



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

P.O. Box 31539, Whitehorse, Y.T. Y1A 6K8 Canada

Telephone: (867) 633-5476 Fax: (867) 633-6900

E-mail: wmacns@web.ca www.taiga.net/wmac

MINUTES

WMAC (NS) QUARTERLY MEETING

**Joint Secretariat Library
Inuvik, NWT**

July 7-10, 2000

Friday, July 7, 2000

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Danny C. Gordon- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Herbert Felix- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Doug Larsen - Chief, Wildlife Management - Member -Yukon Territorial
Government
Joan Eamer – Canadian Wildlife Service - Member - Government of
Canada
Alan Fehr – Parks Canada – Alternate – Government of Canada
Aileen Horler – WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Guests: Kirsten Madsen, WMAC(NS) Intern

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 2:30. Doug Larsen, Chief of Wildlife Management, YTG Renewable Resources was welcomed as the new member for the Yukon Territorial Government.

The Chair and members all expressed their appreciation for the contributions made by Brian Pelchat when he served as the member for the Yukon Government.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda and highlighted the items that will need the most attention.

Motion

To adopt the agenda.

Moved: Herbert Felix

Second: Joan Eamer

Motion carried

C. Review and Approval of Minutes of the May 8, 2000 meeting

Members reviewed the minutes of the May 8, 2000 meeting. As Alan Fehr was the only member present who also attended the May 8 meeting, the Secretariat was directed to send the minutes to Carol Arey for her review and approval as well.

Motion

To accept the minutes of May 8, 2000 meeting.

Moved: Alan Fehr

Motion carried pending approval from Carol Arey.

D. Review of Action Items of the May 8, 2000 meeting

Outstanding Items

Action 98-05-04: Dorothy Cooley will expand the report she wrote on Danny C. Gordon's survey to include other aspects of the ground survey method, such as the aspects of community-based involvement and interest, as well as the Council's perspectives.

Outstanding.

Action 99-05-22: The Chair will discuss the issues around protected areas with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee Board of Directors to determine if there is any interest in considering the land management options for the special areas on the Yukon North Slope which are identified in the Aklavik Community Conservation Plan and to determine how the HTC wants to proceed with this issue.

Outstanding. The Chair noted that these candidate areas are also identified in the Yukon North Slope Wildlife and Conservation Management Plan.

Action 99-12-03: Joan to forward an electronic version of the Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan Guide for Researchers to Secretariat. Edits are to be made based on Parks Canada's and the Chair's review comments. Copies are to be distributed to the IGC and AHTC.

Revised.

Action 00-07-01: A draft version of the Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan Guide for Researchers is to be available for review at the North Slope Conference.

Action 99-12-14 : The Secretariat is to review recommendations from the 1997 North Slope Conference to assess their status.

Completed.

Action 99-12-15: The Chair will write to the Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources indicating that there is a need move along the process of the review of the Herschel Island Territorial Park Management Plan and begin consultations with the communities.

Completed.

Current items

Action 00-05-01: Dorothy Cooley will investigate the further development of the muskox school unit for classroom use.

Revised. A discussion was held regarding the next step in integrating the information gathered for the muskox school unit into the current curriculum. Several suggestions were made as to who could be contacted to determine what needs to be done and how to proceed.

Action 00-07-02: The Secretariat will contact a curriculum specialist to determine what needs to be done to integrate the information gathered for the muskox school unit into the current curriculum.

Action 00-05-02: WMAC(NS) will draft a communications protocol which addresses the points of contact and lines of communication between all parties responsible for resources management on the Yukon North Slope. The draft is to be prepared for the Joint Secretariat Board of Directors' workshop on roles and responsibilities.

Ongoing.

Action 00-07-03: The Secretariat will ensure that communication protocol developed by WMAC(NS) is added to the agenda of the Roles and Responsibilities workshop.

Action 00-05-03: The issue of the restoration and maintenance of Inuvialuit gravesites on Herschel Island is to be addressed in the review of the Herschel Island Management Plan.

Ongoing. The involvement of elders and the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation in decision making should be included in the Herschel Island Management Plan scoping document.

Action 00-05-04: The Chair will contact the IGC to urge them to write to the Yukon Government regarding the review of the Herschel Island Management Plan.

Completed.

Action 00-05-05: Members will review the two drafts of the Muskox Management Plan prepared by Dorothy Cooley and Ian McDonald and provide comments to the authors by June 15.

Completed.

Action 00-05-06: Dorothy Cooley and Ian McDonald will work together to produce a single draft of the muskox management plan based on the changes that they have each suggested and on comments received from the Council members. The integrated new draft should be available for members to review at the July meeting.

Completed.

Action 00-05-07: The Secretariat will obtain copies of the consultation process for the muskox management plan, as was previously developed, for members to review at the July meeting.

Completed.

Action 00-05-08: The Chair will contact Wildlife Habitat Canada regarding future funding interests and potential involvement in the Herschel Island Climate Change project.

Outstanding.

Action 00-05-09: WMAC(NS) will provide the IGC with an update on the two projects for which the Council recommended funding at its May quarterly meeting.

Completed.

Action 00-05-10: Joan Eamer will contact Billy Archie regarding setting up bird counting and monitoring in the Aklavik school.

Completed.

Action 00-05-11: The issue of the Yukon Government's involvement in the Ivvavik National Park Management Plan review will be added to the letter being sent by WMAC(NS) to the new YTG Minister of Renewable Resources regarding the Herschel Island Management Plan.

Completed.

Action 00-05-12: WMAC(NS) will write to the Yukon Government with suggestions for a theme and for workshop topics for the upcoming North Slope Conference.

Completed. The Chair reported that a meeting was held with YTG representatives to discuss the conference theme and workshop topics. Further suggestions will be forwarded once the Council has had an opportunity to discuss the conference later in the meeting. .

Action 00-05-13: The Secretariat will distribute copies of the letter written by Clayton White, President of the Yukon Fish and Game Association to Lawrence Joe, Chair of the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board and to the Inuvialuit Game Council regarding a Dall sheep harvest in the north Richardson Mountains.

Completed. Doug Larsen reported that the Yukon Government has written to the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation regarding the issue of a Dall sheep harvest in the north Richardson Mountains. This issue will now be looked at as part of the VGFN's planning process.

The Secretariat distributed a copy of a motion passed by the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee July 6, 2000, which was just received by fax. The resolution stated that the HTC does not support the Herschel Island Vegetation Studies or the Herschel Island Climate Change Monitoring project. The reason given was that there is no Herschel Island management plan in effect yet. The Chair reminded members that the HTC had indicated their support to this project at the May meeting in Aklavik. The IGC has also reviewed and approved this project, which is scheduled to begin in 5 days. It was also noted that there is a management plan in place for Herschel Island – albeit one that is outdated. The problem is with the delays that have occurred in updating the plan.

Members commented that they understood the HTC's frustrations over the delays in the Management plan review, but withdrawing support for a project that clearly addresses one of their research priorities and already has their approval is not appropriate.

Danny C. Gordon commented that the HTC also wants to see the Herschel Island Technical Committee revived to deal with park related issues. The Chair explained that the Council will be facilitating the review of the management plan.

Action 00-07-04: The Chair is to contact Carol Arey, President of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, to discuss the Herschel Island research projects.

E. Correspondence

Members reviewed the following correspondence found in the meeting binders:

- A letter dated May 10, 2000, from James Moore, Assistant Deputy Minister, Northern Affairs Program, to John Walsh, Deputy Minister, YTG Executive Council Office, regarding the amending of section 19(3) of the Yukon Act. DIAND has agreed to propose the amendment to Yukon First Nations on behalf of the Inuvialuit and proceed with consultations on this issue as part of the amendments to the Yukon Act.

Action 00-07-05: WMAC(NS) will write to James Moore, Assistant Deputy Minister, Northern Affairs Program, in support of DIAND's initiative to propose the amendment of section 19(3) of the Yukon Act to Yukon First Nations on behalf of the Inuvialuit and to proceed with consultations on this issue as part of the amendments to the Act.

- A letter from Marsha Branigan regarding Polar bear delineation research in the Amundsen Gulf area.
- A letter from R. Clarke, Regional Director, Fisheries Management, regarding the Arctic Science Planning Initiative
- A letter from Ken Anderson, Kluane Park Management Board, regarding a national conference of co-management boards. Members agreed that the conference is a good idea but should also include territorial parks. The conference should focus on success stories rather than what is in each agreement. The conference shouldn't be a forum for what is wrong with individual boards.

Action 00-07-06: WMAC(NS) will write a letter of support to Ken Anderson, Kluane Park Management Board, regarding a national conference of co-management boards and relay the Council's comments on the focus and objectives of such a conference.

- A letter from Duane Smith to the EISC regarding a proposal by Parks Canada to relocate the Firth River water gauging station cabin. Alan Fehr clarified that there was some confusion about this proposal that has now been resolved. The cabin will be moved.

- The minutes of the PCMB- April 4, 2000
- An update on the Millennium Trek
- A letter from Bill Brake regarding the report of the Panel of Ecological Integrity of Canada's National Parks.

F. Financial Report

a) Review and approval 1999-2000 Review Engagement Report

The members reviewed the 1999-2000 Review Engagement Report, as prepared by Kim Tanner. The Secretariat explained that the report is required by the Yukon Government . A full audit is only required when requested.

Resolution

To accept the 1999-2000 Review Engagement Report, as prepared by Kim Tanner.

Moved: Herbert Felix

Second: Joan Eamer

Resolution carried

Saturday July 8, 2000

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Danny C. Gordon- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Herbert Felix- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Doug Larsen - Chief, Wildlife Management - Member -Yukon Territorial Government
Joan Eamer – Canadian Wildlife Service - Member - Government of Canada
Alan Fehr – Parks Canada – Alternate – Government of Canada
Aileen Horler – WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Guests: Kirsten Madsen, WMAC(NS) Intern

G. Old Business

1. Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan

The Chair, Secretariat and Kirsten Madsen led members through a review of the work that had been done over the past three months on the updating of Volume 2 of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan. The Chair noted that the final version will also contain the species reports and a summary of action items. Members reviewed each chapter and provided their comments on possible changes and additions.

Action 00-07- 07 : The Secretariat is to send a copy of Volume 1 of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan to Doug Larsen.

Action 00-07- 08 : The Secretariat is to inform Aasman Design to prepare Volume 2 of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan as a PDF file.

Members agreed that the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee should review the species reports to ensure that they include any traditional knowledge of each species. Once a draft of the plan is fully updated, a meeting should also be arranged with the AHTC Board of Directors in order to go through the plan as a whole.

Action 00-07- 09: During its meeting in September, the Council will consider the development of a project to incorporate traditional knowledge into the North Slope species reports.

A discussion was held regarding species specific action items. There is a need to determine the frequency of population surveys and vegetation studies for species without management plans and add them as actions to the plan.

Action 00-07-10: The determination of frequency of population surveys and vegetation studies for species without management plans will be discussed during the joint meeting with the WMAC(NWT), in December.

Action 00-07-11: Members are to send any further comments on Volume 2 of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan to Kirsten Madsen by July 31.

Action 00-07-12: The Secretariat will prepare a summary of the Action items from the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan for the North Slope Conference.

F. Financial Report (continued)

a) June 2000 statement

The Secretariat reviewed the June 2000 financial statement, explaining the difference between some of the line items. All line items are within the budget.

b) Review and approval of funding for 2000-01 WMAC(NS) projects

The Chair reviewed the proposed allocations to projects within the Council's budget. At the May 8th meeting, members agreed to allocate \$5000 to the development of the WMAC(NS) web page and \$6000 towards the North Slope Conference. Approval was required for a number of other items. A discussion was held regarding the need for a Coastal Zone Plan workshop. This workshop should be held before March and would be a joint effort with the Department of Fisheries and the FJMC. Funds allocated to Ecosystem Monitoring have been used for several years now toward the organizing of the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op's Annual Gathering.

Action 00-07-13: An item on the planning of the proposed coastal zone workshop will be added to the Council's agenda for the September meeting.

Allocations to projects were approved as follows:

Bylaws, regulations and legislation	\$3000
Ecosystem monitoring	\$2500
Herschel Island Management Plan	\$1500
Long term research plan	\$1000
Coastal zone planning –workshop	\$5000

A total of \$2,261.67 remains unallocated in the WMAC(NS) budget.

Motion

To approve the allocation of funds to WMAC(NS) projects as follows: Bylaws, regulations and legislation \$3000; Ecosystem monitoring \$2500; Herschel Island Management Plan \$1500; Long term research plan \$1000; Coastal zone planning workshop \$5000.

Moved: Doug Larsen

Second: Danny C. Gordon

Motion carried

G. Old Business (continued)

2. Yukon Wildlife Act Regulations

The Chair gave an update on the development of regulations required by the recent amending of the Yukon Wildlife Act. The Yukon Government contracted a lawyer to determine what regulations are required due to the amendments as well as what is required under the IFA. This report is still not complete. A meeting of the working group has been set for October. The working group consists of the same people who worked on the amendments.

3. Inuvialuit Harvest Study

The Chair gave an update on the IHS. The ten-year data set to project total estimated harvest has been completed for each year over the ten year period. The Management Committee was meeting on a regular basis but now it will only meet once or twice a year. The Management Committee will continue to make recommendations to the IGC on broader issues related to the Harvest Study such as budgets and the Local Advisory Committee (which includes Harvey Jessup of the Yukon Government) provides advise to the Harvest Study Coordinator as required.

The Chair distributed a data report on the winter 2000 harvest for all ISR communities that was recently prepared by the Harvest Study Coordinator.

Sunday July 9, 2000

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Danny C. Gordon- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Herbert Felix- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Doug Larsen - Chief, Wildlife Management - Member -Yukon Territorial
Government
Joan Eamer – Canadian Wildlife Service - Member - Government of
Canada
Alan Fehr – Parks Canada – Alternate – Government of Canada
Aileen Horler – WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Guests: Kirsten Madsen, WMAC(NS) Intern

4. Muskox Management

a) Review of the Muskox Management Plan

The Chair commented that the Muskox Management Plan has been developed to allow for a small harvest on the Yukon North Slope. Working with the Alaskans, the intent is to manage the entire North Slope population as one population.

Ian McDonald and Dorothy Cooley have been working on producing a final draft version of the plan. The Chair noted some of the changes and additions proposed by Ian in his review. Members reviewed the current draft and suggested that the plan include information on the quota and harvest of the population in Alaska and all recent North Slope survey results. A section should also be added indicating to whom the plan is to be recommended.

Members agreed that consultations on the plan should begin in the fall as soon as a final draft version is completed. The WMAC(NS) Secretariat will be responsible for arranging and scheduling the consultations. Ian McDonald and/ or Dorothy Cooley will present the plan at the meetings, accompanied by a Council representative. It was suggested that the Yukon consultations should be held in Whitehorse, Old Crow, Dawson and possibly Mayo. Consultations should also be conducted in Aklavik and Inuvik. In addition, interested organizations should be notified of the intent to consult on the plan and asked if they would be interested in a briefing or in providing written comments. The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board should also be notified of the process being proposed. It is hoped that the plan will be ready to be recommended by the Council at its December meeting.

Action 00-07-14: The Council will review the revised draft of the Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan at its meeting in September, with the intention of beginning consultations on the plan in October.

Action 00-07-15: WMAC(NS) will write to all relevant organizations to inform them of the intent to conduct consultations on the Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan in the fall of 2000. The letter is to inquire as to their interest in being consulted and on what level. Copies of the letters are to be sent to YTG and Parks Canada.

The Chair noted that another meeting with the Alaskan has been proposed for December 2000. It would be an opportunity to table the draft muskox plan and determine a recommended harvest for the Yukon North Slope.

Action 00-07-16: WMAC(NS) will write to the Inuvialuit Game Council and interested Alaskan participants to propose that the next meeting on North Slope muskox management be scheduled for December 2000. The Secretariat will facilitate the organization of the meeting.

Doug Larsen commented that a joint Yukon/ Alaskan technical team which has been formed to manage the Forty Mile caribou herd meets every year to deal with issues relating to the herd. This group works well together and would be a good model to work with in developing a cooperative management system for muskox.

5. Grizzly Bear Management

a) Review of Action Items of the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan

Council members reviewed WMAC(NS)'s action items for 2000-2001 in the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan.

2000-01 Work Plan Actions	WMAC(NS) Actions/ Response
<p>Population Information</p> <p>2) Support the second year of the Richardson Mountains population study</p> <p>3) support the population studies recommended by the HTC/ IGC/WMACs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council to participated in workshop planned for March 2000 • Pending workshop recommendations
<p>Habitat and Range Use</p> <p>2) Support the vegetation studies recommended by the HTC/ IGC/WMACs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported Herschel Island Vegetation Studies 1998, 1999 and 2000

Harvest Management	
<p>6) Help complete amendment of the Yukon Wildlife Act so that the definition of ‘cub’ is consistent with the Aklavik Grizzly Bear By-law and so that it includes arrangements to allocate and account for tags used each year on the Yukon North Slope.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will be addressed in changes to Wildlife Act regulations.
<p>7) Help complete amendment of the National Parks Act to include provisions for regulations to manage the harvest of wildlife by aboriginal people in National Parks.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Amendments currently in Senate.
<p>7) Help complete harvest regulations and make arrangements to allocate and account for tags used each year in Ivvavik National Park that is consistent with those used by the DRR-YTG and DRWED-GNWT.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action pending changes to legislation.
<p>9) Implement ways to manage the grizzly bear harvest.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Addressed at March 2000 workshop
Culture and Education	
<p>3) Give non-technical reports, the Grizzly Bear Management Plan and the annual reports to libraries, schools and the public</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing.
<p>3) Complete posters on grizzly bear biology and management issues in the ISR, and give them to the HTC, libraries, schools and the public and display them in public buildings.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council will provide comments on the poster and participate in the distribution, as required.

Action 00-07-17: The Secretariat will provide an update of the status of the WMAC(NS)’s action items in the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan to Marsha Branigan.

6. Herschel Island Management Plan

a) Review of YTG Scoping Document

The Chair commented that the Scoping Document is intended to provide the framework for the review of the Herschel Island Territorial Park Management Plan. On reviewing the document members made the following comments:

- The Plan requires more than minor revisions. It needs a major rewrite to address all the changes that have occurred in the park and the region since the plan was originally developed.
- It is important to ensure that the parameters of the Scoping Document are broad enough and that it provides enough scope.
- The Plan needs to set the context for the Park's management. Herschel needs to be placed in the context of other protected areas in the region such as ANWR and Ivvavik. The Plan needs to locate Herschel with respect to the whole North Slope region.
- The process for the review also needs to be considered.
- The Plan needs to address what can be done in the field of wildlife management, climate change and environmental monitoring.
- The plan must consider wildlife management, ecological integrity, research and monitoring.
- The Plan needs to be a management plan for the park not a workplan for the Parks Branch.
- The Plan should clearly assign an active role to the YTG Fish and Wildlife Branch for managing wildlife on Herschel Island.
- There is an IFA provision that states that the management plan for Herschel should be no less stringent than the plans developed for National Parks.
- The preliminary issues outlined in the Scoping Document need to be grouped into broad headings, with a text preamble. Headings could include natural resource management, public safety and enforcement, communication, management of people and cultural resources. It needs to be clear as to what Parks are planning to do about these issues.
- The conservation of wildlife, habitat and traditional use must be considered at all times.
- The objectives listed in the Scoping Document are good.
- The documents needs to indicate at the beginning who is involved in reviewing, who are the key players, and who is doing what.

The next step in the review is ensuring the involvement of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee in order to develop the plan cooperatively.

Action 00-07-18: WMAC(NS) will write to YTG Parks to provide the Council's comments on the Herschel Island Territorial Park Management Plan Scoping Document.

7. Ivvavik National Park Management Plan

Alan Fehr reported that some more details have been added to the Ivvavik National Park Draft Management Plan but that it remains fundamentally the same as when the Council reviewed it. Any further comments are due by July 15. Then the plan will be going to the national head office for further review. There will still be other opportunities for the Council to provide comments.

Action 00-07-19: The Secretariat will distribute copies of the Ivvavik National Park Draft Management Plan (June 2000) to members. Members are to provide comments on the plan to the Secretariat by August 31.

8. 2000/ 2001 Wildlife Management and Research Proposals

a) North Richardson Grizzly Bear Reproduction Rates (GNWT)

Members reviewed a proposal submitted by Marsha Branigan, DRWED- GNWT, for the removal of collars from bears in the north Richardson Mountains. This work was to have been completed in the fall of 1999 but had to be postponed. WMAC(NS) recommended \$5000 for the collar removal in 1999 and members agreed to support this funding recommendation again for 2000-2001. Parks Canada will provide the funding.

b) Community-based Monitoring in Aklavik (CWS)

Joan Eamer reported that this annual program will continue in Aklavik (Gwich'in and Inuvialuit), as well as in Old Crow and Fort McPherson, with possible pilot projects in Kaktovik and Arctic Village, through the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op. A local researcher in each community will conduct interviews with community experts, collecting and communicating information about the conditions and changes observed during the year. Questions will cover berries, fish, caribou, other animals, weather conditions, and general observations. Results from all communities will be compiled into a summary report, and a detailed report of Aklavik Inuvialuit observations will be provided to the HTC. The summary results will be discussed at the Co-op Annual Gathering, and at a public meeting in Aklavik, if desired.

The total budget for the Community-based Monitoring project is \$29,500. This does not include costs of salary and travel expenses by Environment Canada for overall project development and co-ordination. The Co-op will also incur expenses for indicator and project development, communication, coordination, and for the annual gathering. Potential additional sources of funding for this fiscal year include: Environment Canada UFA implementation funding, Gwich'in RRB, DIAND, GNWT, Yukon Government, US Fish and Wildlife Service, and the US National Science Foundation.

Joan proposed that \$10,000 of the Canadian Wildlife Service's IFA implementation funding be allocated to this project. Approximately \$4,000 of this will be spent in Aklavik, on the Aklavik Inuvialuit component of the community-based monitoring program, through contract and expenses for a person to conduct interviews and present

results, and through honoraria. The balance of the funds will go towards training, travel, co-ordination and reporting costs of the project as a whole.

Council members agreed to recommend the allocation of \$10,000 to the Aklavik Community-based monitoring project.

c) Analysis of Change in North Slope Wetlands (CWS)

Joan Eamer presented a proposal titled 'Analysis of Change in North Slope Wetlands' on behalf of Jim Hawkings, Canadian Wildlife Service. The Yukon North Slope coastal wetlands provide important wildlife habitat. The wetlands are sensitive to changes in temperature, precipitation, and permafrost, and are expected to change with changing climate conditions. The objective of this project is to determine if the extent of water cover in the North Slope wetlands has changed over the past decade, and establish a baseline for future monitoring.

Analysis of satellite imagery will be used to measure changes in the extent of water cover in wetland areas of the coastal plain. The large number of small, dynamic wetlands and the costs of access make ground-based monitoring difficult and expensive. Available satellite images will be examined and an additional image will be purchased if required. Images will be arranged into a time series, classified and divided on a grid system. For each grid section, the amount of water cover will be measured for each point in the available time series. The amount of land that has dried up, the amount that has flooded, and the net change will be calculated for grid sections, and for the entire study area. This methodology has been developed and used for an analysis of changes in water cover in the Old Crow Flats. Results will be presented as a Power Point presentation and as a written report to the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope).

The total proposed budget is \$5000. This will cover a contract to perform the analyses of satellite imagery (\$4000) and the purchase of additional imagery, if required (\$1000). Council members supported this project and agreed to recommend the allocation of \$5,000 to the Analysis of Change in North Slope Wetlands.

d) Inuvialuit Harvest Study

Members agreed to recommend the allocation of \$25,000 to the Inuvialuit Harvest Study. This represents the Yukon Government's annual contribution to the IHS.

e) Muskox Management Plan Community Consultations

The Muskox Management Plan has been completed in draft form. A series of community meetings have been proposed in order to inform the interested public and interested organizations about Yukon North Slope muskox and to consult on the plan. Consultations will be conducted in Aklavik, Inuvik and Fort McPherson, as well as the Yukon consultations of Whitehorse, Old Crow, Dawson and possibly Mayo. Ian McDonald and/or Dorothy Cooley will present the plan at the meetings, accompanied by a Council representative. Members agreed that consultations on the plan should begin in the fall as soon as a final draft version is completed. The WMAC(NS) Secretariat will be responsible for arranging and scheduling the consultations.

Council members agreed to recommend the allocation of \$5,000 toward the costs of conducting community consultations on the Muskox Management Plan.

f) Muskox Meeting Participation

In December 1999, Canadian and Alaskan representatives met in Anchorage to discuss the management of muskox on the North Slope. Canadian participants included representatives of the Inuvialuit Game Council, the Yukon Government, Parks Canada and the Chair of WMAC(NS). The Alaskan contingent consisted of federal and state Fish and Wildlife representatives as well as representatives from Barrow and Kaktovik. The meeting was an important step for coordinating efforts around North Slope muskox management, such as the sharing of harvest information, integrating survey methodology and working together on co-management plans that would be useful for both jurisdictions.

Another meeting has been proposed for December 2000. This meeting would build on the previous year's initiatives in considering management options and harvest allocations. Council members agreed to recommend the allocation of \$10,000 toward the costs incurred by Canadian participants attending the proposed meeting.

g) Porcupine Caribou Body Conditioning

Doug Larsen brought forward a proposal on behalf of Dorothy Cooley for funding to undertake body-conditioning work on Porcupine caribou. The funding request was for \$15,000. Danny C. Gordon commented that there have been requests in the past for this work to be conducted out of Aklavik. In recent years it has been done out of Fort McPherson with field assistants being hired from that community. As the proposal is for the use of IFA implementation funding, members agreed that the work should be conducted with the involvement of Aklavik. More information is required regarding the location of the fieldwork and how Aklavik would be involved. Members agreed to consider this proposal further in a teleconference when the required information can be presented. No funding was recommended at this time.

Motion

*to recommend that the following amounts be allocated from the 2000-2001 IFA Implementation Funds for Wildlife Management: **Grizzly Bear Reproductive Rates and Cub Survival** \$5,000; **Community-based Monitoring in Aklavik** \$5,000; **Analysis of Change in North Slope Wetlands** \$5,000; **Inuvialuit Harvest Study** \$25,000; **Muskox Management Plan Community Consultations** \$5,000 and **Muskox Meeting Participation** \$10,000.*

Moved: Danny C. Gordon

Seconded: Doug Larsen

Motion carried.

Action 00-07- 20: The Secretariat will write to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and the Inuvialuit Game Council to inform them of the wildlife management and research projects recommended for funding during the July 2000 meeting.

A summary of wildlife management and research projects recommended by the Council for 2000-2001 was given as follows:

Funds Contributed	
Yukon Government	\$104,000
Parks Canada	\$35,000
Canadian Wildlife Service	\$15,000
Total	\$154,000
Recommended Projects	
Muskox Ecology Studies	\$26,300
Herschel Island Climate Change	\$16,200
North Richardson Grizzly Bear Reproduction Rates	\$5,000
Community-based Monitoring in Aklavik	\$10,000
Analysis of Change in North Slope Wetlands	\$5,000
Inuvialuit Harvest Study	\$25,000
Muskox Management Plan Community Consultations	\$5,000
Muskox Meeting Participation	\$10,000
Total	\$102,500
Balance	\$51,500

Members agreed that there is a need to make other parties, such as universities aware of the funding opportunities. Doug Larsen commented that YTG has a lot of other research priorities and cannot be expected to be the only ones to bring forward proposals.

A discussion was held regarding the process of reviewing and recommending projects. There still appears to be much confusion among the parties involved. The process has not always been consistent, often due to time constraints. It is important that everyone is clear on their roles and how they fit into the process. There have been a number of difficult situations arise in the past when projects approved by the Council have encountered opposition from groups that have been previously consulted. The Roles and Responsibilities workshop, scheduled for the new year, will provide an opportunity to resolve many communication and process problems. A suggestion was made that proposals should be presented following a set format and should provide information on how the initiative relates to the Long Term Research Plan.

Action 00-07-21 : WMAC(NS) is to develop a model as to how research proposals are to be brought forward for approval. The model is to include an outline of the process for project recommendation and approval, and communication of recommendations, as well as the identification of priorities and the initiation of research ideas.

Action 00-07-22 : The process for reviewing and recommending funding for North Slope wildlife management and research projects will be reviewed by the Council at its September meeting.

Monday July 10, 2000

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Danny C. Gordon- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Herbert Felix- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Doug Larsen - Chief, Wildlife Management - Member -Yukon Territorial Government
Joan Eamer – Canadian Wildlife Service - Member - Government of Canada
Alan Fehr – Parks Canada – Alternate – Government of Canada
Aileen Horler – WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Guests: Kirsten Madsen, WMAC(NS) Intern

9. North Slope Conference

a) Agenda for the 2000 Conference

The Chair reported that he and the Secretariat, along with Herbert Felix on the phone, met with YTG in June to discuss the upcoming conference. The conference theme is ‘The Challenge of Change’. There will be a series of workshops specifically addressing questions of change on the North Slope and their impacts.

The Chair distributed a draft agenda for the conference. Members provide their comments on the content and organization. The Chair commented that he would be incorporating the members’ suggestions and forwarding the agenda to YTG as soon as possible.

Members commented that it is very important to have a lot of community participation. Arrangements should be made so that the Board of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee can attend the conference.

b) Recommendations of the 1997 North Slope Conference

The Chair noted that a summary of the recommendations of the 1997 North Slope Conference are to be found in the meeting binders.

Action 00-07- 23: Members are to review the recommendations of the 1997 North Slope Conference and provide their comments to the Secretariat by July 31.

H. Coming Events

The Chair reviewed the schedule of meetings and conferences which will be taking place in September in Whitehorse.

WMAC(NS) Quarterly Meeting	September 11-12
North Slope Conference	September 18-20
Northern Science Network	September 9-20
Northern Climate Exchange	September 20-21
Polar Commission	September 21
AAAS- Arctic Science 2000	September 21-24

In addition, the Chair of the Inuvialuit Game Council would like to meet with the new Minister of Renewable Resources. The Chair reported that the IGC is planning to write to the Minister to request the meeting.

Members agreed that the North Slope Conference would be a good time to host another WMAC(NS) Open House. As the Conference feast is to be held on the 19th, September 18th would be the best day for the Open House.

Action 00-07-24 : The Secretariat will organize a WMAC(NS) Open House to be held on September 18, in conjunction with the North Slope Conference.

I. New Business

1. 1999-2000 WMAC(NS) Activity Report

Members were asked to review the draft of the 1999-2000 WMAC(NS) Activity Report.

Action 00-07-25 : Members will provide comments on the WMAC(NS) Activity report to the Secretariat by July 31.

2. Species at Risk Act

The Chair reported that WMAC(NS) will be collaborating with WMAC(NWT) on preparing a presentation in response to the Species at Risk legislation. Once this written submission has been drafted it will be circulated to members for their review.

Action 00-07-26: The Secretariat will send a copy of the Canadian and international list of species at risk to all Council members.

3. IFA Implementation Reporting

The Chair observed that there is much confusion regarding how agency implementation funds have been assigned, for what purposes and tasks, and how implementation funding is spent. Members agreed that it is important to establish a better reporting system regarding the allocation of implementation funding. As in the past, it was suggested that the September meeting of the Inuvialuit Game Council should provide an opportunity for the CWS and YTG to review their overall implementation funding budgets and expenditures with the IGC under a pre-arranged agenda item specific to the topic area.

Action 00-07-27: WMAC(NS) will contact the Yukon Government and the Canadian Wildlife Service to encourage them to report their IFA implementation funding budgets and expenditures to the Inuvialuit Game Council, during the IGC's September meeting, under an agenda item specific to the topic area. WMAC(NS) will also contact the IGC encouraging the IGC to set aside the appropriate amount of time to discuss this matter.

4. WMAC Charitable Status

Members agreed to table this item to the next meeting.

G. Old Business (continued)

10. Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan Guide for Researchers

The Chair reported that once he has added his comments to the draft of the guide it will be sent to an editor. The intent is to have a draft of the guide ready to be tabled at the North Slope Conference.

Action 00-07-28: The Secretariat will send a copy of the Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan Guide for Researchers to Alan Fehr.

J. Adjournment

Motion

To adjourn.

Moved: Danny C. Gordon

Seconded: Doug Larsen

Motion carried

WMAC(NS) Chair

Date

WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Date