



WMAC (NS) Quarterly Meeting
Inuvik/Aklavik, NWT
December Dec 7-10, 2012

December 7, 2012
Aurora Research Institute, Inuvik

Lindsay Staples (Chair) · **Rob Florkiewicz** Yukon Government (Member) · **Ernest Pokiak**, Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) · **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) · **Chris Hunter** Government of Canada (Member) · **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat) · **Rosa Brown** (Secretariat)

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4:15 pm.

The Chair welcomed Chris Hunter to the Council as the new Government of Canada member. Chris is replacing Christian Bucher, as the Government of Canada member. The Chair additionally welcomed Rosa Brown to the meeting in her new role as Secretariat.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

Members reviewed and approved the agenda as presented.

Motion 12-12-01

To approve the agenda for the December 7-10, 2012 meeting.

Moved: Ernest Pokiak

Seconded: Rob Florkiewicz

Motion carried.

C. Review and Approval of the Minutes

The Council reviewed the minutes from the October 2012 meeting and made the following comments and changes.

Comments: Danny raised concerns about low attendance at workshops during the polar bear traditional knowledge project confirmation tour, and poor timing of some of the meetings due to recent deaths in the communities.

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The Chair acknowledged there were some scheduling and communication challenges in coordinating the community tour. He explained that a second meeting has been requested in Tuk, however, there is no budget for another round of interviews. He explained that there would be a TK knowledge holder's workshop in late January, with two previously interviewed individuals selected from each community attending.

Peter Armitage will be preparing a best practices manual to guide future knowledge gathering activities. A manual for how to manage spatial data will also be developed.

Pg 1. Chris clarified the participation of Wendy Nixon as a representative of Canada, not Parks Canada

Pg 6. Chris suggested the following edits (*italics*):

- 'Firth River Management Guide' should be changed to, 'Firth River Management *Guidelines*'
- The responsibilities for the coastal mapping work that Donald was leading were given to *Paul Zorn*, Serguei Ponomarenko and others.
- Diane mentioned that the *historian position*, ~~one of the vacant positions~~, once filled could address this.

Motion 12-12-02

To approve the minutes for the October 2012 meeting, as amended.

Moved: Danny C. Gordon

Seconded: Rob Florkiewicz

Motion carried

The Council reviewed the minutes from the November 2012 teleconference and made the following comments.

Rob requested clarification of how the Inuvialuit Game Council addresses the PCH harvest monitoring requirements. The Council discussed several issues regarding harvest monitoring including the need to map out monitoring components to better understand where the money goes; who holds responsibilities for harvest data collection; and, concerns with using money as an incentive to encourage harvest reporting.

Motion 12-12-03

To approve the minutes for the November 2012 teleconference.

Moved: Ernest Pokiak

Seconded: 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 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. **Retired.** No longer relevant because the previous funding model appears to no longer apply.

Action Item 07-11-04: Secretariat to develop a 3-5 pager on spatial data and community based monitoring for circulation to Council members. **Retired.** Secretariat will focus on wildlife conservation management plan for the North Slope instead.

Action Item 09-11-01: Lindsay will draft a short response to Basile indicating that the Council's would like to discuss the recommendation with him in October. Indicate that after brief discussion between the WMACs it was felt that the response doesn't appreciate the amount of work and the consultation that went into the recommendation. Also it is the range jurisdictions that are the responsible Ministers here; this does not include the federal minister. **Retired.**

Action Item 09-11-04: Form a working group between the WMACs to work on tag administration and make sure that it has the implementing parties in it. RPs to identify a date for a one day meeting in Inuvik. **Complete.**

Action Item 12-11-01: Write a short letter to the BREA Research Advisory Committee indicating the need for improved coordination and integration between projects. Based on the presentations in the Inuvik BREA workshop in December 2011, this appears to be lacking, and copy the steering committee. **Complete.** Info provided and included in meeting pkg. BREA results workshop, February 18- 20, 2013.

Action Item 12-11-03: Secretariat to produce a briefing note on the research proposal process that would go out to the parties and encourage the parties to coordinate their proposals in the early planning stages. **Complete.** Included section in Call for Proposals asking that parties coordinate as best they can. There is strong coordination amongst parties in this year's proposals.

Action Item 03-12-02: The Chair to propose to the JS board a workshop on roles and responsibilities within the IFA. Propose to work from a few pieces (the previous workshop report, a strawman of the current issues). This could be a two- day event after the NS conference or in December. Lindsay will draft a letter to the Chair of the JS board to recommend this. The old proceedings will be appended. **Complete.** Lindsay to circulate report.

Action Item 03-12-03- write a letter of response to Environment Canada Poter letter and have Christian review it. **Complete.**

Action Item 03-12-05: Request a copy from Parks Canada of the compendium that accompanies the SOPR, when it is completed. **Complete.**

Action Item 03-12-08: Secretariat to go through the WMAC research guide to ensure that it is current. **In progress.**

Action Item 03-12-09: Secretariat to gather comments from members (editorial or other) on the final version of the muskox plan. Rob to review for technical information. **In progress.** The

section on the Richardson herd should be removed. The Council will work to bring it to next meeting.

Action Item 07-12-01: Secretariat to get foldable, laminated maps (including areas from Aklavik to the Alaska Border) to bring to meetings to facilitate discussions. Secretariat to make two copies and give one to the AHTC. **Outstanding.**

Action Item 07-12-02: Lindsay to send the EISC info to the council members and review it and provide comment to the EISC. Recommend meeting with the WMAC (NWT) and review the Ondrack correspondence. **In progress.** Will discuss with WMAC (NWT) on December 8, 2012.

Action Item 07-12-03: Send a letter to the PCMB to put out a newsletter updating people on where we are at with the harvest reporting program. **Complete.** Poster presented at North Slope Conference in October.

Action Item 07-12-04: Prepare the IFA funding package to circulate to members in advance of the Oct 1st meeting. This package will outline our proposal for implementation funding package that goes to DIAND. Members will have a chance to review and comment. We will still have opportunities to change what is in our proposal after the October 1 meeting. **In progress.**

Action Item 07-12-05: Send a letter to the Environment Canada Minister and the new Superintendent reminding them about the vacancy, and encouraging them to fill the vacancy. **Retired.** Vacancy filled by Chris Hunter.

Action Item 07-12-06: Draft a letter about the Herschel Island report and what happened with the Council's recommendation. Rob to verify whether this has already been paid for from IFA funds. **Retired.** Report received.

Action Item 07-12-07: To have a workshop in Aklavik during this fiscal year on the grizzly bear project. Invite both WMACs and Parks Canada. Ramona to present. **Outstanding.** Workshop will take place in 2013.

Action Item 07-12-08: Send a letter to EC regarding their research implementation funds. **Complete.**

Action Item 07-12-09: Lindsay to redraft the SoPR letter, incorporating the new comments, and then circulate it to the Council. **Complete.**

Action Item 07-12-10: WMAC to write a letter to Parks Canada thanking them for hosting us at Sheep Creek. Also provide general comments with respect to the site (e.g. use of tent platforms, improvement to the grey water system and to the outhouse, and the use of old storage batteries). **Outstanding.**

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Action Item 07-12-11: Revise the muskox plan to manage the approximately 100 animals that are mostly in the Park, and leave the Richardson Mountain animals out of the count. Rob and Lindsay to meet to review further revisions. **In progress.**

Action Item 07-12-12: Secretariat to contact Jen Lam to review the JS role in coordination of the community tour. **Complete.**

Action Item 07-12-13: Organizing a PBTk meeting in Whitehorse during the North Slope Conference and before Peter departs for his tour. **Complete.**

Action Item 07-12-14: The Council will prepare a draft response on the polar bear status report and circulate to members before submitting it. **Complete.**

Action Item 10-12-01: Council members review the research guide and provide feedback to the Secretariat. **Outstanding.**

Action Item 1-12-02: Provide a briefing to HTC about the history of withdrawal order at the December 2012 meeting. **Outstanding.** Presentation will be made at meeting with IHTC December 10, 2012.

The Council reviewed the agenda for Joint WMAC meeting the next day (December 8, 2012).

The Chair adjourned the meeting for the day.

December 8, 2012

Mackenzie Hotel Boardroom, Inuvik

Lindsay Staples (Chair) · **Rob Florkiewicz** Yukon Government (Member) · **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) · **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) · **Chris Hunter** Parks Canada (Member) · **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat) · **Rosa Brown** (Secretariat) · **Richard Gordon**, Senior Park Ranger of Herschel Island-Qikiqtaruk Territorial Park (Guest)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:50pm.

Council members shared impressions of the Joint WMAC meeting, which took place that morning. Comments included the need for more time to discuss topics in greater detail, and that the Councils appear to have a good working relationship.

E. Correspondence

The Chair recommended that Council members review the correspondence file and raise any items they would like to discuss later during the Council meeting.

F. Review of IFA Wildlife Research Proposals

Rob described the research proposals submitted by Yukon Government.

PCH Satellite Collar Project – Collars show where animals are moving through time. The info is delayed by two weeks and broadly circulated. This is an on-going project, partnered with PC.

Herschel Island Ecological Monitoring (YG Parks) – The recommendation of YG is to not advance this project. The 10 year project summary report has just been received. Time is needed to review the report and assess if changes to the monitoring program are required.

Action Item 12-12-01: The Council will review the Herschel Island 10 Year Report at the next regular council meeting (March). The Council will invite Richard Gordon to participate in the review. The program review will examine the integrity of the program and suggest how to advance and improve it, and will determine which monitoring work is necessary and which is supplementary.

Danny suggested that the Rangers have a lot of duties on their plate. Some of the monitoring collecting has been difficult (e.g. grass sampling). Some Rangers have problems with reading and writing, but otherwise know the land and are good workers. It was noted that some rangers might have been let go because they can't do the monitoring work.

PCH Rut Composition Survey – This survey ran last year as well. It is related to the new caribou population estimator model. The intention is to provide better info on bull:cow and cow:calf ratios etc. The project is cost shared with other agencies.

Danny raised concerns with promoting a bull-only harvest, noting that a bull in rut cannot be harvested and that many people cannot tell a young bull from a female. Rob agreed and stated that more communication was needed.

Establish Fuel Cache - Fuel will be used to support future work. There might be opportunities to cost share with PC.

Richard expressed concerns with how fuel has been dropped off at the Blow River site because it is dropped on the ground with no pad etc. Lindsay talked about the Parks Canada fuel cache guidelines and recommended that they extend to the entire Yukon North Slope. Rob commented that YG projects follow these guidelines.

Danny commented on the old DEW line and old fuel drum leaks and referred to reports from the Aklavik Canadian Rangers regarding the Blow River landing strip.

Rob suggested there might be opportunities to check out the Blow River site with upcoming flights this summer. Depending on what happens with the Geological Survey (on the North Slope for 4-6 weeks this summer) they may use whatever fuel is currently stored at Blow River.

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Chris said there might be fuel in the park or containment space available for the short term for YG imminent needs at Komakuk. Chris provided advice on which fuel containment units Parks Canada has found to work the best. He said that the best cache is at Polar Island: it is a base with heavy canvas, and works well in driving snow and sand. More flexible fabrics are easier to transport.

Cost of drum caching is fairly expensive and more so to bring out when fuel expires. This is something to consider when setting up a cache for vague uses. PC will cache for projects but tries not to keep much fuel on hand (some stored for safety). Should have recognized need for fuel before it is stored and try to use existing on-site fuel.

Rob said that part of fuel needs will be based on project needs and more conversation is needed before committing to the fuel cache project (fuel needs and cache specifics).

Rob suggested the PCH Detailed Movement and Habitat Use budget could be scaled back, depending on outcome of fuel cache project budget.

PCH Movement and Habitat Use/Critical Period Study- The intent of this project is to learn more about caribou use of important habitats, with specific interest in calving, post calving and rut period, and the importance of the withdrawn area to the herd. Included in this project is the replacement of radio collars with satellite collars (3 yr. program). Last year, collars reported a shift in caribou calving areas to the land east of the Babbage.

Danny commented that caribou used the entire area 30-40 years ago and the information collected by collars describes only what is happening today.

The Chair agreed that historical data is needed to inform upcoming discussions about the Withdrawn Area and suggested the Council consider gathering this information from Elders.

Arctic Vegetation Classification – This project is a continuation from an IPY project. There is no fieldwork required. Existing info will be used in a peer reviewed classification scheme to build an ecological land classification for the area. This project will contribute to building map layers to assess values and landscape, and information gaps.

Danny noted that willows are growing much faster than before. When budding, they are good browse for caribou and moose.

The Chair commented that IFA funded habitat mapping on the NS took place in the 1980's/90's and suggested the Council should understand what is known as this information will be relevant to future discussions about the Withdrawn Area.

There was a comment that the Park ecological monitoring protocols could extend to the east side of NS.

Chris said that IPY funding was spent on habitat mapping in the park.

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Wolf Report - The goal of this project is complete a draft report about wolf ecology on the North Slope.

North Slope Grizzly Bear – The final report for this project will be completed this fiscal year, but it is not feasible to build communication products and to present to communities before the end of March. The proposal is for a place holder to support communication and project follow-up.

Moose survey - The proposal is for a place holder to support communication and project follow-up for the Richardson moose survey.

Polar Bear Traditional Knowledge Project

The Council discussed the financial contribution of the WMAC's and how the workload is divided. The WMAC(NS) portion (\$20K) is high for the small spatial area, but the WMAC(NWT) covered the community tour and a big in-kind contribution. The Council decided to resume this conversation following discussion with the AHTC.

Aklavik harvest reporting – Historically, the Council contributed \$4-5,000 to the Aklavik harvest reporting program. Last year, the money went to the PCH workshop (harvest model development).

The Council discussed the use of financial incentives for harvest reporting. Rob said that YG does not have a policy to pay for harvest data.

Lindsay said that there are many concurrent harvest studies and we should look at how they come together. Danny cautioned that current harvest data may be of a different quality than the past because people access the land easier and faster. With the use of snow machines, people go fast between points A and B, and only look around when stopped. It's a big change from dog team. Harvesters are becoming dependent on a financial reward for harvest data.

The Chair stated that when info is requested by WMAC, there is a burden on the HTC to collect the info.

The Chair suggested the Council continue this discussion with the AHTC on Monday.

The Council discussed the reporting for the PCH. It is not known what the JS is doing to compile PCH harvest data. The JS is getting no additional money to collect harvest data and financial help may be needed. The Council will be updated in February at the PCH Annual Harvest meeting. It is unknown if the AHTC is receiving financial assistance for harvest data from any other sources. Council members expressed concern that without financial support for a harvest reporting program, there would be no harvest data.

The Chair said that the report that GNWT prepares (Marsha Branigan's report) on harvest data, as well as PCH harvest data is probably adequate for the needs of the Council. The Council may require more specific harvest data periodically, but there is no need to collect harvest data for the sake of collecting it.

Jen asked about how frequently moose are taken and the importance of that harvest data. Danny said that some years a lot of moose are taken. The Gwitchin take moose all year round. The Inuvialuit take moose only in the fall and not many are taken (about four this fall). Rob said it is conceivable that climate change favours the production of moose browse and moose harvest could continue. Rob said that at some point in time, there may be interest in moose harvest. Chris suggested that the Council should address harvest needs over time.

The Chair suggested a need for a routine schedule for population/harvest surveys. This idea has been considered in the past, but was never standardized. An updating of the Wildlife Conservation and Management plan could introduce a schedule for survey and harvest reporting. Jen said that Dorothy Cooley did provide the Council with a schedule about a year ago.

Chris described the research proposals submitted by Parks Canada.

PCH Satellite Collar – The proposal is to support the long-term project to keep a minimum number of collars on the herd. Funds will be applied toward satellite fees and data retrieval.

Ernest raised concerns with collaring animals every year, especially when the population numbers are up. Rob explained the intention is to continue every year, but to change the type of information collected. Changing from radio to satellite collars will result in more accurate location information which will tell us about habitat use and how the caribou move on the land. With this information, we can answer questions regarding the value of the calving range and withdrawn area. The plan is to continue collaring every year because it is hard to put collars out and they are good for three yrs. With increasing pressures on land development, the PCTC is starting to look at habitat and determine the most important parts of the landscape.

Danny reminded the Council that he has heard concerns from Aklavik residents for years that it is time to stop collaring for a period of five years. Collaring may cause the caribou to change their habits. Collaring is harassment and he is starting to hear this a lot at IGC meetings. 37 years of collaring and studying caribou is a long time. Danny recounted the first collaring work done out of Aklavik – one guy by himself on skidoo, wrestled down the caribou. The research has been good and he is not against it. He's just saying slow down. It's been too long and too much.

Rob reminded the Council that there are about 100 collars on 170,000 animals, but Danny said the disturbance affects the entire herd. Collars are needed to conduct population counts.

The Chair spoke of the need for balance between gathering information and respecting the animals, and that information is needed to make the case for habitat requirements. The PCMB has discussed this issue and there is probably a report or commentary available. There is a collaring workshop scheduled for early February to discuss this issue.

Action Item 12-12-02– Research information available on collaring by the PCMB

Wildlife Monitoring with Remote Cameras – The project was piloted in 2012 with seven game cameras. The main goal of this project is to gather more information about elusive apex predators. Parks will work in partnership to build a study design (occupancy modeling) in

context of broader management goals (re. habitat use and abundance), and purchase as many as 10 more cameras. The project will look at both forest and tundra.

Coastal EI monitoring – This project is a partnership with EC to fill the information gap in coastal monitoring. Funds have been identified to purchase GeoEye. The overall objective is long-term monitoring of the coast. The project objectives include a workshop on community monitoring in Aklavik, transect monitoring in two sensitive coastal areas (veg change, salt water encroachment, erosion/sedimentation, survey grade ground control points), and caribou habitat change verification (shrub encroachment). The monitoring protocol being developed should be able to be applied in other areas (i.e. the withdrawn area). YG Geomatics is involved in this project.

The Council discussed foreign funded research taking place on Hershel Island and questioned how/if the Council can interject management/research needs into foreign funded research opportunities.

ABEK Coop – This is an on-going project that builds on analysis/communications projects of previous years. A new survey was introduced two years ago, currently working out bugs with entering info into the data portal (entered directly by monitors). There was no spatial information collected in past two years. (The Council is interested to know how spatial info can be used.) PCH HMP is using the ABEK survey, which has been modified to reflect information needs of the PCMB. PC took the lead in analyzing Aklavik data, and is now interested in looking at other communities. Results show that ABEK monitoring data corresponds well with scientific data.

The Chair noted improved communication and partnerships in this year's research proposals. Discussion on research proposals was tabled until following the AHTC meeting.

Reallocation of 2012/13 Funds

Jennifer outlined the information provided by Mike Gill on the 'Analyzing Physical and Ecological Change along the Yukon Coastal Plain and Herschel Island' project. In September, the Council requested more information about the project and opportunities for partnerships. The Council supports this project and the reallocation of EC IFA research funds to it.

Motion 12-12-4: To recommend \$9,000 of EC IFA funded wildlife research money toward the purchase of 2900km² of GeoEye -1 Imagery and WorldView -2 Imagery.

Moved: Danny C. Gordon

Seconded: Chris Hunter

The meeting was adjourned at 5:20pm.

December 9, 2012

Mackenzie Hotel Boardroom, Inuvik

Lindsay Staples (Chair) · **Rob Florkiewicz** Yukon Government (Member) · **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) · **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) · **Chris Hunter** Parks Canada (Member) · **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat) · **Rosa Brown** (Secretariat)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9am.

G. Discussion Items

i. Debrief of North Slope Conference

The Chair provided an overview of the 2012 North Slope Conference (NSC). The theme was co-management – challenges and innovations. There were four main panel sessions: applied co-management: Challenges and Innovation, The practice of implementation- a legal perspective, Integrating Science traditional knowledge and communities in research and resource management, and Managing the Extremes: Innovation in areas Requiring Special Management.

Lindsay commented that the conference agenda was ambitious with regard to outside participation and goals for panel discussions. The conference looked at other regions and lessons learned with regard to innovative management of the North Slope. The Chair spoke about the working relationship between the Council and YG with respect to organizing the conference. YG handles logistical and operational aspects of event, and the Council handles program/content. The cost to attend was free in early conferences; however, the budget to host the event has not changed since 80's so now there is a registration fee. The Chair spoke about the importance of including Inuvialuit beneficiaries as participants in the conference. Participation numbers have varied over time, with the largest numbers at the past couple conferences (~156 people). This conference there was an effort to bring people from Arctic Canada. We were able to assist with travel costs, and participants donated their time. The banquet was held off site where there was dinner, mingling and a keynote address. This year the council also included the North Slope Conservation awards. One the first night there was a meet and greet, with a film screening. Poster sessions were held during the conference.

The Chair invited the members to comment on their experience of the conference.

Chris commented that it was the first conference he'd attended and overall it was great. Whitehorse and the venue worked well. He liked the format, and presentations were relevant, but he would have preferred fewer presentations and more discussion. It was really ambitious and difficult for some to fully participate. He suggested to incorporate more space in agenda and to allow people time to participate in poster sessions. There were too many things going at once, could not partake in everything.

Rob commented that the posters are important to promoting projects supported by council and suggested that Jean Carry (YG) could provide guidance on how to develop a poster.

Recommendation - professional events coordinator to set up space

Recommendation – make poster session more prominent

Recommendation – provide guidance on how to develop posters (Jean Carry, YG)

Ernest said that this is the second conference he's attended. He liked the Inuvialuit presentations because he could relate to them and would like to get transcripts of some of them. The posters were good. Chris Burn did a good re-cap. He talked in an understandable way and put things in perspective. We were pressed for time, which was a challenge. All the food was great. It was great to meet new people. All in all, a good conference

Danny said that he has been to three or four conferences. He highlighted both presentations by Chris Burn were great, because he referred to the north. He commented that it would be good to have more people to speak specifically to the North Slope and history of area by people who were there, and of how the north used to be. He complimented those who worked hard to get conference together - Lindsay, Jennifer and Jocelyn.

Jennifer commented that it was an ambitious program; some panels were too big for the time allotted, discussions went too long. The biggest panel went first with no time for preparation and not enough preparation time with moderators.

Recommendation – organize a conference call between panel members and moderator, ahead of time

More money is needed to bring speakers. It was challenging to secure panelists because of logistics, especially with regard to managing finances. Travel costs were paid for panel participants if they asked for it. It would of been easier if we could offer a financial package to invitees right off. There were about 30 presenters, not including the poster presenters.

There were problems with the banquet room sound; people couldn't hear the music or presentations.

Dedicated poster sessions were required.

Some circumstances were beyond our control – the Chair (Bob Bell) fell ill at the beginning of the conference, the room was very hot, and the main YG organizer took leave just before conference started resulting in more decisions from WMAC office.

Recommendations - larger budget for speakers, earlier agenda for time with panelists and speakers etc.

Recommendation - hire additional organizational support.

Recommendation - consider including cultural orientation (2hrs min).

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Jennifer summarized the participant comment forms. She said that 156 people registered, 34 surveys were returned. Suggestions included having an Elders only panel/conversation/room and more time for interaction and discussion .

Lindsay commented that there were a significant number of YG employees in attendance and it was a positive opportunity to interact with them. The panels were big and rich, but defeated the opportunity to have conversation or dialogue. To achieve both a method could have been to have breakout groups with each panelist as support person in a group.

Recommendation - shorten the panel presentations, consider eliminating PowerPoint presentations.

Recommendation – keep keynote speech short (15min)

Danny's talk was fantastic, especially having it at the beginning; it provided some cultural orientation/sensitivity. It was a very different presentation to the others. The banquet needed some adjustments.

The education goal of the conference was easily met. To delve in deeper, the conference would have to be smaller, more like a mini-conference, or a large workshop with working sessions to problem solve/innovate. This conference was high level only. Another option for this conference would be to downsize the event to work at a more technical level with those working on the issues day in and day out. The conference happens every three years, every five years might be more appropriate, or, reduce the scale of the event. It is a very demanding project to take on so frequently.

Rob agreed, this was the first conference in five years so was bigger and flashier (re-engaging). If it is more frequent, it could be scaled back. Could use panels to answer specific questions, and put more focus on specific questions of council.

Recommendation – consider coordinating conference every 5 years instead of every 3 years.

Recommendation - Chris Burn potential chair for next conference.

Lindsay said bringing Megan Perry to the conference to develop a bank of material for podcasts was great (there are six currently underway, and there is material for more in the future).

The Chair reviewed the agenda for the next day and the meeting was adjourned at 2pm.

December 10, 2012

Aklavik Band Office, Aklavik

Lindsay Staples (Chair) · **Rob Florkiewicz**, Yukon Government (Member) · **Ernest Pokiak**, Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) · **Danny C. Gordon**, Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) · **Chris Hunter**, Parks Canada (Member) · **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat) · **Rosa Brown** (Secretariat)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9am.

H. Upcoming Meetings

The Council reviewed the schedule of upcoming meetings:

- Polar Bear Traditional Knowledge Holder Workshop – 2 or 3 days in Inuvik— Peter Armitage will be there as well as a facilitator. Either Lindsay or the Secretariat will be there for support.
- PBTC, Iqaluit. Lindsay will attend as he is the member.
- PCMB Annual Harvest Meeting (Aklavik) - Danny and Rosa will attend.
- BREA results workshop (Inuvik) – Ernest and Danny will attend,
- Collaring workshop (Inuvik) - Danny and Ernest will attend.
- CITES (Bangkok) - Lindsay is uncertain he will be able to attend. Will follow up with Council via teleconference. Ernest suggested that the IGC should select an Inuvialuit person who spends time on the land and knows TK to attend this meeting.
- The Council decided to hold its regular meeting in Whitehorse on March 19,20,21 (Tue-Thurs)
- The Grizzly Bear Report discussion/workshop (Aklavik) will be in the next fiscal.

I. Financial Report

Jennifer presented the quarterly financial update to the Council. She explained that the carry-over accumulated over several years is now drawing down. The Council is considering a 20% increase for the next financial agreement. She provided a project update to members:

- Species status reports

Action Item 12-12-03: Finalize Species Status Reports. Council members to review and finalize for next regular meeting.

- North Slope Conference- J. McDowell has been contracted to work on the proceedings, but YG is responsible for ultimately producing the proceedings.

Action Item 12-12-04: prepare North Slope Conference proceedings and presentation package to post to website. Send email link to Conference participant when it is ready.

- Herschel Island book -Jennifer explained that the book had been pre-purchased but the Council had not determined if launch contributions would be cost recovered, or donated. Rob said he supported in-kind support of the book and the accumulation of revenue to achieve some objectives of the book. Ernest suggested book revenues could go toward Inuvialuit cultural resources.

Chris Burn has asked the Council to nominate the book for an award from the Royal Canadian Geographic Society.

Action Item 12-12-05 – Proceed with nomination of Chris Burn and *Herschel Island Qikiqtaryuk* to Royal Canadian Geographic Society.

- Management Instruments-Podcasts are being produced by Meagan Perry on the North Slope Conference content.

Action Item 12-12-06 – Council members will provide the Secretariat with suggested revisions for website. Secretariat will update website.

- Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan -The Chair outlined a possible contract to work on a section in the Conservation Plan. The single largest deficiency is a lack of direction for the Withdrawn Area. The Council's resources to work on plan are limited. Contract could include: 1) a document that lays out the Council's plan for working through revised conservation plan over next few years, strategic approach, funding opportunities; 2) research external funding resources to do state of the art conservation assessment and planning. (YG resources maxed out). Could be foundation money (Canada or US) to engage external parties like Round River Conservation Studies, Wildlife Conservation Society. The council made a decision to move forward with developing a contract.

Action Item 12-12-07- A Statement of Work for work on the WCMP will be developed and presented to the Council in January.

Jennifer presented the projected budget for the remainder of this fiscal year. The Chair commented that the Council should reserve at least \$5000 at the end of the year because the Council works on a cash flow basis and usually gets its annual contribution latter in the year.

The Chair updated the Council on the status of the IFA funding submission. A submission is prepared in draft and the council will look to sign it off in January by teleconference. We are working on the assumption of coordinated effort across ISR boards and councils. The November meeting with AANDC was cancelled because of scheduling conflicts.

WMAC meeting was adjourned for several hours to allow for a meeting with the AHTC

J. Review of IFA Wildlife Research Proposals - continued.

The Council resumed discussion on wildlife research proposals after meeting and getting approval from the Aklavik HTC.

Motion 12-12-05: Approval of 2013-14 IFA Funded Research Projects

The Council recommends the following research projects and IFA Implementation Funds for 2013-14 in the following amounts:

- *Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Coop - \$15,000 (Environment Canada and Parks Canada funds);*
- *Implementing Coastal Ecological Integrity Monitoring in Ivvavik National Park - \$25,000 (Parks Canada and Environment Canada funds);*
- *Wildlife Monitoring with Remote Cameras in Ivvavik National Park - \$8,000 (Parks Canada funds);*
- *Porcupine Caribou Herd Satellite Collar Project - \$9,000 (Parks Canada and Yukon Government funds);*
- *Porcupine Caribou Herd Rut Composition Survey - \$20,000 (Yukon Government funds)*
- *Porcupine Caribou Herd Detailed Movement & Habitat Use on the Yukon North Slope - \$55,000 (Yukon Government funds);*
- *Yukon Arctic Vegetation Classification - \$20,000 (Yukon Government funds);*
- *Finalize draft report: Ecology and management of wolves on the Porcupine caribou herd range, Canada (1997) - \$2,000 (Yukon Government funds);*
- *Polar Bear Traditional Knowledge Project - \$15,000 (Yukon Government funds).*

The Council recommends the following research projects and IFA Implementation Funds, with the following qualifications:

- *Fuel Cache Establishment - \$7,000 (Yukon Government funds), subject to collaboration with Parks Canada;*
- *Communications products for the North Slope Grizzly Bear Population Study and Moose Survey Follow Up - \$10,000 (Yukon Government funds), subject to prepared project budgets, and eligible for additional funds from other 2013/14 research project surpluses.*

Moved by: Ernest Pokiak

Seconded by: Chris Hunter

Motion carried.

Action Item 12-12-08- Prepare a recommendation letter on research projects to send to the governments and project leads that lists and amounts, and project titles and indicated that we have met with the AHTC.

Action Item 12-12-09- Send a letter to EISC with a list of recommended projects and detailed information about them.

Action Item 12-12-10 - Prepare a letter for Cameron Eckert thanking him for and acknowledging receipt of the Herschel Island 10-year report.

I. Parks Canada Update- *Chris Hunter*

Wild Animal Regulations - Parks is still analyzing information that came in from the consultations. They expect a revised draft of the regulations by late summer or fall. A group from across the country has been meeting to review the wild animal regulations. The complexity of the info that came in will likely extend the time before the revised draft is ready to be shared.

Staffing- Molly Kirk will be leaving in January to Yellowknife. Molly will be difficult to replace. Parks is looking to fill this position as soon as possible. Parks is also looking into its priorities as an agency, and what will be dropped with the new budget. The EI (ecological integrity) program will probably continue, but in the future Parks Canada (PC) will have to look closely at it to determine at what level of activity it will continue. All service centers have been closed (where all the tech expertise was coming from in the past). It remains to be seen how this will affect park programs.

A new visitor safety directive came out this fall. A visitor safety plan must be completed by the fall. There will be some changes to visitor safety and the role of the Wardens. Will have to look at level of service that they will be able to support.

Inuvik PC office has been challenged with staff issues. Over 50% of positions are either vacant or acting right now in the field unit. The Inuvik office now has a process to run for recruiting beneficiaries. Two parallel processes need to be run, one for internal staffing, (the internal process will be run only for beneficiaries). To hire outside, a very high level approval will be needed.

Examples of the positions are - resource management technicians and officers, (largely seasonally based and field oriented), GIS tech, ecologist team leader and historian (full time positions). The seasons range from nine weeks, to four months and six months. Pierre's assignment ended, and he and Stella are leaving. Pierre's position is now a .6 position - seven months.

Visitor weekend trips- more opportunities for visitors to access the park have been created. Adrianna will provide an update at meeting with PC staff (next day).

State of the Park Report - There was a lot of work done on the SoPR to incorporate comments from the Council and others.

The Chair agreed the report is much improved - explanations and measurements included are much better, the treatment of TK is better incorporated into the evaluation, and the evaluation of the guidelines is well done.

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Rob asked Chris if it makes sense to start the coastal monitoring work with Molly leaving. Chris said that Paul Zorn and others will be supporting the project and he thinks that it can still go ahead. PC staff has been directed not to start anything new, but projects already piloted can continue.

Meeting adjourned at 4:10pm.

December 11, 2012

Parks Canada Building, Inuvik

Lindsay Staples (Chair) · **Rob Florkiewicz**, Yukon Government (Member) · **Ernest Pokiak**, Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) · **Danny C. Gordon**, Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) · **Chris Hunter**, Parks Canada (Member) · **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat) · **Rosa Brown** (Secretariat)

Parks Canada staff joined the meeting: **Molly Kirk** (Ecologist Team Leader), **Jean-Francois Bisailon** (A/Site Manager), **Adrianna Bacheschi** (Visitor Experience Manager)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:00am.

The Chair thanked Parks Canada staff for meeting with the Council. Introductions were made and the agenda was reviewed.

K. State of the Park Report (Jean-Francois Bisailon)

JF thanked the Council for reviewing the draft SoPR and providing comments. He said that Parks has tried to incorporate WMAC (NS) comments into the SoPR, and that they were really helpful in moving the document forward.

There were three main points PC tried to address: 1) the inclusion of TK and local knowledge. They realized there is a lot of work to be done in the future to incorporate it into the report and will be looking for new ways to include and use the data; 2) coastal monitoring- working hard in the past few months to establish this program with partners; 3) visitation- a challenge, but an important way to gain more support for the Park. This is also a work in progress. They are working on developing a site plan for Sheep Creek with Aklavik and others.

The Chair thanked PC for providing the compendium. Lindsay spoke about the measures in the SoPR and the criteria for assessing them. He said that the redraft is much clearer with respect to the designation of the status of measures. Lindsay said that the coast, the Firth, and Sheep Creek are the probably the main areas for impact from visitors and potential offshore marine spills. The environmental quality of the Sheep Creek site had visibly diminished over three years and there are some ways to reduce the impact.

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JF said the challenges at Sheep Creek are addressing human waste, and grey water. The Council will be updated on the progress of this. JF is looking at Torngat Park as an example for what could be done at Sheep Creek.

With regard to tent platforms, PC has to look at the site plan and decide how to manage the site for the next 5-10 years. This process hasn't begun because of the management plan, but they see that some things are critical, even without the management plan and site plan. They expect to act on the critical things soon.

There are plans to look at the safety of the airstrip; is it legal, safe, does it meet the requirements of the pilots, etc.?

Ernest commented that the airstrip could be lengthened, even by a few hundred feet, because there is currently no room for error. Ernest said that the strip needs to be improved, and the ruts filled. There is a lot of rock there at the site now and hopefully there could be a way to use that rock to lengthen the airstrip and fill in potholes. A generator could provide back up power, with a good solar system in place. There are a lot of batteries there, maybe they could be used or taken out if they are not good anymore. Some things could be used or retrofitted at the site.

The Chair described the Herschel Island volunteer work project and suggested the same model could be applied at Sheep Creek.

JF said that there may be opportunities to partner on some of the coastal measures work. Inter-agency and information sharing is important. The SoPR rewrite addresses that we need to be collaborative. We need to be looking at partnerships.

Rob asked about measuring changes in ecosystems as they relates to climate change. There are different thresholds for EI (ecological integrity) and they raise the question of what happens if we pass the EI threshold if it is climate change related?

Molly Kirk said that the data for the land cover change measure detected a significant change in the landscape - whether or not they truly have an ecological impact we don't know the answer to that. We are in a stage where things are changing rapidly, what is normal or "good" is really hard to tackle. It may have an impact on food availability for caribou - with increased shrubs. We may not be able to do anything about it, but it is good to know.

JF said it is a great challenge to set these thresholds and that these are statistical thresholds.

Rob asked about the bird measures and what happens if there is a fire or some other impact on the landscape; what are the linkages to other factors? Molly said that the bird plots are co-located with the veg plots, so that they can be linked in that way. It is quite limited as they are all a few km's from Sheep Creek.

Rob talked about linking the work of the Porcupine caribou work with shrub density to assess changes in shrubs.

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The Chair talked about applying the measures in the Park to the east of the Park, as they may be relevant and of interest to the Council.

The Chair said that the SoPR is now something the Council can endorse as concerns have largely been addressed. The Council expressed that they were generally comfortable with where it is sitting.

JF said that PC is in the process of doing the final revisions editorial etc. The final document will be sent to WMAC(NS) and the IRC, and then it would be sent to the CEO.

Jennifer asked for clarification on the timing of the SoPR and management plan cycles. Chris said that for now it is still five years.

L. Coastal Monitoring- Molly Kirk

Molly described the proposed coastal monitoring project. She described how imagery work is used to look at how shrubs are replacing herbs on the coast. This work looks at core caribou habitats with shrubs. Preliminary results will be ready by March.

She explained the GeoEye imagery project and the establishment of the Yukon Coast Working Group. Partners include: Geological Survey of Canada, Environment Yukon, CWS, AWI, PA Inuvik, PC climate change, Canadian High Arctic Research and others.

She said that the first step is to have a coastal monitoring workshop to bring together researchers and government with people of Aklavik. She hopes this can take place before next field season, maybe April 2013.

There is a climate change vulnerability assessment being done as well, managed out of national office. They are planning to do some scenarios planning five-50 years to help communities prepare for changes that may be coming in 50 years.

She explained the fieldwork component that would establish transect monitoring in sensitive coastal areas, and caribou habit change verification. Project would be lead by the Inuvik field unit and partners in the national office.

Molly said that by the next SoPR, PC would be able to report on three measures: 1) erosion rates, 2) coastal habit change, 3) caribou foraging habitat change.

Lindsay asked if there are plans to look at the coastal spits, or lagoons. Molly said that CWS is interested in this because of breeding waterbirds habitat there.

Danny provided some information about the historic sites for Molly. He asked about the possibility of saving the 'store' as it is a historical site. He would like to see that.

He reminded people that there are always good quality water sources near to where historical camps have been placed. There is also likely good wood and hunting. There are many houses at Philips Bay (Naqolik), that's where the Babbage River begins. At Stokes Point there is a harbor where there they put probes in; however, last year it closed up and now there is no more harbor

there. There was a tower at the Yukon/Alaska border that was 50-70 feet high, it is now gone. Danny spoke about birds. He said, as young kids they were always finding nests and were told, don't touch it, don't go near it. There are times when people touch the eggs and then the birds will leave them. He saw a peregrine falcon take over an eagle nest, and then some eagles came and took it back. They used to pick eggs to harvest for eating. He said that if you put an egg in water, and it sinks you can eat it; if it floats it was hatched.

Molly said that the next time they do the cultural site visits they should bring Danny along, as it would really add to the program.

M. Visitor Weekend Pilot Project -Adrianna Bacheschi

Adrianna explained that this program has a two fold purpose: 1) to create a product that a local tour operator could take over, and 2) to bring more visitors to the park. Trips are set up on a cost share basis, 4 days and 3 nights. There are two PC guides on each trip. Visitors can take guided hikes or they can do things on their own. They get a pack with a GPS etc. and take their own food and gear. PC's offers some logistical support. The cost last year was about \$998/person. The price covered the shuttle bus, cost of two staff and advertising (posters around town and in the YT and NWT visitor centers, public announcements on rolling channel, Inuvik media coverage, and promoted at outdoor adventure shows).

This project is specific to Ivvavik. It started with two trips and then went to five. Four trips went in total (29 participants). The package was offered to local tour operators to see if they wanted to pick it up, they didn't seem interested at this time. The program received very good feedback from visitors. It has been difficult to engage local operators, so they are now considering other ways to provide economic opportunity.

A larger promotion is planned for this year, with advertisements in local magazines, in The Mile Post and with Yukon tourism. More connections are needed with Yukon tourism and will also try to arrange a travel writer coming on one of the trips to do a piece. There is an idea to promote the package as a week-long arctic experience, including the flight from Whitehorse.

If the trip runs full, \$1000 would cover cost a make a bit of a profit. The Tuk Tuk Nogait trip would be \$2,000, because the park has to be accessed from Norman Wells. This trip would be for 5 days and 4 nights and can be booked with Stella.

The Chair summarized that this is a creative idea to explore something in the SoPR.

Adrianna said that this year PC did a day trip to Stokes Point, which included a short hike just past the DEW line site, with minimal impact. They had a great experience and paid \$700/each. This is another idea for possibly expanding the program.

The Council discussed the Babbage River Day Use Area as a site for future tourism/economic development. Adrianna said she thinks the site can't handle it because accessibility is about 50% successful, the landing strip is not reliable and the conditions need to be perfect. Plus it is only day use, so you can't afford to get stuck there. It would be a very difficult product to market.

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The Chair suggested the management plan for the area could be changed from a day use area. He also suggested Clarence Lagoon as potential tourism site.

****Parks Canada staff left the meeting****

K. COSEWIC reports

Jennifer explained that the following are available for comment:

Rusty Black Bird – In the past, Council has submitted comments on TK for the assessment report. The Council will not submit comments on rusty black bird management plan.

Wolverine – the process is in the early stages of data gathering. Council has received communication from Brian Slough requesting information.

Action Item 12-12-11: Respond to Brian Slough's request for information about wolverine. Refer him to B. Smith report (*Aklavik Inuvialuit describe the status of certain birds and animals*) and Marsha Branigan as point of contact for harvest information.

Action Item 12-12-12: Send Diane Wilson (PC) a letter thanking her for the meeting, and expressing that the Council is satisfied with the SoPR re-draft.

L. PCH Strategic Framework

Rosa explained that the deadline to comment is December 15th.

Action Item 12-12-13: Lindsay will draft a letter to PCMB and send it before the deadline.

The letter will include the following points – language around the withdrawal order is incorrect because it presumes an outcome (lifting the order) and draws attention to an issue that is not well understood. Strategic plan does not identify priorities.

Motion 12-12-05

To adjourn the meeting at 12:50pm.

Moved: Danny C Gordon

Seconded: Rob Florkiewicz

Motion carried.