



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

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MINUTES

WMAC(NS) Quarterly Meeting

March 14 and 15, 1996

Aklavik, NWT

Thursday March 14, 1996

Present: Lindsay Staples (Chair) Joan Eamer - Gov't of Canada, CWS
Hugh Monaghan - Gov't of Yukon Billy Archie- IGC
Nelson Green - IGC Vicki Sahanatien - Parks Canada

Dorothy Cooley- IFA Biologist, YTG Renewable Resources
Aileen Horler - Secretariat (recording secretary)

Guest: Martin Raillard, Park Canada

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4 PM. Welcomes were extended to all WMAC(NS) members as well as to Martin Raillard, Dorothy Cooley and Vicki Sahanatien.

B. Approval of Agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda and suggested that due to the late start to the meeting, the meeting should begin by discussing the upcoming evening public meeting on muskox and the Aklavik HTC's proposal for a trip to Kaktovik.

Motion:

To adopt the agenda.

Moved: Nelson Green

Seconded: Billy Archie

Motion carried.

I. Old Business

1. Muskox Management

The meeting scheduled for this evening will fulfill a commitment made by the Council, in December 1995, to hold another public meeting in Aklavik, regarding the management of muskox on the Yukon North Slope. It is anticipated that there will be lots of interest to hear Nelson Green's comments on muskox-caribou interaction near Paulatuk . Although the meeting will be informal, the Council hopes to get the kind of information currently needed to further develop the Muskox Management Plan. The Chair would like to be able to present the Council's recommendations regarding the management plan to the Inuvialuit Game Council in April.

Billy Archie commented there is a common concern in the community about muskox and caribou. People are seeing lots of muskox and they are keen to go ahead and harvest them. The proposed trip to Kaktovik will give the people of Aklavik an opportunity to learn about muskox and discuss the future of the herd. Traditional knowledge is important in management, not just scientific knowledge. A lot can be learned about the history of these muskox from the people of Kaktovik. It is important to learn how to use the muskox because there are now so many of them around.

The Chair noted that Nic Larter, a biologist with NWT Renewable Resources who has researched muskoxen on Banks Island, will be attending the evening meeting. The people of Aklavik are looking west to Kaktovik and east to Paulatuk to learn about the muskox. They want to learn about hunting and economic opportunities.

Nelson Green commented that there has always been a herd of about 100 caribou on Parry Peninsula. This year there are over 100 muskoxen and no caribou.

It is important to clarify community opinion on a number of points. Do the people of Aklavik want to see the population increase, decrease or remain stable? Do they want a training program related to the hunting and use of muskox? When should the hunt start-

this spring, next fall? What is the hunting season? It would also be useful to put together a list of research projects that could try to answer some of the most pressing questions about muskox.

Nelson Green commented that to have a quota you have to know the desired size of the population. In Paulatuk the quota is 50, but they actually only take about 10 per year. To have a stable population you have to have a program to make sure that the desired amount are taken. There has to be a reason to take them and you have to have the backing of the community.

Vicki Sahanatien responded by saying that a subsistence hunt and a population control hunt are two different things. The management plan is being developed to address subsistence needs. There is not enough evidence right now to say that any control is needed.

It is important that the management plan addresses both the subsistence interest and the control concern. When asked if conserving the muskox herd means that it must be allowed to expand, the Chair replied that this was not necessarily true, especially if expansion was not sustainable or effected other populations, such as the caribou.

If the management objective is to manage for a stable population, there is then an expectation that the population must be carefully monitored. In ANWR managers are managing for an increasing population. They must be kept informed about our decisions here. It is reported that the Inupiat are concerned and unhappy with the management plan for muskox in Alaska. It will be important to learn about the relationship between the Inupiat and muskox management. For example, how satisfied they are with the ANWR management plan and how the muskox are managed?

Martin Raillard commented that although there has been no significant increase in population between 1993 and 1995, the distribution is expanding. Muskox are showing up in places where they were never seen before.

The format for the evening meeting was further discussed and finalized. It is to begin with presentations on the history and current status of the muskox population on the Alaska and Yukon North Slope by Martin Raillard and Dorothy Cooley. This is to be followed by a presentation by Nelson Green on the experiences of Paulatuk with muskox, and an overview of the muskox and caribou situation on Banks Island by Nic Larter. The Council will be able to respond to questions from the community and hopes to get the information required to further develop the Muskox Management Plan.

Nelson Green suggested that it may be possible to access the NWT 'Guide Level 1 Training Program' as a way to train people interested in learning more about muskox hunting.

There are other groups, such as the Aklavik Gwich'in, that have an interest in muskox management. The Council should consider how to keep other groups informed about

what we are doing. For example, it may be possible to doing a presentation to the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board.

7. 1995/96 Wildlife Management Proposals

(a) Aklavik HTC Trip to Kaktovik

At the WMAC(NS) meeting in February 1996, Billy Archie agreed that he would work with the members of the Aklavik HTC to prepare a proposal for a number of people to travel from Aklavik to Kaktovik by snowmobile. The trip was seen as part of the overall muskox education initiative (see Action Item 96-02-06). The proposal was prepared as agreed and presented by Billy, on behalf of the HTC, to the Council for consideration.

In presenting the proposal, Billy said that he has always wanted to see an increase in dialogue with Kaktovik. It is important that good people are selected to go on this trip. It will be a good opportunity to exchange information and get answers to a number of questions the people have about muskox. The timing is good because everyone has concerns about the muskox right now. There is a need to start talking about what to do with them. As with the Polar Bear agreement, the muskox plan can be developed in a spirit of co-operation.

In order to ensure that everyone has access to what was learned by those who go to Kaktovik, the Chair stressed the need for a report and a video and/or audio tape to be made which documents the meetings. The North Slope Borough (the hosting agency in Kaktovik) has said they will provide video equipment and assist with the taping. It is very important that those who go to Kaktovik are prepared with specific questions to ask when they are there.

To ensure that a report on the trip and meetings is completed, it was suggested that one of the trip's participants be designated to produce such a report and paid an additional fee for the time required to do it. The Council agreed to contribute \$450 (3 days work at \$150 per day), from its own budget, to cover the costs of the write-up.

A discussion followed on the possibility of Danny C. Gordon being able to go on the trip. It was recognised that he has contributed much to the Council over the years. He has a history of traveling over to Kaktovik and is interested in the issues surrounding muskox management. This will be an important trip and it is important that someone with experience is able to go. The Council, while recognising that it is up to the HTC to select who will go on the trip, decided to make a request that Danny C. be considered as one of the participants.

The members all agreed on the value of the trip the Kaktovik as an opportunity to open up a dialogue with the people of Kaktovik and learn from their experiences. It is very important that the trip's participants are clear on the objectives of the trip and are provided with a list of specific questions to be asked in Kaktovik. The information gained

will be able to assist in the development of the Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan.

Motion:

To recommend funding for the trip to Kaktovik (\$11,787.20) as proposed by the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee. The recommendation is made subject to the following conditions: (1) Billy Archie and Dorothy Cooley will develop a set of questions for participants to be raised during the meetings in Kaktovik; (2) Billy Archie and Dorothy Cooley will brief participants about the trip; (3) meetings should be audio and/ or video taped and; (4) a report should be prepared which documents the trip. WMAC(NS) will provide funding for the write-up. The report is to be submitted to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and to WMAC(NS). WMAC(NS) would appreciate if the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee would give special consideration to Danny C. Gordon when selecting participants, in light of his contribution to WMAC(NS) discussions and his long standing interest in the development of the Muskox Management Plan.

Moved: Hugh Monaghan

Seconded: Joan Eamer

Motion carried.

Billy Archie reported that the Aklavik HTC still wants to see the muskox hunter training in Paulatuk go ahead as proposed. A number of people in the community have responded to the HTC's advertisement of the opportunity. With so many people interested in going, the HTC wouldn't like to see the training canceled. Nelson Green replied that, although the Paulatuk HTC is very busy at this time of year, it might still be possible to accommodate the need for the training program. The Chair suggested that this proposal be discussed further during the update on the 1995-96 Wildlife Management Projects.

C. Review and Approval of Minutes of December 11 and 12, 1995 meeting

The following points were noted:

page 9- change the spelling of Daen to Dehn

page 17- in reference to grizzly bear management- The Chair clarified that he has not been able to send the letter to the Minister of Renewable Resources regarding the closure of sport hunting for grizzly bear on the North Slope. A letter has been drafted but it still needs some clarification from Renewable Resources staff before it is sent. The Chair and Hugh Monaghan agreed to discuss this matter further to ensure that the letter is sent out as soon as possible. Vicki Sahanatien agreed to provide the Chair with more background information for the letter he is preparing to send to Minister Copps.

Motion:

To accept the minutes of the December 10 and 11, 1995 meeting, incorporating the noted changes.

Moved: Joan Eamer

Seconded: Billy Archie

Motion carried.

Billy Archie noted that, as WMAC(NS) is a co-management board, at least one of the Inuvialuit representative should be involved in moving or seconding a motion. He also pointed out that alternates should not be making motions when the members are present, as this causes disproportionate representation. Alternates should make motions only in the absence of the member. The Council members all agreed with his suggestion.

D. Review and Approval of Minutes of February 15, 1996 meeting.

The following point was noted:

page 9- in reference to the funding for the Wolverine Carcass Recovery, the funds noted as allocated should be changed from \$3000 to \$2000.

Motion:

To accept the minutes of the February 15, 1996 meeting, incorporating the noted change.

Moved: Nelson Green

Seconded: Hugh Monaghan

Motion carried.

E. Review of Action Items of December Meeting

Outstanding Action Items

Action 95-06-19: IFA Workshop. Regarding the IFA Workshop, the ad hoc committee will schedule the workshop for fall '95, giving consideration to the scheduling of other meetings.

Carried forward. The secretariat will make every effort to schedule this workshop before the summer.

Action 95-06-25: Secretariat will improve on the format of Status Reports with Dorothy Cooley.

Underway.

Action 95-06-34: WMAC (NS) Chair will draft a letter to the Environmental Impact Screening Committee and the Environmental Impact Review Board providing comment on their operating procedures, based on an evaluation done by Robert Gibson. In addition, comments will reference WMAC's dependence on the screening and review process for conservation on the North Slope, the link between the report and comments in the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan, the Special Conservation Regime for the North Slope, and lessons from the Driftwood Lumber Co. review.

Completed. Comments have been conveyed to both the EISC and the EIRB.

Action 95-06-38: Chair and secretariat will investigate electronic mail software for networking among members.

Carried forward. Not considered a top priority at this time.

Action 95-09-01: The WMAC (NS) Secretariat was directed to procure a copy of the MOU and the Overlap Agreement between the Vuntut Gwitchin and Inuvialuit and between the Tetlit Gwich'in and Inuvialuit, respectively, and to prepare a discussion paper for the December meeting

Completed. Members were provided with a copy of the Overlap Agreements between all the above noted parties at the meeting in December. The agreement between the Vuntut Gwitchin and Inuvialuit is contained in both of their Land Claim agreements. The agreement between the Tetlit Gwich'in and Inuvialuit currently consists of only one line (section 12.9.1) in the Gwitchin Comprehensive Land Claim Agreement.

The Council needs to be kept up to date on this issue. It is important to how to deal with other boards and to know who is hunting on the North Slope. Billy

Archie reported that Inuvialuit and the Aklavik Gwitchin have submitted names to each other in order to establish who can hunt under the overlap agreements. The Chair suggested that the Council needs to set aside some time to look into this matter more thoroughly, perhaps by scheduling a meeting with all the parties involved.

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 6 PM.

Friday March 15, 1996

Present: Lindsay Staples (Chair) Joan Eamer - Gov't of Canada, CWS
Hugh Monaghan - Gov't of Yukon Danny C. Gordon- IGC alternate
Nelson Green - IGC Vicki Sahanatien - Parks Canada

Dorothy Cooley- IFA Biologist, YTG Renewable Resources
Aileen Horler - Secretariat (recording secretary)

Guest: Donald Aviugana

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9 AM. Welcomes were extended to Danny C. Gordon and Donald Aviugana, former WMAC(NS) member. It was noted that as Vicki Sahanatien has to leave the meeting by 11AM the issues related to Komakuk and muskox should be discussed before she leaves.

I. Old Business

1. Muskox Management- continued

A discussion was held as a follow-up to the muskox public meeting, held the previous evening. The Chair commented that the meeting went well, with lots of good information being made available. There is an obvious interest in the community to hunt the muskox. Donald Aviugana reported that the elders in the community are in favour of hunting. Danny C. Gordon added that most people at least want to try it. He also said that it is important to keep in good contact with Alaska to know what is going on over there.

When asked if the people in Paulatuk shoot male or female muskoxen, Nelson Green replied that its usually the females that are shot for eating. He suggested that, once the

quota is set, the community should decide if they want to shoot females for eating or males for sport. The meat is very good in early fall. Mating occurs in August and September so you don't want to hunt them then, when they are in poorer condition.

Vicki Sahanatien expressed a concern about shooting females because of its effect on calf mortality. She asked Dorothy Cooley to investigate how long a calf needs to stay with its mother. It has been suggested that the young animals are targeted in order to get good meat. Then it doesn't matter what sex they are.

The Chair stated that he wants to take a recommendation regarding muskox hunting to the IGC's next meeting, in April. He suggested that the Council have a teleconference prior to the IGC meeting to discuss the issue further. It will be necessary to circulate a full package of materials to Council members before the teleconference. There is a need to layout the general context of the Muskox Management Plan. The goal of the Plan is for a stable population. There will be a need to consider the findings of the Kaktovik trip.

A full range of options must be laid out prior to the teleconference. Nelson Green noted that the council is listening to the community but it is important to know how various options will effect the muskox population. The quota must be within the conservation limit.

Action 96-03-01: The Secretariat will arrange for a teleconference, to be held at noon, April 16, 1996. Prior to the teleconference, the Secretariat will distribute, to all members, an updated package of materials, which is to include the draft muskox plan and the full range of options for management.

The Chair added that, in terms of the overall planning, the Council should look seriously at having a joint meeting with the Alaskans. Vicki Sahanatien said that Parks Canada would be able to facilitate such a meeting.

In an effort to establish better relations between all parties interested in the muskox management issue, the following to actions were identified:

Action 96-03-02: The Chair is to draft a letter to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to inform them of WMAC(NS) initiatives regarding muskox management. The draft letter is to be circulated to Vicki Sahanatien and Hugh Monaghan. A copy of the letter is to be sent to Pat Reynolds.

Action 96-03-03: Hugh Monaghan is to draft a letter to the Alaska Fish and Game Department to inform them of WMAC(NS) initiatives regarding muskox management.

E. Review of Action Items of December Meeting- continued

Action 95-09-02: The WMAC (NS) Secretariat was directed to invite a representative of the Tetlit Renewable Resources Council in Aklavik to the WMAC (NS) quarterly meeting in Aklavik this December to learn of their wildlife management interests on the North Slope

Completed. WMAC (NS) Secretariat wrote a letter of introduction and requested meeting. An additional letter was sent in February 1996 to the Aklavik RRC informing them of the next WMAC(NS) meeting.

Action 95-09-03: Joan Eamer was directed to inquire with Canadian Wildlife Service if they could produce a publication of their 10 year review of wildlife projects on the North Slope, similar to YTG's recent publication.

Carried forward. Joan Eamer will produce this in April.

Action 95-09-12: Joan Eamer will draft an MOU to undertake a State of the Ecozone Report for the North Yukon and completion of the ecosystem monitoring database in partnership with WMAC (NS) for review by the WMAC (NS) Secretariat.

Completed.

Current Action Items

Action 95-12-01: John Russell will discuss the incident of fur rub and wear on the neck of a wolverine from a radio collar as reported by Danny C. Gordon with Dorothy Cooley and respond to the WMAC (NS) Secretariat and Danny C. Gordon. Mr. Gordon inquired about financial compensation for the hide he could not sell due to damage from the collar. The Yukon Government will respond to this request.

Completed. After a discussion with Danny C. Gordon regarding compensation, the issue was satisfactorily resolved.

Action 95-12-02: John Russell and Dorothy Cooley will respond to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee about which storage freezer in town is to be used for wolverine carcass submissions and about the adjustment in fee they can offer trappers, given that Allan Fehr with the Research Institute in Inuvik is offering more money for wolverine carcasses than is YTG.

Completed. Dorothy Cooley reported that she had sent a letter to the Aklavik HTC telling them that they should deal with Allan Fehr regarding carcass collection. YTG will not be collecting carcasses.

Action 95-12-03: WMAC (NS) Secretariat will organize a meeting in Aklavik in late January to discuss muskox issues further with the community. The intent of the meeting is to have Nelson Green available to speak of his experiences in Paulatuk, as well as an

Inupiat to speak of the situation of subsistence muskox hunting and management in ANWR. The Secretariat will also make arrangements with Dorothy Cooley and Martin Raillard for their presence at the meeting.

Completed. The meeting was held March 14, with Nelson Green, Dorothy Cooley and Martin Raillard in attendance. It was found to be too costly to bring representative from Kaktovik at this time.

Action 95-12-04: WMAC (NS) Secretariat will produce minutes from the public meeting of muskox discussions held December 11, 1995 in Aklavik. These minutes will be circulated to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and WMAC (NS) members.

Completed.

Action 95-12-05: WMAC (NS) Secretariat will request some interim muskox management guidelines from Dorothy Cooley and Martin Raillard in regard to the draft muskox management plan and the ongoing discussions with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee. Considerations to be factored into the plan include:

- the relationship between the management of muskox and caribou (given the concerns of Inuvialuit hunters)
- management for a stable muskox population with essentially no increase to the population size
- managing the herd as part of an expanding population of Alaska, thereby considering rates of increase in the population size of the Alaskan herd, and giving consideration to the rate of increase of the Yukon population since 1980
- different methods to manage the muskox population, vis-a-vis, quota, total allowable harvest, monitoring hunter effort and success, monitoring kill specimens, mandatory reporting of kills, etc.
- the need to conduct more studies which look at muskox and caribou interactions, and which look at the knowledge held locally and in Kaktovik about interactions - e.g. consider an oral history study
- further developments to the management of muskox in the northern Yukon must include the involvement of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee membership
- any proposals for more study or more funding to the issue of muskox management should be discussed with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee membership

Carried Forward, until the draft is developed.

Action 95-12-06: WMAC (NS) Secretariat is directed to draft a memo to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee explaining the use of a hunting quota as an instrument for managing wildlife.

Carried forward. The memo will be forwarded with the draft muskox management plan and the quota recommendation.

Action 95-12-07: WMAC (NS) Secretariat is directed to ensure that the Ecosystem Monitoring Bulletin is fast tracked and available for distribution at the upcoming meeting Halifax, January 1996.

Completed. The bulletin was distributed in Halifax.

Action 95-12-08: WMAC (NS) Secretariat is directed to ensure that the Term Report is fast tracked and ready for distribution at the upcoming meeting in Halifax, January 1996.

Completed. The Term Report was produced, although not in time for distribution in Halifax.

Action 95-12-09: YTG is directed to respond to Danny C. Gordon's inquiry about the size of the wolf population in the northern Richardson Mountains.

Carried forward. More information is needed from Bob Hayes.

Action 96-03-04: Dorothy Cooley will request that Bob Hayes writes a letter to Danny C. Gordon responding to the inquiry about the size of the wolf population in the northern Richardson Mountains, with copies to Hugh Monaghan and WMAC(NS).

Action 95-12-10: WMAC (NS) Secretariat is directed to distribute a copy of Al Lucas's report on CEAA and the IFA's environmental screening and review process to Vicki Sahanatien.

Completed. It was noted that a phrase had been omitted from the wording of action item. The secretariat agreed to make the required changes to the wording.

Action 96-03-05: The Secretariat is to send a copy of Al Lucas's report on CEAA and the IFA's environmental screening and review process to Hugh Monaghan.

Action 95-12-11: WMAC (NS) Chair will draft a letter to Minister Dupuy regarding the Council's recommended grizzly bear hunting quota in Ivvavik National Park.

Completed. It was noted that with the recent change in cabinet ministers, the letter would now be directed to Hon. Sheila Copps. Vicki Sahanatien asked Hugh Monaghan about the grizzly bear tags for Ivvavik National Park.

Action 96-03-06: Hugh Monaghan and Dorothy Cooley agreed to raise the issue of tag distribution and identification with John Russell and inform Vicki Sahanatien of the decision.

Action 95-12-12: WMAC (NS) members are directed to review the Communications Strategy for the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan in preparation for the next quarterly meeting.

Completed. The Communications Strategy will be reviewed as part of the later agenda.

Action 95-12-13: WMAC (NS) Secretariat is directed to make arrangements for the next quarterly meeting, giving consideration to the timing of the Gap Analysis Workshop in February.

Completed.

Action 95-12-14: WMAC (NS) Secretariat is directed to note that Bill Fox, Parks Canada Inuvik has requested cultural knowledge be integral to the Long Term Research Plan proposed for the North Yukon and be a component of the ecosystem monitoring initiative.

Completed.

Action 95-12-15: WMAC (NS) Secretariat is directed to change the format of the *Wildlife Watch* newsletter so that it is available 4-6 weeks following a meeting and it highlights discussions and actions of the recently held quarterly meeting. This could include a larger page layout with a fold out, it could include a question and answer format.

Completed. The Secretariat noted that the next newsletter has been delayed until it is possible to report more fully on the muskox issue, which includes a summary of the public meetings, the trip to Kaktovik and the quota recommendation.

Action 95-12-16: WMAC (NS) Secretariat is directed to draft a letter to Department of Fisheries and Oceans regarding the Coastal Zone Planning Project and encouraging the initiative. The contents of the letter should include: the recommendation of this kind of approach within the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan; reference to WMAC (NS)'s response to the Marine Conservation Strategy; and reference to the ecosystem monitoring initiative for the north Yukon.

Carried forward.

Action 95-12-17: WMAC (NS) Chair will consider the feasibility of responding to the Marine Conservation Strategy.

Carried forward. The Chair needs an update on the Marine Conservation Strategy before he can consider responding.

Action 95-12-18: WMAC (NS) members are directed to review the draft Mining Regulations and provide comment to the WMAC (NS) Secretariat who will compile a digest. Review comments are needed in late January.

Carried forward. The Chair would like to see a draft of a response completed by the end of April.

Action 96-03-07: The Secretariat is to remind members by mid-April that their comments on the draft Mining Regulations are requested by the end of April.

Action 95-12-19: WMAC (NS) Secretariat is directed to confer with the Environmental Impact Screening Committee for their comment on the draft mining regulations and to inform them that WMAC (NS) will be commenting to Northern Affairs.

Completed.

Action 95-12-20: WMAC (NS) Secretariat is directed to write a memo to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee requesting their preference for the use of funds for muskox management and whether they feel it would be a good use of funds to send a number of hunters to Paulatuk in the March for a muskox hunt in light of other concerns.

Completed. The Aklavik HTC replied that they were still in favour of the hunter training going ahead with the Paulatuk HTC.

Action 95-12-21: WMAC (NS) Secretariat is directed to draft a letter to the proponents of the GIS Database funding proposal supporting their proposal but with the recommendation that at the conclusion of the project funding there be a presentation of the product to the Council, Aklavik HTC and Inuvialuit Game Council.

Completed. Verbally communicated.

F. Review of Action Items of February Meeting

Action 96-02-01: WMAC(NS) Secretariat will prepare a letter of support for the work being undertaken as part of the National Science Foundation Community Sustainability Study. The letter is to include references to the recognition of Inuvialuit interests and the Yukon North Slope Conservation and Management Plan, and the explicit relationship with the ecological monitoring project (EMAN) and institutions involved. It is also to request that the communities themselves are consulted and well informed of the implications of the study before proceeding.

Carried forward. Letter to be completed pending information received from Gary Kofinas.

Action 96-02-02: The Chair will write-up the comments of the Council members in regards to the Inuvialuit Harvest Study and submit them to the Inuvialuit Game Council and the Yukon Government, for consideration. The Inuvialuit Game Council should receive the comments prior to its upcoming meeting in Sach's Harbour, February 25, 1996.

Completed.

Action 96-02-03: The Secretariat is to include the suggested changes to the Grizzly Bear Resolution into the final resolution.

Completed.

Action 96-02-04 : Billy Archie is to pursue the idea of some Aklavik hunters going to Sach's Harbour a few days previous to the scheduled March guide training program to go on a muskox hunt, in association with the Sach's Harbour HTC. Billy is to discuss this possibility with the Aklavik HTC and proceed with the arrangements if it is agreed to by all parties.

Retired. Billy reported that no one from Aklavik chose to go to Sach's Harbour.

Action 96-02-05 : At its next meeting, WMAC(NS) is to further consider the plan to develop Muskox hunting training opportunities for Aklavik hunters.

Completed. This issue is to be addressed further at this meeting.

Action 96-02-06 : Billy Archie is to prepare a proposal, in consultation with the community of Aklavik, for a number of people to travel from Aklavik to Kaktovik by snowmobile as part of the overall muskox education initiative. Dorothy Cooley is to assist in the initial preparation of the proposal. The proposal is to include travel logistics, the names of participants, the goals of the exchange and the method by which the community of Aklavik will be informed of the results.

Completed. The proposal was prepared and presented to the Council.

G. Correspondence

The Chair reviewed the correspondence in the binder.

A letter was received from Cheryl Chetkiewicz, a biologist with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board (GRRB), which includes a summary of 1996-97 renewable resource research projects that have been considered for funding by the Board. The letter also indicates a desire to enhance communications between the GRRB and the Council by keeping each other informed of current activities and issues. The Chair acknowledged the receipt of the letter and emphasized the importance of ensuring good communications between all groups with interests on the North Slope. It was recognised that the information contained in the summary will be useful in the Council's discussion regarding funding, to be held later in the meeting.

Action 96-03-08: The Secretariat is to write a letter to Cheryl Chetkiewicz at the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board thanking her for the information she sent and acknowledging that the summary she provided has helped the Council in its discussions. A copy of the summaries of the muskox public meetings is to be included with the letter.

Two letters were received regarding the Yukon Development Assessment Process (DAP), The Chair explained the process to Council members. It is important for the Inuvialuit Game Council be kept informed, and so have made a request to DIAND that the two WMAC Chairs be the IGC representatives at the DAP meetings in Whitehorse.

An announcement was received on a conference titled "Caring for Home Place: Protected Areas and Landscape Ecology", to be held in Regina, Sept 29 to October 1, 1996. Hugh Monaghan informed members that the Yukon Renewable Resource habitat section has had some involvement in the past with the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas (CCEA) who is one of the groups sponsoring the conference. He was unsure if anyone from the habitat section would be attending this year. Should a YTG representative go to the conference, it may be possible to send along some North Slope related materials. This item is to be considered again at the August WMAC(NS) meeting.

Action 96-03-09: The secretariat is to send information on the North Slope Conservation and Management Plan and the Northern Yukon Ecological Knowledge Co-operative to the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas.

The Chair drew the members attention to several other documents that were contained in the reading folder. The titles included the Nunavut Research Institute Strategic Plan; the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy; Migratory Game Birds in Canada-Proposals for 1996 Hunting Regulations; Environmental Protection Legislation Designed for the Future- A

Renewed CEPA; the Canadian Wildlife Act; Pride in Partnership Yukon; Shared and Co-operative Management Models of National Parks and National Historic Sites Between Governments and Aboriginal Peoples: An International Comparative Review; Engigstciak, NiVk-1 and NiVk-10: Ten thousand years of faunal history.

I. Old Business - continued

I. 5. ANWR Update

The secretariat reported that President Clinton has remained firm in his decision not to allow any oil drilling in ANWR. The immediate issue of including the drilling revenues in the current budget bill is no longer considered a threat. The Porcupine Caribou Management Board has requested that letters be sent to President Clinton thanking him for honouring his pledge to protect the calving grounds. Correspondence related to ANWR is included in the binder.

The Chair added that he was recently in Old Crow during a meeting of Gwitchin Chiefs regarding ANWR. There was a lot of discussion at that time about the effectiveness of the the relationship between the Gwich'in Steering Committee and the PCMB. It is important in the future for the Council to ask more questions about the effectiveness of the lobbying effort if we are making financial contributions.

I. 13. Ivvavik National Park

(a) Program update

Vicki Sahanatien reported that there will be less research in the park this year. She hopes to submit some research proposals to the Council at a later date.

Grant MacHutcheon will soon complete the 'Key to the Firth River Habitat' project. Parks is compiling oral history information for the Firth River valley.

(b) Komakuk Clean-up

The Chair began the discussion by informing members that WMAC(NS) has sent a letter regarding the clean-up to Tom Beck, Chair of the EISC, reiterating the Council's position.

Vicki Sahanatien reported that the Department of National Defense (DND) has started to clean-up across the north. In regards to Komakuk, Parks Canada has always understood that everything was to be removed, leaving only the foundations of the buildings. There would be no burial of materials. The big issue has always been who is going to pay the costs of the clean-up. It will be very expensive. Although Komakuk is still not part of Ivvavik, Parks became responsible for it last summer when the property itself was

transferred to Heritage Canada. The clean-up could be compromised. It is important to continue to push for a complete clean-up. It is important that other agencies help Parks Canada on this issue.

Danny C. Gordon noted that a number of years ago there were plans to leave one building at Komakuk for use by travellers. He inquired if this was still planned but no one at the meeting was able to give him an answer.

Action 96-03-10: Danny C. Gordon will mention this issue to the Aklavik HTC and suggest that they make further inquiries about the possibilities of a building being left at Komakuk for use by travelers.

Vicki Sahantien further reported that the EISC has rejected DND's proposal for the clean-up of all the Dew Line sites. DND has been asked to submit a clean-up proposal for each separate site.

I. 10. Proposed Amendments to the Yukon Mining Acts

This item was considered during the review of the action items (see action item 95-12-18) No further discussion is required at this time.

I. 9. EISC/EIRB Concerns

(a) Recent Correspondence

The Chair drew attention to the letters regarding the amalgamation of the EISC and EIRB, that are contained in the meeting binders. These letters include comments from the IRC. No one has yet come out in support of the amalgamation. There has still not been any response from DIAND. Nelson Green added that he believes a motion was made at the last IGC meeting regarding the amalgamation.

Action 96-03-11: The WMAC(NS) Secretariat is to get an update from the EISC on the amalgamation issue and present it to the members at the next meeting.

I. 2. Inuvialuit Harvest Study

The Chair referred the members to the letter sent by WMAC(NS) to the IGC, regarding the IHS. He reported that the IGC found the Council's letter to be very useful at their last meeting. He also referred members to a letter written by the IGC to WMAC(NWT). This letter also draws attention to the need for the IGC to be involved in the entire process.

The IGC has decided to proceed with the 'low maintenance' option. The HTC's will assume responsibility for the collection of data. This will be funded by the IHS. The coordinators activities will be suspended during the evaluation.

A question was raised regarding the quality control and supervision of the data. The Chair acknowledged that there were still a number of questions to be answered regarding the collection method. When asked who is going to call a meeting of the steering committee, the Chair responded that the only action taken so far has been the drafting of the request for proposals. The FJMC will be meeting next week and will discuss Bob Bell's participation on the steering committee.

Danny C. Gordon asked about the value of the IHS. He said that he doesn't know of what value the study is to him. The Chair responded that the data is collected for compensation purposes and to assist in wildlife management. The upcoming evaluation will look at how the data is collected and may suggest another way of getting the information that is needed. A discussion followed on the problems of data accuracy.

I. 3. Ecosystem Monitoring Project

Joan Eamer gave an update on the Northern Yukon Ecological Knowledge Co-operative workshop that was held in Whitehorse, February 13 and 14, 1996. The materials recently sent out to all participants were presented and reviewed by the members. The next step will be to invite the groups and agencies, identified during the workshop, to participate in monitoring. The proceedings will be available in April. It is hoped that there will be another gathering of the Knowledge Co-operative next year.

Hugh Monaghan added that YTG expects to be more involved with this initiative in the future. Ecosystem monitoring has recently been identified within YTG's three year operational plan.

I. 4. IFA Workshop

Discussion of this topic was deferred Item 14- Proposed 1996-7 Budget.

I. 6. 1995-96 Wildlife Management Projects Update

(a) Wildlife Act Amendments

The Chair reported that WMAC(NS) has not received a response to the letter sent to YTG, in December 1995, regarding the process to amend the Wildlife Act, prior to a letter being sent by Laurie Henderson (who has been contracted by YTG to do the work) to the IGC requesting a meeting. The letter in the binder, to the Chair from Allan Koprowsky (Manager, Land Claims Coordination, YTG) is an attempt to clarify the process and relationship between all interested parties. The Chair has drafted a letter to the IGC clarifying what is happening. The work that is being done now is preliminary background work and will be completed by the end of March 1996.

The Chair remarked that the letter raises questions of YTG's political commitment to the process. Hugh Monaghan responded that the assessment to be completed at the end of March will be taken to cabinet to get a full endorsement.

(b) Muskox Hunter Training

As it was not possible for the hunters to go to Sach's Harbour for training in February, the Council decided to make every effort possible to ensure that the muskox hunter training goes ahead in Paulatuk. The \$3000 recommended for the Sach's Harbour training must, therefore, be increased to the originally proposed costs of \$15,000, to accommodate the training in Paulatuk. Identified funding for this project is to be committed before the end of the fiscal year to ensure that the finances required are secured. Nelson Green said that the Aklavik hunters will have an opportunity to talk to Paulatuk elders about muskox before going out on a hunt. The hunters will learn about hunting and dressing of the muskox. The training will be geared toward subsistence, not commercial, hunting. Joan Eamer stressed the need for a report to be prepared on the trip and was told that one would be prepared by Dorothy Cooley who will be going on the training as well.

(c) North Richardson Mountain Habitat Study (YTG)

This study has been carried forward as a 1996-97 project.

(d) North Slope Wolf Studies (YTG)

Dorothy Cooley reported that the data from this study is being analysed. The next step will be to calculate the home ranges of the wolves that are part of the study. A report should be available by fall 1996.

(e) North Slope Wolverine Study (YTG)

Dorothy Cooley reported that the write-up of this study will be available in the fall of 1996. Danny C. Gordon said that the Aklavik HTC doesn't want any more wolverine collaring to be done until there has been a chance to look at the results of the study. Dorothy added that she also has concerns since there are so few wolverine and she does not want to see them harassed.

(f) Muskox Distribution Maps (YTG)

Dorothy Cooley reported that the maps will be drafted before March 31, 1996. The project has not cost as much as originally estimated. It will cost approximately \$700, rather than \$1500. Dorothy has talked to Dennis Senger (YTG Renewable Resources Communication Co-ordinator) about the format and presentation of the maps.

(g) Muskox March Survey

Dorothy Cooley reported that the survey will go ahead as planned at the end of the month. In addition, Dorothy and Parks Canada are considering collecting information on snow characteristics at muskox feeding sites during the composition count. Although this work was included as part of Corr Smit's study proposal, she has been unable to find any evidence that it was ever conducted.

(h) Muskox Habitat Report (YTG)

The contractor is proceeding with work on this report.

I. 11. Grizzly Bear Management

(a) Grizzly bear resolution

A copy of the final resolution is included in the meeting binder.

(b) WMAC(NS) correspondence to Ministers

In response to action item 95-12-11, a letter has been drafted to Minister Copps regarding the grizzly bear quota.

Action 96-03-12: The Secretariat will provide Hugh Monaghan with a copy of the letter which has been drafted to Minister Fischer regarding the closure of sport hunting for grizzly bear on the North Slope. The Chair and Hugh Monaghan are to discuss this matter further to ensure that the final letter to Minister Fischer is sent out as soon as possible.

I. 8. 1996-97 Wildlife Management Funding Proposals

There is a total of \$133,000 available for wildlife management proposals in 1996-97.

At Dorothy Cooley's request an item regarding wolf satellite collars was added to the agenda. Dorothy reported that the 12 collars removed from the wolves at the conclusion of the wolf study are now considered to be obsolete and no longer suitable for use on wolves. They could, however, be used on caribou. These collars were purchased with IFA implementation funds. She suggested that the collars be donated to the PCMB for use on caribou. Such a donation could be considered a WMAC(NS) contribution to caribou research.

Motion:

To donate the wolf collars to future Porcupine Caribou research.

Moved: Nelson Green

Seconded: Joan Eamer

Motion carried.

I. 7. 1995/96 Wildlife Management Proposals - continued

(a) Aklavik HTC Trip to Kaktovik

Members were joined by the four people who had been selected by the Aklavik HTC to go on the trip to Kaktovik- Lawrence Kayotak, Leonard Inlangasuk, Dennis Arey and Jonas Meyook. Billy Archie also joined the meeting.

The Chair reviewed what the Council had discussed during its meeting the previous day. WMAC(NS) is very interested in the Inupiat experience with muskox. The Inupiat already have a muskox management plan and it would be useful to know what they think of it. It was noted that the Inupiat do not have the same strong voice that the Inuvialuit have in wildlife management on the North Slope. In the Yukon, people want the muskox numbers to be kept at a stable level, whereas in Alaska they are managing them for an increase. The trip to Kaktovik is seen as an important research project in the development of the Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan. If this trip goes well, there will hopefully be more in the future.

The people in Kaktovik are excited about the visit, too. It is important for the group that goes to bring back a product, such as audio or video tapes, that can be passed on to the community. The Council hopes to see an edited tape and report produced as soon as possible. A report is important in order to pass on the learning. The Council has a number of questions that it would like to see raised during the meetings in Kaktovik. Dorothy Cooley and Billy Archie have agreed to develop a set of questions and give them to the

trip participants. Dorothy can also provide participants with some background information on muskox.

Billy Archie informed the meeting that Martin Raillard will be traveling over from Inuvik the next evening. The group hopes to leave on Sunday (March 17). Billy also stressed the importance of asking questions. Once they get to Kaktovik, the participants will have to figure out the best way to get the information they need. Perhaps they should organise a public meeting as soon as they get there.

Hugh Monaghan added that this trip will bring the two communities together in the development of the Muskox Management Plan and muskox harvest. An effort should be made to strengthen the ties between government agencies in addition to the community ties that will be straightened by the trip.

The Council members gave their best wishes for a good a safe trip to all those going to Kaktovik. The four trip participants, Billy Archie and Dorothy Cooley then left the WMAC(NS) meeting in order to meet further and prepare for the trip.

I. 12. North Slope Conservation and Management Plan

(a) Volume 1

This volume is at the printers and will be available for distribution in April.

(b) Volume 2

This volume is in the final draft stages but clarification is needed on some issues before it can be completed (for example, reference to YTG habitat legislation).

Action 96-03-13 : The Chair will provide Hugh Monaghan with a copy of the relevant sections of Volume 2. The Chair and Hugh Monaghan will work together on the specific wording that is required.

Joan Eamer referred to the fact that the State of the Environment Report is a requirement of the Environment Act. When asked if there was anything specific the Plan should address regarding this report, Joan replied that it was important to keep the connection strong with the Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Network (EMAN). It should be noted that ecological monitoring is a component of the Plan.

Council members will be asked to review the draft content as soon as changes are made by the Chair and Kate McEwen. The changes currently being made will be highlighted. A fully laid out draft version will be available for further review at a later date. It should be clear that the Plan is a reflection of the Council, which has tried to accommodate all interests.

(c) Communication Strategy

Members were asked to refer to the draft Communications Strategy included in the meeting binder.

Danny C. Gordon felt that there would not be much benefit in providing an Inuvialuktan translation. It may be better to see if there are any requests or complaints and then the Council can consider the demand for translation. Nelson Green noted that they usually don't translate documents in Paulatuk.

In reference to electronic distribution, Joan Eamer reported that there are a number of options. It is possible to put the entire plan on the Internet or just to supply an order form. If Volume 1 was put on the Internet, it will be necessary to check the copyright on the photographs. It is important to make sure you get final form text files from whoever produces the home page.

In reference to the commercial sale of the Plan, the members agreed that there is a need to look at recouping the costs of subsequent printings. Anyone on the distribution list will receive it free of charge. Anyone else (ie the general public) would pay a fee based on the cost of reprinting. Joan Eamer suggested that the Council should look at getting a distribution agency.

Action 96-03-14: The Secretariat will investigate using a distribution agency to assist in the distribution of the Plan.

The Secretariat reported that the Yukon Conservation Society has been contracted to prepare the distribution list. It was suggested that the Secretariat look into purchasing some 'contact management' software to store and organise the distribution list.

H. Financial Report

The most recent financial statement is included in the meeting binder. The Council will expend its entire 1995-96 budget.

A summary of funding for 1995-96 Wildlife Management Projects was presented as follows:

Funds available	
Wildlife Management Project Allocation	\$141,300
North Slope Conference Allocation	\$52,000
Less	
Travel costs	\$10,000
Salary- IFA Biologist	\$50,300
Net Funds Available	\$133,000

Funds Allocated to Projects

Proposal	Funding Required
Wildlife Act Amendments	\$10,000
Muskox learning package 4 (maps)	\$700
Muskox hunter training	\$15,000
Muskox habitat report	\$14,725
North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan	\$19,300
Key habitats of the Firth River Valley	\$3,000
Muskox Survey	\$19,850
North Yukon Ecological Knowledge Co-operative Database	\$5,000
Preparation of Distribution list for Plan	\$1,500
Inuvialuit Harvest Study	\$25,000
Aklavik HTC to Kaktovik	\$11,787.20
TOTAL	\$125,862.20

The following changes and additions since the February meeting were noted:

- (1) Funds allocated to the Wildlife Act Amendments were reduced from \$15,000 to \$10,000, due to the late start to the project.

- (2) Muskox learning package 4 (maps) - The cost of this project has been reduced from \$1500 to \$700.
- (3) Muskox hunter training - The \$3000 allocated to send hunters to Sach's Harbour was changed to the original cost estimate of \$15,000 (recommended at the September 1995 meeting) to send hunters to Paulatuk.
- (4) Inuvialuit Harvest Study - A discussion was held on the commitment of funds.

Motion:

To recommend that the \$25,000 initially committed to the Inuvialuit Harvest Study for the purposes of evaluation be recommitted to the Inuvialuit Harvest Study.

Moved: Nelson Green

Seconded: Danny C. Gordon

Motion carried.

- (5) Aklavik HTC to Kaktovik - The recommend funding was added to the list of funds allocated to projects.

The total funds allocated in 1995-96 is \$125,862.20. It was noted that there will be a year end surplus of \$7,137.80 in the funding allocated to Wildlife Management Programs.

I. Old Business - continued

I. 8. 1996-97 Wildlife Management Funding Proposals- continued

(a) Northern Richardson Mountain Dall's Sheep Census (GNWT)

Members reviewed the proposal contained in the meeting binder. Jean Carey, the sheep biologist with YTG Renewable Resources will be involved with this project. It was agreed to recommend that the requested \$5000 be committed to this project.

(b) Grizzly Bear Reproductive Rates and Cub Survival in the Richardson Mountains, NWT and YT (GNWT)

Members reviewed the proposal contained in the meeting binder. It was agreed to recommend that the requested \$5000 be committed to this project.

(c) GIS Database (YTG)

This project was approved for 1995-96 but, due to time constraints, it was not possible to initiate the work. As it ties in very well with all the other work being done, the Council once again recommended that this project receive the \$8550 which was requested.

(d) MuskoX Learning Package

After a brief discussion, Dorothy Cooley requested that any further consideration of this project be deferred until the meeting in June.

(e) Dawson Regional Technician

Hugh Monaghan reported that Dorothy Cooley is very busy and is in great need of a technician to help her with her work. A technician would free her up to do other things such as visit the communities and write-up a number of outstanding studies. Hugh requested that the Council consider recommending a commitment of \$25,000 to go towards the funding of a half time (0.5) technician position that would operate out of Dawson. This funding would be required for one year only, and by approving it now the Council would not be committed to future funding. It may be possible to increase this position to full time using funds from within YTG. Council members all recognised the value in providing Dorothy with some technical support.

Motion:

To recommend for funding the Northern Richardson Mountain Dall's Sheep Census (\$5000), Grizzly Bear Reproductive Rates and Cub Survival in the Richardson Mountains, NWT and YT (\$5000), GIS Database (\$8550) and partial one year term salary for a Dawson Regional Technician (\$25,000).

Moved: Joan Eamer

Seconded: Danny C. Gordon

Motion carried.

I. 14. Proposed 1996-97 Budget

The proposed budget for 1996-97 was reviewed by members. The following changes/additions were made.

(1) Travel to regular meeting was changed to \$10,000, giving a total budget for regular meetings of \$15,500.

(2) The purchase of assets was changed to \$1000.

(3) The budget for newsletter was changed to \$3000, to cover the costs of three newsletters per year. This brings the total budget of Secretariat Contract Work to \$7400.

(4) In regards to the budget for projects, \$1500 was allocated to the IFA workshop. The Chair and Secretariat will work towards putting on the workshop before the summer.

The Chair suggested that the allocation of funds to the other identified projects be deferred to the meeting in June.

Motion:

To adopt the 1996-97 budget as proposed, with changes to funds allocated for regular meeting travel, the purchase of assets and the newsletter, and the added allocation of \$1500 to the IFA Workshop.

Moved: Danny C. Gordon

Seconded: Joan Eamer

Motion carried.

J. New Business

There were no new business items added to the agenda.

K. Next Meeting

The Chair proposed that the Council hold its next quarterly meeting at Sheep Camp in Ivvavik National Park. There is a need for the members to see more of the area they are responsible for managing. It is hoped that there will also be an for members to visit Herschel Island in conjunction with this meeting. The preferred date for this meeting is the week of June 3.

Action 96-03-15 : The Chair will write to Bill Fox, Parks Canada, to request the use of Sheep Creek Warden Station for the next Council meeting.

The Chair also proposed that the Council hold a meeting in Kaktovik in August. This would be an excellent opportunity to meet with the Inupiat, ANWR managers and representatives from Alaska Fish and Game. The Council members all agreed that it would be a good chance to discuss common issues. The trip would be made by boat from Aklavik. Danny C. Gordon said he would be available to act as a guide on the trip. The preferred date for departure from Aklavik is August 19.

Action 96-03-16 : The Chair and Secretariat are directed to open up communications with the various agencies working in the Alaska North Slope region and facilitate a meeting to be held in Kaktovik in August 1996.

L. Adjournment

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting.

Moved: Nelson Green

Seconded: Hugh Monaghan

Motion carried.

The meeting was adjourned at 5 PM.

WMAC(NS) Chair

Date

WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Date