requested funds, with \$12,000 uncommitted.

Potential use of the \$12,000 could be for a proposal on bird disturbance in response to the Herschel airstrip. There is a potential to involve a grad student in this work. Dorothy commented that work would likely not get done this year to give time to line up a grad student.

Motion 08-03-04

*To recommend 2008 wildlife program proposals, as revised.*

*Moved by: Ernest Pokiak*

*Seconded by: Doug Larsen*

The Secretariat will send out discussed project comments as well as notification to Yukon Government, Parks Canada, and CWS and Inuvialuit Game council and HTC, for their review.

**M. Financial Repot**

The Chair briefed the Council that that the 2007/08 budget will be reviewed as well as the upcoming 2008/09 budget.

2007/08 budget

Michelle walked the Council through the budget. The Chair commented that changes in the budget over the last five years are due to changes in operation such as switching from a contractor to a full time employee; also WMAC (NS) was awarded more money than asked for; and the most recent development is the hiring of two staff instead of one in the Secretariat role.

The Council has been carrying funds over for the past three years. In the 2007/08 fiscal year the Council spent down all of the allocated YG money as well as approximately 60% of the carry over money from last year.

2008/09 budget

Michelle walked the Council through the budget for the coming year.

Motion 08-03-05

*To adopt the 2008/09 tabled budget for operating procedures and project expenditures on the grizzly bear and Porcupine Caribou traditional knowledge study projects.*

*Moved by: Doug Larsen*

*Seconded by: Wendy Nixon*

The remaining project funds will be allocated at the next Council meeting.

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2:05pm – Perry Diamond (Senior Oil and Gas Advisor, Yukon Government) joined the meeting.

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## **N. Oil and Gas Nominations**

Perry Diamond briefed the Council on jurisdictional issues with respect to oil and gas nominations. He began by describing the relationship between Canada, YTG, and GNWT.

Canada's 1993 Oil and Gas Accord outlines Canada's commitment to YTG regarding shared revenue and shared management. There are four to five bays along the North Coast that are classified as "adjoining areas" which only applies for oil and gas.

The delineation between NWT and YT is outlined via the 1991 Accord. These delineations are illustrated in the map that EMR can provide us a copy of.

Perry commented that boundaries have not changed with newly gathered information on the continental shelf. However, the International Law of the Seas requires that every country submit information on where their interpretations of continental shelf boundaries are: discussion may ensue regarding where actual boundaries lie in the outer Beaufort.

There are four parcel areas that lie in the disputed zone: companies are not bidding on these areas at this time because the U.S. classifies them as open for bid and Canada has placed a moratorium on them. Perry predicts that the disputed area will not be resolved for some time, though if a company bid on one of these areas, resolve could be triggered.

Perry went on to discuss the area under DIAND's jurisdiction. When DIAND put areas out for industry in 1991, they established maps for industry to show their nominated interests. There was minimal comfort that areas should be subject to bidding. After the map was put together, areas immediately off the YT coast would have terms and conditions associated that DIAND would put on a license. The area immediately off the coast hasn't changed since it was first identified, although a proposed marine protected area is nearby. Industry is showing more interest in this area, which is why YTG is playing an increased role in oil and gas management.

Perry outlined a number of initiatives underway: BSIMPI, BSSTRPA, DIAND's Decision Support Tool, Industry Regional Environmental Assessment, and Sensitivity Analysis. There is overlap and duplication in all of these initiatives. All parties and governments including the Inuvialuit are concerned with lack of capacity in being able to participate effectively in all of these processes.

A meeting in April will address coordination of all initiatives, which should result in a better picture of where things are going by fall 2008.

The Chair concluded the discussion by stating that oil and gas issues are on our radar, but that WMAC has capacity issues. WMAC needs to revisit the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan for updates because the world around the Plan has changed, and issues like polar bear management will continue to bring us into discussions on oil and gas.

The Chair informed the Council about plans to go through the conservation and management plan with John Reid.

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2:40pm – Scott Heron and Shawn Taylor (Canadian Wildlife Service) joined the meeting.

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**O. Developing an Alternative Approach to Managing Incidental Take of Migratory Birds**

Scott Herron handed out slides of his presentation to the Council.

Scott began with background information on the Migratory Birds Convention and its amendments over the years.

Environment Canada is now attempting to enforce legislation through a permitting process with a focus on activities with moderate to high impact on the conservation of birds. Fact sheets will be one way to get information out there.

**Action Item 08-03-06: WMAC will provide comments on Incidental Take to CWS before June 30, 2008.**

Scott continued to discuss implementation of the approach. In the example of Inuvialuit harvesting driftwood, the first step in this process would be a self assessment on the impact of the activity. If it was determined that this activity was going to have a substantive effect on nesting birds, a permit would be issued for a 3-5 year period.

Environment Canada (EC) is currently assessing whether or not a permit would be a CEAA trigger, which could implicate EC as a decision body under YESAA.

Scott concluded and would like to meet with WMAC regarding changes to hunting regulations.

The Chair commented on the remaining agenda items. The Council should comment on the Draft North Richardson Sheep Dall Management Plan; it was suggested that it be treated as an information item for now.

**Action Item 08-04-07: The Secretariat will request a timeline on the Sheep Plan and ask for the opportunity to review the draft before it is forwarded to responsible parties.**

**P. Upcoming WMAC (NS) meetings**

Ernest voiced that he is better able to attend weekend meetings.

Wendy raised that she has difficulty in attending meetings outside of the work week.

Members discussed the need to fill the Parks Canada appointment on the Council, which would relieve some pressure on the members.

**Action Item 08-03-08: The Chair will draft a letter inquiring about the federal appointment to the Council.**

Before the appointment is made WMAC (NS) will invite a Parks Canada member to sit and participate in WMAC (NS) business. Parks Canada represents 50% of the area in our region, and would like someone to be representing them. The Council would still have quorum without the official member. The person invited to sit in wouldn't be voting, but contributing to discussions.

The next WMAC (NS) meeting will be on the land. Options include traveling to Shingle point and then Herschel Island by boat. The Park Ranger crew changes are June 5 and 19 and July 3, 17, 31 for potential flight sharing.

The Secretariat will put together options and contact Council members.

The joint AHTC & WMAC (NS) meeting should be booked before June. The Council will try for early May, week of the 5<sup>th</sup>, for one to two days. Ramona should be there, and who ever from the Council that can make it. A charter will be used for the flights.

The following WMAC (NS) meeting will likely be in October.

Stephanie thanked the Council for the opportunity to sit in on the meeting.

*Motion 08-03-06*

*Motion to adjourn the meeting*

*Moved by Wendy Nixon*

*Seconded by: Doug Larsen*

*Motion Carried*

The Chair thanked everyone. The meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm