



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

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**MINUTES
WMAC(NS) Quarterly Meeting
Whitehorse, Yukon
January 6-8, 1998**

Tuesday January 6, 1998

Present: Lindsay Staples - Chair
Danny C. Gordon - Alternate -Inuvialuit Game Council
Joan Eamer - Member- Government of Canada
Billy Archie - Member -Inuvialuit Game Council
Brian Pelchat - Chief, Regional Management, Yukon Territorial
Government
Kelly Olson - IFA Implementation Co-ordinator, Yukon Territorial
Government
Steve Travis- Parks Canada
Aileen Horler - WMAC(NS) Secretariat

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9AM. Steve Travis, Acting Chief Park Warden for Ivvavik National Park, was welcomed to the meeting. Brian Pelchat was thanked for coming to represent YTG.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda highlighting the various items that require detailed attention. These include the draft Grizzly Bear Plan for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, the draft Muskox Management Plan, the Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan, the Herschel Island Management Plan, DIAND's proposed amendments to the IFA, and

the Yukon Wildlife Act amendments. Wildlife management funding updates and new proposals will be dealt with on the first day, with many of the information items being left until later in the meeting.

Additions to the agenda were the Coastal Zone Management Conference and a review of coming events. Joan Eamer requested a discussion regarding the Council's financial commitment toward the Science Horizons Intern Program.

Motion
to adopt the agenda.

Moved: Joan Eamer
Seconded: Billy Archie
Motion carried

C. Review and Approval of Minutes of September 23-24, 1997 meeting and December 11, 1997 Teleconference

a) Minutes of September 23-24, 1997 meeting

In reference to the minutes of September 23-24, 1997 meeting, Brian Pelchat inquired why there had been a suggestion that Laurie Henderson's work on the Wildlife Act Amendments should be reviewed by the Inuvialuit Game Council. The Chair replied that Henderson's work is a good point of departure for discussions among the Wildlife Act Amendments Working Group. The document has never been reviewed systematically by the IGC. It needs to be reviewed and 'on-the-ground' concerns considered.

There were no changes required to the draft minutes from the September 1997 meeting.

Motion
to adopt the minutes of September 23-24, 1997 meeting.

Moved: Billy Archie
Seconded: Joan Eamer
Motion carried

b) December 11, 1997 Teleconference

In reference to the minutes of the December 11, 1997 teleconference, the following changes were required:

page 4 - under the heading of Community-based Monitoring Program, Joan Eamer requested that the reference to Gary Kofinas be changed to read 'participants at the second annual gathering'.

page 7 - Joan Eamer reported that the Community Monitoring Workshop will now be held in Inuvik February 4-6, 1998.

No other changes were required.

Motion

to adopt the minutes of the December 11, 1997 teleconference.

Moved: Joan Eamer

Seconded: Billy Archie

Motion carried

Billy Archie reported that there are concerns in Aklavik regarding caribou samples that are not being analysed. He explained that two caribou shot out of the community, in August 1997, were in poor condition and could not be eaten. Concerns were raised that perhaps these animals had interbred with the reindeer. Samples from one of the caribou was given to GNWT for analysis, but they later reported that they did not have the funds to carry out any testing to determine if the animal was diseased or crossbred. Billy inquired if the Council could write to the PCMB and request that they fund the analysis. Brian Pelchat commented that this type of work should be a priority of the government body and that the GNWT should do whatever analysis is required. Billy added that there is a lot of concern in Aklavik about diseased animals.

Action 98-01-01: WMAC(NS) will write to John Nagy, GNWT, Inuvik, to bring to his attention the caribou sample submitted by Billy Archie, in August 1997, and inquire as to the status of the requested analysis.

D. Review of Action Items of June 5-6, 1997, September 23-24, 1997 meeting and December 11, 1997 Teleconference

a) Review of Action Items of June 5-6, 1997 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.

Completed. Joan distributed copies of 'Summary of North Slope Research : 1984-1997' by the Canadian Wildlife Service. Joan added that there are plans to incorporate the work that has been done out of CWS in Yellowknife into a document which will summarize all the studies completed in the ISR.

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 will be undertaken once the Muskox Management Plan is completed.

Brian Plechat asked Council members to review the recently completed video on the North Slope wolf research and provide feedback. He reported that when Renewable Resources biologists reviewed it they found that the pace was difficult to follow. The Chair commented that the intended use of a video will be a significant factor in determining how it is produced. Members agreed to review the video the following day.

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

Amended. The Chair commented that the agenda for devolution has changed since the fall of 1996. The Council needs to be kept informed of the process, especially in relation to the schedule for the transfer of land management responsibilities. The IGC isn't being kept up to date as is CYFN.

Action 98-01-02: WMAC(NS) will write to Terry Sewell, Regional Director General, DIAND and John Walsh, YTG Executive Council Office, to request that the Council be kept informed about the devolution process, specifically the schedule for the transfer of land management responsibilities.

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

Carried forward. (see discuss below under Yukon Oil and Gas Accord)

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.

Completed. (see minutes of the September 23-24, 1997 meeting.)

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.

Completed. The Chair referred to a letter which he wrote to Steve Curtis, Acting Director General, Canadian Wildlife Service, seeking clarification on some issues of jurisdiction pertaining to the management of polar bears on the Yukon North Slope. The Chair also referred to a memo from John Russell on the same subject. There are several issues that need to be clarified and/ or settled. IFA jurisdiction cuts across Yukon and NWT boundaries. There are questions as to where each territory has jurisdiction over land and ice, including the jurisdiction regarding

off-shore hunting. There are also questions about the adequacy of marine mammal protection.

Action 98-01-03: WMAC(NS) will contact WMAC(NWT) in order to discuss the polar bear protection issues with them and to determine if they are taking any action.

Polar bears should be included as an agenda item at the next Council meeting.

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

Retired. After a discussion among members it was decided that a translation would not be necessary.

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.

Amended. The Chair reported that DIAND has appointed a new Chief of Mining Land Use. There is still a need to be kept informed on this issue, especially in regards to the current views on the Withdrawal Order. Members agreed that they would benefit from a presentation on the current status of the Bill.

Action 98-01-04: WMAC(NS) will write a letter to the Chief of Mining Land Use, DIAND, requesting a presentation to update Council members on Bill C-6.

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.

Amended.

Action 98-01-05: WMAC(NS) will write to Ian Sterling to request that he prepare a briefing note on the status of polar bear protection off-shore.

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.

Retired.

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 (March 1997).

Retired. This action will be furthered during the upcoming meeting regarding ground-based monitoring and the recording of observations by hunters out on the land. There is a need to establish a systematic and routine way of recording information. A discussion was held as to the possibility of incorporating hunter observations into the Inuvialuit Harvest Study.

Action 98-01-06: The Chair will approach the Inuvialuit Harvest Study Management Committee to see if it is possible to include incidental wildlife sightings into the IHS.

Current Items

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

Completed. The Chair reminded members that this item arose after there was difficulty getting a quorum at two Council meetings last year.

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.

Retired. (see action 96-09-12 above)

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.

Retired. (see action 96-09-13 above)

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.

Retired.

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.

Retired. Kelly Olson commented that YTG will be very busy over the coming months dealing with the amendments to the Wildlife Act. It would be better to postpone any briefing on the IFA until after the amendments are completed. It was recognised that not only is there a lack of understanding, there is a difference in understanding among those who are dealing with the IFA. This action should be brought forward as an agenda item at the WMAC(NS) meeting in June.

Billy Archie and Danny C. Gordon raised the need for a workshop on the IFA in Aklavik. So many people in the community still don't understand the agreement. Danny reported that the Aklavik HTC has written to the IGC requested a workshop, but there has been no reply. The Chair added that the Council has also written to the IGC expressing its concerns about the level of understanding of the IFA among Aklavik community members and urging the IGC to conduct a workshop.

Action 98-01-07: WMAC(NS) will write to the Inuvialuit Game Council requesting that an IFA workshop is held for community members in Aklavik.

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

Carried forward. The Secretariat reported that a copy of the video was obtained from Vicki but it was not possible to reproduce it in Whitehorse. The Secretariat will write to the producers to see if a copy can be obtained directly from them.

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.

Retired.

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.

Retired. The Chair reported that this workshop was not included at the North Slope Conference. Brian Pelchat commented that all interested groups should get together to talk about funding. The Porcupine Caribou Management Board's financial resources are only enough to cover its own meetings. Research and management funds must come from other sources. The PCMB has representatives from many other boards, who often suggest the agency they represent as a funding source. The Chair explained that the Inuvialuit Game Council has a concern about which other agencies or boards are contributing funds to the Porcupine Caribou Herd. There needs to be wider involvement in funding. It is important for agencies and boards to have a strong representative on the PCMB, who will report

back on issues. It was suggested that it would be useful to be able to review a summary of PCMB funding over the years.

Action 98-01-08: WMAC(NS) will write to Joe Tetlich, Chair, PCMB, to request a summary of sources contributing to research and management on the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

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.

Completed.

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.

Completed.

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.

Completed.

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.

Completed.

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.

Carried forward. This letter should be sent to the IRC as well. There is a need for the Council to clarify its understanding of whether the acceptable clean-up standard is removal or burial. Steve Travis reported that Parks Canada received a letter from the IRC saying that the IRC has not agreed to lower standards, and that removal is the only alternative. Steve noted that Komakuk is not scheduled under the Parks Act. It will be brought in as part of Ivvavik National Park only after the clean-up is completed.

Action 98-01-09: Steve Travis will forward a copy of Parks Canada's letter from the IRC re. Komakuk clean-up standards to WMAC(NS).

The Chair will write the letter once he has received the copy from Steve.

Danny C. Gordon inquired if any decision had been made regarding leaving a

building standing at Komakuk as an emergency shelter. The Secretariat reported that this had been discussed at a previous meeting.

Action 98-01-10: The Secretariat will forward the discussion held at a previous WMAC(NS) meeting regarding leaving a building at Komakuk as an emergency shelter, to Danny C. Gordon.

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.

Retired.

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

Completed.

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.

Completed.

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.

Completed.

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.

Completed.

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

Completed.

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

Completed.

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 Mossop's proposal for birds of prey and ptarmigan population monitoring on the North Slope.

Completed. The Chair reported that he spoke to Bill Fox to clarify the issue which arose due to confusion over the intent of Dave Mossop's letter (ie. concept versus a proposal).

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.

Completed. The Chair reported that he spoke to Bill Fox. He also referred to a memo from Linda Graf which contained a copy of the EISC's resolution regarding projects which had already been reviewed by co-management bodies. The EISC will exclude from screening any projects which have been approved by a co-management body.

Action 98-01-11: The Secretariat will forward the EISC resolution regarding screening projects that have already been reviewed by a co-management body, to Don Toews and Don Russell.

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

Completed.

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.

Completed.

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.

Completed.

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.

Completed.

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

Completed.

Action 97-06-28: The Secretariat will complete a summary table of action items which will reflect the work and objectives of the council for the past few years. It will be completed for the North Slope Conference.

Completed.

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.

Completed.

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

Completed.

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

Ongoing. A draft copy is available for discussion.

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.

Carried forward. (see discussion below on the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy)

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 moose.

Completed.

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.

Completed.

b) Review of Action Items of September 23-24, 1997 meeting

Action 97-09-01: Following the North Slope Conference, the Chair will write to the Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources to suggest the establishment of a working group to discuss, identify and review the amendments to the Yukon Wildlife Act.

Completed.

Action 97-09-02: WMAC(NS) will write to Fran Mauer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service suggesting that a proposal for work in the Yukon be brought forward this winter which includes multi-year activities and contingencies. The letter should make it clear that this suggestion is being made in order to support research, not to put up an obstacle. Copies are to be sent to Dorothy Cooley and the Environmental Impact Screening Committee.

Completed.

Action 97-09-03: The Secretariat will write to the organizers of the 8th North American Caribou Workshop to inform them of the Council's interest in participating in the poster session.

Completed.

Action 97-09-04: The Secretariat and Joan Eamer will work together to develop a proposal for a WMAC(NS) poster, suitable for display at conferences.

Completed.

Action 97-09-05: The Chair will write to the Deputy Minister of Renewable Resources to express the Council's concerns regarding YTG's response to WMAC(NS)'s muskox harvest recommendation. The letter will detail the process that the Council followed in developing its recommendation and express the Council's request that the harvest proceed.

Completed. The Chair reported that the Council's concerns were expressed verbally.

Action 97-09-06: WMAC(NS) will write to the IGC and the Aklavik HTC to suggest that the HTC take action to inform the community of the terms of the grizzly bear by-law and the need to apply them. This action could take the form of a fact sheet, delivered to each household.

Completed. This letter was sent but prompted a confused response from the HTC which replied that it had followed the conditions of the by-law. The Secretariat called the HTC to clarify that the letter was referring to the hunter, not the HTC.

Action 97-09-07: Billy Archie will raise the issue of clean-up at Shingle Point and the

prevention of defense kills with the Aklavik HTC.

Retired. Billy Archie reported that he had made a presentation to the HTC. The Chair added that there are a number of different issues here. It is important to educate the community so that everyone knows that a defense kill is part of the quota. There is also the issue of incinerators being installed for use at Shingle Point. Kelly Olson reported that she is trying to get more information on incinerators and on their costs. It is important to ensure that the design works in this environment. It was noted that there is a problem with drying fish as well as with garbage attracting wildlife. Danny C. Gordon reported that electric fences have been tried but the bears just go around them.

Action 97-09-08: Joan Eamer is to supply Billy Archie with information on Action 21.

Carried forward/ Revised. Joan Eamer will provide information on Action 21 to Carol Arey at the Aklavik HTC, and encourage the HTC to submit a proposal for clean-up at Shingle Point.

Action 98-01-12: WMAC(NS) will write to Mark Zrum, Acting Regional Manager, Land Resources, DIAND to request that his department work with the Aklavik HTC to address the garbage problems associated with Shingle Point.

Action 97-09-09: WMAC(NS) will ask the GNWT to do a presentation on the Yukon North Slope grizzly bear population, at the Council's December meeting.

Retired. This presentation was canceled as the Council did not hold its December meeting in Inuvik. The Chair noted that GNWT has supplied the Council with information on the Yukon North Slope grizzly bear population which is included in members' binders.

Action 97-09-10: WMAC(NS) will write to the IGC and the Aklavik HTC to assess their interest in receiving a presentation on the grizzly bear hunting points system.

Revised. The Chair reported that a presentation was done about 5 years ago and that there is still some interest. The GNWT has some concerns with the administration of the system. Brian Pelchat commented that it has worked well in the Yukon. Points would be still be allocated by region (Ivvavik Park, the Eastern North Slope and the YT Aklavik Grizzly Bear Hunting Area) in order to ensure that the hunt is well distributed. The Chair commented that this item needs quick attention if there is interest in seeing the system in place this year.

Action 98-01-13: Danny C. Gordon will raise the issue of the grizzly bear hunting points system at the next HTC meeting in Aklavik and inform the Secretariat of the level of interest in the community in receiving a presentation.

Action 98-01-14: Brian Pelchat will prepare a written explanation of the grizzly

bear hunting points system, to assist Danny C. Gordon at the next Aklavik HTC meeting.

Action 97-09-11: The Chair will write to the Department of Renewable Resources to comment on the Yukon Government's recently published Grizzly Bear Management Guidelines and absence of information from the Grizzly Bear Management Plan for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and from the Inuvialuit Harvest Study.

Carried forward. The Chair reported that he had spoken to Don Toews, Acting Director of Fish and Wildlife, about the Council's concerns. Brian Pelchat clarified that Dorothy Cooley did provide information specific to the Yukon North Slope, but somehow it was left out. He informed the Council that he welcomes any comments. Within YTG there is a lot of community-based planning but some initiatives have to be Yukon-wide. The intention was to have a document that spoke to the overall needs for grizzly bear management. These should be considered as guidelines only.

Action 97-09-12: The Chair and Joan Eamer will establish a format for hunters to report ground-based observations while traveling on the Yukon North Slope.

Completed. This action will be deal with later in the meeting.

Action 97-09-13: The Secretariat will circulate the minutes from the June 1997 Inuvialuit Harvest Study meeting to WMAC(NS) members and to Harvey Jessup.

Completed.

Action 97-09-14: Vicki Sahanatien will arrange for a presentation of Parks Canada's archeological and historical research on the coast over the past two years, when the Council meets in Inuvik in December.

Completed.

Action 97-09-15: WMAC(NS) will write to Val Loewen, Habitat Inventory Coordinator, YTG Renewable Resources, to request that grizzly bear be given a priority in the work to map species distribution to known habitat.

Completed.

Action 97-09-16: Joan Eamer will prepare a form, to be completed by Val Loewen, Jim Hawkings, Mike Muller and Vicki Sahanatien, which will summarize the information available on GIS.

Carried forward.

Action 97-09-17: Billy Archie will request that the HTC address their concerns regarding Herschel Island in a letter directly to Jim McIntyre, Director, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Branch, YTG Renewable Resources.

Completed. Billy reported that he did ask Carol to write directly to Jim McIntyre, but he is not sure if it was done.

Action 97-09-18: WMAC(NS) will write to Jim McIntyre outlining the Council's suggestions as to how to proceed with the review of the Herschel Island Management Plan. A draft of the letter will be circulated to the members before it is sent.

Carried forward. (see discussion below under Herschel Island Management Plan)

Action 97-09-19: The draft Muskox Management Plan will be circulated to the members for comments.

Carried forward. The Chair reported that the draft is still under review and will be circulated shortly.

Action 97-09-20: Dorothy Cooley and Vicki Sahanatien will review the proposal for the Muskox Population Survey and Composition Count and recommend the most appropriate dates for undertaking the work.

Completed. This proposal will be considered further when Wildlife Program funding is reviewed. (see below)

Action 97-09-21: The Council will further consider the question of the collection of traditional knowledge about moose at its meeting in Inuvik, in December 1997. To aid in the discussion, the Secretariat will consult with Gary Kofinas beforehand on the extent of the existing documentation.

Completed. A memo from Gary Kofinas is included in the meeting binders. The topic of traditional knowledge studies is scheduled to be discussed later in the meeting.

Action 97-09-22: WMAC(NS) will write to the Environmental Impact Screening Committee regarding the Council's opinion on an environmentally acceptable and defensible low-level flight limit.

Completed. A copy of the letter is included in the correspondence section of the meeting binder.

c) Review of Action Items of December 11, 1997 Teleconference

Action 97-12-01: The Chair will contact Jim Connell, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister,

YTG Renewable Resources to express the Council's concerns and comments regarding the proposed funding, process and scheduling of the Wildlife Act Amendments.

Completed. The Chair met with Jim Connell. (see discussion below under Wildlife Act Amendments).

Action 97-12-02: The Secretariat will obtain the reformatted version of the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan from John Nagy and distribute it to Council members.

Completed.

Action 97-12-03: The Council will consider the issue of experimental design and reporting of ground-based monitoring at its meeting in January, 1998.

Completed. The Council is scheduled to meet on this issue January 8, 1998.

Action 97-12-04: WMAC(NS) will write a letter to Danny C. Gordon to express their support of his proposed ground-based monitoring of muskox and moose on the Yukon North Slope.

Completed. Danny C. Gordon was notified in person by Billy Archie and Vicki Sahanatien.

Action 97-12-05: Billy Archie will contact Joan Eamer in reference to attending the National Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Meeting (EMAN) in Quebec.

Completed.

Old Business

1. Review of coming events

Council members reviewed the upcoming events as follows:

Community Monitoring Workshop, Inuvik - has been postponed until February 4-6. This workshop will be part of the Northern Ecological Knowledge Co-operative's initiative to carry out ecosystem monitoring in the communities. Joan Eamer reported that community workers are now being identified and that some of the monitoring work will be completed before the workshop. The 2 day workshop will look at recommendations from last year's pilot project, training needs, the format of the questionnaires and monitoring methods. It is hoped that Parks Canada will send representatives as well.

The Chair commented that it would be good to think about how some of this monitoring could be linked to the Inuvialuit Harvest Study. Norm Snow could be included in the workshop. Joan added that it is important to have the monitoring consistent across all

communities.

The National Ecological Monitoring and Assessment Meeting (EMAN), Quebec- January 21-24, 1998. Joan Eamer reported that she will be attending, along with Billy Archie. Val Loewen and Dave Mossop will also be attending.

Action 98-01-15: The Secretariat will supply Joan Eamer with WMAC(NS) printed materials to take with her to the EMAN meeting.

Northern Contaminants Program Annual Results Workshop, Calgary - January 27-30. Billy Archie and Joan Eamer will be doing a presentation at this workshop.

Biodiversity Assessment Forum, Yukon College, Whitehorse - March 3-5. Joan Eamer reported that she believed that this is intended to be a working session to come up with a work plan.

The 3rd Annual Gathering of the Northern Ecological Knowledge Co-operative, Inuvik. - March 23-25, 1998. WMAC(NS) will be involved in the organizing of the Gathering again this year. Joan Eamer reported that a proposal will be brought forward to have the Co-op set up as a non-profit society with a Board of Directors, representative various areas and agencies. The Co-op will then be in a position to apply for funding from other sources. It would be good to be able to secure long-term funding. The Chair raised a concern about there being the capacity to sustain another organizing body among groups already heavily committed. There will need to be a formal commitment from agencies to participate and provide funding to the Co-op.

WMAC(NS) Quarterly Meeting, Aklavik - March 25-27. The Council will meet following the Co-op Gathering. There will be a public meeting held in the community.

Traditional Knowledge Workshop, Whitehorse - April 1-3. The workshop is being organized by the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board. The Council hasn't received any information as yet.

Action 98-01-16: The Secretariat is to contact Doug Urquhart to obtain more information on the Traditional Knowledge Workshop.

8th North American Caribou Workshop, Whitehorse.- April 20-24. The Secretariat has notified the organizers regarding the Council's wish to participate in the poster session.

Sustainable Development in the Arctic: Conference and Workshop, Whitehorse - May 12-14. This conference is being co-ordinated by DIAND. The Secretariat reported that the Council has submitted registrations for three people.

Coastal Zone Canada '98, Victoria - Aug 30 - Sept 3. The Chair noted that there was much interest in the Long Term Research Planning Workshop in coastal zone planning. There are a lot of sessions at this conference which are community oriented. It could be

very interesting for Council members to attend. The Chair added that he has contacted Bob Bell regarding the possibility of WMAC(NS) and the FJMC doing a joint presentation at the conference.

Action 98-01-17: The Secretariat is to forward information on the Coastal Zone Conference to Joan Eamer and Brian Pelchat.

2. 1995/96 Wildlife Management Projects Updates

a) North Slope Wolverine Study (YTG)

There was no report provided on the status of this study.

3. 1997/98 Wildlife Management funding updates

Brian Pelchat distributed a number of written updates provided by Dorothy Cooley.

a) Muskox Management Plan Consultations (Dorothy Cooley)

The budget for the consultations is \$3693. The Minister has indicated that the muskox tags will be issued as soon as the community consultations are completed. Brian Pelchat noted that YTG is required to do consultations so that the public is kept informed. This is the first time that hunting of specially protected wildlife has been dealt with. YTG will take the lead in organizing the consultations, which should be held in Dawson, Mayo, Old Crow and Whitehorse. The Chair commented that the Council has a long mailing list of agencies and individuals who have been kept informed of the entire process. Both the PCMB and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board have been given presentations on the plan. (see page 23 for a further discussion on the consultation)

b) Muskox School Unit (Dorothy Cooley)

Billy Archie and Danny C. Gordon commented that neither of them are aware of this proposal. It has never come up at an HTC meeting. Kelly Olson reported that Dorothy informed her that she has talked to Carol Arey about the HTC administering this project. Billy said he would try to call the HTC to find out more about the status of this project. If it is not going to go ahead then the funds allocated to it can be used elsewhere.

c) Muskox Population Survey and Composition Count (Dorothy Cooley, Vicki Sahanatien)

A new proposal was introduced which indicated a change in funding requirements for this fiscal year. The full \$15,140 is no longer required, as it has been decided to reschedule the flying to April. The only funds required this year will be \$4000 for fuel purchase and placement.

d) Wolf Head Submissions (Dorothy Cooley, Bob Hayes)

Dorothy's written report noted that a contract has been sent to the Aklavik HTC who will coordinate the purchase of wolf heads. Danny C. Gordon commented that he was not aware of this program. People are killing wolves and leaving the heads in the bush. He knows of at least ten wolves killed already this year. Brian Plechat said he would call Dorothy in Dawson to get clarification on the status of the program.

e) Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan (WMAC-NS)

The development of the plan is well underway. Mike Gill will report to Council members tomorrow on the work that he has been doing.

f) Porcupine Caribou Adopt-a-Collar (YTG)

Eight collars were put on cows when they were crossing the Porcupine River in October 1997, The remaining two collars were put on in November. Locations are being sent to the office in Dawson office automatically each week. The website has been set up and is updated each week. (www.taiga.net/satellite) The Secretariat reported that the WMAC(NS) office has been receiving the location reports each week.

4. 1997/98 Wildlife Management funding proposals

The Secretariat reviewed the current funding allocations. With the muskox survey now being scheduled for the 1998-99 fiscal year, the balance remaining in Wildlife Programs is \$28,526. During the December teleconference, members approved, in principle, \$5000 for Community-based Monitoring Program, an additional \$4975 for the Long Term Research Plan and \$8040 for Danny C. Gordon's proposal to do a count of muskox and moose on the Yukon North Slope. A proposal has been brought forward for \$4000 for fuel purchase and placement for the muskox survey. This leaves a new balance remaining in Wildlife Programs of \$6,511.

Joan Eamer raised the question of funding for the Wildlife Act amendments. Kelly Olson replied that it was never YTG's intention to take this money out of Wildlife Programs, unless it was surplus. As there are proposals on the table, this money is still available to them. The Chair commented that any surplus, from any of YTG's IFA Implementation Funds, which will be used for the amendments, should either be allocated to its own category or to the Yukon Secretariat, and not to Wildlife Programs. Kelly Olson responded that hopefully it will be possible to allocate any surplus to the Yukon Secretariat budget for use in the amendments process.

In reference to the remaining funds in Wildlife Programs, the Chair suggested that it could be used to begin to build a database of Yukon North Slope traditional knowledge. There is a need to get information into a format so that it can be used. Danny C. Gordon's proposal to do a count of muskox and moose on the Yukon North Slope is to be reviewed on Thursday and may require extra funding. There is still a question as to whether the funds allocated to the Muskox School Unit will be spent in this year. Once these two projects are reassessed there will be a better idea of how much money would be available

to fund a traditional knowledge project. The Chair suggested that the Council return to the issue of Wildlife Program funding on Thursday.

Motion

to adjourn the meeting for the day.

Moved: Joan Eamer

Seconded: Danny C. Gordon

Motion carried

Wednesday January 7, 1998

Present: Lindsay Staples - Chair
Danny C. Gordon - Alternate -Inuvialuit Game Council
Joan Eamer - Member- Government of Canada
Billy Archie - Member -Inuvialuit Game Council
Brian Pelchat - Chief, Regional Management, Yukon Territorial
Government
Steve Travis- Parks Canada
Mike Gill - WMAC(NS) / Canadian Wildlife Service
Aileen Horler - WMAC(NS) Secretariat

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9AM.

The Council viewed the video titled 'Ecology and Management of Wolves' which is a summary of the results of Bob Hayes' wolf study. Members were generally very pleased with the content. The video provided a lot of very interesting information. It was noted that longer pauses between the presentation of facts would give the audience more time to think about what was being said. The video might also have benefited from more images of the animals.

This format will be very useful for communicating scientific findings to the community. The development of this video has been a learning experience for all involved, and lessons learned here can be applied to future projects. Copies of the video should be made available to the Aklavik HTC and other locations.

Action 98-01-18: The Secretariat will supply Kelly Olson with a suggested distribution list for the wolf video.

F. Correspondence

The Chair reviewed the correspondence in the meeting binder, which included a letter from Andy Mitchell, Secretary of State (Parks) conveying his endorsement of the recommended grizzly bear and muskox quotas, conference notifications, and copies of a variety of letters written by the Secretariat as action items.

The letters from Fran Mauer (ANWR) and Daniel Reid (Alaska Department of Fish and Game) outline their activities related to the management of the Porcupine Caribou Herd. An invitation was extended from the Alaskans for a Council member to participate in the upcoming census. Members decided to forward this request to the Aklavik HTC to see if they would be interested in sending someone.

The Chair reminded members of the problems that arose last summer with the survey and said that the Council would continue in its efforts to assist the Alaskans in obtaining a permit from the EISC which covers multi-year activities and contingencies.

Billy Archie commented that the community wants to know what kind of research is going on. There is a general concern that they are not being kept informed. The Chair suggested that the Council could do a presentation on caribou research and the upcoming census at the Aklavik public meeting in March.

Action 98-01-19: WMAC(NS) will write to Fran Mauer and Daniel Reid to thank them for their letters regarding the census of the Porcupine Caribou Herd. In addition the letter should indicate that the Council will be presenting a summary of caribou research, which includes the census, at its public meeting in Aklavik, in March.

Action 98-01-20: WMAC(NS) will forward the letters from Fran Mauer and Daniel Reid to the Aklavik HTC and inquire if the HTC is interested in sending a representative to participate in the caribou survey in June 1998.

H. Old Business (continued)

5. Muskox Management

a) Consultations

The Chair referred to the letter written by Eric Fairclough, Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources. The Minister is prepared to issue the muskox tags once a public review of the Muskox Management Plan is completed. Although approval has been given by the federal government for a hunt in the park, there is no means of issuing tags except through YTG. As muskox are a high profile species and as they are specially protected

wildlife, the Yukon Government needs to have public consultation on the harvest issue. Many people in the Yukon are not aware of Inuvialuit harvesting rights. Consultation on the plan will be a good opportunity to provide information to the public.

The Chair reported that he has some concerns with the current draft of the plan, including the way muskox are presented as a 'problem' and the way IFA provisions are explained. It needs to be very clear that the driving force in the development of the plan is for the Inuvialuit to be able to exercise their harvesting rights within the limits of conservation. Recent research has produced a recommendation for a harvestable quota. The muskox management plan is a long-term plan whose overall management objective is to sustain the muskox population on the Yukon North Slope.

The Chair suggested that he meet with Brian Pelchat in order to review the current draft of the plan and develop a final draft. This final draft will then be sent out to members for comment, prior to the consultations beginning.

It will be important to prepare the public for the meetings. The series of muskox maps prepared by Dorothy Cooley are an important source of information about the population. It must be clear that the request originated with the Aklavik HTC and that this is a subsistence, not a commercial, harvest.

Consultations should be held in Whitehorse, Old Crow, Mayo and Dawson, in February. YTG will take the lead in organizing the meetings but the presentations will be done jointly with WMAC(NS) and Parks Canada.

Action 98-01-21: The Yukon Government will take responsibility for co-ordinating the public consultations on the draft Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan. WMAC(NS) and Parks Canada will co-sponsor the consultation.

Billy Archie and Danny C. Gordon noted that there are concerns in the community that the process has taken a very long time. Members agreed to target the end of March 1998 as the date for the issuance of the muskox tags.

b) Quota Review and Resolution

Members reviewed the Council's muskox resolution, dated September 11, 1996. The following changes were required:

second last paragraph on the first page - change the date to read April 1998

last paragraph on the first page - change the date to read April 1999

first paragraph after 'so be it resolved that' - change the dates to read between April 1998 and March 1999.

next paragraph - change Aklavik Inuvialuit to read Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee.

Motion

to adopt the muskox resolution, with noted changes

Moved: Billy Archie

Seconded: Joan Eamer

Motion carried

6. Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan

Mike Gill provided members with an update on his work on the Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan. He traveled to Inuvik and Aklavik in December and met with 34 people from the communities, as well as a wide variety of agencies. The trip to the communities was well worth it. Everyone was asked their views on priorities for research, community involvement, community expectations, funding, data co-ordinating, communication and permitting process. The format of the plan was also discussed. It was generally felt that the plan should pull together all existing work and be linked with others such as Parks Canada.

The priorities for the plan were as follows:

assessment of impacts on people

simple monitoring projects, using base line indicators

increase in understanding of physical process, using existing data in some cases

coastal zone studies- includes continuing with erosion monitoring

muskox/ caribou interaction

more studies on fish other than charr

documentation and compiling of oral history/ traditional knowledge, similar to the work being done by the Gwich'in.

in regards to contaminants- continue monitoring and checking on old sites

continue with the Inuvialuit Harvest Study

establish- how much research is enough? when is enough?

involve communities with research

there has to be potential for long term work or it's not worth getting involved

field assistants are often not motivated- this needs to change

In reference to expectations for communications, getting the information back to the community was considered to be the most important issue. Researchers should better explain their work to community members before they begin. There should be progress reports of long term work. There should be a provision for communication as a condition on receiving a research permit. Get the local people involved in doing the planning.

It is expected that the format to be like the one used by the PCMB. Projects will be listed, indicating who does what over the next years. A second document will provide guidelines for researchers. The seven tables of research gap analysis are being reviewed and will be included in as an appendix to the plan. Mike reported that his time was limited over the next few months but that he is hoping to have a draft completed by the

end of March. He added that there is a need to consider how to distribute the plan.

Joan Eamer commented that CWS has funds for the Science Horizon Intern for 1998-99. She would like to see WMAC contribute \$8,000, CWS \$4,000 and Environment Canada \$12,000 for a total of \$24,000 for the year. This would allow Mike to continue working on the plan in April, reviewing and finalizing the draft. Further work would include implementing the plan and ecosystem monitoring. Members agreed to address its funding commitment at the next meeting.

The Chair commented that the Council should review the draft at its next meeting in order to discuss priorities, identify potential partners and possibly begin to recommend projects for 1998-99. Mike added that he has some ideas for potential collaboration and partnerships. Members questioned if the Council should be soliciting participation from institutions outside of the Yukon, such as universities. Should priorities be flagged and then alternate or additional funding sources sought? Can the Council facilitate the work and direct the necessary reset?

Action 98-01-22: Mike Gill will prepare a draft of the Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan to be circulated to members before the WMAC(NS) meeting in March.

A discussion arose over the issue of hiring research assistants in Aklavik. There is always a problem because there is no job security. Anyone who is educated and trained is looking for full time work and is not prepared to sit around waiting for a few weeks work every now and then. A permanent full time position in Aklavik would be a great benefit to the employee and the community. This person would always be on hand to assist with research projects and would be someone in the community who knows about the projects that are underway. Such a position would need one source of funding, but would be able to work on many different projects. There would be enough work throughout the year, such as ecosystem monitoring, contaminants and the IHS, to keep one person busy. Council members agreed that it is worth pursuing this idea. It will be looked at further during the March meeting.

7. Grizzly Bear Management

The Chair referred the members to the Richardson Mountain Grizzly Bear Study Update provided by the GNWT. There is no change to the recommended harvest number, and, therefore, there will be no change in the Council's grizzly bear hunting resolution. The resolution will stand as it is.

In reference to the draft 'Grizzly Bear Co- Management Plan for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region', a concern was raised about the boundary between the Yukon and the NWT, as shown on page 62. The recognised boundary location effects the jurisdiction, and therefore enforcement, of the Aklavik HTC by-laws. The Chair reported that an agreement was signed several years ago between the Yukon and the GNWT which recognises the boundary line differently. The Yukon Oil and Gas Branch should be able to provide further information.

Motion

to adopt the draft 'Grizzly Bear Co- Management Plan for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region', subject to indicated changes.

Moved: Joan Eamer

Seconded: Danny C. Gordon

Motion carried

8. Ecosystem Monitoring

Joan Eamer reported that the three documents produced by the North Yukon Ecological Knowledge Co-operative (Community-based Ecological Monitoring : A Summary of 1996-97 Observations; Report from the Second Annual Gathering; and, Printout of Selected Indicators 1997) are to be distributed the following week. A snow monitoring project is being planned at the Aklavik school.

Joan commented that the IFA Implementation Funds (approximately \$15,000) which is allocated to CWS in Whitehorse each year, has been going to fund the Knowledge Co-op. It might be possible for this funding to be put on the table along with the YTG wildlife programs funding for the Council to recommend its allocation.

9. 1998-99 Wildlife Management funding proposals

a) Muskox population survey and composition count

The Chair referred to the proposal for the muskox population survey and composition count. As this survey will now take place in the following fiscal year, it is necessary to pass a motion recommending the allocation of the required funds from the 1998-99 wildlife programs budget.

Motion

to recommend \$15,340 for the 'Muskox population survey and composition count', from the 1998-99 wildlife management program funds.

Moved: Billy Archie

Seconded: Joan Eamer

Motion carried

Brian Pelchat reported that YTG is moving towards regional management teams, which will be set up as technical teams to manage specific areas. One will be set up for the northern Yukon. Members on these teams will include First Nations, Conservation

Officers, Biologists, and non-government organizations. The Chair suggested that this item be added to the March agenda.

10. Wildlife Act Amendments

The Chair reported that he met with Jim Connell, Acting Assistant Deputy Minister, and Alan Koprowsky, Manager, Land Claims Coordination, YTG Renewable Resources, before Christmas to discuss funding for the amendments to the Wildlife Act. No budget has been developed as yet, but it is agreed that it will be used to hire legal council only. The parties involved will be paying for their own participation.

YTG has solicited proposals from a number of different lawyers. It is hoped that someone will be on contract soon. Everyone recognises the need to move on this quickly and to meet the deadlines. Efforts need to go into having the bulk of the work completed by the summer.

It was noted that there is no Aklavik representation on the Amendments Working Group. Billy Archie and Danny C. Gordon both expressed concerns about this. Members agreed that it is important to have someone with on-the-ground experience and practical knowledge participating in the amendments process.

Action 98-01-23: Billy Archie and Danny C. Gordon will approach the IGC to request Aklavik representation on the Wildlife Act Amendments Working Group.

Action 98-01-24: The Secretariat will ensure that Norm Snow, the IGC and the Aklavik HTC have copies of Laurie Henderson's work on the Wildlife Act amendments.

Action 98-01-25: The Chair will ask the Inuvialuit Game Council to urge its representatives to review Laurie Henderson's work before the Working Group has its first meeting.

11. Ivvavik National Park

Steve Travis distributed a research, monitoring and operational update from Ivvavik National Park, prepared by Vicki Sahanatien. He reported that field testing has been completed for the ecosystem monitoring protocols. All of the protocols will be implemented in the Park this summer.

In reference to historical and archeological research, the data analysis is continuing on the coastal archeological survey and mapping. Dave Neufeld has completed his archival research into the records of DIAND and the RCMP for his project on the modern history of government interest, cultural interaction and social change in the Western Arctic. Research continues into the Komakuk Beach Dewline Station.

All work has been completed on the dolly varden char research and the reports are being prepared. The coastal erosion monitoring has been completed. Ideas are being put forward for further work. Completed reports are available through the Park's office.

In reference to the Ecosystem Conservation Plan, Steve reported that the planned workshop will not likely proceed until the positions responsible for the organization of such a workshop are filled. The Chair commented that there are expectations that this plan will fill in a lot of the detail in the Park's Management Plan. Many of the questions that arose in discussions on the Management Plan were left to be answered in the Ecosystem Conservation Plan.

Regulation development is on hold but it will get done once the new Chief Park Warden has been hired.

Steve distributed two other documents: a memo from Steve Solomon to Vicki Sahanatien on future work on the Beaufort coast within Ivvavik National Park boundaries and 'NWT National Parks Ecological Monitoring Program - An Overview and Justification'.

The Chief Park Warden for Ivvavik has gone out to competition again. Steve is the acting Chief Park Warden. The new Warden Services Manager, Ian Brown, begins work next week.

Action 98-01-26: Steve Travis will send a copy of Ivvavik Nation Park's ecosystem monitoring protocols to Joan Eamer.

12. Herschel Island Territorial Park

The Chair commented that there are two items to discuss in relation to Herschel Island Territorial Park- the review of the Park's management plan and issues related to the implementation of the plan.

In reference to the implementation issues, a number of points have been raised by the Council and Park Rangers. The Chair proposed that it would be better for these issues to be considered by the group who will be looking at the IFA implementation issues as a whole later on this spring.

During its September meeting, the Council met with Jim McIntyre, Director, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Branch, YTG Renewable Resources, who reported that it was time to review the Herschel Island Management Plan. The Council was not involved in the development of the first plan except at the beginning and end of the process. The Council now needs to consider a process to review the plan, including the addition of key items and issues not addressed when it was first written. For example, the large number of people visiting the island, with their potential to impact the environment, was not anticipated. There are questions of access to the Park and how the increased volume of traffic is effecting the birds and the habitat. How should the issue of hunting rights be

addressed in the plan? How do hunting rights relate to visitor interests? More attention needs to be given to the management of heritage sites. There is also a question of the enforceability of the plan.

Jim McIntyre is waiting to hear from the Council on how to proceed with the review. Both the magnitude and substance of the review need to be considered. The role of the technical committee needs to be clarified. It doesn't appear to have a function although it has been very useful in the past.

The issues need to be identified before a review can proceed. Brian Pelchat suggested that Territorial Parks could have a workshop to determine a list of issues that need to be addressed. The workshop could be in Aklavik and begin with an information session. Joan Eamer added that there is also a need to consider social and economic issues, which would be covered in a community workshop. Others with interests in the Park (tour operators, CPAWS etc) also need to be involved in the early stages of the process. They could be sent a questionnaire asking them to identify issues.

Members agreed that a letter should be sent to Jim McIntyre and should include the following points: the technical committee should be used in the review; Aklavik should be involved in the planning and on the technical committee; there should be a workshop in Aklavik to determine issues; background information on the Park should be compiled for the workshop; and, a questionnaire should be developed to ask those with interests in the Park to identify their issues and concerns.

Action 98-01-27: WMAC(NS) will write to Jim McIntyre to comment on a process to review the Herschel Island Management Plan.

Danny C. Gordon commented that those working in the Park would like to see the Interpreter's position reinstated.

13. North Slope Conference Recommendations

The proceedings from the North Slope Conference will soon be available. Mike Gill will be using the conference's recommendations as he develops the Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan. The recommendations will also be incorporated into Volume 2 of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife and Conservation and Management Plan, as suggested action items. Billy Archie commended that the recommendations should be reviewed on a regular basis.

14. Yukon Oil and Gas Accord

The Chair stressed the importance for everyone to be aware of this legislation. The Council should make sure that the IGC, IRC and the Aklavik HTC have been kept informed about its contents and process.

Action 98-01-28: The Secretariat will ensure that the IGC, IRC and the Aklavik HTC have all received information on the Yukon Oil and Gas Accord.

15. Mackenzie Basin Impact Study

A summary of results from the final report of the Mackenzie Basin Impact Study has been included in the binders for the members' interest. The purpose of the study was to look at the effect which a change in climate might have on the Mackenzie Basin, its lands, waters, and the communities that depend on them.

16. Inuvialuit Harvest Study

The Chair reported that the IHS Management Committee met in Inuvik in December. The IHS's software program has been rewritten. The ten years of data is retrievable as a discreet set. A new set of data is being started this year. A draft protocol on the use of the data has been drafted, as there have been requests from several sources to use the data. Sponsors of the IHS will be provided with raw data and analysis on an annual basis.

There will be an extensive overhaul of the administrative process. A new IHS co-ordinator needs to be hired before March. In each community, there will be an 'active' and 'reserve' list of hunters. Only the active hunters will be interviewed. This will save time and free the field workers to do other things. In 1998, a contractor will be hired to do a trend analysis on the ten years of data to determine what the numbers are telling us.

I. New Business

1. DIAND's Proposed Amendments to the IFA

The Chair emphasized that this proposal has come from DIAND. He indicated a concern that has been raised with a proposed change in section 12(48), on page 7, which would replace "native and government members" with "members representing government and members representing government interests". This is moving away from the strict provision to have government employees sitting as Council members. It was agreed that it was important to have government officials sitting as members who can make commitments and decisions on behalf of the government. In addition, it is the government members who as government officials are involved in the implementation of Council decisions. It is helpful if these members can bring their practical experience to inform the decisions of the Council.

Action 98-01-29: The Chair will write to the Inuvialuit Game Council to express the Council's concerns regarding the proposed DIAND amendments to the IFA.

2. Implementation Review

Sometime in 1998, discussions will begin with DIAND regarding IFA funding for the next 5 years. There is a need to look at the Treasury Board submissions from 5 years ago. All agencies need to think about these upcoming negotiations. The Council, as will others, needs to be able to justify its existence. Continuing funding for research programs is important, in order to make responsible and informed management decisions. The Long Term Research Plan will demonstrate the need for continued funding of research. The Working Group should meet sooner than later, in order to be prepared before going into negotiations with DIAND.

The Chair referred to a document contained in the meeting binder titled 'Minutes of Decisions- Meeting of the Parties in Vancouver, August 17 and 18, 1993, Concerning Funding of Governments' IFA Net Additional Costs for the Period Beginning April 1, 1994 and Ending March 31, 1999'. This is the only document that shows the intended use of North Slope Conference monies in non-conference years (see section 1(ii)).

3. Inuvialuit Summer Student Job Creation

The Chair referred members to a summary of the Inuvialuit Summer Student Job Creation Program. Last year this program provided employment with the FJMC for two students. The Joint Secretariat Board of Directors has asked the co-management boards if they would be able to sponsor a student in the summer of '98. It was noted that proposals needed to be submitted by mid-January. Suggestions were made that a position might possible created for a student to spend time in each of the two parks.

Action 98-01-30: The Secretariat is to contact the IRC to obtain more details about the Inuvialuit Summer Student Job Creation Program and to see if it is still possible to submit a proposal.

Action 98-01-31: Brian Pelchat will forward information to Jim McIntyre regarding the Inuvialuit Summer Student Job Creation Program, if it is established that it is still possible to submit proposals.

J. Next Meeting

Members agreed that the next WMAC(NS) meeting should be held in Aklavik, March 25-27, following the NYEK Co-op 3th Annual Gathering in Inuvik.

The Chair thanked Mike Gill, Brian Pelchat and Steve Travis for their participation in the meeting.

K. Adjournment

Motion
to adjourn.

Moved: Danny C. Gordon

Seconded: Joan Eamer

Motion carried

Thursday January 8, 1998

Present: Lindsay Staples - Chair
Danny C. Gordon - Alternate -Inuvialuit Game Council
Joan Eamer - Member- Government of Canada
Billy Archie - Member -Inuvialuit Game Council
Brian Pelchat - Chief, Regional Management, Yukon Territorial
Government
Steve Travis- Parks Canada
Mike Gill - WMAC(NS) / Canadian Wildlife Service
Aileen Horler - WMAC(NS) Secretariat

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9AM.

Motion

to reconvene the meeting

Moved: Danny C. Gordon

Seconded: Joan Eamer

Motion carried

17. Yukon Protected Areas Strategy

The Chair drew members' attention to the document titled 'Yukon Protected Areas Strategy - Discussion Paper' and reported that the Council needs to discuss its contents and develop a response. In general, members were very supportive of the Strategy and acknowledged it as a good document overall. The following points were raised to be included in the Council's response:

There are four areas within the Yukon North Slope which have already been identified as candidate areas for protection. These areas have not been formally recommended for protection but rather have been designated as areas which require further investigation. They should be given regional priority in considering Yukon-wide protected areas

planning.

There is a concern regarding the adequacy of legal protection for Herschel Island related to activities and uses which are not covered by heritage legislation or the Yukon Wildlife Act.

The most significant exclusion is the recognition of the need to provide protection for the coastal zone area through the establishment of marine conservation areas.

In reference to the map on page 4, Herschel Island Territorial Park should be recognised as an existing legally established protected area and the area to the east of Ivvavik National Park as a portion of the legally established special conservation regime for the Yukon North Slope.

The Yukon North Slope falls under a 'special conservation regime' as established under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, as distinct from 'Special Management Areas' and their specific legal definition provided for under the Yukon Umbrella Final Agreement (page 5).

The most significant legal provision (s.12(2)) of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement for protected areas on the Yukon North Slope is the establishment of the special conservation regime for the area.

Traditional Territories in the Yukon include the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and the Tetlit Gwich'in overlap area (page 10) which are legally established in settlement legislation. The Inuvialuit have a long history of summer residency at Shingle Point and year-round traditional land use of the Yukon North Slope.

Action 98-01-32: The Chair will write to Bob Kuiper, YTG Renewable Resources, to convey the Council's comments regarding the Yukon Protected Areas Strategy Discussion Paper.

4. 1997/98 Wildlife Management funding proposals (continued)

a) Traditional Knowledge on the Yukon North Slope

Council members continued the discussion begun the previous day. The Secretariat presented a summary of the projects recommended to date, noting the full \$15,140 allocated to the Muskox population survey and composition count will not be required until the following fiscal year. When this \$15,140 is reversed, the total funding remaining in Wildlife Programs is \$28,526.

Of this amount \$5000 is to be recommended for the Community-based Monitoring Program, \$4975 to the Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan, \$4000 for fuel purchase and placement to be used in next year's Muskox Population Survey and Composition Count and approximately \$8040 for the Count of Muskox and Moose on Yukon North Slope. This will give a balance of \$6511 remaining in Wildlife Programs. There is some question as to whether the \$4000 allocated to the Muskox school unit will be spent. If it isn't used, the balance remaining will be \$10,511.

Members agreed that a project to assess the status of traditional knowledge on the Yukon North Slope would be of great value. It is important to know what documented traditional knowledge exists before any studies are undertaken to collect further information. Mike Gill commented that there is great interest at the community level in furthering the documentation and use of traditional knowledge. A lot of traditional knowledge has been collected in the area, through C.O.P.E., the Berger inquiry and Muriel Nagy's work among others, but it has never been consolidated into a single database. Gary Kofinas and Dave Neufeld would both be able to advise on the identification of sources.

The first phase will be the determination of the extent and composition of the existing documented traditional knowledge pertaining to the Yukon North Slope. All data information sources will have to be identified. An annotated description should be completed of the identified existing materials, along with an assessment of their relevance and usefulness. It may be necessary to transcribe tapes so funding should be made available for this purpose. During the second phase, the identified materials should be collected and organized. Recommendations should be made regarding the development of a database. The final phase will be the development of the database itself.

It is difficult to calculate the amount of funding that will be required to complete this project as the format and amount of material is unknown. Members agreed that the balance of the funds remaining in Wildlife Programs should be allocated to this project. It was recognised that this amount would increase by \$4000 if the Muskox school unit is not undertaken. It is hoped that funding remaining in this fiscal year is sufficient to cover the first phase of the project and possibly some work into the second phase. The status of the project can be assessed at the end of March, at which time the Council can decide how to proceed.

Members determined that a researcher should be contracted to conduct the work. A number of potential individuals were suggested. It was agreed that, as most of the work will take place in Inuvik, someone living there would be the most suitable. However, if someone from outside Inuvik is hired, it will be necessary to consider how their living costs will be covered. The Chair offered to contact Norm Snow to inquire about suitable contractors in Inuvik. It was agreed that the WMAC(NS) Secretariat will administer the project.

Action 98-01-33: Joan Eamer, Lindsay Staples and Brian Pelchat will meet to determine a contractor to undertake the project on Yukon North Slope traditional knowledge.

Action 98-01-34: The WMAC(NS) Secretariat will prepare the Terms of Reference for the Yukon North Slope traditional knowledge project.

A brief discussion was held regarding the development of a WMAC(NS) poster for use at conferences. The Secretariat and Joan Eamer proposed that the poster should include

information on the Council's role and membership, a map of the Yukon North Slope within the ISR, photos of Ivvavik, Herschel Island, Shingle Point and Aklavik plus a changeable section which can be up-dated according to venue or current issues. A photo of researcher could also be included. Members agreed to this content. The Chair suggested that two copies of the posters be printed so that one could be left with the Joint Secretariat to accompany their poster. As agreed during the December teleconference, funding for the posters will be included as part of the Secretariat's office expenses.

b) Count of Muskox and Moose on Yukon North Slope

The Chair drew members attention to Danny C. Gordon's proposal titled 'Count of Muskox and Moose on the Yukon North Slope' and the memo from Vicki Sahanatien detailing her discussions with Danny regarding this project.

Danny C. Gordon gave members a brief description of his proposal. He will spend eight days traveling by snowmachine, primarily on the coastal plain, concentrating on surveying the muskox and moose populations. A full report with photos will be completed at the end of the trip. When asked if he would be able to do additional work, such as snow sampling, if more days were added to the trip, Danny said that he is prepared to do whatever sampling and recording the Council feels would be useful. Council members agreed that the study should focus the types of information most needed. Brian Pelchat commented that he would like to see this kind of study being carried out on a regular and annual basis near the community.

Billy Archie suggested that it would be very helpful if Dorothy Cooley were to go to Aklavik to assist Danny in the preparation for his trip. Danny agreed that he would like to be able to work closely with Dorothy before he leaves.

Danny should have a GPS unit in order to record the exact location of his sightings. It was noted that Parks Canada has offered to supply one for the trip. Danny commented that he will need some training to learn how to use one.

In reviewing the budget, it was decided to extend the trip by 4 days to bring it to a total of 12 days. Members agreed that the daily salary of \$200 was reasonable for a number of reasons. Danny will be fully responsible for the trip, working without supervision as the trip leader. He will be using his own cabins and equipment and will be out on the land for many hours everyday. Two extra days were added for the write-up of the report, at the standard rate of \$140 per day. A recalculation of the budget brought the funding required to a total of \$11, 170.

Action 98-01-35: The Secretariat will provide the administrative and logistical support for the project titled 'Count of Muskox and Moose on the Yukon North Slope', including the acquisition of the necessary research permits, the purchase of film and maps and the financial administration.

Action 98-01-36: Dorothy Cooley will provide Danny C. Gordon with information as to where muskox were found during previous surveys.

Action 98-01-37: In regards to Danny C. Gordon's survey trip, Joan Eamer is to coordinate the reporting requirements for wildlife and other identified environmental indicators with YTG, Parks Canada and Lindsay Staples.

Action 98-01-38: Brian Pelchat will work with Dorothy Cooley to determine the procedures and requirements for the collection of wildlife data during Danny C. Gordon's survey trip. The necessary recording sheets are to be developed.

Action 98-01-39: Joan Eamer will obtain the necessary information and equipment to enable Danny C. Gordon to conduct snow sampling during his survey trip.

Action 98-01-40: Dorothy Cooley will travel to Aklavik to assist Danny C. Gordon in the preparation of his trip. This preparation is to include training in proper sampling techniques, recording methods and the use of a GPS.

Billy Archie requested that Dorothy Cooley tie her visit to Aklavik to coincide with an HTC meeting. Members agreed that all the necessary arrangements should be in place by the end of February. Danny reported that he would like to leave on this trip around March 20.

Motion

to recommend for funding the proposals titled 'Count of muskox and moose on Yukon North Slope' (\$11,170), 'Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan' (\$4975), 'Community-based Monitoring Program' (\$5000), and 'Muskox population survey and composition count' (\$4000), with the balance if the funds available in the 1987-98 fiscal year being allocated to the project titled 'Status of Traditional Knowledge on the Yukon North Slope'.

Moved: Joan Eamer

Seconded: Billy Archie

Motion carried

It was noted that the increase in funding for 'Count of muskox and moose on Yukon North Slope' will mean a reduction in the funding that would be available for the traditional knowledge project (\$3381 to \$7381).

K. Adjournment

Motion
to adjourn.

Moved: Billy Archie
Seconded: Joan Eamer
Motion carried

WMAC(NS) Chair

Date

WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Date