



## MEETING MINUTES

WMAC (NS) Quarterly Meeting  
Herschel Island · Yukon North Slope  
July 23-28, 2011

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**Lindsay Staples** (Chair) · **Rob Florkiewicz** Yukon Government (Member) · **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) · **Christian Bucher** Government of Canada (Member) · **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) · **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat) · **Christine Cleghorn** (Secretariat) · **Richard Gordon** Yukon Government, Herschel Island Park Ranger (Guest) · **Stephanie Muckenheim** Yukon Government IFA Policy Analyst (Guest)

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### **A. Call to Order**

The meeting was called to order at 9:10am. The Chair thanked Richard Gordon for hosting the Council on the Island. He mentioned that the reason for meeting on the land is to familiarize ourselves with the areas for which we provide management advice.

### **B. Review and Approval of Agenda**

The Chair reviewed the agenda. He noted that Christian's appointment has been extended by one year on an interim basis, pending re-appointment by the Minister for a regular term.

#### *Motion 07-11-01*

*To approve the agenda for the July 23-28, 2011 meeting.*

*Moved: Ernest Pokiak*

*Seconded: Rob Florkiewicz*

*Motion carried.*

### **C. Review and Approval of Minutes**

The Council reviewed the March 16-17, 2011 minutes. The action item to meet with the Aklavik HTC was discussed. Danny noted that there will be elections in August so the Council should make best efforts to make it to Aklavik to speak with the new HTC board. He acknowledged that issues around enforcement are subject to some misunderstanding in Aklavik, and that it would be important for the Chair to help clarify these issues in Aklavik. The Chair noted that these issues

are not well understood even between some governments, and that this confusion is understandable. Discussion arose about the utility of revising the enforcement fact sheet as a means of addressing this confusion. The Chair pointed out that there are new regulations proposed within national parks to regulate subsistence hunting; this is one significant step forwards in clarifying and harmonizing these regimes.

The Council discussed moving the timing of the fall meeting closer to the Game Council meeting.

**Action Item 07-11-01: The Secretariat will look into options for moving the WMAC meeting dates and inform members as soon as possible.**

Rob noted that there are a number of pressing issues that we would need to move forward with if the Council doesn't meet in September.

*Motion 07-11-02*

*To approve the minutes for the March 16-17, 2011 WMAC (NS) meeting.*

*Moved: Danny C. Gordon*

*Second: Rob Florkiewicz*

*Motion carried.*

The Council reviewed the June 13<sup>th</sup>, 2011 teleconference meeting record and suggested the following changes:

Page 3- “Rob noted that most of the hunting activity is from the Tuk boundary westward (**in reference to the maps**)”

Last paragraph, “another is to better define the subpopulations **for** harvesting...”

Page 4 –remove sentence “In Nuuk he heard that there would be no oil development....”

*Motion 07-11-03*

*To approve the minutes as for the June 13, 2011 WMAC (NS) teleconference as revised.*

*Moved: Ernest Pokiak*

*Second: Rob Florkiewicz*

*Motion carried.*

The Council reviewed the June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2011 teleconference meeting record and had no changes to suggest.

*Motion 07-11-04*

*To approve the minutes as for the June 30, 2011 WMAC (NS) teleconference*

*Moved: Rob Florkiewicz*

*Second: Danny C. Gordon*

*Motion carried.*

#### **D. Review of Action Items**

The Council reviewed the status of action items; updates to action items are shown here:

Action 05-09-09: The Secretariat will inquire with the Canadian Wildlife Service and/or Wendy Nixon to determine how alternate Canada members for WMAC (NS) have been designated in previous years. **In progress** Ifan or Sherri can confirm our working understanding of the process.

Action 06-10-06: Revised. Following discussion by the Chair and the Yukon member with the appropriate Yukon Government officials, write a letter to the Yukon Government recommending/confirming tag administration for grizzly bears in the Aklavik Grizzly Bear Hunting Area. **In Progress**. The Chair, Rob, Dan Lindsey and Shelly Marshall will meet on this matter. Rob clarified that game management sub-units are no longer used in Ivvavik National Park for grizzly bear. This meeting should occur prior to our joint meeting with WMAC(NWT).  
Action 06-10-07: Revised. Following discussion by the Chair and the Yukon member with the appropriate Yukon Government officials, write a letter to Yukon Government recommending/confirming tag administration by the Yukon Government for polar bear hunting in the South Beaufort polar bear management zone. **In progress**.

Action 03-11-12: Organize a teleconference to discuss the COSEWIC Status of Grizzly Bear and the grizzly bear NDF. Members were asked to review the status report and discuss on the call.

Action Item: 09-10-02: Discuss research priorities with the AHTC in December to get an idea of their priorities for research. **Outstanding**. Will revisit when we next meet with Aklavik HTC.

Action Item: 12-10-04 Write a letter to the AHTC, Minister, and IGC stating that our Council views the amendment to the trapping concession boundary as administrative and have no objection to it. **In progress** Discussed the issue with Billy Storr, who will bring back to AHTC meeting.

Action Item 03-11-02: Revisit and allocate 2011/12 project money at the summer meeting. **In progress**. Project allocations are on the July agenda

Action Item 03-11-03: Write a letter to the federal and territorial ministers of Environment recommending a quota increase of two bears to convey motion 03-11-03 increasing for Inuvialuit hunters the quota of YNS grizzly bears by two bears. **In progress**.

Action Item 03-11-04: The chair will meet with the AHTC to discuss the quota increase, the distribution of the harvest and option to provide “additional opportunity tags. **Outstanding**. Planning with the AHTC has been underway. Lindsay will try to arrange a meeting in September.

Action item 03-11-05: To clarify the distinction between regular and special meetings as well as discuss who is responsible for the payment of honoraria. **Complete.** Lindsay raised at June IGC meeting.

The Council discussed the possibility of the JS applying for more implementation funds for HTCs to meet the increasing expenses due to the higher demand of meetings to do regular business.

Action Item: 03-11-06: Lindsay to speak with Larry Carpenter to ensure that both WMACs are agreed on the next steps for the study and the final report and product. **Complete**

Action Item 03-11-11: WMAC (NS) will coordinate grizzly bear NDF comments with the Yukon and have members review, and schedule a teleconference to submit comments. **In progress** Comments have been discussed, waiting for final version from YG. The teleconference was held and both processes discussed. WMAC will work with Yukon to finalize these comments.

Action item 04-11-01: Yukon to consider measures to ensure harmonization with NWT seasons, by issuing tags to the Aklavik HTC by mid-March with an effective date of April 1 – March 31. **Complete.** The Council discussed doing factsheets, or a briefing note on tag seasons.

Action Item 04-11-2: The Council with work with YG and submit comments on the COSEWIC Draft Status Report on Grizzly Bear. **Outstanding**

Action item 04-11-03: Arrange a working group to discuss caribou DU. Dorothy, Troy Hegel and Council to go through the new draft of the caribou DU report focusing comments on management roles. **In progress.** The Council will discuss comments at July meeting.

Action item 04-11-05: Draft Council comments in response to the FJMC CMB imitative. Draft comments as a “think piece” and distribute to IFA orgs. **In progress.**

Action item 05-11-06: Secretariat to research past "lessons learned" for spatial data collection in monitoring programs. Members to provide office with names of relevant people in this field

## **E. Correspondence**

The Chair reviewed correspondence and focused on the following:

*Porcupine Caribou Management Board Recommendations to the Parties.* This document presents the PCMB’s recommendations and rationale to the Parties regarding the harvest management zone and associated management actions that should apply to the herd over the coming year. Members were encouraged to review the document as its implementation affects Inuvialuit harvesting Porcupine Caribou.

*DC Marine Maintenance Report.* This document outlines the maintenance inspection by Shell of the SDC that is stationed off Herschel Island. The inspection indicates no concerns with the vessel. In particular, the steel was noted to be standing up to marine conditions well, and not rusting.

*ArcticNet Western and Central Canadian Arctic Bulletin.* ArcticNet is a research program and network of scientists partnering with Inuit Organizations, businesses, and provincial, territorial, and federal government departments.

*Parks Canada Western Arctic Field Unit Update.* This bulletin updates research activities including in Ivvavik National Park.

*Superintendent's Notice: Recreational Sport Fishing in Ivvavik National Park.* This is a change in the limits for recreational fishing in the park.

*Scientists and Explorers Act License.* The Chair noted that there are a number of research permits that have been issued which are on topics that are of interest to the Council.

**Action Item 03-11-04b: The Secretariat will write to Jeff Hunston, Manager, Heritage Resources Unit, Tourism and Culture, YG, to tell him that we are interested in receiving copies of anything in ISR, as well as asking him what their process is for monitoring and tracking information flow (i.e. final reports that are submitted).**

Porcupine Caribou Management Board Sale, Trade and Barter Guidelines. This letter was drafted to reflect the discussion held at the Council meeting in March.

WMAC(NS) letter to PBAC Regarding Draft Terms of Reference for Polar Bear Administrative Committee. This letter clarifies the Terms of Reference of the committee in relation to the IFA. The Chair provided context for our letter.

IGC letter to WMAC(NS) Requesting Increase in Grizzly Bear Quota for Yukon North Slope.

Yukon letter to WMAC(NS) Regarding Review of Regulations related to the Porcupine Caribou Herd. This letter responds to our earlier correspondence of February, and notes that our concerns are being addressed since the Harvest Management Plan is being implemented.

IGC letter to WMAC(NS) inviting us to the Inupiat Inuvialuit Agreement Annual Meeting. This year it is hosted by the North Slope Borough. The Chair committed to reminding the meeting that Yukon is a governing range state.

WMAC(NS) will provide the IGC with our comments stemming from our review of the II Agreement.

AHTC letter to WMAC(NWT) outlining their concerns and discussion regarding the polar bear quota and boundary change. Danny provided additional context for the letter.

#### **F. Report from the Chair**

The Chair explained that a tremendous amount of his time has gone into Polar bear management, since we last met. He has been working on the National Conservation strategy, PBAC TOR, and the south Beaufort boundary and quota adjustment. He noted that on many of the polar bear initiatives, it has been a success with both Councils working together.

Lindsay explained that he went to Ulahoktok for the WMAC (NWT) and the IGC meeting. He explained that the WMAC (NWT) spent 3/4 of a day on the polar bear discussion on the boundary and quota recommendations. Both councils drew the same conclusions from their discussions. It was a totally paperless meeting and the Chair was impressed. There was a high level of interest expressed in meeting more with the WMAC (NS).

During the IGC meeting there was considerable focus on the NEB review. The Chair explained that Christine had applied for intervener funding to attend the NEB Roundtable to be held in Inuvik at the end of September. She applied for financial support for Lindsay, Ernest, Danny and herself to attend. It may be helpful to coordinate our presentations with the WMAC(NWT). We are likely to talk about this at our joint September meeting.

The WMAC(NWT) is going to dedicate considerable resources to the environmental impact assessment review of the Tuktoyaktuk highway. The Council discussed the implications of the Tuk highway in relation to the Yukon North Slope. The Secretariat will obtain copies of the new Order in Council regarding the withdrawal order, from Stephanie.

The Chair reported on the international oil spill conference in Portland. He attended sessions on oil spill response, management, contingency planning, clean-up, environmental risk assessment, etc. Environment Canada's Espace project with coastal mapping work was a good program to learn about. A large focus of the conference was on the "Blue Horizon" spill. In the closing plenary, the incident control manager for BP spoke, he presented work that the scientists were doing and what people on the ground were doing. He mentioned that coordination for the spill response was a tremendous undertaking.

Main themes during the conference included:

-oil spill prediction and fate modeling: predictive models, what will happen to the oil- under certain conditions. Depending on where oil is and what it is doing, your response can be very different.

- oil spill response: how to you manage your response on the ground operationally. There were 40,000 people involved on the ground with Blue Horizon. Close collaboration between government and BP allowed for mobilizing people and assets that would have taken government alone much longer to mobilize.

-Compensation. Workshops on fingerprinting oil so that you could track who liability was attributable to.

-Response, including skimming, in situ burning, booms, dispersants.

-Dispersants, Dispersants can be less toxic than the oil. Sub-lethal effect on marine organisms of dispersants requires more research. The effectiveness of using dispersants depends on a range of conditions, including water temperature and and turbidity. DFO is involved in toxicology studies on dispersants.

Most presenters held the view that the response to the Blue Horizon blow-out was an effective response to a horrible problem. The ecological damage is apparently less than the Exxon Valdez spill in Prince William Sound.

Lindsay thought that the conference was highly valuable. From a council perspective we could be meaningfully involved in spill mitigation in assisting planners and responders in identifying important areas of ecological significance. The council could also be involved in worst- case scenario development to ensure that it reflects what really is the worst case.

The Chair also reported that he attended a Joint Secretariat Board meeting. He noted that the Council may want to review the JS annual report to better understand the scope of the JS board. He noted various operational challenges that the JS faces. He spoke about the plans to increase the capacity of the administrative side of the JS. The Board has done a tremendous amount of work in operational planning.

The Chair discussed the utility of gathering knowledgeable people to codify some of the operating norms and history of the IFA bodies. People to be involved may include: Allan Koprowsky, Liz Snider, Scott Alexander, Lindsay Staples, and Norm Snow. When the bodies sit down to renegotiate the IFA implementation funds, this tool would be in place. In the first meeting the process could be codified, a second meeting could be held to educate a broader audience. The Council will suggest to hold this meeting before Christmas.

**Action Item 07-11-02: The Chair will draft a letter on behalf of the JS board to hold a two- part meeting to bring together knowledgeable people to write down some of the history of IFA bodies operations (not described in the IFA or otherwise). The**

**first part would be to codify understandings and the second part would be to educate a broader audience.**

The Chair noted, in closing, that he is sensitive to the fact that he and others have done this work for a long time and a great quantity of material that is not written down. It is more and more important that we get these things down for succession planning.

## **G. Financial Report**

**Action Item 07-11-03: The Council decided to thoroughly review and adjust the budget in September in order to better plan for the end of the year. Add this to “the bring forward file”.**

Jennifer reviewed the budget with the group, pointing out any departures from the draft budget the Council reviewed in April. The Chair directed members' attention to the surplus and outlined a strategy for addressing how to ensure that we are able to meet the demands of the issues we are working on (polar bear, for example) while we are still being strategic with our resources. He described the intent of the "other Meetings" line item as it differs from the regular meetings of the Council, and as it differs from the Workshops and Conferences line item. Jennifer noted that it will be necessary to purchase a new printer and a computer for the office. She reviewed the project list and provided a précis of each potential project. Because we operate on a cash basis, we have to manage our finances conservatively as we have no buffer if we overspend or if the Yukon government is late in issuing our quarterly cheque. Ernest suggested it might be a good policy to replace office equipment every 5 years. It was decided to purchase iPads for Rob and Christian. These will be ready for the September meeting; this line item was adjusted upwards. Christian advised the Secretariat to investigate renting a copier/printer instead of buying a new one.

Jennifer reviewed the July budget and provided background information to the Council about the various line items. The Chair noted that we have applied for intervener funding to attend the NEB Roundtable in Inuvik, which will be a significant cost savings for the Council to the extent that we are successful in receiving that funding.

The Chair asked the Council to finalize the 2011/12 budget, which required that the projects be finalized for this year. Projects, other meetings, and assets are all line items with significant changes from the last meeting we had. He noted that with the Herschel book project, there are no new extraordinary costs for this project, but Chris continues to call on the Secretariat and the Chair to facilitate his completion of the book.

Two outstanding questions on the budget were whether or not to continue with the Wysocki contract on the Borderlands review, and whether or not to make a contribution to the Borderlands this year. Christian commented that the whole Borderlands project seems to have gone in a new direction, yet there are some comments in the package from parties, like the PCMB, who clearly



have stated their interest in spatial data. The Chair reminded the group of an outstanding action item to do a review of recent lessons learned about community monitoring. With respect to community based monitoring, it would be prudent to not repeat the mistakes of the past and important to learn from our experiences. Danny commented that ABEKC is trying very hard to make good changes; this was evident at a Borderlands meeting he recently attended. Jennifer described these changes in greater depth, based on her perspective as an ABEKC board member. Data management, data storage, cost implications of spatial data should all be considered, but a key consideration should be about clarity regarding the need and use of collecting the information in the first place. The Chair noted that the integrity of the information is critical to the use of that information; if people don't have faith that the data is good, they won't use it in their resource management decisions. He reminded the Council of their correspondence to ABEKC which stated that our primary interest in their information is specifically regarding Porcupine caribou. The Chair suggested that the most important learning from a query into the use and abuse of spatial data in monitoring would be to feed it into the new discussion about community-based monitoring that will be in led by the new working group.

**Action item 07-11-04: Secretariat to develop 3-5 page piece on spatial data and community based monitoring for circulation to Council members for continued development and then circulated to the working group. The Secretariat to subsequently turn this into a briefing note on spatial information that Wayne can contribute to (pay him for a day).**

The Council agreed to complete a briefing note of lessons learned from spatial data in-house, (2 days internally), circulate it to the Council members, and then engage Wayne for a day if he has the time, and then convey the information to Borderlands and the CBM Working Group. This reduced the budget line for this item from \$18,200 to \$1,200.

Motion 07-11-05

*To accept the 2011/2012 budget as revised*

*Moved by Rob Florkiewicz*

*Seconded by Ernest Pokiak.*

## **H. Research Reports**

Hughes (Director of international permafrost association) and Beatrice, (a microbiologist specializing in polar environments), arrived to report on their research project at Herschel island. Both work in partnership with Wayne Pollard (McGill University), and their work relates to permafrost. They are looking at a range of topics and use the past as a reference for future. They have been trying to gather information about past to recreate the history on the Island. They hope to create a Pleistocene archive. They explained that 35% of the world's coasts are permafrost coasts. Very few people are looking at the dynamics of the coast. Herschel is eroding at a rate of .5-1 m per year. They assume this number to be similar on many areas of the coast. They are also

looking at land thermokarst. Pointing across the bay at an obvious landslide, they noted that it is one of the largest in the Arctic. Most melting happens in August and September. Hughes talked about the sediment coming from the slump feature, as it delivers substantial amounts of sediment into the water and this effects microorganism and fish and polar bears up the food chain. A lot of dissolved organic carbon that is in the ice in the permafrost. The carbon is coming in the sea and is up taken by organisms.

Beatrice noted that the biggest natural source of organic carbon is in permafrost being released into the atmosphere. Carbon is a rich source of food for microorganisms. Carbon becomes available for microorganisms as permafrost melts. These microorganisms become active in the summer, in the *active layer*. The bacteria release methane into the atmosphere. In the upper layer there are microorganisms that can consume methane, so permafrost is a source and a sink of methane. Now the system is out of sync because the oxygen eaters are not as adaptable as the methane producing organisms. What is happening here is changing the balance on the globe - more methane is being released in the arctic.

Ernest wondered if it is happening slow enough to allow time for animals like caribou and polar bear to adapt. Beatrice responded that it depends on life cycles and that is why microorganisms adapt so quickly. The bigger animals adapt by moving to conditions that they are used to.

### **eSPACE Research**

Melanie Carriere from the eSPACE program, along with Blair from Carleton University, presented their research and activities to the Council.

Blair described his PhD research which attempts to use remote sensing to monitor changes to tundra through modeling. He is comparing methodologies to see which one is better to monitor tundra. The work will produce spatial and temporal map of green up, shifts in plant communities, and comment on whether this is a sufficiently robust tool to use vegetation as a proxy for climate change. He is confident that his work will be able to predict on a broad scale. The Council will have access to Blair's high resolution images for the coast and Herschel.

Melanie described the eSPACE project. Originally the project was started to map the shores of Northern Canada. The SCAT manual requires some knowledge of shoreline conditions, and most of this information was missing for northern Canada. They are using videography acquired by helicopter. The second step is for a manual interpreter to view the video and enter the information into the system.

They also want to gather cultural resources. Coastline has been mapped- but they are classifying areas- i.e. sandy beaches, saline marshes etc to determine important areas, and cultural resources would be important to include. Melanie assumed that the mapping work would be completed in the next year. The earth observation part of it is a two year project. So far 20 shoreline types

have been described for espace. Once a segment has been decided, they fill out a form with characteristics.

Goal is to freely develop and spread the information - products will be spread to groups.  
Objective is to improve emergency response for oil spill.

The Chair talked about ways of feeding in Inuvialuit perspective to the videography. The better the information is, the better the response can be.

**Action item 07-11-05: Council to contact Melanie from eSPACE to determine a way to feed local information into the project. Secretariat to get some guidance from eSPACE and then provide information to them. Get the PowerPoint presentation from Melanie.**

**Action 07-11-06: Christian to provide PC archeology information to Melanie from eSPACE.**

Lindsay talked about the WCMP and identified the coast as important. Environmental sensitivity mapping along the coast is really important.

## **I. Report from the Members**

Ernest reported on the CITES meeting he attended, and Quebec polar bear harvest issues.

Rob updated the Council on the Porcupine Caribou regulations, and noted that this fall work will begin to replace the regulations that are currently in place with regulations that reflect the PCMP. The Chair requested that WMAC (NS) have the chance to review these regulations in draft when they are developed.

Rob raised the Richardson Sheep Management Plan, and noted that VGFN is the lead for the next stage. Although it is being implemented through the surveys, it is still a draft plan. The Chair suggested that he would be available for a one-day session with other chairs to get the plan to its final version if this is what it would take.

Rob also raised the Wolf Conservation and Management Plan. It is about to be circulated to aboriginal groups and agencies for comment. It focuses very strongly on trapping as a means of management.

Christian noted that the State of the Park (SOP) Report is due soon. These comprehensive reports focus on ecological integrity and visitors in the park as well as research in the park. The SOP report informs the management plan, and thus it is an important document. Sheep creek is an area this council would like to pay attention to in the upcoming management plan.

Christian also spoke to the Parks Canada Western Arctic Field Unit's Research and Monitoring Report. This is the 10<sup>th</sup> year it has been produced. The Chair noted that the roll-up of research in July 23-28, 2011 WMAC (NS) Regular Meeting

this format is very valuable, and that it would be useful if YG could produce something similar. Rob responded that YG- Environment is currently producing a roll up of highlights year over year, as a means of providing information and results back to Yukon public.

**Action 07-11-07: Rob to inquire to Yukon if a multi-year roll-up of IFA-funded research work could be done. The working assumption would be that WMAC(NS) would not cover the costs of this production., but a YTG IFA-implementation cost.**

Danny C. Gordon reminded the Council that there will be an AGM for the AHTC soon in Aklavik. Danny posed a question about enforcement of bylaws at Shingle point, as his experience is that Beluga bylaws are not being enforced. Lindsay suggested talking to Yukon enforcement to find out what the situation is.

The Chair commented that beluga bylaws fall under the FJMC and it may be worth following contacting them for clarity in the mater.

Christian suggested doing an agency presentation to the HTCs to pass on what each group knows and is responsible for, over a haf day or a day so that each group knows what roles and responsibilities are of various agencies.

The Chair asked Stephanie if she had anything to report. Stephanie provided an update on implementation funding. She explained that Yukon still does not have an agreement with Canada for IFA funds for this year. Canada had proposed a three -year agreement, which was pulled back and now going back to a one- year agreement. She anticipates that IFA implementation money should be almost \$1 million this year. Almost half goes to Herschel operations. Surplus from last year will be going to Herschel park, wildlife research and spread out over boards and councils.

The idea of developing a consultation protocol was raised during the WMAC (NWT) meeting. Consultation is something that is not defined in the IFA, as it is in the UFA. The WMAC(NWT) has had to address the issue during the recent GNWT wildlife act discussions; the issue has also been raised around the YG Porcupine caribou interim regulations. The IFA co-management boards and IGC may want to come up with an agreed upon process to consult by.

**Action 07-11-08: Secretariat to gather illustrations of what consultation protocols look like, for September. This would be a start to the conversation in Sept. Over time something would be developed as an administrative protocol, related just to wildlife matters.**

**Action 07-11-09: Christian will provide examples of protocols he has to the Secretariat. He has a digital copy that he can send around.**

**Action 07-11-10: The Secretariat will circulate the NDF protocol.**

## **J. Herschel Island Book**

The Council considered the request from Chris Burn to be the publisher of his upcoming Herschel Island book. The book has been circulated in its draft form over the last few days, and in the past we have contributed money to the book. Chris' memo details his request; there is minimal financial liability for the Council and a small amount of work that would be involved. Chris' intent is not to make a profit from the book; proceeds would go back into either benefitting elders who wish to visit Herschel, or another use that the Council deems appropriate. The book has an interested press identified (University of Calgary) who would deal with the publicity and distribution. Christian expressed his view that this would be a low risk project for the Council to take on. Rob asked what the minimum print run would be, and clarified that the proceeds from the book would be donated. The Chair suggested that Chris make a note in the book or to authors regarding the process if people want to reprint certain sections. Ownership of the individual chapters is to the author, although the copyright with the book is for the layout. Meaning that people couldn't reprint the chapter in this format without permission. The positive components of this project are that it would be a good project to be associated with and it falls clearly in our mandate.

Motion 07-11-06 to accept the role of publisher for the Herschel Island book.

Moved by: Ernest Pokiak

Seconded by Rob Florkiewicz.

Motion Carried

**Action 07-11-11: Write a letter to Chris Burn to clarify our assumptions and accept his invitation to be the publisher. The letter will lay out the work we are prepared to take on, and that our approach for the proceeds will be cost-recovery and then donating the money to a useful and appropriate project or program.**

## **Herschel Island Park**

Richard Gordon provided a short update of activities on Herschel this year. The last cruise ship is scheduled for August 27. Edward McLeod, one of the Rangers in previous years, is taking this year off from working as a Ranger. Paden Lennie is replacing him and will start a Renewable Resources program in the fall. Edward will notify Richard by January as to whether he will be coming back next year.

Co-operating with Heritage, the Rangers tried to lift the Community Building as it is sinking. A paint crew is coming out here in the next week; they will be doing the floors and a number of exterior buildings. He noted that each year is different as far as the number of researchers and the kind of research they are doing, and the number of visitors. He assured the Council that the park is operating within the management plan. Airstrip use, a concern in the past, has been addressed by having only Aklak and a 206 owned by Northwright flying into the park, and all aircraft are using tundra tires. A twin otter on floats is not available out of Inuvik. The Chair noted that at some point the Council may need to revisit the airplane and airstrip discussion in order to meet the operational needs of the Park. Richard is doing a capital equipment inventory at

the moment. He is considering how to create more facilities for researchers on Herschel, as it seems like their presence continues to increase. Richard will provide the Council with his season final report in the fall.

### **K. Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan**

Christine led a brief discussion on the plan. She updated members on where she was at with the redrafting and review stage of the plan for Goal A. She advised that further direction from the Council would be helpful in a couple of areas.

**Action 07-11-12: The Chair directed members to review “Goal A” by the end of August and provide high-level direction to Christine on the plan.**

She explained that she anticipates getting direction out of the NEB discussion on risk and assessment. She reminded members that the vision for the plan is to treat the whole North Slope as an integrated area. This is very practical given the Herschel Management Plan, Ivavik’s management plan, and the CCPs. The area remaining is the area east of the Babbage with has the withdrawal order in place as a management tool. The IOMP for the offshore is another piece to fold in, but there is no implementation money for that plan, so the WCMP plan could adopt the goals of the IOMP if that was appropriate.

### **L. Muskox**

The Council now has the fieldwork summaries for Muskox work from the past year. Danny noted that he saw five muskox calves on Herschel three weeks ago, but Ricky said that the grizzlies had taken two of them. The fieldwork summaries indicate that no calves were spotted in the survey area that was flown (ANWR to the Babbage). The Chair took the Council through the trends in muskox from the 1980s until now. These latest fieldwork summaries will be included in the muskox management plan.

Dorothy is working on various components of the plan revisions, but it is Parks Canada who has the original maps that need to be updated.

**Action Item 07-11-13: Christian will contact Dorothy to clarify what she needs and help facilitate information transfer for maps related to the muskox plan.**

Rob pointed out that although there have been low calf numbers, there has been almost no change in the overall population in the last five years. He noted that during the Richardson's sheep survey they spotted at least 30 muskox.

**Action Item 07-11-14: Dorothy to give us a capsule synopsis on the population status including conversations with the GNWT and put together a picture for us of what people have seen and what people have surveyed. To present in September or prior to the meeting with the Aklavik HTC.**

The Chair said that redrafting is underway and we need an updated population status for 2011, as well as a map component. Rob offered to contact Dorothy to go over the updated population status for 2011 and a map component for the plan.

### **M. Grizzly Bear**

The Chair reviewed the grizzly bear materials in the binder, including the draft resolution passed by the WMAC(NS) at the last meeting. The resolution needs to be revised to reflect that there are no longer any game management zones in the national park. In our previous discussion we discussed an increase of the quota of two bears, based on a population of 100 bears. The resolution also indicates that we suggest that one of the bears be taken in the park, and one closer to Aklavik. There should be a discussion with the AHTC regarding this matter. What the resolution leaves out is the notion of opportunity tags, as discussed at our last meeting. If the quota were 11 bears, in the past 11 tags would be issued. We discussed opportunity tags to address the under harvest that has been happening over time. There was considerable discussion about this at the last meeting, and this is a matter that implicates the HTC as they are the ones who administer the tags. The issue at hand is about access to opportunity and the HTC is the best body to deal with that. This year for the first time in approximately 15 years, the full quota was met. Danny explained that the bears he saw were fairly small. Danny raised an issue around the uncertainty of the accuracy of people reporting where they harvested. The opportunity tag is excluded from the resolution because we haven't had this conversation with the AHTC, and the full quota was met this year.

The Council had a short discussion about the merits and issues regarding the opportunity tag concept. The concern about a higher harvest near Aklavik is a question that the Council was concerned with. It is clear from Ramona's work that there are home ranges involved, and the management assumption has been that those bears are moving around. The TAH for the YNS was 11, the quota for the YNS was 9, and two bears from the YNS TAH were assigned to the NWT portion of the Aklavik Grizzly Bear Hunting Area a number of years ago.

The Chair suggested deferring the opportunity tag discussion and leaving the resolution focused on the increase in the quota by 2 bears. Ernest linked opportunity tags with the distribution of tags in Aklavik, and contrasted that with the way that the Tuk HTC administers tags. He was not trying to say that the Aklavik HTC should do what the Tuk HTC does; he was saying that HTCs can find the right solutions for their communities. He also noted that the bears move around quite a bit especially during mating. Renewable officers are managing the animals and they should be vigilant about making sure people are following the rules. The Chair summarized that members were comfortable excluding the opportunity tags from the resolution.

The resolution is clear that in a year's time when the study analysis is complete, we will revisit this issue and the management of grizzly bears overall, including a discussion with

WMAC(NWT). The ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan is over ten years old; we are anticipating that there will be management and plan implications once the final report is known.

**Action Item 07-11-15: The Secretariat will update the Total Allowable Harvest for grizzly bears table as well as find an appropriate map to describe the area. Lindsay will send the table.**

Danny asked that Lindsay come to Aklavik to explain the resolution and present it to the AHTC. The Chair and Secretariat will work to organize a time to meet with the AHTC on this. The Chair suggested that this could also be on our agenda for our meeting with the WMAC(NWT).

**Action 07-11-16: Meet with the AHTC on the Grizzly bear quota, then send a letter to Yukon Government with a transmittal letter to explain the quota resolution.**

## **N. Jurisdictional Review**

The Chair briefly reviewed the paper prepared by Nigel Bankes and explained that this paper was not circulated broadly, but was shared with the WMAC(NWT). It was an effort to inform people; to educate them about the legislative landscape for polar bear management. The paper provides the Council with more information to exercise our mandate in the way that we do.

Rob commented that there is still some ambiguity, particularly the “gaps and ambiguity” section on page 21.. The Yukon perspective is that there are differing legal opinions about who has jurisdiction in this area - it could be the Government of Canada or Yukon. There is an argument for Yukon jurisdiction in the offshore, and differing legal opinions on this matter. The Chair noted that the focus of the paper was the legislation, and there is an anomaly between the two Acts that establish territorial boundaries.

The Council suggested that a map might be helpful to accompany the paper.

**Action Item 07-11-17: Ask Nigel to put a disclaimer on his paper to state that the paper reflects the views of the author and not those of the Council.**

## **O. National Energy Board**

Christine briefed the council on the NEB roundtable in Inuvik in September. She provided a summary to the council of what other groups have submitted to date, as well as what this council has said.

Christine urged the council to think about what it could uniquely say. She reminded people that this forum is about conditions that should be attached to licenses for offshore drilling, it is not about whether or not drilling should occur.



The Council discussed the same season relief well drilling concept. In perfect conditions in the Gulf, it took BP several months to drill a relief well for the Blue Horizon spill. Expectations have developed that the time-delay in drilling a relief well and capping a blowout in the Arctic would require that a relief well be drilled at the same time as the primary well.

Lindsay mentioned that there has been a lot of work done to look at the BOP (blow out preventer) in the BPs case. There was a failure of the preventer. In the last few months there has been a lot of work looking at BOP and redesigning them. So in the Arctic we want to make state of the art technology paramount.

The Chair raised the difference between deep water drilling vs. shallow water drilling and seeking clarity on this matter.

**Action Item 07-11-18: Christine and Lindsay to organize a discussion with Norm Snow for a briefing before the roundtable review.**

Danny said that we should also discuss ways of transporting of oil/fuel as part of the review-how are people planning to transport the materials.

Lindsay said that we could suggest that effort goes into planning vs. response. The Beaufort gyre and currents are changing, spill fate assessment: can we predict where the oil will end up? In the winter in the past, assessments showed that it would end up on the coast of Alaska, but there probably needs to be a refresh on oil fate planning. Spill models from 30 years ago would need to be overhauled.

It was noted that the Council would be well positioned to comment on research and information input over time. It was suggested that there is a need to build into the planning system that information and research gap-filling is not a one-time exercise, and that frequent updates and ongoing research should be a part of the regime.

Ernest commented on relief well drilling and how important it is for response and preventing emergencies. Ernest spoke about the cost/ risk of not doing that and how do you put a price tag on that.

Lindsay recommended reviewing the IFA for the worst case scenario provisions and flag those for the NEB.

**Action item 07-11-19: Christine to draft and send around comments on the NEB roundtable themes.**

## **P. Wildlife Research Funds - allocations**

The Council considered how to reallocate the \$60,000 YG surplus funds. Rob discussed the possible projects that could receive these funds. The Council also reviewed the original CWS proposal for the Coastal Ecological Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Tool.

After thoughtful and considered discussion, the Council determined the allocation of the \$60,000 to be:

Conditional recommendation to CWS Coastal Ecological Vulnerability and Risk Assessment Tool: \$25,000 (of which Wendy has already been informed about 10k).

**Action Item 7-11-20: Ask Wendy to provide the Council with a scoping exercise for the coastal project for \$25,000.**

YG Grizzly Bear: \$17,500 be committed to completing the grizzly bear population study.

PBTK: 25k (subject to further discussion). More information is required with respect to the overall budget for this project. The council will bring this item forward at the Joint WMAC meeting in Sept.

*Motion 07-11-07: To recommend an additional \$17,500 of IFA implementation funds to the Yukon North Slope Grizzly bear project.*

*Moved by Rob Florkiewicz*

*Seconded by Danny C. Gordon*

*Motion carried*

Harvest Data Collection Model: more information is required with relation to the budget requirement. There is currently 10k allocated.

**Action Item 07-11-21: Inquire with the JS where they are at with implementing the harvest data collection requirements and find out where the money is coming from. Gather this information for the Sept meeting.**

Polar Bear Coastal Distribution Flights: The Chair explained that we need more information on this project about how far offshore the survey goes. Rob explained that the project would use the Alaskan study to see how far they are tracking out, and use radio-collar info to see how far out they would track. The idea is to look at their distribution and the timing of that distribution. Danny noted, from his last IGC meeting, the IGC's request for research to go out further on the sea ice. Ernest noted that the Amundsen saw Polar bears far out in the offshore.

Rob reiterated the need to go to Aklavik and query their research interests and priorities.

## **Q. Community Based Monitoring**

Jennifer provided an overview of the summary of the Community Based Monitoring workshop that happened in Inuvik. She detailed the presentation made by her and Dorothy about the lessons learned through the Borderlands experience. The Council endorsed a view that the quality of the information being collected is of supreme importance, and the importance of being very clear at the outset on the purpose, intent and utility of a monitoring regime. Why do we need this information? Why do you want to collect it every year?

The Council also reviewed the new ABEKC questions regarding caribou. They also reviewed the questions being proposed under the new Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management Plan.

For the ABEKC survey questions on Porcupine caribou the Council recommend that they consider the implications of small sample sizes within the survey. It is something to think about in terms of what you want at the end. Is there a way of having a sample that is combined? This is a factor that will affect the outcome of the survey and the quality and reliability of the findings for management purposes.. Ernest noted the importance of being consistent and using the same people year over year, and ensuring that credible people are selected for the interviews in the first place.

**Action 07-11-22: provide Council comments to ABEKC on the new survey related to Porcupine caribou. Dorothy and Marsha to review.**

#### **R. Caribou Designatable Units**

Rob reviewed the DU for Caribou, previous comments from the Council, and his focused review as far as implications for the ISR and the Council. The criteria for the DU is around species and subspecies, ecotypes that could be grouped together, etc. pg. 14, line 436 there is a reference to Peary Caribou coming down as far south as Old Crow. This is inaccurate and also referenced in line 562. The context is DU3 not the home range of Peary Caribou. Should include " (barren ground caribou)." This needs to be clarified. There is a little confusion in line 620 lumping 40 mile and Porcupine as Grant's caribou. They go on to say there are no phylogenetic differences between barren ground and Grant's caribou. Statement about subspecies needs to be clarified. This is rectified later in line 682: no differentiation between those two populations within the subspecies. Line 731 re genetic similarities: 'Historically they were throughout" would be a better opener than "they are separate" and then line up their evidence to say that the two are the same. Line 685: no comprehensive geomorphology: it is a bit messy about how they treat the Porcupine Caribou. This is a Canadian document so we should introduce the idea that Porcupine caribou range into Alaska.

**Action Item 07-11-23: Rob to draft a short letter on the Council's behalf that highlights the points raised on the caribou DU.**

#### **S. Parks Canada Regulations**

This fall there will be a round of consultations on new regulations for national parks, including in Ivvavik. Christian explained the context and rationale for the regulation changes. In 2002 when the National Parks Act was revised, it included a recognition of aboriginal rights. Aulavik and Tuk Tuk Nogait were created under Park Establishment Agreements, giving aboriginal peoples rights to carry firearms for the protection of their clients against polar bears. This put the establishment agreements and the Parks regulations in conflict, as the parks regulations say no firearms in parks. Over the last 10 years Parks Canada staff has been trying to update the regulations to recognize aboriginal rights. The new regulations will give effect to the rights of aboriginal people under their park establishment agreements. The new regulations allow Inuvialuit to carry firearms while they guide within the parks. Non-aboriginal people would be able to hire an aboriginal guide to carry firearms for protection, if they want to go into the park. If an aboriginal guide is not available, then a superintendent can issue an order allowing someone to carry a firearm. The Council has commented at length in the past on draft regulations, although this iteration of the draft regulations is considerably different than what we have commented on in the past. It recognizes an Inuvialuit harvest tag. It is the possession of the tag that provides a means for enforcement.

#### **T. Polar Bear Traditional Knowledge Project**

Rob, Jennifer and Lindsay met with Jodie Pongraz last Friday for a project update. The Chair reviewed the background of the project and brought members up to date on the project. The second round of interviews happened this year, and are being transcribed right now. The interview transcripts from last year have been partially coded. This year's transcripts will be ready for September. Jodie has been working on the coding to date. She is going on maternity leave in early August. There is a lot more coding to do.

The way forward is that a work plan is needed for the remaining steps and tasks to complete the project by the end of 2012. There is a substantial amount of coding left to do, as well as analysis, verifications, write-ups and more. We will need to provide direction forward on this project in Sept. The Council discussed hiring a contractor to complete the work. Hiring a grad student might be an option. We need to block out the component parts of a work plan: timelines, deliverables, and how the tasks will be carried out. It is clear that GNWT and CWS will need to be the major funders of the work. Ernest expressed his conviction that it is important that the study be robust enough to be suitable for CITES. Discussion to be more comprehensive at the September joint meeting

**Action item 07-11-24: Christine and Jennifer to develop two pager about what the deliverables could look like for the PBTk project as well as outline components of workplan.**

The Chair also reviewed the SARA listing for Polar Bear. He noted that EC is now into a 30- day comment period (gazetting) and they are looking to accept the recommendation that it be listed as threatened, which requires a management plan but has no hunting prohibitions.

**Action item 07-11-25: Write a letter supporting the listing SARA listing for Polar bear.**

#### **U. North Slope Conference**

Stephanie briefed the Council that YG is getting money for a North Slope conference in 2012/13. September 2012 looks like the best date, built around the IGC meeting. Theme TBD.

The Chair suggested adding a modeling workshop to the NS conference agenda to explore and explain the rationale for modeling; its uses and abuses; and its strengths and weaknesses.

#### **V. Upcoming Meetings**

Inuvialuit-Inupiat Joint Polar Bear Commission. Anchorage August 2-3, 2011. Chair and Secretariat to attend.

September 6-8 (WMAC NS), including September 7 joint WMACs meeting in Whitehorse.

WMAC(NS) December 4+5 in Inuvik.

Arctic Ungulates, Yellowknife, August 22-26. Christine to attend. Christian attending through Parks, Danny attending through IGC.

NEB Roundtable, Inuvik. Lindsay, Ernest, Danny, Christine to attend.

Polar Bear Range States Meeting: Iqaluit, October 24-26.

Aboriginal Traditional Knowledge Meeting. Inuvik. October 1-3.

Meeting with Aklavik HTC. The Chair should meet with the Aklavik HTC in August.

TRAFFIC workshop: Feb/March 2012.

Polar Bear TC Meeting: Jan 31- Feb 2, 2012.

CITES planning meeting November 9, Edmonton.

#### *Motion 07-11-07*

*To adjourn the meeting*

*Moved by: Danny C Gordon*

*Seconded by: Rob Florkiewicz*

*Motion carried.*

Meeting adjourned at 4:58 pm Wednesday July 27.