



MEETING MINUTES

WMAC (NS) Quarterly Meeting

Sheep Creek, Ivvavik National Park, YT • Parks facility- Kitchen building

June 17-21, 2010

Thursday June 17, 2010

Lindsay Staples (WMACNS Chair) • **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Christian Bucher** Government of Canada (Member) • **Doug Larsen** Yukon Government (Member) • **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat)

A. Call to Order

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

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda and suggested to defer the muskox plan to a later meeting. The Secretariat suggested removing “April review of minutes”, as they were added in error, and adding an item called “tags and sharing agreements of trans-boundary populations” under the “Boundary Shift” discussion.

Motion 06-10-01

To approve the agendas as revised for the June 17-21, 2010 regular meeting.

Moved: Danny C Gordon

Second: Doug Larson

Motion carried.

C. February - Minutes Approval

The following changes were identified:

- Page 2 – change the revision identified on page 16 from Wolke to Wolkie.
- Page 7 – change the second sentence to read “Christian said it was his understanding that separate regulations would not be considered.”

Danny requested clarification on the harvesting policy for employees inside the national parks. Christian explained that during working hours harvest by employees is not allowed, but during off-duty hours harvest is permitted according to the IFA and Parks provisions. What is restricted is the transport of the harvested animal in Parks’ transportation. The Council discussed how this

measure practically limits the harvest while Parks' staff is in the field and addresses the privileged harvesting situation created through employment in the field.

Danny informed members that some people are harvesting in the name of defense when it is not justified and some employees abuse their benefit of being in the park and do harvest while on duty.

Christian noted that currently fish are exempt from the Parks Canada transporting policy.

Action 06-10-01: The Secretariat will inquire with Yukon Parks to see if they have a policy that addresses employee harvest after hours. The Secretariat will write a letter to Yukon Parks requesting a copy of the policy and attach the parallel Parks Canada policy. The AHTC will be copied.

9:50am - Nelson Perry joined the meeting

The Chair welcomed Nelson to the meeting.

D. Parks Canada Update- Stokes Point Clean up

Nelson informed the Council of a fuel spill that was discovered at Sheep creek early in the field season. The spill was from old fuel tanks. He explained that the tanks were supposed to be drained in 2007 when the buildings switched to propane fuel. He is unaware of the size of the spill, but soil was taken to Inuvik for sampling in early June. The spill has been reported to the spill line and IEG Consultants will come to the site on June 25 to sample how much fuel is in the ground. They will do an inspection under the Fisheries and Oceans act because the spill is close to Sheep creek. The current mitigative measure is to use a monitor that ensures the meeting/ kitchen building is safe from fumes. Nelson explained that 100 liters remained in the tank and was drained after the spill was discovered. Nelson said that upon initial investigation the spill looks like a small one.

Nelson then briefed the Council on the Stokes Point clean up. He explained that the cleanup project had been approved through the screening processes: EISC and YESSAB to which WMAC(NS) provided comment. Nelson explained that the Council's comments were helpful especially in identifying that polar bear and grizzly bear mitigation measures should be similar in nature, establishing a 300m buffer, and the suggestion to contact YG to determine if bears are in the vicinity before going on the site. Nelson said he would send the Council the environmental protection plan. Nelson explained one of the mitigative measures for caribou; he said the remediation work would be shut down if there was a group of caribou larger than 30. This number represents a known group of animals that stays in the area which doesn't seem to be frightened by people.

He explained that the project is proceeding on schedule and is supplemented by the "Accelerated federal Contaminated Sites Action Plan" funding. Gruben's Transport was awarded the contract. Some highlights of the project work include the use of the Wurmlinger Barge Camp to house

camp, transport equipment and contaminated soil. Fuel, water and waste will all be stored onboard the barge. Nelson discussed the public engagement plan for this year which includes media coverage, site visit by dignitaries during remediation, community feast in Aklavik, fall newsletter to households in the ISR, and a final steering committee meeting.

Nelson informed the Council that there are three sites listed in the contaminated sites inventory; they are: Roland Bay (drilled in 1971), Spring River (drilled in 1972), and Sheep Creek (landfill from the mine). These sites will be visited in August and a report will recommend whether further action is required.

Nelson explained that wildlife monitors will be on the Stokes Point site and will be equipped with firearms. This will be the first project where carrying a firearm will be permitted through Parks interim measures.

Nelson also mentioned that a full time archeologist will be onsite for any new discoveries during investigations. The project will take place July 7-August 4th and Parks Canada will have a presence onsite the whole time.

Nelson informed the Council that there is a peregrine falcon nest on the tower which is right beside two concrete floors which have to be jack-hammered and removed. The peregrine will be nesting at that time. The plan is to jack hammer for two hours and rest for two hours. There will be no jack hammering if it is raining as chicks abandoned in the rain will die. As for buried objects, some will be cut off in place and others will be removed.

The Chair questioned if the 'State of the Park' reports help to identify these types of cleanup projects as priorities. Nelson explained that the Stokes Point clean up was driven by the community concerns from Aklavik. He mentioned that it is a clean site by DEW- line standards. The project is on schedule, and employees are largely Inuvialuit - of the 49, 42 are Inuvialuit and the majority of those are from Aklavik.

Nelson noted that the steering committee has been suspended.

The Chair inquired whether there were any thoughts on the Roland bay site. Nelson explained that it was too early to tell.

Nelson explained that Texaco drilled in '71 and '72 and then Parks took on liability for the sites.

Next Nelson provided an update on the Bio Cell at Sheep Creek. Herbert Allen and John Snell worked on this project and they think that the soil will have very little contamination by this year. If so, the bio cell will be dismantled and area reclaimed.

Nelson informed the Council that the 12x16 cabin that was at the water gauge station has been moved by a 216 helicopter to Nunaluk spit to use as a public shelter in times of bad weather. He explained that a wood stove would be put in and efforts made to blend it into its surroundings.

The Chair asked if there were current hydrologic reports for the Firth River. Nelson explained that the old station is not working, but there is new one there.

Nelson Perry left the meeting

E. Review of Action Items

The Council reviewed the status of ongoing action items:

Action 07-10-25: The Secretariat will draft a letter to Yukon Government recommending recommendation 2 and 3 regarding the research permitting and reporting process. As well, the Council will recommend rationalizing the two-permit system within Yukon Government by combining Science and Explorers Permit with the Wildlife Permit for natural science research projects. **Retired.** This action will be added to “bring forward file” to be reexamined in a couple of years. The Council mentioned that there is a “bring forward file” where certain issues are brought forward every couple of years.

Action Item 08-07-05: WMAC (NS) will draft a letter to Parks Canada recommending that they adopt the Stokes Point fuel storage protocol for Shingle Point DEW line re-fuelling area. **Follow-up-**The Secretariat will follow up with Ramona Maraj and Dorothy Cooley and others if necessary to find out who is storing fuel at Shingle Point. Letters will then be sent out to the organizations storing fuel recommending that they adopt Parks Canada's fuel storage protocol. Fuel storage. **Retired.** Yukon Government is no longer storing fuel at the site due to complications with site ownership and protocol.

Action 09-12-06: WMAC NS Secretariat will contact the Joint Secretariat to determine whether or not they plan to make an appeal for an interim adjustment to implementation funding levels because the current funding cycle was extended from 5 years to 10. **Complete.** Some IFA Council's are rolling over surpluses - justification for increased funding is slim. At this point a submission is unlikely.

Action on Randall Pokiak speech: The WMAC NS Secretariat will look into getting the digital file from YTG for the proceedings, so that WMAC NS can explore publishing the report separately. **Complete.** Posted on WMAC (NS) website.

Action 03-08-03: The WMAC (NS) will send a letter to the Canadian Wildlife Service Director General confirming that the Council's recommendation to the Minister would follow the review of results from the SARA consultation. **Complete.** Extended consultation on polar bear listing ends March 19, 2010 - Minister has 90 days to list after that date.

Action 03-08-04: The Secretariat will track the parliamentary committee's review of SARA **ongoing.** More hearings are anticipated in the New Year - the review is still in progress. ITK presented to the Standing Committee in Ottawa in May as well as a number of other national aboriginal organizations.

ACTION 06-09-02: The Secretariat will acquire the Inuvialuit Communication Society-produced film that featured Danny C. Gordon's ground-based monitoring work on the North Slope in April of 1996 or 1997, and post it on the website. She will also check the old website's master file to see if any other material was not transferred over to the new website and was lost. **Retired.** Danny doesn't have it and ITK can't track it.

ACTION 06-09-11: The WMAC (NS) Secretariat will locate and transmit to Dorothy a letter written a few years ago by the Council to the EISC stating their support for caribou monitoring work in Ivvavik. Dorothy will draft a letter on behalf of the Council supporting a three year permit commencing in 2010 for a calving survey, and the Chair will sign it off. **Complete.** Dorothy prepared a letter to WMAC NS regarding support for caribou calving surveys and photocensus. The Secretariat will use Dorothy's letter to form the basis for a letter from WMAC (NS) to Parks Canada, including reference to the Screening Committee's flight guidelines, as well as the clause within the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act that specifies what type of research activities are exempt from screening on the YNS.

ACTION 06-09-12: The WMAC (NS) Secretariat will prepare a briefing note later in the fall once Porcupine Caribou management issues have settled, reflecting back on the last year and a half of activity. Notes will also be started for grizzly bear, polar bear, and muskox. **Ongoing.** A draft has been prepared for muskox.

ACTION 09-09-01: The Secretariat will invite Joe Tetlich to WMAC (NS)'s future regular meetings. **Complete.**

ACTION 09-09-02: The Secretariat will use page numbering in the correspondence section of meeting binders instead of item numbering. **Complete.**

ACTION 09-09-03: The Secretariat will respond to the HTC request for more grizzly bear tags noting that the quota will not be re-visited until the grizzly bear project has concluded. **Complete.** In a year when Ramona's research is complete, the quotas will be reassessed

ACTION 09-09-04- The Secretariat will review Council minutes and determine what the original plan/schedule was for reviewing Yukon SARA legislation. **Complete.**

ACTION 09-09-07: The Secretariat will acquire a copy of the recent southern and northern Beaufort polar bear population survey, delineating bear location. Steve Baryluk indicated he had a copy. **Complete.**

ACTION 09-09-09: The Secretariat will inquire with the Canadian Wildlife Service and/or Wendy Nixon to determine how alternate Canada members for WMAC (NS) have been appointed in previous years. **In progress.** The Chair will raise the issue of government member alternates and appointments with the Joint Secretariat Board.

ACTION 09-09-10: The WMAC (NS) will write a letter to Environment Canada regarding securement of IFA funds for wildlife research. **Outstanding.** The Chair will draft a letter using the one written two years ago as a model, following a meeting with Sherri Young of EC.

Action 12-09-01: The Secretariat will ensure that AHTC minutes are received regularly and filed in WMAC (NS) quarterly meeting binders. **Complete.** The Secretariat will file IGC and WMAC NWT minutes in quarterly meeting binders as well as post them on Sharefile.

Action 12-09-02: The Secretariat will routinely review the AHTC, IGC, and all other IFA co-management boards' minutes, alerting the Council of important developments. **Complete.**

Action 12-09-03: The Chair will determine whether summaries of Council meeting minutes are worth pursuing. **Complete.** The Chair determined not to pursue the development of summaries in the interests of expediency and the reduction of administrative burden.

Action 12-09-04: The Secretariat will compile/reproduce maps from the 1999 Yukon North Slope Atlas, as well as Jim Hawkings' satellite image map, and bring them forward to the next Council meeting for review. **Ongoing.** Bring hard copies to next Whitehorse meeting. Once hard copies are acquired, obtain digital copies.

Action 12-09-05: The Council will discuss mapping work done since 1999 at the next WMAC (NS) meeting. **Retired.**

Action 12-09-06: The Secretariat will inquire with the Joint Secretariat whether or not printed copies of their digital newsletter are made available. **Complete.** The plan was to produce a set of hard copies for those without internet access. However, some of the Councils have their own newsletters, and with staff turnover etc. a Common Ground newsletter has not been issued for over a year - next steps are yet to be determined.

Action 12-09-07: The Secretariat will determine if the EISC has responded to the two letters from Yukon Government dated October 15 and October 20, 2009, noting whether the Chair's concern regarding representation was addressed. **In progress.** Forward letter directly to Ed Van Randen.

Action 12-09-08: The Secretariat will clarify with Ramona whether or not the polar bear traditional knowledge project outputs will be released on a community-by-community basis. **Complete.** Reports will be generated on a community- by-community basis with one roll up report of all communities.

Action 12-09-09: The Secretariat will acquire a copy of Dan Slavik's traditional knowledge study results for the Council's review. **Complete.**

Action 12-09-10: WMAC (NS) shall consider the grizzly bear communications exit strategy under the 2010/2011 projects budget. **Complete.**

Action 12-09-11: The Secretariat will confirm if the FJMC is in support of the Integrated Freshwater and Dolly Varden Monitoring Plan project. **Retired.** The funds have been reallocated to the caribou calving survey.

Action 12-09-12: The Council will assess part B of the grizzly bear project as proposed in December 2009 in December 2011. **Complete.** Add to carry forward file.

Action 12-09-13: The Council will create a multi-year plan for IFA-funded research during its 2010 summer meeting. **Outstanding.**

Action 12-09-14: The Chair will draft a letter to the Yukon Government stating that there is insufficient time to organize the North Slope Conference by mid-February 2010. **Complete.** Conference rescheduled for 2012-2013

Action 12-09-15: The Secretariat will ask the IGC when they anticipate holding the next North Slope Conference. **Retired.**

Action 12-09-16: The Secretariat will determine the end of the current funding period and research the reasons for the \$1 million surplus at the Joint Secretariat. **Complete.**

Action 12-09-17: The Secretariat will obtain a copy of Jim Hawkings' satellite image map that was produced for the Yukon North Slope poster produced by WMAC (NS). **Complete.**

Action 12-09-18: The Council will hold a teleconference in early February 2010 to review events in relation to the CITES meeting in Doha. **Complete.**

Action 12-09-19: The Chair will finalize comments on the Polar Bear Conservation Strategy and transmit them to the Polar Bear Administrative Committee by Dec 18, 2009. **Complete.**

Action 12-09-20: The Chair will develop terms of reference for the polar bear TK project with Larry Carpenter. **Complete.**

Action 12-09-21: Christian Bucher will develop comments on the firearms regulation changes to submit to the Council by the end of January for their review. The Council will then submit comments to Parks Canada. **Complete.**

Action 12-19-22: Dorothy Cooley will include years in the Appendix 1 maps in future revisions of the Muskox Plan. **Complete.**

Action 12-09-23: The Secretariat will determine if Parks Canada has replied to WMAC (NS)'s comments regarding the Stokes Point remediation project. **Complete.** Parks Canada did not respond because our letter was addresses to the EISC. EISC came out with a decision letter.

Action 12-09-24: The Secretariat will work with Christian Bucher to confirm meeting dates for June 18-25, 2010 at Sheep Creek and Herschel Island. **Complete.**

Action 12-09-25: The Council will ask Ramona for her recommendations for longer term inventory and monitoring work for grizzly bears. **Complete.** Ramona has indicated that it would be best to wait for study results before choosing best indicators for longer term monitoring.

Action 02-10-01: The Secretariat will explore third party funding programs available to the Council for the purposes of hiring a summer student for 2010. **Complete.** Available, but reporting requirements are too work intensive.

Action 02-10-02: The WMAC (NS) will prepare a discussion paper outlining issues associated with IFA implementation funding for consideration at the Joint Secretariat's Board meeting in June 2010. **Complete.** The Chair sent an email to Norm Snow regarding a meeting, to which he was agreeable.

Action 02-10-03: Christian Bucher will send the WMAC (NS) Secretariat Parks Canada's 2006 resolution regarding non-beneficiary guides' right to carry firearms. **In progress.** This is a WMAC (NWT) resolution which Christian will try to locate.

Action 02-10-04: The Secretariat will prepare a draft letter to Parks Canada regarding firearms regulations and circulate it to Council for comment by the first week of March. **Complete.**

Action 02-10-05: WMAC (NS) will incorporate changes identified at its February meeting to the Muskox Plan and convene a teleconference at the end of April to review the revised draft, after which time meetings be held with the WMAC NWT and IGC Chairs as well as the Aklavik HTC to review the draft. Once the draft is finalized it will be sent out for broader comment.

Outstanding. The muskox plan has some outstanding sections and will be discussed over a teleconference in the summer.

The Chair provided an update from Dorothy on disease, parasite and genetics. He relayed that parasites are non-issue, through Susan Kutz 's work it was found that they are not a threat.

Action item 06-10-02: The Secretariat will ask Dorothy for the most recent information on the parasites work on muskox from Susan Kutz for Council information.

The disease work has shown that there is a virus found in muskox in Greenland as well as mainland populations, it can be a devastating virus, but as it is found in both populations separation may be irrelevant.

The genetics work has shown distinct differences between Greenland and NWT muskox. Patricia Reynolds, who was involved with the work, says that mixing occurs naturally. GNWT continues to have a concern about mixing.

Doug had the following points about the mixing of muskox populations. 1) People will not be able to keep these populations apart, 2) there is strength in a larger gene pool if mixing occurs 3) it is natural that the mixing is happening (but not natural that the Greenland population came from a small gene pool).

The Chair explained that there are different views with respect to treatment of muskox in the plan, the view of the Alaskans and the view of the NWT differs. It complicates of the plan moving forward with differences of views and may lead to different management processes.

Action 02-10-06: The Secretariat will purchase an additional external hard drive, back up all files semi-annually and store at the bank in a safety deposit box. **Complete.**

Action 02-10-07: The Secretariat will obtain a copy of the digital file of the WMAC (NS) poster created in the late 90s. Currently WMAC (NS) only has copies of the photos and files used to create the poster, and not a digital copy of the poster itself. **Complete.**

Action 02-10-08: The Secretariat will file Beaufort Polar Bear Population survey results (colour maps) in future Council meeting binders. **Complete.**

Action 02-10-09: The WMAC (NS) will reserve project funds to contribute toward a grizzly bear project “roll up” to be produced before March 31, 2010. **In progress.**

Action 02-10-10: The WMAC (NS) will discuss communication products for the grizzly bear and polar bear traditional knowledge projects during its summer 2010 meeting. **In progress.** The Secretariat will produce a wildlife watch issue on the grizzly bear project as well as a one-pager on the polar bear TK project.

Action 02-10-11: The WMAC (NS) Secretariat will contact Nick Lunn at Environment Canada to receive the latest update from Arctic Net. **In progress.** EC contacted, need to follow up.

Action 02-10-12: In 2010/11 WMAC (NS) will explore options with the Joint Secretariat regarding hiring Nigel Bankes to prepare a briefing note on jurisdictional issues in the Beaufort. **Outstanding.** The Chair will contact Nigel to determine his availability.

Action 02-10-14: The WMAC (NS) Chair will locate correspondence from Richard Berg regarding the last ten year funding cycle and bring it forward for a meeting of IFA committees and councils in fall 2010 to discuss IFA implementation arrangements. **Outstanding.** For fall meeting.

Action 02-10-15: The WMAC (NS) will provide comments on the draft Arctic Plains and Mountains Bird Conservation Regional Plan when released in September 2010, as well as on the list of priority species for the region, and will comment on implementation plan development. The Council will also discuss with the WMAC (NWT) in September 2010 the plan for an ISR-wide implementation plan. **Outstanding.** For fall meeting.

Action 02-12-16: Stephanie Muckenheim will locate the latest correspondence regarding the Yukon’s appointment of their EISC representative and transmit it to the WMAC (NS). **Complete.**

F. Correspondence

The Chair brought members attention to the following correspondence:

- The resolution document from the Community Corporation 42 directors' meeting and the IGC response to it.
- IWMC newsletter- Lindsay explained that this group was helpful at the CITES meeting in Doha. The Switzerland based group is one of the key organizations that focus on maintaining the sustainable harvest of wildlife.
- A response letter from Yukon Environment on the Consultation of the Yukon Species at Risk Act and Proposed Wildlife Act Amendments- the Chair explained that Yukon doesn't plan to proceed on this legislation at this time.
- The hiring protocol for Herschel Island.
- Stephanie Muckenhiem's letter regarding IFA funding and North Slope conference- the Chair explained that there is some discretion in funding arrangements. This letter should be discussed at the IFA interpretation meeting.
- Letter with a donation from WMAC (NS) to the Sachs Harbor Youth fund in the name of Andy Carpenter.
- The Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management Plan. The Chair explained that there is process underway to develop an implementation plan between the parties. Christian inquired about the role of groups who are not signatory to the plan. The Chair explained the two interest groups are 1) those with a regulatory interest and 2) the groups who are not regulators. The Chair explained that the implementation plan will lay out how other parties like the RRC's and HTC's are to be involved.
- Herschel Island update- the Council made some comments about the airstrip. Christian wondered if it was feasible to have water -based access only.
- An update on the ongoing North Slope grizzly bear study - will continue this year with field work and analysis.
- Yukon Government information package on the trapping concession boundary - has been sent to the AHTC for their comment on the administrative boundary change.
- WMAC (NS) letter sent to Parks Canada regarding firearms regulations- response is pending.
- A letter from Dorothy explaining that the caribou calving census did not go ahead this year due to weather.
- WMAC (NS) report on activities -sent to the IGC for their Council meeting.

2:30 pm -The Chair adjourned the meeting for the day.

Thursday June 18, 2010

Lindsay Staples (WMA CNS Chair) • **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Christian Bucher** Government of Canada (Member) • **Doug Larsen** Yukon Government (Member) • **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat)

The meeting was called to order at 9:15 am.

G. Report from Chair

The Chair explained that since the last meeting a large part of his time has been spent in preparation for the CITES meeting in Qatar as well as on the National Conservation Strategy for polar bear. The focus of the past months activities has been on polar bear with March and April being busy.

The Chair explained that Michelle has gone on maternity leave and that there was overlap time between Secretariat staff. He also discussed the idea of hiring supplementary staff resources over the next year to complete some of the Council priorities.

He explained that the FJMC has a new Chair, Vic Gillman, who used to be a regional manager for DFO and has a long history with people in the area.

He explained that the WMAC (NS) chair serves “at the pleasure of the parties”, which means at any time the parties can choose to change the chair if wanted. WMAC (NWT) brought in fixed terms of three years, so there are different arrangements for different committees.

The Chair explained the language used in the IFA is “permanent” and “temporary” for members, which can be interpreted in different ways. Lindsay explained his understanding is that a “permanent” member is a regular standing member, but not indefinitely appointed. A “temporary” member is one who would be asked to sit in for meeting specific topics, like an expert in a particular field.

Ernest emphasized the importance of a strong chair to ensure proper functioning of a Council and explained his concerns of using a voting system which is used by some groups.

H. Report from Members

Doug reported that his replacement for WMAC (NS) has been identified. Rob Florkiewicz will be the new Yukon member. The transition will take place over the next six months. Doug expressed that he has been on the Council for ten years, has enjoyed his experience and will miss it. Rob’s Yukon Government position is to work on major species program; he has a land use background and used to be the Southern lakes biologist.

The Chair expressed the view that one of Doug’s great strengths has been his ability to actively engage his department (Yukon Government) in the business of the Council. The reporting relationship has been excellent. The Chair explained when members aren’t able to engage it can diminish the effectiveness of the position represented on boards and councils.

The Chair explained that a strength of the IFA is having members working for governments or departments that are engaged directly in implementation of the IFA. Major contributions often come from members who are put in challenging situations between the parties to the IFA.

Ernest had nothing to report.

Danny discussed his role on both the WMAC (NS) and the AHTC. He explained that sometimes it is difficult to be in the middle of discussions between the groups on issues such as

tag allocations for Aklavik, but generally there is a good working relationship between the groups.

He also suggested that the Council send a small plaque to Aklavik in recognition of their 100 year anniversary. Danny mentioned that Evelyn Storr works for the Hamlet and we can get a schedule of events from her.

Action 06-10-03: The Secretariat will compose a letter and send a plaque to the Hamlet of Aklavik to commemorate their 100 year anniversary. The secretariat will work with the Hamlet to determine the schedule of events

Christian made a suggestion that since the Council is meeting a Sheep Creek, they take the opportunity to discuss the Sheep Creek Site Plan and provide parks with a vision of future site use.

The Chair suggested that members take time to think through the use of the site and put the collective comments into a letter to Parks.

Action 06-10-04: Write a thank you letter to Ifan Thomas at Parks Canada for permitting the Council to meet at the sheep creek site. In this letter provide Council direction for the sheep creek site plan.

Christian explained the range of site use and pointed out that there is a lot of activity at the site. Some groups to consider for site usage are: rafters, school and artist groups. He explained that there is a lot of public support for school programs.

I. Ongoing business- Polar Bear-PBAC/PBTC Update

The Chair discussed the roles of the PBAC and the PBTC. The PBAC is the management committee for polar bear, while the PBTC is supposed to be strictly a technical body that provides assessments to the management group.

The Chair explained the differences in polar bear management nationally. There are marked differences in Canada as well as between GNWT and Yukon.

The most involved groups in Canada are Nunavut, NWT, Yukon, arctic Quebec and Labrador. Though Manitoba, Ottawa and Quebec have polar bear populations, they have a smaller role.

The Chair explained that a few years ago COSEWIC did a status review on polar bear and our Council recommended that the species be listed as “special concern”, which means that there are no restrictions or prohibitions beyond what management systems are already in place.

Environment Canada did a consultation on the status and the minister has yet to make the final judgment on polar bear. The Chair explained that Nunavut recently expressed the view that polar bear should not be listed as a species of special concern. That view is based on traditional

knowledge of the area. The divergence of views between jurisdictions makes the management system challenging.

Doug mentioned that in his view the medium for traditional knowledge to be incorporated is through discussions on boards and Councils like ours. He further explained that another way to incorporate the knowledge would be on a separate board that only deals with traditional knowledge, similar to a technical group. A management committee would use the traditional knowledge and scientific information to make judgments.

He explained that the role of PBTC appears to have diverged from its original intent over the past three years. Though researchers are at the table, many other views are also on the table.

Christian explained that his experience with caribou work has been similar, politics often come into play and supersedes the presentation of technical information.

Doug explained that through his involvement in the technical meetings, he gained a better sense of the harvest distribution in Canada. The Nunavut harvest is about 80-95% of the total harvest.

The Chair explained that the PBAC has been working on the National Conservation Strategy for polar bear. The government of Canada is taking a lead role in drafting. In the last year and a half the draft has come a long way.

The Chair suggested that members review the strategy carefully so that the Council may provide detailed comments.

The chair outlined some of the challenging areas to work through in the plan.

- The goal statement -which needed to be changed to reflect a broader conservation objective for the species.
- Page 3- lists of threats to polar bear. The group has struggled with climate change here.
- Page 4- harvest management- diff management system in Quebec.
- Page 6- How the PB administrative committee fits into the overall picture.
- Page 8- there are a number of appendices to develop which this page lists.
- Page 15- 1st bullet- description of management circumstance in the ISR needs attention.
- Page 19,annex 3-Boundary change. Page 18 shows boundaries and will outline a process for boundary changes.-Page 21- glossary of terms and definitions

The Chair explained that one of the difficulties emerging out of the plan was with the description of management circumstances between jurisdictions. The description agreed upon ended up being a factual account of the management circumstances.

The Chair further explained that Yukon under the Yukon Wildlife Act holds management authority for setting a Total Allowable Harvest for polar bears in the Yukon. The NWT Wildlife Act does not establish jurisdiction for the GNWT to regulate the harvest of polar bears in the Yukon or in Ivvavik National Park.

J. Ongoing Business – CITES Update

The Chair walked the Council through the briefing note that he prepared from the CITES meeting and shared his experiences.

He explained that the primary motive to attend the meeting was to actively engage and demonstrate Council interest in international polar bear management as it affected the Yukon North Slope. He further explained affect of decisions made at CITES meetings on harvested species. He described the process in which decisions are made. A lot of attention is given to scientific knowledge, but decisions are heavily influenced by lobbying efforts (much of which is not science-based).

The Chair explained how the voting process worked and the importance of staying for the entire Conference of the Parties as Committee votes can become reopened on the closing plenary sessions.

For example, the anti-harvest lobby frequently included the circulation of misinformation that was at odds with the findings of the scientific community.

Lindsay explained that one of the central questions facing Inuit is whether they can still practice their legal (and constitutionally protected) harvesting rights subject to conservation without interference by international opinion? The short answer appears to be No; hence the need to participate in these types of forums and discussions to ensure that these rights are not adversely affected by the decisions of international bodies..

He explained that the cost of the meeting was reasonable (given the distance traveled) and confirmed that it was an important forum to attend.

K. Ongoing Business – Polar Bear TK project

The Chair explained that the polar bear traditional knowledge study is occurring in six communities. This type of study is very important for meetings like the CITES's conferences and COSEWIC and SARA status assessments. An ecological relationship that needs to be better understood is the one between loss of sea ice, polar bear habitat and polar bear abundance.

The Chair explained that during the CITES forum, the Americans focused their presentation exclusively on climate change and the precautionary principle and did an effective job. We need to better understand this. Christian emphasized the impact we can have with good education at an international forum.

The members spoke about traditional knowledge, the challenges with incorporating it and the forums for doing so.

The Chair spoke to the role of tradition knowledge in co-management bodies and how there are an appropriate forum for the collection and application of TK.

Ernest suggested that an invitation be sent to Nunavut for the proposed sea ice workshop.

12:20- the Council broke for lunch.

The Council went through an update from Ramona on her projects.

Action item 06-10-05: The Council will invite Ramona to the September meeting and determine the timeline for conducting a preliminary grizzly bear population estimate.

The polar bear traditional knowledge interviews have been completed in Holman, Aklavik, and Inuvik. All the interviews have been transcribed. Marsha has taken information from them and put them on maps and they are currently being digitized. The next steps are to code and analyze all the information. Ramona and Steve Mackenson will be working on this step. They will be working to combine the science and the traditional knowledge. The project should be completed by the fiscal year end.

The remaining three interview locations will be completed this year by Dan Slavik. Each community will have their own report and there will be one report synthesizing the findings of all six communities.

The Chair explained that the project has been administered by the WMACs.

L. Ongoing Business - Tag administration

The Chair explained some regulation changes proposed by Yukon government that would match the regulations with the current practice. The changes proposed are for 1) tag issuance for Herschel island, 2) polar bear harvest areas in the Yukon should mirror the harvest zone for grizzly bear, 3) Yukon tags for grizzly bear and polar bear are being used in Ivvavik National park and offshore. There should be a recommendation to deal with these issues.

Action 06-10-06 – Write a letter to Yukon Government supporting the regulation changes for tag issuance on Herschel island for grizzly bear and for polar bear so that the harvesting zone mirrors that of the Grizzly bear zone and remains inside the ISR.

Action 06-10-07– Write a second letter to Yukon Government to support the progress on tag issuance for grizzly and polar bear in Ivvavik and offshore.

Doug voiced that Yukon Government is not comfortable issuing tags for Ivvavik.

The Council discussed tag administration between Yukon and NWT. There are six tags that are administered. The Chair explained that GNWT has been issuing tags for Yukon Government due to the location of tag use for the past years. The Yukon has now expressed interest in re-administering tags but issues have arisen over authority. The Yukon holds jurisdictional authority for the issuance of tags to Inuvialuit who are harvesting polar bears in the Yukon. The Chair indicated that administratively the goal is to have a system that works easily between jurisdictions and that erases the jurisdictional boundaries for harvesters.

Doug pointed out that all tags are Southern Beaufort tags, for use anywhere in the ISR. The only difference is in how tags are issued.

The Council discussed three options as presented by Yukon Government.

Option 1: All tags for South Beaufort are issued jointly and can be used in any region of the Southern Beaufort. Regulations would have to be developed to recognize this arrangement.

Option 2: Tags from Yukon are provided to residents of Aklavik and Inuvik. Tags can be used in any region of the Southern Beaufort. This option is similar to what we have now except that the tags would physically come from the Yukon. Regulations would need to be revised to recognize this arrangement.

Option 3: Tags from Yukon are provided to residents of Aklavik and Inuvik. Tags from Yukon can only be used within Aklavik and Inuvik HTC zones, no common tag.

Doug pointed out that the difference between the options is that in option 1 and 2 there is a common tag while in option 3 there isn't. Doug expressed that the common tag is better for harvesters.

Danny raised the issue of grizzly bear compensation, as it is continually raised with the HTC.

Action 06-10-08: The secretariat will locate and send Danny the letter that WMAC (NS) received from the IGC on grizzly bear compensation.

Christian explained that Ivvavik National park has no compensation package for tagged bears in the Park. He said that arrangements need to be made between researchers and the HTC.

Ernest made the suggestion to incorporate compensation into the cost of research projects.

Danny brought up the idea of a buffer between different management zones and the Council discussed that this measure is only relevant when the enforcement regime is different.

Danny explained that sometimes issues can arise over the Gwitchin border. The Chair explained that the Council wrote a letter about eight years ago to VGFN recommending sharing on both sides of the border; they declined the idea.

Ernest explained that in Tuktoyaktuk, there isn't a lot of overlap of harvest with different groups and also that less people are harvesting due to dangerous conditions.

Christian explained that the Yukon wouldn't be able to issue tags that would be enforceable by Parks Canada, as the territorial law can't supersede National law. He explained that Parks Canada is particular with the issuance of tags.

Yukon would like the Council to make a recommendation about an option and then Yukon government can respond. The Chair suggested conferring with GWNT.

Action 06-10-09: Lindsay to confer with Larry and Frank regarding tag administration and to discuss that issues be addressed at the joint meeting of WMACs.

3:30pm- The meeting was adjourned.

Thursday June 19, 2010

Lindsay Staples (WMAcNS Chair) • **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Christian Bucher** Government of Canada (Member) • **Doug Larsen** Yukon Government (Member) • **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:15 am

The Chair explained that he would take all Council comments on the polar bear conservation strategy and send them into Environment Canada.

Action 06-10-10: Lindsay will send in Council comments on the National Conservation Strategy for polar bear following a discussion with the WMAc(NWT) chair or resource person.

M. Ongoing business- Sheep creek site plan

The Chair explained that Parks Canada commissioned a site plan, but the work that was produced was not sufficient to guide the direction of the site. The Chair asked members what observations they could make about the site.

The first observation that the Council made was that it is a busy place. Christian discussed the reasons for the past downsizing at the site and the current needs for researchers and visitors.

The downsizing was largely due to concerns raised by some personal users and rafters. At the time the need for school groups and arts in the park was not articulated as a use.

Doug mentioned that the design of the facilities should be for the intended uses and the vision of the site should be looked at.

The Council discussed whether the site should cater to rafters, because if the interpretation and buildings are developed more people will be attracted to the site.

Ernest voiced the need for school groups to use the site and that cooking facilities should be addressed if the site is to become busier. Christian explained that currently there are two school groups per year and there could be more.

Lindsay mentioned that group tenting is having an impact on the terrain and eroding the ground cover.

Ernest raised the issue of safety in regards to the airstrip and increased use at the site. Danny inquired about landing permissions at the site and it was clarified that a parks landing permit is required.

Additional council comments included addressing or enhancing the following: sewage facilities, water supply, over-loaded cooking facilities, visitation, and airstrip safety.

Regarding airstrip safety, Christian informed the council that the pilots claim the length of the strip is not an issue, but humps and bumps in strip could be. The Council suggested that maintenance of the strip may be feasible due to an existing gravel source and equipment on site. Christian explained that once maintenance starts at the site, liability becomes an issue. Lindsay observed that if desired, perhaps airstrip maintenance is something that Parks could consider when they next negotiate implementation funding.

The Council discussed how the existing site plan does not address the current activities and use of the site. The Herschel Island management plan was cited as an example of a plan that has changed to address the evolving needs and use of the site over time.

N. Ongoing business- Financial statements

The Secretariat reviewed the 2010/2011 budget with the Council. She pointed out that there has been money set aside in the budget for additional staff resources, and that there is also unallocated money in the projects budget.

The Council discussed the possibility of employing another staff member half time until the end of the fiscal year. Potential projects for supplementary staff would be organization of the fall monitoring workshop, and work on the Council's wildlife conservation and management plan.

The Council discussed some minor projects for which funds should be reserved including: the fall monitoring workshop, grizzly bear and polar bear newsletters and possibly map digitizing for the wildlife atlas.

Action item 06-10-11: The Secretariat will prepare a grizzly bear project summary as a newsletter.

The Chair suggested that the Secretariat look into the mapping work and capabilities of the JS, YTG, Parks and CWS to assist in the work. The project could potentially be an internal mapping project over two to three years.

Action item 06-10-12: The Secretariat will do scoping work on the wildlife atlas project to determine what currently exists for digitized information and what GIS capacity exists.

The Council discussed jurisdictional issues for polar bear in the context of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan. The Council discussed having Nigel Banks prepare an information document about jurisdictional authorities and responsibilities related to polar bear in the Western Arctic because of his familiarity with the subject matter.

Action 06-10-13: The Chair will contact Nigel Banks to determine his interest in preparing a paper on jurisdictional issues and how they relate to polar bear management.

The Council talked about the changes that should be made in the WCMP and the Chair suggested that about 25 percent of the plan will likely require updating. New factors to take into consideration include climate change, species at risk, and more.

The Council concluded the financial discussion saying that the money for a half time staff person would come out of both the staff allocation as well as the projects budget. An individual would be hired to implement some of the Council's initiatives as well as share the office duties.

Linh Nguyen joined the meeting

The Chair introduced Linh from Parks Canada.

O. New business – Strategic planning- Arctic borderlands

Lihn briefed the Council on his role with ABEKC through Parks and explained some of the work he has been involved with. Lihn explained the “state of the park report” (SOPR) and how ABEKC can fit into this process. Lihn explained that one section in the SOPR is to gather aboriginal perspectives and in the past that was usually done by meeting with co-management boards and HTC's.

Lihn explained that ABEKC was meant to gather answers to specific questions. To have the information quantifiable the surveys should be treated as opinion surveys and analyzed over five year intervals.

He explained that at community gatherings, where the forum is more open, more general information can be gathered and information to use in anecdotal form.

Lihn discussed some changes that ABEKC is looking to make to the interview survey questionnaire. The Board would like to see the questions change from being open ended; the new survey would be much shorter in duration.

Lihn identify repetition of data as an issue with the current survey, i.e. there are weather stations already collecting weather data, so it may be unnecessary to ask questions about weather. The survey should be shortened to focus on other important areas of questioning.

Lihn explained that right now there is a contract out for the survey redesign. Parks Canada could be a “guinea pig” for extracting information to find out how usable the data is.

Lihn explained that a draft SOPR will be ready by November. Christen explained that the SOPR has to be produced and approved by the CEO and becomes similar to a management plan. There are a number of indicators in these reports under four different categories: Tundra, Forest, Coastal, and Freshwater.

The Chair explained that it has been about twelve years since Borderlands systematically went through their indicators with partners. Partners and representatives need to go through the exercise again to determine what they want.

The Chair expressed that if we are committed to Borderlands we should go through this exercise every three to four years.

Lihn explained that he sees Arctic Borderland as a tool to send warning signals about change on the landscape and that it is not monitoring body. ABEKC can signal for other agencies to do the monitoring and advise on which areas to look at.

The Chair explained that in the fall the Council will make efforts to coordinate CWS, DFO, and GNWT through the WMAC's to participate in the exercise of reviewing information requirements. Without the specific program parameters that Parks has, it may be more difficult to determine needs.

Doug mentioned that in the case of Yukon, it is a matter of how does ABEKC fit into the larger monitoring picture of the whole Yukon.

Lihn mentioned that if the interviews are coded by name then at least a person by person comparison can be done.

Danny explained that in interviews it should be kept in mind that the type of information that men and woman provide can be different because of their experiences.

In discussing research, the Council discussed the trapper's cabin on Herschel Island and its use by researchers. Danny questioned which user groups have first priority for use.

Action 06-10-14: Write a letter to Yukon Parks to clarify the situation for the trappers cabin to determine if there is a policy that assigns priority to various user groups. Discuss with Richard Gordon.

12:30 pm -Meeting adjourned.

Thursday June 20, 2010

Lindsay Staples (WMAcNS Chair) • **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Christian Bucher** Government of Canada (Member) • **Doug Larsen** Yukon Government (Member) • **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat)

The chair called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

The Council continued the discussion on Arctic Borderlands.

Danny reminded the Council of the history of the Inuvialuit harvest study that ran for a number of years until its utility was met. He suggested that it wouldn't be out of the question for the ABEKC to stop surveying for a while.

Ernest voiced how important it is to have a professional doing the questionnaires and that he would support it stopping for a while.

In the fall, at the monitoring workshop, time permitting, it may be helpful to address the structural issues and administrative set up of the board, and direction.

The Council discussed that Borderlands has a very broad scope and if it developed a more modest goal, possibly more could be accomplished.

The Council suggested that one way for the Cop-op to proceed would be to do specific time limited surveys as projects.

Ernest suggested that the reporting should be more frequent, like every two to three years.

The Chair reminded members that Borderlands has another data set besides the interview data, which is an administrative set of quantitative data.

Doug indicated that he could ask Yukon government to think about what role Borderlands has to play for the department given the kind of information they are able to provide.

The Chair expressed that it is largely a question of what matters Coop partners seeks to have regularly monitored and how they could be informed through interviews which capture peoples' perspective of changes seen over time.

The Council agreed to send out meeting materials prior to the meeting including a letter which clearly articulates the purpose of the day and states our Council's role in the process, questions related to the requirement of organizations, a list of current indicators. It will also include copies or of recent work completed for the Co-op (monitoring database, 10 year review, Wayne Wysocki work, Johnson report), an expanded briefing note that the Secretariat will prepare on the history of Borderlands.

It was agreed that WMAc would host a one day meeting on September 9th. A meeting will be held on the 8th with WMAc (NWT) to discuss issues like muskox and polar bear.

Action 06-10-15- The Secretariat will organize a monitoring meeting with the WMAC's to include the following groups: WMAC (NS)/NWT members; IGC members; resource persons. Information will be circulated beforehand.

12:30 pm -meeting was adjourned for the day.

Thursday June 21, 2010

Lindsay Staples (WMACNS Chair) • **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Christian Bucher** Government of Canada (Member) • **Doug Larsen** Yukon Government (Member) • **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:55.

The Chair wished everyone a happy Aboriginal day and happy solstice.

P. New Business- Strategic planning- wildlife conservation and management plan

The Chair discussed the status of the Council's Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan.

He explained that the Plan was reviewed in 2008 by John Reid. John identified areas in the plan that were out of date with respect to legislation and changed circumstances as well as some editorial changes. The Chair explained that due to John's background working on the Beaufort Sea Strategic plan of Action, he was familiar with the Arctic environment. John identified gaps and deficiencies in the plan and recommended options and language for update. The Chair explained some examples of deficiencies in the plan like the department of environment key wildlife areas, the marine protected areas, ocean management planning exercise, and the oceans action plan.

Michelle Sicotte additionally worked on the plan and provided many of the editorial comments.

These two reviews of the plan provide the Council with a scope of the work required to update the plan. The Chair explained that in the entirety of the plan probably about twenty-five percent or more of it requires updating.

The Chair went on to explain that the plan was written in three volumes: Volume one- a general introduction to the North Slope in plain language, Volume two – a technical document, and Volume three and action and implementation plane where actions are assigned to parties.

The Chair explained that the plan was recommended by the Council but not signed off by the government. The decision of the day was that to get all governments to formally approve the plan would seriously compromise the content of the plan.

The plan is strategically important as it is the way to implement the conservation regime outlined in the IFA which would become practically important if discussions regarding the future status of the withdrawal order arose.

The Council discussed the merits of the different versions of the plan. It was decided that volume three the implementation plan should be revisited and adjusted from its large number of actions with many responsible parties to something that is reviewed every three to five years with approximately five priorities for the Council and other parties to work on.

The Council identified the following strategic priorities that the plan should address:

1. Transboundary populations
2. Ecological monitoring
3. Data management
4. Species- Polar bear
5. Coastal erosion- climate change
6. Site planning- Herschel island (landing strip), sheep creek site plan.

The Council agreed that these actions items should be reviewed every three to five years.

The Chair suggested that when revisiting the WCMP, we should make sure that the EISC and community conservation plans complement this one. When completed, the Council will look at reprinting and producing digital copies of the plan.

The Council briefly discussed data management and using the Council website to link to other existing databases. The Secretariat will check how often the website is used with the website host.

The Chair commented that if the WCMP effectively becomes a work plan for the Council. In the context of conservation planning, Danny posed a question about the GNWT monetary rewards for the harvest of wolf, in a conservation regime.

Danny further explained about traditional knowledge, he said that some traditional knowledge is out of date and local knowledge needs to be looked at also. He explained that traditional knowledge was developed in a different set of circumstances that we see today.

The Chair raised that the Long Term Research Plan (LTRP) also needs updating. The council discussed various monitoring initiatives, and commented on the reliability of older technologies such as the water gauge station which collects water level data.

Q. New Business- WMAC (NS) Strategic planning

The Chair reviewed the summary of discussion and comments regarding WMAC (NS) activities from 2004-2007. The Chair updated members on the status of each item. Of the 27 items, most have been completed or are in progress. The Chair commented that a lot of work has been done on traditional knowledge over this time. The Chair discussed the work that has been completed on muskox since the time and how much we have learned in the process of completing the muskox plan.

The Council agreed that the six priorities identified in the WCMP discussion would guide the Council's activities over the next year.

R. IFA research funding

The Council briefly discussed research projects, but due to a lack of information about project expenditures the topic will be revisited.

Action 06-10-16: The Secretariat will ask Dorothy and Ramona to put together information about their IFA research fund needs.

Action 06-10-17: The Secretariat will organize a teleconference to reallocate additional IFA Research funds after gathering the appropriate information.

Motion 06-10-02

To adjourn the meeting.

Moved: Danny Gordon

Second: Christian Bucher

Motion carried.

S. Adjournment

The Chair adjourned the meeting at 1:10pm.

Approved:

Chair, Lindsay Staples

Date

Secretariat