



MEETING MINUTES

WMAC (NS) Quarterly Meeting
Aklavik, NWT • Council Chambers, Hamlet Office
December 9-10, 2008

December 9, 2008
Council Chambers, Hamlet Office, Aklavik, NWT

Lindsay Staples Chair • **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Doug Larsen** Yukon Government (Member) • **Christian Bucher** Government of Canada (Member) • **Michelle Christensen** (Secretariat) • **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat) • **Richard Gordon** Herschel Island Park Ranger (Guest)

A. Call to Order

The Chair welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:10am.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Chair reviewed the various meetings scheduled over the next two days and walked members through the agenda. He noted that Dorothy was unable to attend, which will affect the Council's ability to review Yukon Government research proposals, the Muskox Plan, the Harvest Management Plan and Sheep Plan. Doug offered to provide information on Yukon Government research proposals.

The Chair also noted that some members of the Council met with WMAC NWT yesterday at the airport for an informal meeting.

Doug suggested that the Council develop a plan for how to deal with the Muskox Plan over the next few weeks.

Danny indicated that people remain unsure if they can legally hunt muskox, due to an incident that happened 35 years ago when a hunter was charged with illegally hunting muskox. Muskox are staying around the Divide Lake area and he hasn't heard of anyone harvesting them.

The Chair said that during the meeting with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee (AHTC) he would like to walk members through the Muskox Plan's complicated history, including: amendments to the Wildlife Act, population management over the range of the herd, and the recent population crash.

Ernest said it would be a good idea to inform the community through the HTC. Danny raised that HTC members change often, making it difficult for the HTC to track issues.

The Chair suggested that at 11:00am tomorrow the Council discuss issues they would like to raise at the HTC meeting.

Members agreed to defer the Muskox Plan.

Motion 08-12-01

To approve the agenda for the December 9-10, 2008 meeting, as revised.

Moved: Danny C. Gordon

Second: Ernest Pokiak

C. Review and Approval of September and October 2008 Minutes (Tab 1)

Members reviewed the September 20-22, 2008 minutes requesting the following changes:

- Page 9 – change to: “Doug suggested, **to be effective, the workshop should be a small group of knowledgeable people sitting down and designing an ecological monitoring program for the North Slope. Some considerations include a species-based versus ecosystem-based approach, funding limitations, how feasible it is to access information, etc. These** are matters...”
- Page 3 – change to: “Christian said he thinks it will be very unlikely for **guides** in parks...”
- Page 3 – third last paragraph – remove last sentence.
- Page 11 – a member noted that reporting kills should be mentioned at the HTC meeting tomorrow.
- Page 17 – change to “...could require amendments to the **Canada** Parks Act.”
- Page 15 – change to: “The Chair **raised** issues on area closures.”
- Page 15 – change to: “...holistic approach across the whole **herd.**”
- Page 22 – remove second period at end of first full paragraph.
- Page 20 – a member asked if the recommendation at the top of the page should be an action item. The Chair clarified that it is just an information item.
- Page 29 – third paragraph down: producing a newsletter should read as an action item.

No changes were noted for the October 28 teleconference minutes.

Motion 08-12-02

To adopt the minutes from the September 20-22, and October 28, 2008 WMAC (NS) meetings, as revised.

Moved by: Doug Larsen

Seconded by: Christian Bucher

Motion carried

The Council thanked the Secretariat for putting forth such a great effort on minutes.

The Council proceeded to discuss the joint WMAC (NS) / AHTC minutes from last year. The Chair said that too much time has passed for the HTC to approve the minutes, so they will be treated as an information item only.

A member asked if it would be more efficient to review minutes immediately after meetings. Jennifer explained that the Secretariat writes them up immediately, sends them to the Chair, and then out to members, but often the process takes longer than anticipated.

The Chair reminded the Secretariat that final minutes should be sent out to specific organizations – the Inuvialuit Game Council (IGC), WMAC NWT, etc.

Members discussed the idea of recording minutes by tape and decided against it..

The Chair suggested that we try harder to get the minutes out earlier but that we continue using the same approach, ensuring that members get a chance to review minutes before meetings, and that the Council sits together as a whole when approving them.

D. Review of Action Items (Tab 2)

The Council reviewed the status of ongoing action items:

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. **In progress.** The Secretariat is still waiting to hear from Dorothy Cooley whether or not help is needed.

Action 07-06-26: The Chair has re-drafted the Muskox Management Plan and the Council will review it. **In Progress.** Remove “with Harvey Jessup”. The Plan is now with Dorothy Cooley for final updating and redrafting of information as required.

Action 07-10-16: The Council will request a briefing from the appropriate person (Norm Snow or John Reid) on the Regional Action Plan for the Beaufort Sea. **Retired. Follow up:** the Secretariat will post a link on the WMAC website to the Regional Plan of Action.

The Chair noted that practical commitments in the Plan are stated intentions, but often in plans such as this, follow through is a challenge.

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 the Science and Explorers Permit with the Wildlife Permit for natural science research projects. **In progress.**

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. **Retired.** The Councils met on December 8, 2008. Notes will be distributed to both Councils.

A member who was not in attendance at the meeting requested an update.

The Chair provided information on the upcoming polar bear roundtable meeting and the Non-Detrimental Finding. He offered to circulate a copy of the binder of information on recent polar bear management issues that WMAC NWT prepared for the Council.

Danny asked if in Alaska there is a non-Inupiat harvest of polar bear. He said that the Inuvialuit have more comprehensive harvesting rights than the Inupiat and that the Inupiat were unsuccessful in their attempt to enhance their agreement thirty years ago.

The Chair indicated that the quota for the southern Beaufort polar bear population is shared between the Inupiat and Inuvialuit and that they meet every year to determine allocation. He stated that given all of the recent controversy over polar bear management, it would be good, at least in the ISR, to improve communication on management processes.

Danny raised the importance of securing Inuvialuit rights to polar bear, as years ago when the IFA was negotiated the Inuvialuit didn't fight for mining rights in Ivvavik, and they were as a result lost.

Members discussed Environment Canada's failure to consult the Inuvialuit on its presentations internationally re. the Non-Detrimental Finding.

Note – see the December 8, 2008 Joint WMAC NWT / NS Meeting Minutes for full details on what was discussed.

The Chair proceeded to review the discussion on the Harvest Management Strategy.

Richard suggested that Hunters and Trappers Committee presidents and Renewable Resource Committees and other community representatives be invited to sign off on the Strategy.

The last two items reviewed at the joint meeting included a discussion on the Bluenose caribou Management Plan and NWT's proposed Species at Risk Act.

Doug raised concern that the PCH Harvest Management Plan Working Group has already gone out to communities.

Action 09-12-01: WMAC NS will meet with WMAC NWT to discuss and reach consensus on the final draft of the Harvest Management Strategy once it is released (February).

Action 09-12-02: WMAC NS will recommend a process for consultation and review of the final Harvest Management Strategy to the PCMB before the final draft is released.

Action 07-12-01: The WMAC (NS) Secretariat will work with AHTC to plan a full day meeting to address all relevant issues, in 2008. **Retired.** Doug noted that compensation is not included on the agenda with the AHTC and wondered if the annual meeting with the HTC should always appear as an action item. The Chair said that we can retire it and just do our best to meet annually to discuss issues of importance. Meeting scheduled Dec. 9, '08.

Action 08-09-04: The Secretariat will request a digital copy of the jurisdictional map from Perry Diamond and get information on the two leases (indicated on the map) on the North Slope. **Complete.** Briefing note filed in December meeting binder and on file at the Secretariat office.

Action 08-03-06: WMAC will provide comments on Incidental Take to CWS before June 30, 2008. **Deferred.** Still waiting to hear from CWS.

Action 08-07-20: The Secretariat will look into the old mapping project to locate past maps including the satellite image created by Jim Hawkings used on a WMAC (NS) poster. The Secretariat will draft a one page outline to describe the project and present it at the fall 2008 Council meeting. **Outstanding.** Michelle reported that she has contacted the agencies who reportedly received copies of the Wildlife Atlas, and nobody can locate a copy. Members discussed procuring a copy, and rendering the information digitally. The Chair said that Inuvialuit caribou harvesting patterns were mapped and could be useful for the Council's traditional knowledge project. Christian will check with the Parks Canada national library and the Inuvik office for a copy.

The Chair emphasized the importance in finding the Wildlife Atlas by noting that it could one day prove useful (e.g. the environmental sensitivity analysis mapping that Gulf resources produced of the coastline from Prudhoe Bay to Paulatuk in the event of an oil spill).

Action 08-09-06: The Secretariat will investigate ways to create a searchable database of Council meeting minutes. **In progress.** The Secretariat will produce 5 year PDF - bundles of minutes.

Action 08-09-10: Ramona will prepare and distribute a short update on the grizzly bear project to distribute to communities. The update will include information about the project and report on this year's field season. The WMAC (NS) Secretariat will assist as necessary. **Complete.**

Action 08-10-01: The Secretariat will send all members a copy of the North Slope Wolf presentation by mail or a web link. **In progress.** The Secretariat will post on Box.net (internal FTP site) as soon as possible.

The Chair reported that the IGC is not interested in a consistent compensation package across governments, they just want to know what the different policies are. A member reported that the Yukon Government's "no compensation" policy will likely not change unless there is something binding in the IFA.

The Chair said that the IFA speaks to losses due to development but not to research – the definition of development could be challenged to include research. He said it is important to understand that hunter compensation for loss of wildlife and hunting opportunity due to wildlife research activity is a government policy and not a requirement as defined in the IFA.

A member indicated that few people were involved in the finalization of the IFA and asked if it could be opened up for amendment. The Chair said that when agreements are opened up, there is potential for gains as well as losses.

A member suggested raising the compensation issue at the IGC meeting on Thursday.

Christian reported that the GNWT compensates only for hides and not for hunts. In Tukut Nogait National Park Inuvialuit are compensated for the cost of an actual hunt.

The Chair thought that Yukon Government was going to consider compensation if at the end of the year all tags are used up and clearly an opportunity was lost.

Action 09-12-03: Doug Larsen will get a copy of Yukon Government's formal policy on wildlife compensation and deliver it to the WMAC NS Secretariat.

A member reiterated the importance of compensation for people on the land.

Doug brought up IFA-funded wildlife proposals and the challenge for organizations in delivering them on time, as well as the challenge for the Council in not knowing the full budget when making decisions on what to support.

The Council decided that the Secretariat will request full proposals for the December meeting two months in advance, and that projects will be prioritized by the Council at the December meeting. Once the budget is set in January, those projects at the bottom of the list for which no funding is available will be cut.

E. Ongoing Business - Communication Plan (Tab 5)

The Chair introduced the Communication Plan and invited Council comment.

Members noted the importance of reviewing procedures periodically, even though we are already doing a lot of communication work.

A member reported that when being interviewed by Aileen, it was difficult to answer questions honestly because she worked for the Council in the past. He said it would have been easier to answer questions if the contractor hired to write the plan was neutral.

Another member expected more innovative recommendations in the table at the end.

The Secretariat said that if the Council focused on incorporating the changes recommended in the table as is, especially the internal communications, it would be challenging to do everything.

The Chair agreed that focusing on internal Council and inter-IFA body communication could be improved. He also said that because being a member is a quasi-voluntary undertaking, and because not all are connected to the internet, under or over informing people, and the method of communication used can be problematic.

A member raised that honoraria could be increased to, say, \$300 or \$350 per day to accommodate for meeting preparation time. He also suggested that WMAC NS submit applications for funding to attend conferences, as the IGC and WMAC NWT do. It would be nice if the Inuvialuit members could attend two outside meetings per year.

A member commented that he liked the way different audiences were outlined in the Plan, and that a youth plan will take a lot of work. The Chair noted that improving community participation is an ongoing issue.

Danny said that as a member of WMAC NS and the AHTC, he is questioned from the community and the Committee as to what WMAC NS does, and why the MuskoX Plan is taking so long.

The Chair described WMAC NS's role: to provide advice to the Minister of Environment for the Government of Canada, ministers responsible for Ivvavik and Herschel, and the minister responsible for managing wildlife in the Yukon. In addition the Council advises the IGC on wildlife being managed with respect to Inuvialuit use of the Yukon North Slope. The Council provides advice but is not an authority.

Doug raised that this issue could be a case study in Council communication and members proceeded to discuss the importance of communicating the Council's work to different groups. The Chair suggested contacting those who require information, referring them to the Council website, sending copies of the term report, and the communication plan.

The Chair concluded the discussion by emphasizing the importance of the relationship between WMAC NS and the Joint Secretariat and the HTC. Further Council comments can be passed on to Michelle.

Action 09-12-04: The WMAC NS will review its Communication Plan at periodically to review its performance.

The Secretariat got confirmation from the Council that the briefing note at the beginning of the binder is useful and should be continued.

E. Ongoing Business -Porcupine Caribou Traditional Knowledge Project (Tab 8)

Jennifer reviewed the purpose, budget, and work she has done to date on the project and presented two different contractor options for the Council to consider as she is finishing work with the Council before Christmas.

She noted that the Council should decide as soon as possible so that she can meet with the successful candidate before her final day of work, and because arrangements are in place with the HTC.

Jennifer went over the project deliverables and explained the importance of hiring someone who can work well with the community, as well as analyze the information. She plans to interview community people who have observed changes over the last 50 years, noting that this is a one time study.

Danny and Richard said it is not necessary to have a translator present at interviews.

Members concluded that transcription is not necessary – the recordings can be saved and transcribed at a later date if necessary. The mapping portion of the interview, however, should be videotaped.

Jennifer said that WMAC NS will take the final draft report, have it reviewed by the community and work with Aasman to have it printed.

The Chair said that the report could be produced this fiscal year or next. He also said that the Council needs to consider whether or not they can hire a half time replacement for Jennifer.

A member asked where the informed consent form came from and suggested that interviewees accept the conditions associated with sharing information on tape. Jennifer said she used the form for the grizzly bear project, and adjusted it.

Members took time to discuss the contractor proposals at hand and decided to hire Lisa Christensen.

E. Ongoing Business – North Slope Conference (Tab 9)

The Chair thanked the Secretariat for putting together the Conference summary document and noted that the Chair information is incorrect.

Action 09-12-05: The WMAC NS Secretariat will correct the North Slope Conference Summary Document to reflect the following changes: on Page 3 the document should read that Dale Eftoda was the Yukon Minister of

Environment, not the Chair; and on Page 4, the document should read that Eric Fairclough was Minister and the Chair was Hugh Falconer. The remainder of the document should be checked for accuracy as far as who is stated to be the Chair and who the Minister.

The Chair described that Yukon Government and the IGC alternate selecting Conference Chairs. The Council puts names forward of people who have had some association with the IFA, deserving the chance to be recognized for their contributions over the years. Conference preparation and design is shared between the Council and Yukon Government. Usually the Conference theme is North Slope-focused, but can extend to the greater region.

The Chair asked the Council for ideas for chairs, themes, location and suggested that they talk to the IGC and Joint Secretariat to find out their interests.

Members discussed holding the Conference in Whitehorse or Dawson, noting the pros and cons of each:

- Whitehorse has good access to media and Yukon Government.
- Whitehorse would be cheapest and desirable in terms of location and access to other opportunities for out-of-towners.
- Could offset increased cost of Dawson by increasing registration fee.
- Holding the conference in Dawson City would limit participation.

Members noted that September – October can be a difficult time to count on planes being able to fly.

Members also suggested the possibility of including an outing as part of the event, and timing the event with other conferences.

A member asked if there would be time to hold a workshop on ecological monitoring during the Conference. The Chair said that workshops are part of the conference, but depending on their scale can make for a long week.

Members discussed possible themes:

- Polar bear
- Caribou – although this issue is already receiving a lot of attention
- 25 years since the IFA was signed – what have we learned
- Co-management in Parks
- Times are changing
- Communication
- Shipping issues around the Herschel basin
- Engaging youth - the Chair said that in the past dedicated youth sessions have been held, and attendance has been paid
- IPY research review
- Traditional Knowledge

Danny suggested that someone produce a video of the North Slope capturing things like gold mining, Babbage River fish, Sheep Creek, Clarence Bay, Herschel Island and handicrafts made there, the bowhead hunt in 1991, etc. The Chair recalled that Danny shot some Super 8 footage years ago and that the National Film Board has footage of Jacob Archie.

Doug commented that he liked the idea of more of a hands-on problem solving workshop. The Chair said that the Conference is more of a venue for sharing information amongst different parties and the general public etc.

The Chair commented that if other organizations feel strongly about visiting certain issues, they should share the responsibility.

Doug commented that he enjoyed the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board's "2020" conference format and that it could be applied to the North Slope Conference. He also said that he has been disappointed with past Conferences, as nothing substantive seems to come out of them.

The Chair observed that the purpose of the conferences was largely to inform and educate people with an interest in the North Slope.

The Chair concluded that Whitehorse sounds like the best option for a Conference location and that it should be held the third week of November. He proceeded to ask people for ideas on a Chair, noting that he would bring this up at the IGC meeting on Thursday:

- Chris Burn
- Ian Stirling
- Wayne Pollard
- Tom Beck – he has been suggested in the past, but has never accepted.

The Chair clarified that the Conference Chair is someone who has made a contribution to the region and the IFA and that their main job is to deliver a keynote address at the banquet. The best Chairs have delivered outstanding addresses.

The Chair concluded by asking members to pass on further thoughts to the Secretariat.

E. Ongoing Business – Herschel Island Work Plan / Research Facilities (*Tab 11*)

Richard Gordon began the discussion by informing members of budgetary constraints due to rising operations and maintenance costs, namely rising fuel costs. He is currently looking for areas within the budget to cut costs.

An IPY research facility on Herschel could have provided additional space for Rangers, however given current budgets, it was determined that the project was unrealistic.

Richard emphasized that the problem with budgeting for Herschel is that they won't see increased funding for another 5 years, because of the funding cycle, and fuel costs may continue to rise.

Action 09-12-06: WMAC NS Secretariat will contact the Joint Secretariat to determine whether or not they plan to make an appeal for an interim adjustment to implementation funding levels because the current funding cycle was extended from 5 years to 10.

Richard talked about the challenge of providing enough staff when cruise ships arrive at Herschel, and next year there are 2 cruise visits scheduled instead of just 1.

Members discussed ways to cut costs and generate income such as park fees, added tour operator costs, shorter Ranger shifts, self guided interpretative tours, and adjusting implementation funding levels.

Richard explained that the work season cannot be shortened because the current season offers just enough hours for Rangers to apply to receive Employment Insurance.

Richard talked about more financial challenges: the obligation to pay for medical emergencies, and the elder / youth program for which members discussed tapping into the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation's cultural funds.

The Chair thanked Richard for his time, and suggested that the Herschel discussion continue tomorrow. He adjourned the meeting at 4:10pm.

December 10, 2008

Council Chambers, Hamlet Office, Aklavik, NWT

Lindsay Staples Chair • **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Doug Larsen** Yukon Government (Member) • **Christian Bucher** Parks Canada (Member) • **Michelle Christensen** (Secretariat) • **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat) • **Richard Gordon** Herschel Island Park Ranger (Guest)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 8:55am.

E. Ongoing Business – Parks Canada Update (*Tab 10*)

Christian discussed the Parks Canada Visitor Experience Assessment. He was not in attendance but was not sure how beneficial it was because it was designed more for southern Parks, and some of the Parks staff in attendance were new to the North.

Danny thought day was informative but agreed that the application of southern parks' regulations to northern parks does not make sense. He said that attracting more visitors to Northern parks will continue to be a problem because of restrictive access regulations.

Christian mentioned that visitor numbers were down in all northern parks, likely due to the high cost of travel.

He explained that Parks' summer programming was successful.

Action 010-12-01: The WMAC NS Secretariat will coordinate with Christian Bucher presentations by Ivvavik IPY researchers at the Council's March Meeting.

He went on to describe collaborative fish habitat work with Parks, DFO and the FJMC.

Parks set up a committee to deal with a historic cabin on Nunaluk spit which is now a landmark used by travelers. A historian will return to the site next summer to assess what can be done to preserve the building.

The Chair inquired about the Hudson Bay building at Clarence Lagoon which was built out of salvaged ship lumber. Christian said that a committee was formed and they determined to seal the building to the elements and will determine later how to proceed.

Danny thought it was a good idea to seal the old store, and mentioned that Ida Inglangasuk would know a lot about the building. He said that the building is constructed out of fir as well as mahogany.

Action 10-12-02: The WMAC NS Secretariat will coordinate with the appropriate bodies a joint meeting to discuss the management plan for the historic store at Clarence Lagoon .

Ernest suggested involving the cultural resource centre.

Christian mentioned the sod house on the Firth and the overall need for protocol / care and maintenance programs for all historical buildings within the Park.

Christian updated the Council on the Sheep Creek Site Plan. A Parks planner is taking over the development of the plan, and due to a staffing shortage, will not resume work on it until a later date, which has not been determined.

The Chair suggested writing up 1-pager in the mean time to explain where the process is at and what the management directive is.

Christian briefed members on Parks' priorities within the Sheep Creek Site:

- Use of all existing buildings on site is justified
- The back storage shed would be best turned into an artifact display area with interpretive panels on the walls
- Airstrip should continue to be maintained from a safety perspective
- Interpretation of the placer history in the area should be developed
- Due to high use, better waste and safety management needs to occur

Christian clarified that the site is a priority, but the plan itself is not and that site work will continue.

Ernest commented that he liked the Parks Canada newsletter layout and asked about the emergency plan. Christian said that the plan is for the community and not for only the airport.

Members discussed reviewing motorized access (zoning) in the Park, and the challenges associated with having different regulations for Inuvialuit and non-beneficiaries.

Christian said that zoning can be changed when the management plan is reviewed, which is not for another 4 years. However, a Superintendent's Order, with strong justification, can alter activities within the zone.

Christian explained that Park access for non-beneficiary traffic is well managed through designated landing sites and permits, but snowmobile, boat, and air access is more complicated. Parks manages the Ivavik coastline as a travel corridor between Aklavik and Barter Island.

Christian indicated that the snowmobile issue in Parks is the same as the firearm issue, and said that Parks is not likely to open up the issue.

Ernest said that in Tuktoyaktuk community people on snowmobiles are causing disturbance to habitat on the Pingo.

The Chair directed the discussion back to Herschel Island, reminding members that having a discussion with IFA implementation staff would be useful. The Chair said that the WMAC NS operating budget and funding for wildlife programs should not be compromised in funding Herschel. Other sources such as Polar Continental Shelf could be explored.

Doug agreed and noted that he had a discussion with Allan Koprowsky who said that there is not a lot of latitude for reallocating money.

Richard said he has had discussions with Stephanie and Dave regarding funding.

Ernest noted that Polar Continental Shelf shut down in Tuktoyaktuk and moved to Resolute Bay years ago.

Christian offered that the government would likely look into revenue generation possibilities before looking elsewhere.

Ernest suggested working with the Aurora Science Institute's Andrew Apple John.

Christian suggested hiring volunteers at Herschel as a way to work around budget constraints.

Richard concluded that he will continue to work on the issue and will update the Council at its spring meeting.

Jennifer asked if the Council is in agreement to hold a special meeting regarding Herschel.

Action 10-12-03: Richard Gordon will work with the WMAC NS Secretariat to organize a meeting with Stephanie Muckenheim and others identified as being appropriate regarding Herschel funding.

E. Ongoing Business – Review IFA-funded Wildlife Research Proposals (*Tab 7*)

Doug opened the discussion by noting that Dorothy, who could not be here today, didn't have a chance to discuss her proposals with YTG's Director, and that YTG's request for funding exceeds what will be available. He hoped that the Council could treat the discussion as preliminary. He also expressed YTG's interest in ecological monitoring and that their proposals reflect higher level thinking and that they hope IFA funds are distributed in a manner consistent with broad organized monitoring in mind.

The Chair invited Christian to provide the same ecological monitoring perspective when the Council reviews Parks Canada's package of proposals.

Grizzly Bear Project

Doug explained that Ramona is not sure at this point how much outside funding she will receive for next year, and that she will be looking to the Council for direction as to which project activities are priority.

The Chair expressed concern over the project lasting longer than planned. Doug clarified that the last year's activities will only involve the removal of collars.

Christian suggested that if the project does not receive sufficient funding that money left over from the Parks Canada 2004 MOU could be used. He also thought that \$50,000 was a lot for den surveys.

Danny said that community people are starting to question the project. He noted that in the eastern arctic researchers make a concerted effort to communicate results.

The Chair clarified that the issue with polar bears in the eastern arctic has more to do with how science works with local knowledge.

A member expressed that some community people may not be providing Ramona with accurate local knowledge.

Doug thought that Ramona's data is supported well by community traditional knowledge and mentioned that the project was setback due to rising fuel costs and faulty collars.

The Chair outlined the key reasons why the project was supported in the first place: no work had been done on that population for 30 years; it is important to ensure the quota is reasonable; and grizzlies are on the SARA radar screen. He suggested adding this issue to the agenda for the joint meeting with the HTC, and that a separate one day meeting occur.

Doug said he will contact Ramona regarding the Council's concerns about the project.

Polar Bear Traditional Knowledge Project

Doug raised concerns over receiving a proposal for year two of a project whose first year has not been completed yet. He was surprised by the amount of money requested, especially given that he thought not many people hunt polar bear in Aklavik.

Danny said he has never participated in a harvest, and does not recall the last time somebody in the community got one.

Richard said that nobody hunts until April. He told Ramona that he thought her fall coastline polar bear survey was a waste of time because of the lack of ice – bears are in Alaska at this time when the bowhead harvest starts.

Doug said they were aware of this. He expressed that YTG is interested in doing more polar bear research, but that this proposal needs some questions answered.

The Chair indicated that with the grizzly bear traditional knowledge report not done, and the Porcupine caribou traditional knowledge project just beginning, he is hesitant to support another traditional knowledge project without knowing that the HTC is fully on board.

Doug suggested limiting her work to collecting archive information.

The Secretariat said that the current discussion reflects what the Council decided last March.

Richard reported that in a season he sees around three bears and that numbers are low in April.

The Chair wondered about how this proposal fits in with polar bear work happening in Inuvik and Tuktoyaktuk.

The Secretariat expressed that anthropologist fees could stand to be lowered, and inquired as to what responsibility, if any, would fall to the Secretariat for this project.

The Chair concluded that the Council requires more information about this project from Ramona.

Porcupine Satellite Program

Doug explained that this is an ongoing program that requires minimal funding and encouraged the Council to support it on a preliminary basis.

Doug moved on to the next proposal, noting that this year he thought people were really scrambling to get things done.

Moose Project

Doug said that the Yukon portion of the Richardson Mountains was surveyed in the past and that YTG is hoping that GNWT conducts a survey in the area adjoining the Yukon survey area to generate good baseline data for the area. He noted that GNWT has not committed yet and that there is a proposal to do a survey in Alaska and Ivvavik as well, which could provide a good opportunity to gather data for a broad region, which could also be used to tie into IPY climate change data. Staffing for this project within YTG might be an issue.

Christian said that Parks Canada conducts a moose survey every five years, focusing on the Firth and Babbage River areas.

Members discussed how critical the Yukon survey is in the context of the other surveys happening.

Christian raised the concern that as restrictions on the Porcupine caribou herd harvest come into place, an increase in moose harvest may occur.

Danny reported that there are many moose in the Delta and that wolves can affect numbers. Because numbers are healthy he doesn't see a need for the study.

Doug said that because of climate change, and willow encroachment that it makes sense for there to be more moose in the future.

The Chair concluded that because four different jurisdictions are proposing studying moose, there is good incentive for the Yukon to conduct a study, even though the Yukon population was surveyed only 8 years before. Council members agreed.

The Chair suggested that before committing to this project the Council find out if the GNWT will be conducting a survey.

Action 10-12-04: WMAC NS will hold a teleconference in early January 2009 to determine successful IFA-funded wildlife research projects.

The Chair walked Council members through items to discuss with the Aklavik HTC at the joint meeting scheduled for later this afternoon.

- Muskox Plan update
- Polar Bear Management
- Grizzly Bear Research – explanation of quota system and obligation to report kills
- Porcupine Caribou Traditional Knowledge Project
- Harvest Management Strategy - treatment of Herschel Island caribou
- Shingle Point
- WMAC NS – explanation of mandate etc.
- Enforcement

Members resumed the discussion on IFA-funded wildlife research projects.

Herschel Island Ecological Monitoring and Report and Black Guillemot Project

Doug stated that he would support Herschel Island Monitoring and the Guillemot project, but that he would like to have a broader discussion about how they fit into ecological monitoring.

The Chair reminded members that the Council is currently conducting a review of all ecological monitoring projects happening on the Yukon North Slope. The Herschel proposal is different from what has been proposed in the past, as the work proposed is a program review. The Guillemot project, however, is proposing more surveys – the Chair questioned the importance of more data collection vs. conducting data analysis.

Members continued to discuss the Guillemot project noting that the project adds to the Rangers' work load, and that historical information is available.

The Chair said that producing analyses of the Borderlands program, Herschel Island Monitoring, and the Guillemot work, will put the Council in a better position in the future to decide what monitoring work is valuable.

Richard indicated that the Rangers would like to see results from the Guillemot project.

The Chair concluded that Cameron be requested to conduct an analysis of historical and recent survey information to pull out trend information about the larger ecosystem. The Council does not support survey work for 2008/2009.

Evelyn Storr joined the meeting at 3:30pm

Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Coop (ABEKC)

Evelyn raised that ABEKC monitoring program results are not flowing to the HTC. She said that her mom conducts interviews and has found it hard to get people to participate.

The Secretariat clarified that ABEKC is currently working with Jadah Foliott to conduct data quality work in preparation for the synthesis work, thus addressing WMAC's data quality concern.

The Chair noted that IFA funds account for 50% of the synthesis budget, and indicated that it would be helpful to see a more detailed proposal.

Members added that they would like to see: how Wayne Wysocki's methodologies will be applied; what other partners have had to say / contribute towards synthesis development; how synthesis topics were identified and why; whether or not spatial information will be analyzed; and whether or not a profile of people interviewed will be included, etc.

Short-eared Owl Project

The Council agreed to support this project, as this species is of Special Concern and Parks is required to take action.

The Chair concluded the discussion by summarizing the following:

- Grizzly Bear Project – need more information from Ramona.
- South Beaufort Sea Polar Bear TK Interviews – recommend that survey work scheduled for year 2 of the project not go ahead, as it is the Council's understanding that year 1 activities have not yet been completed.
- Porcupine Caribou Satellite Program – approve.
- Herschel Island Ecological Monitoring and Report – approve.
- Black Guillemot Project – recommend that an analysis of results to date be conducted instead of more surveys, which should not require IFA funds.
- Aklavik Harvest Data Collection – approve, but recommend that a stronger effort be made for accurate reporting
- Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Coop – approve in principle, but request more detailed information.
- Short eared Owl – approve.

- Moose Surveys – determine whether or not other 3 jurisdictions will be conducting surveys in 2009 before committing funds for Yukon survey.

Evelyn raised issue with research proposals and whether or not the Aklavik HTC sees the same proposals that go through the Aurora Research Institute.

Action Item 10-12-05: The WMAC NS Secretariat will get minutes from the December 2008 Aklavik HTC meeting relating to research proposal screening.

F. Financial Report / Staffing Update / Wage Review (Tab 4)

The Chair expressed interest in continuing to support 1.5 resource people if the budget will allow, noting that surplus carry over from the last few years helped to support increased staff over this past year. Jocelyn McDowell has expressed interest in starting in January in a half time position.

The Chair went through the budget noting where areas would likely be under spent and over spent. He explained that Michelle Christensen was offered the Secretariat position, and had accepted. He suggested discussing financials further, and conducting a review of the Secretariat's wage and benefit package over a teleconference in January.

Members were agreeable to hiring an additional staff person from January to March 2009, and decided to discuss the idea of 1.5 permanent staff at a later date.

G. Correspondence (Tab 3)

The Chair noted that correspondence in future meeting binders should include letters the Council sends out.

The Council discussed the significance of the report on the socio-economic value of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq caribou harvest.

Action 10-12-06: The WMAC NS Secretariat will distribute full copies of the "Economic Valuation and Socio-Cultural Perspectives of the Estimated Harvest of the Beverly and Qamanirjuaq Caribou Herds" to Council members.

Jennifer Smith explained the error made in producing the Enforcement Fact sheets.

Action 10-12-07: The WMAC NS Secretariat will work with Doug Larsen, who will in turn work with Conservation Officers to clarify the misinformation identified in the Enforcement Fact Sheet, and will re-print and re-distribute the Fact Sheet showing that it is "Revised as of date xx". Organizations having original Enforcement Fact Sheets will be requested to destroy originals and will receive corrected versions.

H. Ongoing Business - Migratory Bird Regulation Changes (Tab 12)

The Chair directed members to pass along any comments to the Secretariat.

I. New Business - Polar Bear (Tab 13)

Joel Ingram cancelled and could not attend the meeting.

The Chair informed members that WMAC NS has been invited to sit on the Polar Bear Technical Committee (PBTC). He suggested that Doug represent the WMAC NS seat.

Motion 10-12-03

To elect Doug Larsen to represent WMAC NS on the Polar Bear Technical Committee.

Moved: Christian Bucher

Second: Ernest Pokiak

Motion carried

Doug accepted the nomination and requested that the Secretariat look into accommodations for the January roundtable meeting in Winnipeg.

Members revisited the discussion on organizational issues.

The Chair suggested that any information that comes in to the office after binders go out not be added during the meeting, and the Council agreed.

Christian raised the issue of ecological monitoring, wondering when discussion over the workshop will take place. The Chair said that it has been delayed because of the upcoming North Slope Conference, but agreed to put it on the agenda for the next meeting. The Council agreed that the issue is important.

J. Upcoming Meetings

Members agreed to hold the next Council meeting in mid March, and to hold a teleconference in early January.

K. Adjournment

The Chair thanked everyone for attending the meeting, and in particular Richard Gordon, for sitting in and contributing.

Motion to adjourn the meeting.

Moved: Ernest

Second: Doug

Motion carried