



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

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MINUTES

WMAC(NS) Quarterly Meeting

Whitehorse, Yukon

June 5-6, 1997

Thursday June 5, 1997

Present: Lindsay Staples - Chair
Nelson Green - Member -Inuvialuit Game Council
Dorothy Cooley - YTG Renewable Resources, Alternate-Government of
Yukon and IFA Biologist
Kelly Olson- YTG Renewable Resources, IFA Implementation
Coordinator
Joan Eamer - Member- Government of Canada

Aileen Horler - Secretariat (recording secretary)
Alice Hartling - Secretariat

Guest: Doris Hausleitner - PCMB Wildlife Technician Trainee

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9AM. Welcomes were extended to all members and guests. It was noted that, due to lack of Inuvialuit representatives, this meeting does not have quorum. The Council will have to defer the passing of any resolutions pending Billy Archie's approval. This is the second meeting that has lacked the required IGC representation. The meeting in February was canceled entirely. This is an issue that should be brought to the attention of the IGC.

Action 97-06-01: The Chair will raise the Council's concerns regarding Inuvialuit representation at recent WMAC(NS) meetings with the IGC.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda and noted that highlights will include a discussion on the Wildlife Act Amendments, the financial statements, the Inuvialuit Harvest Study and wildlife proposals.

Three guests are scheduled to join the meeting: Graham McDonald, Executive Assistant to the Minister of Renewable Resources, will attend a general discussion on YTG's implementation activities as related to the IFA, Harvey Jessup will be here for the discussion on the Inuvialuit Harvest Study, and Dave Mossop will attend the discussion on wildlife proposals.

Motion:

To adopt the agenda.

Moved: Nelson Green
Seconded: Joan Eamer
Motion carried.

C. Review and Approval of Minutes of Dec. 11-12, 1996 meeting, March 5, 1997 Teleconference, and April 24, 1997 Teleconference.

The Chair asked for changes to or comments on the minutes of the Dec. 11-12, 1996 meeting. No changes were required.

Motion:

To adopt the minutes of Dec. 11-12, 1996 meeting.

Moved: Dorothy Cooley
Seconded: Nelson Green
Motion carried.

The Chair asked for changes to or comments on the minutes of the March 5, 1997 teleconference. No changes were required.

Motion:

To adopt the minutes of the March 5, 1997 teleconference.

Moved: Joan Eamer
Seconded: Nelson Green
Motion carried.

The Chair asked for changes to or comments on the minutes of the April 24, 1997 teleconference. No changes were required.

Motion:

To adopt the minutes of the April 24, 1997 teleconference.

Moved: Nelson Green

Seconded: Joan Eamer

Motion carried.

**D. Review of Action Items of Dec. 11-12, 1996 meeting, March 5, 1997
Teleconference, and April 24, 1997 Teleconference**

Dec. 11-12, 1996 meeting:

Outstanding Items

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 reported that the Science Horizons Intern will be working on completing this publication.

Action 96-06-14: WMAC(NS) will draft a letter to Minister Fisher regarding the closure of grizzly bear hunting to Yukon residents on the North Slope. This letter, to be conveyed with a copy of the WMAC(NS) grizzly bear resolution, is to include references to the Grizzly Bear Management Plan and the history of initiatives taken by the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, such as the moratorium, and a recommendation that the hunt be conducted by tag only. A copy of this letter is to be sent to the Inuvialuit Game Council.

Retired. It was decided to retire this item for two reasons. Mr. Fisher is no longer the Minister. In addition, it has been decided that the issue of resident and First Nation hunting is best deal with through the issuance of permits rather than through closures.

Action 96-06-15: WMAC(NS) will write a letter to the Inuvialuit Game Council bringing to their attention the issue of a closure of grizzly bear hunting to Yukon residents on the North Slope. This letter is to include a request for the IGC to review WMAC(NS)'s letter to Minister Fisher and ask that they consider responding to it.

Retired. This item was retired for the same reasons as stated above in item 96-06-14.

Action 96-06-26: Dorothy Cooley is to prepare a report which summarizes the results of each of the muskox population surveys. The report is to document the results and the circumstances of each survey and is to include her personal impressions and experiences.

Completed.

Action 96-06-32: Dorothy Cooley, Billy Archie and the Secretariat will work together to develop a proposal for the preparation of a video on the Muskox Management Plan.

Carried Forward. This action is subject to the completion of the plan.

Action 96-06-34: Joan Eamer will prepare a 'Bulletin' which outlines the current and anticipated activities related to ecosystem monitoring. The Secretariat will be responsible for its distribution.

Completed.

Action 96-06-36: The Chair will write a letter to the Minister of Renewable Resources seeking a commitment to continue with the work to amend the Yukon Wildlife Act. Now that the review has been completed, the Council would like to see a draft of the amendments. The letter is also to express the Council's desire to see a working group have the opportunity to review the amendments in the fall.

Completed.

Action 96-06-42: Joan Eamer will ensure that a description of the North Yukon Ecological Knowledge Co-operative Database is included in the upcoming issue of the Ecosystem Monitoring Bulletin.

Completed.

Action 96-06-45: Joan Eamer, Vicki Sahanatien and John Russell will form a working group to review Volume 2 of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan.

Retired. Documents have been circulated.

Action 96-09-12: WMAC(NS) will prepare a response to the proposed devolution of responsibilities from Northern Affairs to the Yukon Territorial Government.

Carried Forward. The Chair reported that there is still nothing to comment on as DIAND and YTG are still working on developing a timetable for the devolution process.

Action 97-06-02 : WMAC(NS) will write a letter to the Minister of DIAND and the YTG Minister for the Executive Council Office requesting that the Council be

kept up to date on the process of devolution of responsibilities from Northern Affairs to the Yukon Territorial Government.

Action 96-09-07: Joan Eamer will provide the Secretariat with a copy of Environment Canada's response to the second phase of the Coastal Zone Planning Project.

Completed.

Action 96-09-09: The Secretariat will purchase an appropriate gift to be given to Hugh Monaghan from the Council, in recognition of this contribution to WMAC(NS).

Completed.

Action 96-09-10: Billy Archie will ask the IGC for assistance in getting the Aklavik HTC to produce bylaws for grizzly bear and muskox hunting pending, the IGC acceptance of the WMAC(NS) resolutions.

Completed.

Action 96-09-13: WMAC(NS) will prepare a response to the Canada - Yukon Oil and Gas Accord.

Ongoing. The Chair reported that draft legislation is now being reviewed by YTG and Yukon First Nations. The legislation will effect Inuvialuit interests but these interests are not being considered in the process.

Action 97-06-03 : WMAC(NS) will write a letter to the Minister of DIAND and the YTG Minister for the Executive Council Office, the Chair of IGC and the Chair of the IRC indicating that as the discussions regarding the Canada - Yukon Oil and Gas Accord have a bearing on Inuvialuit interests, these interests should be recognised as part of the process.

Action 96-09-16: Kelly Olson will look into what maps can be produced for the Yukon North Slope from the Yukon's GIS and habitat and vegetation mapping work, and determine when they could be available.

Ongoing. Kelly Olson reported that the maps are currently being worked on and there should be a set available by the end of June. Kelly provided an example of the new maps which were acknowledged as a vast improvement over what has been available. Dorothy Cooley added that eventually the habitat and vegetation maps will overlap. The problem with doing this now is that vegetation maps are not available for the entire North Slope. The Barns Mountains have yet to be mapped. The Chair commented that these maps will be important in the screening and review process.

Action 96-09-17: A working group consisting of Billy Archie, Lindsay Staples, Kelly Olson and the WMAC(NS) Secretariat will meet for a day, by the end of October 1996, to discuss and plan for the next North Slope Conference. The Secretariat will contact Billy Archie to assess his availability. Should Billy be unable to attend such a meeting, Lindsay Staples is to phone him to discuss his views on the planning.

Completed.

Action 96-09-20: The Chair will write to the Ministers responsible for the Department of Fisheries and the Canadian Wildlife Service to have polar bears recognized in the Marine Mammal Regulations. The letter is to be copied to the responsible territorial Minister and to the Inuvialuit Game Council.

Carried Forward.

Action 97-06-04 : The Chair will send John Russell and Nelson Green a copy of the draft letter to the Ministers responsible for the Department of Fisheries and the Canadian Wildlife Service regarding the recognition of polar bears in the Marine Mammal Regulations for their review. The letter is to include any comments or discussions on this topic which arise at the Polar Bear Workshop in Holman, in June 1997.

Action 96-11-02: The Secretariat will determine the cost of producing an Inuvialuktun translation of the North Slope Wolf video.

Carried Forward. This item will be completed once the English version is completed.

Current Items

Action 96-12-01: A one-day briefing on the IFA is to be scheduled for early June 1997.

Revised. The Council decided that a one-day briefing on the IFA was still needed for YTG staff and park rangers. The briefing should be scheduled for spring of 1998 so that Herschel Island rangers can attend.

Action 97-06-05: A one-day briefing on the IFA is to be scheduled for spring 1998. To supplement the briefing, Kelly Olson will put together an orientation package of information for distribution, which is to serve as an introduction to the IFA.

Action 96-12-02: The Chair will write a letter to Eric Fairclough, the new Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources, to request a meeting the next time Council members are in Whitehorse. Such a meeting would provide an opportunity for the Minister to meet Council members and obtain a briefing on current issues.

Completed.

Action 96-12-03: John Russell will request that the Director of Fish and Wildlife Branch send a letter to the Alaska Fish and Game Department to inform them of WMAC(NS) initiatives regarding muskox management and request their comments on the Muskox Management Plan. The letter should note that the plan was developed by WMAC(NS) and YTG, in partnership with Parks Canada, and should include the Council's quota recommendation. Dorothy Cooley will draft a copy of the letter for the Director's consideration.

Completed. Dorothy Cooley reported that two letters were sent- one to Jim Kruth, Arctic National Wildlife Refuge from Brian Pelchat and one to Wayne Reglin, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, from Don Toews. It was noted that neither letter was copied to WMAC(NS).

Action 96-12-04: Dorothy Cooley will send a copy of the muskox survey results to the WMAC(NS) office.

Completed.

Action 96-12-05: The Secretariat will write a letter to the PCMB suggesting that they consider the possibility of integrating a display booth with the IGC, in an effort to reduce costs.

Completed.

Action 96-12-06: The Chair is to meet with Bob Whittingham to discuss the WMAC(NS) presentation to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development regarding Bill C-6. The Chair is to write up the meeting as a memo to file.

Carried Forward. The Chair reported that it would be more useful to have Bob make an update presentation to the Council and that efforts were being made to get him to attend the current meeting.

Action 96-12-07: John Russell will make arrangements for someone to tape the Good Earth Productions' TV show on Ivvavik National Park when it is aired on April 2, 1997.

Completed. It was reported that Vicki Sahanatien made a tape.

Action 97-06-06 : The Secretariat is to request a copy of Good Earth Productions' TV show on Ivvavik National Park from Vicki Sahanatien.

Action 96-12-08: The Secretariat is to contact Kelly Olson to find out when the vegetation and habitat maps of the Yukon North Slope will be available.

Completed. This item is to be put on the agenda for the next meeting to provide members with an update.

Action 96-12-09: The Secretariat will contact Andy Tardiff to get an update on Herschel Island Territorial Park to be incorporated into the Annual Report.

Completed. An update was received but it was decided not to incorporate it into the Activity Report as the Council was not involved in any activities on Herschel Island that year.

The Chair commented that it is important for the Council to take the opportunity to review its responsibilities under the IFA. This could be done at the September meeting. A good example of this is the role of WMAC(NS)) and the Herschel Island Technical Committee as well as with the Herschel Island Management Plan.

Action 96-12-10: WMAC(NS) is to contact Ian Stirling to obtain an update on the protection of polar bears off-shore and to discuss future actions. The inquiry is to include an assessment of the provisions provided by the new Canadian Endangered Species Protection Act.

Carried Forward.

Action 97-06-07 : Nelson Green will obtain an update from Ian Stirling on the protection of polar bears off-shore and to discuss future actions at the Upcoming Polar Bear Workshop in Holman.

Action 96-12-11 : John Russell will prepare a written summary of his research into the regulation of Inuvialuit harvesting rights.

Completed. The summary is included in the binder.

Action 96-12-12 : Vicki Sahanatien will request a written opinion on the issue of public safety restrictions in National Parks from the Parks Canada legal branch.

Carried Forward.

Action 96-12-13 : A meeting is to be held with representatives from the Aklavik HTC, WMAC(NS), WMAC(NWT), the IGC and the GNWT to discuss and clarify issues surrounding the grizzly bears quota and by-laws. The meeting should be held in Aklavik, in January 1997.

Completed.

Action 96-12-14 : The Secretariat will compile the written materials describing the Paulatuk Fact Finding Trip and distribute them to members and the IGC.

Completed.

Action 96-12-15 : Dorothy Cooley and the Secretariat will develop a proposal for a Long Term Research Planning Workshop for the Yukon North Slope, to be held in March 1997.

Completed.

Action 96-12-16 : Billy Archie will work with Dorothy Cooley to develop ideas for a muskox sighting reporting system for Aklavik. A budget for the system should be prepared and will be considered by the Council at its next meeting.

Carried Forward. The proposal is to include a description of products. Dorothy hopes to have something in place which will allow for the recording of sightings this summer, as it is anticipated muskox will be seen around Shingle point.

Action 96-12-17: WMAC(NS) will write a letter to the PCMB explaining that the Council does not have the mandate to supply and funding to support the Johnny Charlie Scholarship.

Completed.

Action 96-12-18 : The Chair will convene a meeting with representatives of all parties with an interest in the management of the Porcupine Caribou Herd to discuss arrangements for the review and funding of future research on the herd.

Retired. There is a good opportunity to convene a meeting or workshop between all interested parties at the North Slope Conference. This type of meeting follows well with the conference theme.

Action 97-06-08 : The North Slope Conference should include a workshop which addresses the sharing of responsibilities and funding arrangements for the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

March 5, 1997 Teleconference:

Action 97-03-01: WMAC(NS) will extend an invitation to the Aklavik Elders Committee to send representation to the Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Planning Workshop and to the Northern Yukon Ecological Knowledge Co-operative Second Annual Gathering, taking place in Whitehorse the week of March 17, 1997.

Completed.

Action 97-03-02: The Chair will write a letter to YTG regarding the establishment of a process for the assessment and expenditure of Wildlife Management Programs, supported by IFA Implementation Funds.

Completed. This item was discussed with Renewable Resource Minister Eric Fairclough at the meeting with him in March and was further addressed in the Chair's letter to the Minister.

April 24, 1997 Teleconference:

Action 97-04-01: The Secretariat will review the participant lists from past conferences, as well as the ecosystem monitoring and research plan workshop, and suggest new participants to be invited to this year's conference.

Carried Forward.

Action 97-06-09 : Kelly Olson, Joan Eamer and the Secretariat will get together and compile a proposed participants list for the North Slope Conference.

Action 97-06-10 : A letter is to be sent before the end of June from YTG to all proposed North Slope Conference participants to announce the conference dates, location and theme.

A discussion was held regarding the next Long Term Research Planning Workshop which is to be held in conjunction with the North Slope Conference. It was recognised that participants at the last workshop should be notified of the dates as soon as possible.

Action 97-06-11 : WMAC(NS) will write a letter to all participants of the March 1997 Long Term Research Planning Workshop to inform them of the proposed dates and location of the next workshop.

Action 97-04-02 : Vicki Sahanatien is to contact Dave Mossop to discuss his proposal for birds of prey and ptarmigan population monitoring.

Completed.

Action 97-04-03 : Members are to submit their comments on the Draft Muskox Management Plan to the Secretariat by May 9, 1997.

Completed.

Action 97-04-04 : The Secretariat is to contact the office of the Yukon's Minister of Renewable Resources, Eric Fairclough, to assess his interest in and availability to make a trip to the North Slope.

Completed. It was reported that the Minister will not be able to attend the upcoming IGC meeting in Holman, but may be visiting Herschel Island and Inuvik in July. Kelly Olson will remain in contact with Richard Binder and the Secretariat regarding the visit.

F. Correspondence

The Chair reviewed the correspondence included in the meeting binder

Reference was made to the Development Assessment Process (DAP) meeting during which John Bailey and Bill Klassen met with IGC representatives to discuss the "harmonizing" of the IFA Screening and Review Process and DAP. Option 3(a) was recommended which gives the Screening Committee the mandate to carry out assessments as well as refer projects to the EIRB or the YDAP for further review. However, DAP does not include the off-shore which can only be reviewed by the EIRB.

A letter was received from the Aklavik HTC regarding the presence of two AHTC representatives on WMAC(NS). They were told that their letter was referred to the IGC. Nelson Green will make recommendations at the upcoming IGC meeting in Holman.

Action 97-06-12: The notification of the 8th North American Caribou Workshop, to be held in Whitehorse, April, 1998, is to be brought forward to the September agenda.

Action 97-06-13: The Chair will write a letter to DND and Minister of DIAND with respect to the clean-up standards for Komakuk.

Norm Snow received a letter from the Inuvik HTC, which suggested that more local people be used as facilitators and resource people at workshops. The Council felt that the request was valid and agreed to recommend that Inuvialuit be used as facilitators and resource people for the North Slope Conference workshops.

After the lunch adjournment, the Council welcomed Graham MacDonald, Eric Fairclough's executive assistant, to the meeting. Graham gave a brief follow-up regarding items raised during the dinner the Minister had with representatives from the IGC and WMAC(NS) in March. He also made reference to the Chair's recent letter to the Minister.

The Chair reiterated that the Council's top priority was the amendment of the Yukon Wildlife Act, as per the IFA. Graham MacDonald responded by saying the prospects looked good especially as a discrete amendment rather than opening up the entire Act. He felt that the Minister was aiming for the fall of 1998. The Chair emphasized the importance of getting the legislation in line with the IFA.

Nelson Green stated that he would like to have a letter from the Minister stating to his commitment to the amendments. He also referred to the scoping work done by Laurie Henderson. Nelson felt that the fall of 1998 was not an unreasonable timeframe. Graham MacDonald said the Minister would know by next week if he would be able to get the amendments on the government's agenda. Graham said he would also look into the process.

With respect to the North Slope Conference, the Chair informed Mr. MacDonald that the IGC had accepted WMAC's proposed recommendations for a date, location, theme and a possible Chair. The Minister also needs to consider the proposal and confirm his acceptance of the recommendations. Graham MacDonald said that he has not had the opportunity to discuss this matter with the Minister, but that the theme was consistent with YTG's interest in rebuilding circumpolar ties.

In reference to the IFA biologist, Nelson Green felt that because of the position's funding source, the biologist should concentrate on Inuvialuit interests and work closely with the hunters in Aklavik. He also felt that when it comes to IFA funding, a process is missing which provides the Inuvialuit with information on how this funding is utilized. This is important to ensure that spending is meeting Inuvialuit interests. The Chair suggested that YTG and IGC meet to discuss a range of implementation activities at the ICG's meeting in September in Whitehorse.

The Chair stressed the importance of ensuring that the research program was on a strong financial footing as funds will have to be renegotiated in two years. YTG must demonstrate that its funding is being well spent. Nelson added that the Council must also deal with the matter of carrying over funding past the fiscal year end, for both WMAC's and YTG's funds. The GNWT should be consulted to see how they negotiated their carry over funds.

G. Financial Report

The Chair reviewed the financial statement for 1996-97.

The Council moved to accept the financial statement, subject to Billy's approval.

Motion:

To accept the 1996-97 year end financial statement

Moved: Joan Eamer

Seconded: Nelson Green

Motion Carried

Members reviewed the WMAC(NS) 1997-98 budget. There are no unassigned funds in this year's budget as all such funds have been put into Bylaws and Regulations for work on the Yukon Wildlife Act amendments.

With respect funding for the IHS evaluation working group, the costs incurred will have to be paid for by each of the co-management groups, including the EISC and the EIRB. WMAC(NS) will cover the cost of the Council's Chair to participate. It was suggested that two thousand dollars be moved to IHS evaluation from By-laws.

In the review of projects funding, members noted that some projects (LTRP, Muskox Plan, and EMAN) could be funded by YTG's Implementation Funds.

Motion:

To accept the proposed budget, with changes (subject to Billy's approval)

Moved: Dorothy Cooley

Seconded: Nelson Green

Motion Carried

H. Old Business

15. ANWR - 1002 Lands - update

Action 97-06-14 : The Secretariat will write letters of support with regard to co-sponsorship of the new Wilderness Protection Bill being introduced in Congress.

Action 97-06-15 : WMAC(NS) needs to contact interested parties in Alaska (ie Bob Childers from the Gwich'in Steering Committee) to determine the current ANWR situation and actions being taken.

14. Herschel Island Report

There appears to be some confusion regarding the roles of the Herschel Island Technical Committee and WMAC(NS). A technical committee was set up a number of years ago to work directly with the park and advise them on operational planning. As WMAC(NS)'s role vis-a-vis Herschel Territorial Park is similar to that of its involvement in Ivvavik National Park, members felt that the Council should have some involvement in the review of the Herschel Island Management Plan before it is finalized.

Action 97-06-16 : The Chair will send a letter to Jim McIntyre, Director of YTG Parks and Outdoor Recreation Branch regarding a possible presentation at the September

meeting with respect to the role of the Herschel Island Technical Committee and the Herschel Island Management Plan.

1. Muskox Management Plan

The draft of the Muskox Management Plan was reviewed by all WMAC(NS) members and comments were submitted to the Secretariat. It is hoped that the Plan will be finalized by August and ready for public circulation in the fall.

Action 97-06-17 : Dorothy Cooley will solicit comments from YTG biologists on the current draft of the Muskox Management Plan and submit them to WMAC by third week of June.

Action 97-06-18 : WMAC will send the current draft of the of the Muskox Management Plan to John Nagy and request comments from him by the third week in June.

2. Grizzly Bear Management

Action 97-06-19 : Dorothy Cooley will pass on her comments on the Grizzly Bear Management Plan to WMAC(NS) Secretariat.

Action 97-06-20 : Lindsay Staples will pass on his comments on the Grizzly Bear Management Plan to Joan Eamer who will consult with Don Russell before returning comments to John Nagy.

The Chair adjourned the meeting for the day at 3:45pm

Thursday June 6, 1997

Present: Lindsay Staples - Chair
Nelson Green - Member - Inuvialuit Game Council
Dorothy Cooley - YTG Renewable Resources, Alternate-Government of Yukon and IFA Biologist
Kelly Olson - YTG Renewable Resources, IFA Implementation Coordinator
Joan Eamer - Member - Government of Canada

Aileen Horler - Secretariat (recording secretary)
Alice Hartling - Secretariat (recording secretary)

Guests: Doris Hausleitner - PCMB Wildlife Technician Trainee
Harvey Jessup - YTG Renewable Resources
Dave Mossop - YTG Renewable Resources
Mike Muller - Joint Secretariat - GIS Specialist

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00 am, and welcomed guests Harvey Jessup and Dave Mossop.

H. Old Business

10. Inuvialuit Harvest Study Evaluation - update

The Chair reported that, in April, the IHS Management Committee met to draft new terms of reference. The membership of the committee will consist of the Chairs of three Co-management bodies, as appointed by the JSBD, and three people appointed by the IGC. The group has planned to work on the overhaul of the Harvest Study until December 1997. After that, they will meet only two times a year. The working group, up until this point, has consisted of technical people. However, the Management Committee decided to dissolve the former working group and, instead, it will bring in technical people as needed. The Management Committee also reviewed key outstanding issues as identified at the December workshop. The Harvest Study is now operating in "low maintenance". Collected data is presently being entered by Mike Fabijan.

Requests for proposals have been sent out to a number of firms who have been asked to address the organization of the data collected over the last ten years and the design of a new software to produce a more user friendly database were sent out. Three firms will be chosen to go to Inuvik for further orientation and one will be selected to do the work on the basis of the proposals they subsequently submit.

The data analysis will look at trends with respect to species, area, population and vegetation. The species list will drop polar and grizzly bear and other 'tag' species.

The future of the Harvest Study is somewhat uncertain. It will continue to use field workers but in a more efficient way. The IHS will look at cost saving mechanisms which will free up more funds for one time studies.

9. 1997/98 Wildlife Management funding proposals

a) Birds of Prey and Ptarmigan population monitoring.

The Chair introduced guest Dave Mossop and began the discussion by emphasizing, for the record, that, at the March Ecosystem Monitoring Workshop, Dave was invited by a number of Council members to prepare a proposal for the monitoring of birds of prey on the North Slope. Andy Tardiff has also expressed interest in this work.

Dave Mossop explained that his letter to Parks Canada merely outlined the concept of a research proposal and was not intended as a formal proposal. He feels that birds of prey population monitoring could fit in well with other research that is presently going on the North Slope as they respond very quickly to changes within their environment and are considered good indicators for ecosystem monitoring. Dave would train an individual to observe the nesting areas in order to ensure operational requirements and to keep the program inexpensive. Some work has already been done in Alaska and he feels that the Alaskans are interested in working with Ivvavik to obtain more information on birds of prey.

The concerns that Parks Canada raised in their written response to Dave Mossop appear to be procedural. It was decided by the Council that this procedure should be reviewed to ensure that all agencies are working together to build a research program within which researchers feel they can present ideas.

Members received the presentation with interest and agreed with the merits in establishing the monitoring as a future long term research project which is inexpensive and compatible with other programs such as those of the Knowledge Co-operative. It is important to note that this research incorporates the entire North Slope, including Alaska, and should be included with other proposals for future research with Aklavik, not just the Park.

Action 97-06-21: The Chair will meet with Park's officials to clarify concerns and issues arising from Vicki Sahanatien letter of April 1997 regarding Dave Moss's proposal for birds of prey and ptarmigan population monitoring on the North Slope.

Action 97-06-22: The Chair will write a letter to Parks Canada with regard to the process of reviewing research proposals. The letter will also address the need to build co-operative arrangements with respect to research.

7. 1996/97 Wildlife Management Project Updates

a) Bryophyte Identification (YTG)

Dorothy Cooley reported that the project was completed and the results were better than expected.

b) Habitat GIS Database (YTG)

Kelly Olson reported the this project will be completed in the next few weeks. However, Kelly is unsure if habitat mapping for the North Slope can be available until the whole Yukon is completed.

Action 97-06-23: Kelly Olson will inquire into the availability of habitat/ vegetation maps for the North Slope Conference.

Action 97-06-24: Kelly Olson will inquire into what species habitat information is available for mapping and to what extent it can be utilized at a level which is practical for the Game Council.

Action 97-06-25: Taking into consideration that the Yukon North Slope habitat mapping was an IFA funded project, Kelly Olson will inquire into the possibility of moving this project along so as not to have it slowed down by the Yukon-wide mapping work.

c) Porcupine Caribou Telemetry (YTG)

Dorothy reported that the project was completed and that the caribou have migrated to seldom used range for the winter.

d) North Slope Wolves Video (YTG)

Kelly hopes to have copies of the video within the next few weeks.

Action 97-06-26: Kelly Olson will send a copy of the North Slope Wolves Video to the Bluenose Management Board and the Joint Secretariat, as well as distribute a dozen copies to the WMAC(NS) Secretariat.

e) Hunting Rights Pamphlet (YTG)

Kelly Oslon's draft was reviewed. It was suggested that she may want to review this with the IGC directly as they may want to have direct input. The information must be accurate, straight forward and user friendly in order to appeal to a wider audience.

After the lunch adjournment, members were introduced to Mike Muller, the GIS specialist from the Joint Secretariat, who gave a presentation of the work he is doing in Inuvik. Mike spoke of how he intends to make geographical information useful and accessible for the Inuvialuit by pulling in various groups and interests to work together in determining their needs. Basline data for the Inuvialuit settlement lands has produced

topographical maps, vegetation mapping and put special areas, like harvesting and cultural areas, into digital form.

3. Ecosystem Monitoring Project Update

Joan Eamer reported that draft proceedings have been sent out for review and that work is continuing on the WEB site. Gary Kofinas hopes to complete and distribute his report on community monitoring soon. They are looking into having a winter meeting. The program received \$12,000 from the DIAND/ NAP Contaminants Program for further community monitoring.

6. 1995/96 Wildlife Management Project Updates

a) North Slope Wolverine Study

Dorothy reported that the study is still incomplete. She hopes to find time to finish it in August.

At this time, the Chair reiterated the concerns raised by the Inuvialuit regarding the responsibilities of the IFA biologist. There needs to be a greater sense of how much time the IFA biologist is presently working on IFA-related projects, how much time YTG generally commits to implementation, what non-IFA activities YTG is engaged in on the Yukon North Slope, and how does this off-set the contribution agreement requirements. The IGC is continually raising this issue and feels that the biologist position needs to be re-evaluated so that time allocation is more representative of funds distributed.

8. 1997/98 Wildlife Management Projects funding updates

a) Grizzly Bear Reproductive Rates (GNWT)

The Chair referred to a letter in the meeting binder written to Marsha Branigan (GNWT Bear Biologist) by the Aklavik HTC in which the HTC states that it no longer gives its support to this project due to their perceived harassment of the bears. This response came as a surprise in light of the recent grizzly bear management workshop in Aklavik. The Chair reported that John Nagy feels perhaps the new board was not familiar with the importance of this program and that John intends to raise the issue with the IGC. The Chair commented that this study requires long-term commitment by all parties in order to gain the information needed to ensure hunting opportunities for the community.

Action 97-06-27: The Chair will indicate to the IGC the Council's support for the GNWT's Grizzly Bear Reproductive Rates project. The IGC should look at addressing the issue of this project with the AHTC.

12. Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan

The plan will be circulated to members for final approval. There needs to be a summary table of plan actions and status completed for the North Slope Conference.

Action 97-06-28: The Secretariat will complete a summary table of action items from the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan which will reflect the work and objectives of the Council for the past few years. The summary is to be completed for the North Slope Conference.

13. Ivvavik National Park Report

The Ecosystem Conservation Plan for the Park will look at critical areas and species.

Action 97-06-29 : Kelly Olson will confirm with Beth Hawkings that she is aware the habitat digital work has been done for the Firth River.

Concerns regarding the Environmental Impact Screening Committee procedure for reviewing research proposals were raised once again. The Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan states that all IFA funded and non-funded research on the North Slope is to be evaluated, on a preliminary bases, by WMAC(NS). Confirmation is needed as to who is making decisions regarding priority given to long term research projects.

Action 97-06-30: A discussion should be held regarding the Environmental Impact Screening Committee procedure for research proposals at the next Council meeting.

Action 97-06-31: The Secretariat needs to set up annual timelines for recurring action items (such as a quota review every December) as well as for the bringing forward wildlife research proposals.

18. Protected Areas Strategy Workshop

WMAC(NS) attended the Protected Areas Strategy Workshop, in Whitehorse, May 29-30. The main point regarding the Yukon North Slope is that the Protected Areas Strategy needs to consider the use of other protection mechanisms besides the establishment of parks, given that the area already has three parks.

Action 97-06-32: The Chair will write a letter to Bob Kuiper to suggest areas on the Yukon North Slope as candidates for protected areas status, pursuant to the Yukon North Slope Conservation and Wildlife Management Plan.

19. Term Report 1995-97

The report will be circulated to members for review this summer.

9. 1997-98 Wildlife Management funding proposals

The following proposals were presented for funding consideration:

Project	Funding Requested
Muskox Management Plan Implementation (YTG)	
1) Muskox School Unit	\$4,000.00
2) Muskox Management Plan Consultations	\$3,693.25
3) Muskox Population Survey and Composition Count	\$15,140.00
Collection of Traditional Knowledge about Moose on Yukon North Slope (YTG)	\$25,250.00
Wolf Head Submissions (YTG)	\$900.00
Shingle Point Incinerators (YTG)	\$2,000.00
Ecosystem Monitoring - Firth River Water Survey Station (Parks Canada)	\$4,797.00

a) Muskox School Unit

This proposal was previously approved for the 1996/97 fiscal year. Council members felt that this project remains a worthwhile proposal. Dorothy hopes to contract locally.

b) Muskox Management Plan Consultations

Council members agreed to recommend this for funding.

c) Muskox Population Survey and Composition Count

The Council felt that this proposal was worthwhile and agreed to recommend it for funding.

d) Collection of Traditional Knowledge about Moose on North Slope

Nelson Green felt that moose have never been a priority in Aklavik. He suggested that the project be expanded to include other species. Joan Eamer and Dorothy Cooley agreed and thought it could be incorporated into the Community Monitoring project. Lindsay Staples suggested that the idea of a traditional knowledge project needs to be brought forward to Billy Archie.

Action 97-06-33: The proposal on the collection of traditional knowledge about moose on Yukon North Slope will be sent to Billy Archie in order to facilitate further discussion regarding a traditional knowledge project that incorporates more than the study of this single species.

Action 97-06-34: The proposal on the collection of traditional knowledge about moose on Yukon North Slope will be revisited at the September WMAC meeting, if not before.

e) Shingle Point Incinerators

The Chair indicated that the proposal as presented does not constitute a wildlife research item eligible for funding under the Contribution Agreement. Kelly Olson agreed to try and find other IFA funds to cover this proposal.

f) Wolf Head Submissions

Council members agreed to recommend this for funding.

g) Ecosystem Monitoring - Firth River Water Survey Station

The Council agreed to recommend the additional funds be put forward for this Parks Canada project.

Motion:

To recommend for funding the Muskox School Unit (\$4,000), Yukon North Slope Musk Management Plan Consultation(\$3,693.25), Muskox Population Survey and Composition Count (\$15,140), Wolf Head Submissions (\$900), and the Firth River Water Survey Station(\$4,797)

Moved: Nelson Green

Seconded: Joan Eamer

Motion Carried

J. Next Meeting

The next WMAC(NS) Quarterly meeting is scheduled for September 23 & 24 in Whitehorse.

K. Adjournment

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting

Moved: Dorothy Cooley

Seconded: Nelson Green

Motion Carried

Meeting adjourned at 3:15pm

WMAC(NS) Chair

Date

WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Date