



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

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MINUTES OF QUARTERLY MEETING

June 28 & 29, 1994

Whitehorse, Yukon

Present: Lindsay Staples (Chair) Don Russell - Canada
Hugh Monaghan - Yukon Nelson Green - IGC
Jonathan Parker (Yukon secretariat) Vicki Sahanatien - PC
C. McEwen (recording secretary)
Lucy vanOldenbarneveld (secretariat)

Absent through illness: Donald Aviugana (during June 28 p.m.)

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1310 hours. Welcomes were extended to Hugh Monaghan upon his return to the Council, to Vicki Sahanatien replacing Bill Smith as the alternate for the Government of Canada, and to Nelson Green from Paulatuk replacing Renie Arey. John Russell was welcomed in absentia to the Council as the alternate for the Yukon Government. He holds the position of Regional Manager of Renewable Resources in Dawson City. Lucy vanOldenbarneveld was welcomed and introduced to the Council members as part of the secretariat team effort. Hugh Monaghan offered that both John Russell and Dorothy Cooley had meant to attend the quarterly meeting but unfortunately had conflicting schedules.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

Additions to agenda:

F. Financial Report:

- b. auditor's report
- c. '94/95 workplan

G. Old Business:

- 1. Grizzly-bear management plan "Harvesting Rights/Bylaws"
 - c. muskox harvest
- 12. IFA Workshop

The Chair tabled a letter just received via fax from the Inuvialuit Game Council identifying a request from the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee to hunt muskox in the Yukon. This was added to the agenda under G.1. c. muskox harvest.

The Chair explained that given this was the first quarterly meeting of the Council for three of the new or returning members, the meeting would represent an informational session on many of the issues.

Motion: *To adopt the amended agenda.*

Moved: Don Russell
Seconded: Nelson Green
Motion carried

C. Review & Approval of Minutes of March 31, 1994 Teleconference

Motion: *To adopt the minutes as presented.*

Moved: Don Russell
Seconded: Donald Aviugana (this motion was seconded and carried June 29, 1994)
Motion carried

D. Review of Action Items

*** **ACTION # 28 Point system for Aklavik grizzly bear harvest**

Hugh Monaghan elaborated that the point system is still an option for hunting grizzly bear if the Aklavik HTC so chooses. This past spring, YTG tried to facilitate a hunt and for the sake of expediting the spring hunt, ~~the more elaborate point system was not initiated.~~

retroactive to Spring 1994 if this is the desire of Aklavik HTC

ACTION #5 Compilation of YTG wildlife research projects funded by IFA implementation funds

To be discussed later in agenda.

ACTION # 30 Caribou/muskox interactions

The Chair provided background information for the sake of the new members on the concern for caribou and muskox interacting. Attention was drawn to the recently released issue of the newsletter of the council, Wildlife Watch, whose information was meant to allay some of the early alarm.

ACTION 94-02-03: Status of MOU between Yukon Fisheries & DFO

Hugh Monaghan said no Memorandum of Understanding existed between YTG and DFO, although it was attempted. The issue is complex, given the fresh and anadromous fisheries and the capability of FJMC beyond DFO. It is not clear in the IFA how the mandate of WMAC (NS) relates to that of FJMC. The WMAC (NS) and the FJMC have divided

responsibilities on the Yukon North Slope whereby through an informal understanding FJMC addresses fisheries matters and WMAC (NS) addresses all matters related to other wildlife. YTG is not providing a main focus on the North Slope, given the efforts of others there and YTG's interests elsewhere. It would be useful to review cooperative arrangements for fisheries management on the Yukon North Slope between the appropriate agencies, FJMC and WMAC (NS).

ACTION 94-02-11: Bill Smith will follow-up with DFO and FJMC on the opportunity of a water quality/volume researcher on the Yukon North Slope. Vicki Sahanatien will follow-up.

ACTION 94-06-01: *WMAC (NS) will recommend that Don Toews and Bob Bell meet at the North Slope Conference to inform or update one another on their fisheries efforts regarding the Yukon North Slope and , if required, identify areas for cooperation.*

ACTION ITEMS OF TELECONFERENCE MEETING

March 31, 1994

Whitehorse, Yukon

ACTION 94-03-01: *The Aklavik HTC should move quickly if they are going to pass a by-law for hunting grizzly bear in the Yukon portion of their hunting area in time for the spring hunt.*

In the end, WMAC (NS) sponsored the meeting, was greatly assisted by the IGC for gathering the necessary bodies together in Aklavik and carried out the meeting. Efforts to organize the meeting in Aklavik were made by Richard Binder and also Bruce Hanbidge. The necessary resolutions for managing the grizzly bear harvest on the North Slope were passed.

ACTION 94-03-02: *WMAC (NS) requires a letter of response from the Yukon Government regarding their recommended approach to the regulation, by-law compliance and proposed by-law.*

No letter received, deferred to later agenda discussions.

ACTION 94-03-03: *The Chair will approach the Yukon Government and the Inuvialuit Game Council suggesting they meet to address the issue of financial contribution by YTG to the Inuvialuit Harvest Study.*

This was discussed at the June principals' meeting and will be discussed later in the agenda.

ACTION 94-03-04: *The Council will develop an IFA workshop agenda for the fall through discussions with the involved parties.*

For further discussion as an agenda item.

E. Correspondence

The Chair referred the members to one specific piece of correspondence - from the Flyway Council - requesting review comment on the review of the roles of the Flyway Council. The Chair explained that no response was provided from WMAC (NS) as there were other priorities at the time. In the past, WMAC (NS) has tended to defer to them, to avoid duplicity. Clearly, if a WMAC (NS) member feels this matter should be a priority with the council, it could become one.

F. Financial Report

a) Monthly Statements

The Secretariat presented the March 31 statement in detail. Given that the auditor's report is not completed, the statement is draft and does not represent the final year end statement. A number of accounts (GST, The Conservation Plan, and Honorarium) will have some reallocations of expenditures which will change the final numbers as presented in the draft statement. However, for a view of where most of the monies were spent, the draft statement is useful.

The Chair explained that the Council has been assuming more responsibilities, such as the past year's efforts on Grizzly Bear management and hunting quotas. Under different circumstances, much of this work could have been carried out by the Aklavik HTC and YTG. Nonetheless, a meeting was facilitated in Aklavik by late April, by-laws were passed by the HTC, endorsed by IGC, tags were made available by YTG and a spring bear hunt was enabled. The completion of the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan is imminent. There is still much work to be done regarding the regulation of grizzly bear hunting on the North Slope. For the sake of clarity in the budget, the grizzly bear expenses were broken out separately. Expenses occurred incrementally over the course of activities during the year. The lesson is one of better planning.

Vicki Sahanatien expressed concern for the lack of information on draft grizzly bear by-laws which came to her or Bill Smith. Apart from one call from the Secretariat regarding how Parks Canada will effect its regulations and how it currently deals with killed problem bears, neither she nor Bill knew anything more of the regulations and by-laws situation. She requested an improved system of communication as both would like to participate in further discussions.

The Chair acknowledged that Bill Smith had expressed great concern about being uninformed while enroute to the meeting in Aklavik. The Joint Secretariat facilitated the meeting arrangements. It was a great effort on their part to enable the meeting. Some communications may have fallen between the cracks of the Joint Secretariat and WMAC (NS) efforts given the time constraints in organizing the meeting. Otherwise, information came out of the WMAC (NS) office during the course of the winter. On a regulations basis, Parks Canada also has its own regulatory challenges with regard to grizzly bear by-laws and complimentary park regulations.

Hugh Monaghan stated that he felt the issue was not as complex as was made out. He asked what the contract to Delury and Associates produced, beyond the letter and analysis.

The Chair explained that there was significant correspondence generated behind which lay extensive analytical work of the legislative implications of regulatory and by-law options. The analysis also addressed the jurisdictional differences between the NWT, Yukon and Parks Canada and the different provisions affecting grizzly bear management the North Slope in the Western Arctic Region. YTG should have copies of all the significant correspondence as all council members have copies.

F. b) Auditor's Report

The Chair tabled a draft letter from the auditor's office. Basically, all is in good standing. The auditor's report is unfinished basically because a letter of interpretation is required from YTG regarding the contribution agreement and the treatment of funds carried forward from the '93/94 year to the current year. Approximately \$16,498 was carried forward as committed funds to go towards the production of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan. As the '93/94 year end represents the end of the three year contribution agreement, an interpretation on carry forward is necessary from YTG. In past years, WMAC (NS) has carried forward funds. FJMC also carries forward funds from one fiscal year to the next, as do certain federal agencies. Any committed surplus of WMAC(NS) has always been assigned to the Conservation Plan which is a statutory requirement of the Council. YTG has also contributed its surplus funds to the Plan.

Jonathan Parker said YTG has no interest to recover the \$16K. A mechanism needs to be found to allow this, else YTG's position is likely to follow the policy of all YTG contribution agreements. He reiterated that what made this past year end significantly different from others was that it represented the last year of a three year agreement.

ACTION: 94-06-02: *The Yukon Secretariat will undertake to respond to WMAC (NS) pertaining to the committed surplus in WMAC's budget between the past and current fiscal year of approximately \$16K.*

F. c) 94/95 Workplan

The Chair asked for direction from the members as to how to allocate the \$34.4K within the workplan tasks, as presented in the April and May statement. The Chair provided a brief overview of background materials on the tasks:

- Wildlife Cons. & Mgt. Plan - implementation & monitoring
- North Slope Conference
- Muskox hunting
- Reciprocity on membership
- by-laws & regs, legislation
- IFA workshop

The list represents issues anticipated as occupying some of the Council's time within the current year, as discussed and agreed at the February quarterly meeting. Thus far, no budget details have been attributed to any task. Discussions of budget allocations to these issues were left until later in the agenda discussions.

G. Old Business

1. Grizzly Bear Management/ "Harvesting Rights/Bylaws"

a) Current Status

John Nagy will have the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan completed shortly, possibly by the end of July. The by-laws of the HTC's are now separate from the Plan.

b) By-laws & YTG Policy Change

The Chair introduced the topic by acknowledging that although there are Aklavik HTC by-laws in place for grizzly bear hunting in the Yukon and adjacent NWT, they have inherent weaknesses which were recognized at the time of the April meeting in Aklavik. For the sake of facilitating the spring bear hunt from Aklavik, all parties agreed to accept the proposed by-laws with the understanding that improvements would be made to the by-laws and corresponding regulations prior to next year's spring hunt.

~~With respect to corresponding regulations within the Yukon, the Inuvialuit want the regulations to compliment the by-laws without binding the Inuvialuit. Regulations should not be more restrictive and should not be inconsistent with the intent of the by-law.~~
accept regulations which are consistent

For Parks Canada, the regulations overhaul is a major exercise with Bill Smith now recruited to work with the communities and consult prior to reworking the regulations. Rather than deal with one species at a time, Parks Canada prefers to deal on a regulatory scheme and on the role of Ivvavik National Park on the North Slope, perhaps as a sanctuary. The process for changes to parks regulations is very specific and different from the process which may be YTG's.

At the recent Protected Areas Conference held in Ottawa this past spring, it was identified that the National Parks policy has been influenced by "what's good for Banff National Park is good for all parks". This presents challenges for reform for northern circumstances. Inuvialuit harvesting rights outside or within a park are paramount. In earlier drafts of the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan, Ivvavik National Park was going to be a "kill-free zone". That was changed to "0 quota". The implications are obvious. WMAC (NS) wrote a letter to Parks Canada inviting the initiation of regulation changes to better reflect the IFA, and it is good to see the action of a staff position for regulation changes and that being Bill Smith who is so familiar with the IFA.

From YTG's perspective, wildlife regulations on the North Slope may be a problem of dual expectation. When the IFA was negotiated, YTG was specifically exempted from any responsibility for by-laws, thus by-laws are not to apply to the North Slope in any legal sense. The Council, as the co-management instrument is to sort through

management problems, reflecting the IFA in the created regime. The Yukon Wildlife Act does not reflect the IFA and will need work this fall to initiate change. Two things are needed: a more thorough administrative regime in place for next spring; and a long term Yukon Wildlife Act rebuilding, bringing it to terms with the IFA.

ACTION 94-06-03: *WMAC (NS) recommends that all parties identify a person(s) for discussion of the administrative arrangements for management of the harvest of grizzly bears on the North Slope and that in separate discussions YTG and the Inuvialuit achieve agreement on the arrangements by December 31, 1994 and that Parks Canada and the Inuvialuit achieve agreement on the process for arriving at an agreement by December 31, 1994. The WMAC (NS) Chair and Secretariat will play a facilitating role. Nelson Green will recommend contact person(s) for the Aklavik HTC and IGC representation in the discussions with YTG.*

Hugh Monaghan explained that YTG requires a policy change to deal with the hides and other valuable parts of problem grizzly bears as to the intent of the Aklavik by-laws. A letter received from the Minister will be granting John Russell powers and authority to give effect to the policy of handling the hides of problem bears. The final version of this letter is imminent.

YTG sees a number of undefined problem areas and will be seeking legal opinion for an interpretation. In the case of muskox hunting, the Yukon Act clearly prohibits their hunting, but it is poorly understood how this is effected by the IFA. Similarly, with the Withdrawal Order, YTG will be seeking a legal interpretation for a broader opinion on its status.

Nelson Green cautioned that there are few legal opinions with experience in the negotiation of the IFA. Any legal opinion that goes against Inuvialuit interests will force the Inuvialuit to arbitration.

G. 1. c) Muskox Harvesting

The interest expressed by Aklavik hunters to hunt muskox raised numerous questions about muskox management and a harvest:

- what's the distribution of the herd?
- if the herd is predominantly in Ivvavik National Park, then it is a park management issue, as much as it is a YTG issue
- harvesting rights of Inuvialuit are secure within Ivvavik National Park
- what would be a manageable harvest quota, based on conservation and human safety?
- it is important to speak with Pat Reynolds in Alaska who has been doing muskox studies in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge - there it has been found that the muskox population is not increasing beyond a certain density, thus there has been an eastward emigration of the animals
- it's time to sit down with Aklavik hunters to better understand the situation

as well as east & south of the Park & it is a shared management respon. btwn Parks & YTG

- it's not clear to YTG whether the Order In Council regarding special protective status for muskox applies on the Yukon North Slope, yet it precludes aboriginal harvest in southern Yukon
- presumably there would be sport hunting interest in muskox by Yukon residents if the species was no longer protected

ACTION 94-06-04: *With regard to the Aklavik Inuvialuit interest to hunt muskox in the Yukon, and in time for the fall meeting, YTG and Parks Canada will prepare a report outlining an assessment of the Yukon muskox population for the purpose of a management plan and determining an allowable harvest quota. Information gaps are to be identified. Cors Smits and Martin Raillard will assist with the report. Information will be sought from the Aklavik HTC as to their level of harvest interest and use. The Secretariat will write the IGC informing them of this course of action in response to their letter of June 28, 1994.*

ACTION 94-06-05: *Hugh Monaghan will table YTG's views on Inuvialuit harvesting rights east of the Babbage River, for the fall quarterly meeting.*

G. 2. Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan

a) Review and Consultation

The Chair briefed the members on the status of the Plan. Over the past month internal review comments have filtered in. None have been too difficult to accommodate. Some further discussions are needed with Dave Murray and with Hugh Monaghan. Vicki has also to respond with her review comments.

The review within Renewable Resources was extended to Economic Development (to oil and Gas, and to mining), Tourism, and Community and Transportation Services. Only one red flag was raised with this extended review, that being whether the Plan properly interprets the Withdrawal Order and processes associated with it. YTG will be seeking a legal opinion to clarify this. Hugh Monaghan wanted the minutes to show that YTG would support the release of the Plan with minor editorial changes as already discussed, under the proviso that YTG look further into the red flag issue and that they seek the assistance from the Chair to assist with an understanding of the IFA for other reviewers within these other departments. Many comments that came forward from the review were not so much a difficulty with the plan as they were a lack of understanding of the IFA.

Hugh Monaghan complimented the writer(s) of the Plan for the precision with which it was written, and for the manner in which the plan reacquaints people with the IFA. It is understood that the Plan is the Council's, not YTG's nor Canada's.

The discussion focused on the time frame of further external review of the Plan. At the North Slope Conference on September 14 -16, the focus will be on prioritizing the actions of each of the objectives of each of the five goals of the Plan. The Plan will not be the subject of debate at the conference. However, between now and mid-September, all effort will be made to finalize the draft for review, distribute it, meet with people to discuss their

comments and make the necessary editorial changes for the final plan production and printing. For the purposes of the participants of the North Slope Conference, a summary document of volume II will be produced and distributed prior to the conference. This summary will briefly introduce each chapter and have a full listing of the objectives and actions of the Plan - in effect, chapter 8 of the Plan.

ACTION 94-06-06: *For the North Slope Conference participants, a separate Summary Volume of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan will be made available as soon as possible for the distribution in the mail. The Summary will contain an introduction of each chapter of the Plan and a full version of Chapter 8 - Objectives and Actions of the Plan. This document will be used at the workshops at the Conference.*

Consultation with various reviewers of the Plan will be required and a trip to Vancouver, Calgary and Ottawa is envisioned for 7 to 8 days in August. Nelson Green and Lindsay Staples will do the review tour, subsequent to the tour they will produce a set of review comments and seek Council discussion.

Meeting adjourned at 1715 hours.

Wednesday, June 29, 1994

The Chair called the meeting to order at 0915 hours.

G. 2. b) Monitoring Workshop

A north Yukon ecosystem monitoring workshop was held during June 6 -7 in Dawson, which WMAC (NS) organized with Don Russell. It was the culmination of various developments from a number of sources. Canada's Green Plan addresses four issues: contaminants; ozone depletion and UVB radiation; climate change; and the maintenance of biodiversity. There are national initiatives to establish eco-science centres across Canada to monitor change. Parks Canada has a mandate to monitor and maintain ecosystem integrity and CWS is now in the position, after 20 years of caribou research and population monitoring, to step into monitoring broader ecological issues which appear to effect productivity of the Porcupine Caribou herd. Within the long term research plan recommended within WMAC(NS)'s Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan, ecosystem monitoring is identified as an action for conservation. It is a step beyond species management, looking at the whole system together.

The June workshop was tailored from a more formal event in the Atlantic region. Participants broke into four working groups: framework; members; community involvement and database management. A summary report of the discussions of this meeting will be forth coming. Ideally, an ad hoc working group will meet this summer to move along the process, before the bigger body of participants meets again. Originally, it

was thought that such a meeting could occur around the time of the North Slope Conference, but that may not be possible given the numerous meetings already taking place.

Parks Canada should be part of the ad hoc working group.

ACTION 94-06-07: *Secretariat will work with Don Russell to facilitate a meeting of the ad hoc ecosystem monitoring group.*

G. 3. IFA Funded Wildlife Research

d) 10 Year Review

Hugh Monaghan tabled a draft 10 year review. The review is unfinished as it requires the YTG A-base contribution (in terms of staff time) assigned to each of the wildlife projects. This should be available by late summer. Otherwise, most is in order. One report is outstanding - a wolf report - Bob Hayes is back from his academic leave and will be preparing the report some time this year.

There has been lapsed funds - in the early years, and in the last two years with the habitat mapping project. There is now a technical and administrative group which meets regularly to track the funding. Under normal circumstances, there is a fall reconciliation of the IFA funding. It did not happen in the last two years, but will recommence this year.

Nelson Green stated that in certain years, IGC is short of funds in some areas and lapsed dollars from elsewhere would be useful to cover the shortfalls. Communications between YTG and IGC should be stronger. Nelson Green urged YTG to attend IGC meetings to report on their activities.

ACTION 94-06-08: *Hugh Monaghan will establish if any collars remain on wolverine from Dorothy Cooley's wolverine project and report back to the Secretariat who will inform Donald Aviugana.*

ACTION 94-06-09: *Hugh Monaghan will contact Dorothy Cooley and establish what is to be done with the wolverine carcasses now being stored with Donald Aviugana and Jacob Archie and follow-up with Donald and Jacob.*

G. 3. b) Project Updates

Hugh Monaghan tabled an update on the Wildlife Habitat Mapping in the Richardson Mountains Project and verbally reported on the status of the wolf project conducted by Dorothy Cooley - five collars have been removed from the wolves and were not replaced due to the neck condition of the wolves; a number of collars are on the ground for the Canadian Wildlife Service to pick up and one satellite collar remains on a wolf until the fall. A discussion of the financials of the wildlife project will be done following the fall reconciliation of YTG's IFA implementation funds. It was acknowledged that lapsed year

end funds in the past may have been lapsed because of a YTG administrative freeze not allowing the reallocation nor the spending of such funds.

The program person from Wildlife Habitat Canada will be in Whitehorse in August. At that time it would be an opportunity to expose her to North Slope issues.

Don Russell emphasized the need to bring together the vegetation mapping efforts on the North Slope - Arctic National Wildlife Refuge work has been digitized and resides with CWS, the Richardson Mountains and coastal plain projects are digitized and Don's work of the '80's, though of less detail, is also available. All should be compiled and integrated. Jim Hawkings should be involved in any discussions. A researcher from the University of Western Ontario has also been mapping the Vegetation of the coastal plain.

ACTION 94-06-10: *Vicki Sahanatien will give Don Russell the name of the researcher from the University of Western Ontario who has been mapping the vegetation of the coastal plain.*

Hugh Monaghan asked for clarification as to whether the current year's YTG wildlife projects on the North Slope had been endorsed by WMAC (NS) and IGC. They were in fact discussed and accepted at the WMAC March 31 teleconference. They were subsequently presented to the IGC at their April meeting. In particular, the IGC endorsed the CWS Whitehorse proposal for a monitoring project. With no funds available to allocate to the project, IGC offered their endorsement should it be useful to lever other funding. John Nagy showed interest and Brian Pelchat offered \$10,000 to the project during the March teleconference.

- Don Russell provided an update on the current Porcupine Caribou herd project, albeit not an IFA funded project. This year is the third and last year for the productivity study. Calves of this spring were collared and will be monitored until the fall. This year marks the highest recorded birth rate and survivorship of calves ever reported with 70 calves per 100 cows. The average is 54 calves per 100 cows and the lowest recorded is 41 calves per 100 cows.

G. 3. a) Harvest Study

Background information was given by the Chair and by Hugh Monaghan. A summary of the points are:

- this topic has been an agenda item for some time now
- it was also discussed at the recent principal's meeting
- the request was tabled in the minutes of an IGC December '93 meeting with a motion for YTG to provide \$47.6K to the harvest study
- CWS may also have a \$10K shortfall to the harvest study
- harvest data from '93/'94 and till present was tabled
- there is ongoing effort to assess the effectiveness of the methods of harvest data collection; comparing against tag data and investigating the sources of discrepancies

between the different reporting systems; some inaccuracies have been found with the tag data

- at the beginning of implementation, YTG was approached for a contribution and offered a small amount; they understood the response to be “take your money and go”, therefore YTG concluded that the contribution was not material; consequently, they have never made a contribution to the study
- YTG has had reservations about the data and its usefulness, and at the principals’ meeting discussed its inaccuracies
- YTG views harvest data as crucial to wildlife management, but questions the cost effectiveness of the existing study and its accuracy

The issue is very complex and difficult. The IFA refers to collection of harvest data. Gwich'in to the south and west of the ISR are interested in dovetailing with the Inuvialuit Harvest Study. It is important that the data be accepted as the best estimate or sample for it to be useful to management and useful towards any compensation to hunters and trappers that should be necessary. The harvest data is available for any one to do their own assessment. IGC's point is that if an agency receives IFA implementation funds, as does YTG, then it must contribute to the Inuvialuit Harvest study. At a meeting held last November, partners of the study agreed to a revised budget of \$300,000. That was the opportunity for advancing the Harvest study over the next five years.

It was agreed that a decision on the matter would rest with WMAC (NS), once YTG did their own assessment. However, should the members of the council reach fundamental differences, it may require a decision between the direct parties or arbitration.

ACTION 94-06-11: YTG will do an internal assessment of the Inuvialuit Harvest Study data, including requirements for its accuracy and reliability, and the needs of YTG for such harvest data, now and projecting into the future. In addition to the technical review, the assessment should produce a substantive statement of need addressing the requirements of the North Slope, speaking about the management requirements of the North Slope with respect to the different agencies and the requirements of the IFA for harvest information.

G. 10. Herschel Island Territorial Park - Elder Host Program

Dave Ladret, with Yukon Parks provided an update on the current program at the territorial park as well as other programs:

- second year that park is fully operational with full compliment of staff - 4 park rangers (Colin Gordon, Lee John Meeook, Frank Elanik and Richard Gordon), 1 chief park ranger (Andy Tardiff) and 1 interpreter (Marlene Bailey)
- the elder host program will run again for a second year - parks has a list of interested elders for a 10 day stay at the island - they greet the visitors and retell stories - it is a very successful program from the visitors perspective and the elders
- desire to open an office in Inuvik
- in August there will be a water rescue/safety training of the rangers

- this is the first year there are no capital funds available, as planned
- two interpretive projects have been completed: a sealskin umiak was built by Alex Aviugana; and a traveling interpretive display of the park for use in schools (for which purpose a duplicate has been fabricated) and at the Inuvik Visitor Reception Centre
- during the '93 season there were 300 visitors to the park, many are rafters of the Firth River but also people coming off northwest passage cruise ships (100 visitors per ship stop), 90% of the visitors come in a 3 week period
- the existing O&M budget includes provision of funds for ongoing restoration, some planning and some of Dave's salary, YTG provides a certain amount of A-base fund

G. 6. Ivvavik National Park

a) Update

Vicki Sahanatien offered information on her professional training before taking the position of Chief Park Warden for Ivvavik National Park and on general park activities.

- given the increase in Parks Canada staffing in Inuvik (e.g. Bill Fox as cultural resources officer, Martin Raillard as ecologist, a GIS operator, etc.) there will be substantial resource people to draw from
- Ivvavik has 2 park wardens: Rhonda Markell and Tysson Pershee and three patrol people: Marvin Joe, Billy Archie and Roland Salamio
- monitoring campsite use and degradation along the Firth River corridor - two sites will be closed due to bare spots and trails - will encourage low impact camping with visitors
- tabled MOU "Procedures for the Administration and Management of Commercial Rafting Operations on the Firth River, Ivvavik National Park Affecting Inuvialuit Economic Benefits" - effectively there will be 20 dates for commercial operators of which half will go to Inuvialuit companies (one which is at least 51% owned by Inuvialuit)
- as to this season's research - north Yukon wide falcon survey in cooperation with Dave Mossop, archaeological work, grizzly bear work continuing as a major park initiative (tabled report of habitat classification of the Firth River), accolades go to Grant MacHutcheon for his thorough work, bear work will continue for final year next year

G. 6. b) Komakuk Beach

Administrative aspects with DIAND are continuing. Within the land transfer itself, clean-up is handled separately.

G. 6. c) Twinning

Tabled draft MOU for twinning Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and Ivvavik National Park. Parks Canada seeks WMAC (NS)'s comment and support on the initiative.

ACTION 94-06-12: Secretariat will seek comment and support from members regarding the MOU between Arctic National Wildlife Refuge and Ivvavik National Park.

It is possible that the MOU will be announced at the North Slope Conference. The Park Management Plan has been accepted though it is awaiting a signing off.

G. 6. d) Communications initiatives update

The terms of reference for a video on protected areas are under development. The communications between Yukon Parks and Parks Canada are through Andy Tardiff (who is taping at Herschel Island) and Gary Pittman. Gary has also hired an assistant from Aklavik.

G. 4. North Slope Conference & 5. CANMAR's proposal for tankering oil

- the last North Slope Conference was three years ago, YTG has an administrative obligation, as per the IFA, to plan the conference
- Chair of conference is Dr. John Naysmith, director of the School of Forestry at Lakehead University, he was involved in negotiation of the IFA with DIAND
- Janne Hicklin has been contracted to organize the conference, she organized the previous conference in Dawson and YTG is pleased to have her again this year
- thus far, letters of announcement of the conference have been distributed and formal invitations will follow pending the further development of the agenda
- following discussion with the council members it was agreed the agenda should include one full day of workshoping on the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan; there should be two panels Wednesday afternoon - one to deal with recent wildlife/environmental management plans affecting the North Slope, the other to deal with development and conservation on the North Slope, Friday morning would be a plenary as a follow-up to the workshop deliberations
- Nick Vanderkooy of CANMAR is interested in presenting a concept for tankering oil and gas out of the Beaufort for digest and comment - there was lengthy discussion as to how best to deal with such a presentation at the conference, given the focus and objectives of the conference, it was agreed there be a panel for Wednesday night consisting of Nick Vanderkooy, Ricki Hurst of DIAND to speak of government preparedness and Tom Beck

G. 7. EISC concerns

a) Log Salvage at Shingle Point

An update was given on the land use application.

- the application to harvest drift logs from the coast for a sawmill operation at the coast was granted a permit which was subsequently revoked because DIAND had issued the permit without receiving comment from the EISC
- the EISC requested comment from Aklavik - the response was basically favourable, yet no one wanted a sawmill at Shingle Point
- the application was screened by the EISC yet there was not sufficient information to draw a conclusion on the application, given the number of concerns raised by various parties
- the proponent is upset with the EISC as it rejected the application yet the community accepted it, Tom Beck advised he hire a consultant to assist with the application

- the original application has been significantly changed - the operation will now be based at King Point

G. 7. c) Prospecting/development permits

Maps prepared by Wayne Forsythe on the GIS which show the claims staked for mineral exploration near Paulatuk and Holman were tabled. The prospecting permits were issued without screening by the EISC. One of the areas staked represents the calving grounds of the Bluenose Caribou herd and is a proposed national park. There was no consultation with the permits in the park area, despite two years of negotiation with Parks Canada. The IGC sought advice as to whether this was against the Screening process. Now DIAND is getting a legal opinion. This involves more than Paulatuk. The Chairs of the IGC and IRC wrote for expropriation of the permits on Crown Land, with the threat of arbitration. The letter was silent on the permits on Inuvialuit lands.

ACTION 94-06-13: Secretariat to get copies of the letters sent by the Chairs of the IGC and the IRC to DIAND regarding the expropriation of permits on Crown Land.

G. 7. b) Research Permits

The EISC has taken the view that it wants all research screened. Their letter to NWT biologists conducting research without having been screened is an example of their position. There needs to be a process in place which acknowledges the IFA requirements for screening activities in the ISR without encumbering some types of activities such as on going long term research or renewals for land use permits. These sorts of activities should be considered for an exclusion list with the EISC. The bulk of the research work conducted in Ivvavik National Park is not IFA funded but all of the applications go to the EISC. This process ensures that the Inuvialuit are aware of any research in the Park.

ACTION 94-06-14: Chair will draft a letter to the EISC regarding expediting science research proposals which come from government.

G. 8. Workshop on Benefits of National Parks and Protected Areas in the North

Two workshops on the topic were attended by council representatives over the past year. The Secretariat and Danny A. Gordon attended the Northern Protected Areas Conference held last fall in Whitehorse. Council members were directed to the proceedings of a co-management workshop, held over the conference.

The Chair and Renie Arey attended a Workshop on Protected Area in Ottawa in the spring. Protected Areas Policy in the North was discussed as well as how national parks policy may not be flexible enough for conditions of parks established under land claims agreements. Proceedings of this workshop will be distributed to members once available.

G. 9. Computer Modem Linkage

For any council member who chooses to link on, the WMAC office is ready to talk.

G. 11. ANWR 1002 Lands Issue

In April, the Chair (representing WMAC (NS)), and Renie Arey representing the IGC, urged Canada to push the United States to protect ANWR. Many groups including PCMB, CPAWS and CWF made presentations to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs over a two hour period deliberating on the need to have the 1002 lands protected through wilderness designation. Prime Minister Chretien has reaffirmed Canada's position opposing oil and gas exploration on the 1002 lands, calling for wilderness designation and proposing "twinning" of Ivvavik National Park and the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

Nelson Green added that Canada has proposed no mineral exploration on the calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou herd in ANWR. The IGC and IRC used this position as arguments to DIAND when questioning why DIAND issued exploration permits within the proposed park near Paulatuk where the calving grounds of the Bluenose Caribou herd need protection.

G. 12. IFA Workshop

The Chair provided background information for the sake of the new members. The topic was discussed at the principal's meeting and all parties found value in such a workshop. Finding an acceptable and knowledgeable facilitator to all parties will require some thought. WMAC compiled a list of workshop topics from interested parties last winter. The nature and objective of the workshop would affect the topics covered. A general grounding in the IFA would be useful. So too would workshoping on specific topics. In the latter scenario, a facilitator/mediator might be most useful. The agenda of an IFA workshop needs to be set. This will not be the responsibility of WMAC (NS) beyond the list already compiled. Parks Canada will be holding their own IFA workshops.

ACTION 94-06-15: Based on the Yukon's understanding from the principal's meeting that the joint Secretariat will conduct a workshop on the IFA, the Deputy Minister will write to the Chair of the IGC to pursue such an understanding.

H. New Business

1. Routing of Information between WMAC, IGC, Aklavik HTC, PCMB, and other co-management bodies

It was deemed that this topic is best left to discussion at an IFA workshop.

2. CWS draft policy on Oiled Birds in Northern Canada

WMAC (NWT) and IGC have already approved this policy. Basically it acknowledges that it's too expensive and with little biological significance to treat oiled birds. The Valdez example showed that it's a lost cause. The policy's main concern is the prevention of spills. If a spill should occur, CWS will assist in the response through cleaning sensitive habitats, educating volunteers on how to clean birds and on CWS taking the responsibility to clean sensitive, threatened or endangered birds only.

MOTION 94-06-03: WMAC (NS) endorses CWS' draft policy on Oiled Birds in Northern Canada.

Moved: Vicki Sahanatien
Seconded: Donald Aviugana
Motion carried

H. 4. Principal's Meeting

Much of the discussions of the meeting have already been addressed through other agenda topics. This particular meeting was called at the request of the IGC to discuss outstanding North Slope and IFA implementation issues. More topics were then added to the agenda. The Implementation Coordinating Committee was established to focus on implementation issues. It has been inactive for several years but is being renewed. It represents a possible instrument for addressing Yukon-Inuvialuit issues. Alternatively, the parties can meet periodically to address issues and concerns.

H. 5. Operating Procedures

These operating procedures parallel WMAC (NWT) operating procedures. Several areas could stand for change:

- S.1.3.4 - WMAC (NS) has no vice-chair
- S. 2.1.1 - the Council is tending to have three meetings annually between Whitehorse and Aklavik and several meetings by teleconference
- S. 2.2.2 - financial decisions are always recorded with a resolution
- S. 4.1 Annual Report - we do annual activity summaries and a Term Report every 2 years
- S. 4.3 Media Communications - we have not done press releases after meetings - we publish a newsletter, three times annually
- with regard to the financial - quarterly reports are produced, the council has flexibility on calling audits

ACTION 94-06-16: Secretariat will draft amendments to the Operating Procedures for the Council's digest for the September quarterly meeting, drawing from examples of similar bodies where appropriate, and giving specific attention to financial reporting, authorization and auditing provisions.

F. c) 94/95 Workplan

At the last quarterly meeting in February, members identified areas of focus for the '94/95 year. No budget estimates were affixed to these items other than \$34,445 being available for the concerns. Members were asked to prioritize the projects with monetary allocations. The list of project topics was expanded to include: ANWR and under the Plan, Public Education. Members identified that the budget for the production of the plan should be fine tuned, rather than a lump sum of \$46,000. With regard to the tour by Lindsay and Nelson for review comments on the Plan, Ottawa was a likely stop, Calgary also, as well as local DIAND officials.

ACTION 94-06-17: Secretariat will cost out different options for the production of the North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan.



ACTION 94-06-18: *With regard to the budgets for the projects of the '94/95 workplan, the secretariat, chair and members will estimate costs to year end for the various tasks.*

J. Next Meeting

The next meeting will be Monday, September 12 in Dawson City.

ACTION 94-06-19: *Secretariat will make arrangements to find an additional half day of meeting time during the September quarterly meeting and the North Slope Conference.*

MOTION: *To adjourn meeting.*

Moved: Don Russell
Seconded: Nelson Green
Motion carried

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