



MEETING MINUTES

WMAC (NS) Quarterly Meeting
Aklavik, NWT
June 10-12, 2013

Lindsay Staples (Chair) · **Rob Florkiewicz** Yukon Government (Member) · **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) · **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) · **Chris Hunter** Government of Canada (Member) · **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat) · **Rosa Brown** (Secretariat) · **Michelle Gruben** Inuvialuit Game Council (Alternate) · **Stephanie Muckenheim** (Guest), Yukon Government, IFA Implementation and Projects Coordinator

June 10, 2013

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:05 AM, welcoming everyone to the meeting and introducing Michelle Gruben as the alternate. He explained that Ernest was only available for the first day of meetings.

The Chair and Secretariat described the schedule for the upcoming days, reviewed the agenda and asked for any revisions.

Motion 06-13-01

To accept the agenda as presented.

Moved by: Danny C. Gordon

Seconded by: Chris Hunter

Motion carried.

The Council reviewed the joint AHTC agenda and the chair asked for any additions to the agenda. None were suggested.

A. Review and Approval of Minutes

The Chair asked for comments on the March 2013 minutes. He discussed the value of a comprehensive set of minutes beyond a meeting record. The minutes can be posted to the website, content searches can be done and they provide a thorough account of council business, similar to a quarterly report. The Council agreed to continue to record meeting minutes in the same way.

Secretariat staff will circulate draft minutes to members within a reasonable time frame. Reaching this goal could involve sending a rough draft for technical review, and/or clarifying content with individual members.

The Council reviewed the March 2013 minutes and had the following revisions:

- *Page 3– “... ‘many’ cliffs washing into the sea before the chicks have been hatched.” Suggested change: “Cameron observed that it appears that many of the cliffs...”*

The Council discussed the Herschel Park Management Plan and its’ direction on research. The current plan suggests that research, visitation, and stop-over for travellers are key uses at Herschel Island. The Council discussed appropriate levels of research to manage in the park.

The Council also talked about a fee for use in the park with respect to tourists driven by increased ship visitation, and researchers to offset costs of their stay (wood, water, etc). The Council has raised fee for service in past.

The Chair mentioned that uses of Herschel Island need to be balanced with Inuvialuit use of the park. Many families use the park for traditional activities. Danny raised concern with running out of driftwood (for firewood) on Herschel Island and where it would come from.

The Council discussed the rangers recording of marine mammal sightings at Herschel Island. Danny thought that recordings were useful observations and that within the rangers mandate recording sightings would be all they could do to monitor marine mammals. The Chair said that the incidental sightings could be useful with respect to marine traffic, moorage, or offshore development.

The Council discussed the difference in monitoring important features and habitats vs. monitoring changes. The Council discussed the need to be discrete and focused about the monitoring program and what its outcomes may be. Rob suggested that indicator species are good candidates for monitoring. The Council wants to ensure that the monitoring effort is being out in the right places.

Rob asked if the ISR community based monitoring program would collect harvest information, he said that YG is interested in harvest data inclusion. The Chair updated the council that the work of the CBM program is underway to include the PC HMP collection requirements for caribou. The goal is for the program is to include harvest monitoring where possible.

- *Page 33- delete “one bear was killed at Shingle Point last year that over quota”.* Rob explained that this kill was not a quota issue, but was due to different harvest seasons.

Council members discussed the need to clearly communicate quota allocations. And need to bring WMAC(NWT) into the discussion.

- *Page 33- last sentence change "...agreed that an increase would not be likely" to "...would not likely be supported by the study results."*
- *Page 38- Action Item 3-13-16 harvest id number. Reference is to sharing hunter id (not personal identifiers)*
- *Page 25 - "There were 29 people in Canadian delegation"*
- *Page 26- delete "Ernest said that Alaskan and Russian polar bear..."*
- *Page 1 - Change Chris Hunter from 'Environment Canada' to 'Canada' member (occurs twice on page)*
- *Page 13- Delete "Chris said the ability to manage...."*
- *Page 19- Change to "The permitting process takes about four weeks and is consistent with the process laid out in the interim guidelines for use of firearms in northern national parks"*

Danny asked Chris if Parks Canada used rubber bullets in firearms for defense. Chris said that generally the bear monitors use live ammunition. They generally do not like to mix ammunitions (live rounds and rubber bullets in the same gun), so their practice is to use live rounds for defense and other means such as noise- makers and bear spray for deterrents.

Chris explained that proper training is required to use rubber bullets successfully to ensure that wounding and mortality is not taking place. Danny agreed that if not used properly rubber bullets could kill and injure bears, and at times make them more dangerous.

Chris suggested the issue of rubber bullets could be raised in the context of the implementation of the proposed changes to the wild animal regulations.

- *Page 40, add "...and Sheep Creek, based on possible cost share opportunities"*
- *page add "Danny announced he had resigned as an alternate member"*

Motion 06-13-02

To approve the March 2013 minutes as revised.

Moved by: Rob Florkiewicz

Seconded by: Ernest Pokiak

Motion carried.

A. Review of Action Items

The secretariat reviewed the following action items:

Action Item 03-12-08: Secretariat to go through the WMAC research guide to ensure that it is current. **In progress.** Staff will present a new draft to members at the September meeting.

Action Item 07-12-07: To have a workshop in Aklavik during this fiscal year on the grizzly bear project. Invites both WMACs and Parks Canada. **Outstanding.** Rob indicated that Ramona is working to roll up results and is nearing completion. Her time has been constrained by work on the Southern Lakes grizzly bear project.

The council suggested that when a report is complete, the Council would review it and then schedule a meeting and a presentation with the AHTC. The report is anticipated to be ready in the Fall for council review, and it was suggested that October would be a good time to present to the AHTC (as people should be in town due to freeze-up time).

Action Item 12-12-06: Council members will provide the Secretariat with suggested revisions for the website. **Revised.**

Action item 06-13-01: If effort to keep the website current, Secretariat staff will send a reminder to Council members requesting review and comment on website content by mid July.

Action Item 07-12-11: Revise the muskox plan to manage the 101 animals that are mostly on the park, and leave the Richardson's animals out of the count. Rob and Lindsay to meet to review further revisions. **Outstanding.** Danny mentioned that 18 muskox showed up at Arctic Red River (and 2 calves).

Action 12-12-04: Prepare the North Slope Conference proceedings and presentation package to post to the website. Send email link to conference participants when it is ready. **In progress.** The Secretariat is working with YG to produce final proceedings, podcasts on NSC, and post to the website. Jen suggested a communications piece for the podcasts. The Council suggested an email postcard informing people that our podcasts are available for download. The Council suggested sending out an email card with a link to the NSC proceedings when they are available.

Stephanie said that she would mention the podcast series in her presentation to IGC.

Action Item 03-13-03: The Council will prepare a written response to Cameron Eckert regarding the Herschel Island 10 year report. **Complete.**

Action Item 03-13-02: The Council will send Sara Nielson, Parks Interpretive Planner, a letter that outlines the WMAC(NS) involvement in the management of Herschel Island and role in reviewing the draft Herschel Island Interpretive Plan. **Complete.**

Action Item 03-13-03: The Council will draft a follow up letter to Imperial following their March presentation. **Retired.**

Action Item 03-13-05: The Council will send YGS a letter recommending that the Council receive a post field season report. **Complete**

Action Item 03-13-08: The secretariat will work with Megan Perry to produce a podcast on CITES. **Retired.** The Council supported the idea of doing a CITES podcast, but plans to do it prior to the next CITES.

The council discussed how meetings on the other side of the world like CITES can influence/impact harvest here. A podcast that focused on how aboriginal rights become jeopardized when facing international forum like CITES would be good.

The Council talked about the podcast tracking feature, which allows checking the location of listenership and number of downloads.

Action Item 03-13-12: The Secretariat will send YG the 2013/14 budget. **Complete.** Jennifer mentioned that the Council did not receive its cheque until early June. Stephanie said that she was aware of this problem and will raise it with finance.

Action Item 03-13-13: Council members will submit comments on the species status report. **In Progress.** The Secretariat will incorporate any outstanding comments and get input from the regional biologist in a few categories.

Action Item 03-13-20: The Secretariat staff will write up main points and recommendations arising from the collaring workshop and establish links to presentations on the WMAC website. **Outstanding.**

B. Correspondence

The council reviewed the following correspondence:

- a. *Invite from the YFWMB* to convene a workshop of co- management boards in the north in Yellowknife later in the year. Lindsay said that he could raise it at the JS board meeting to get a coordinated response from the ISR groups.

The council thought that having a roles and responsibilities workshop would be a bigger priority than this at this time.

- b. *USGS letter from Todd Atwood* –Lindsay explained that a paper is being written on the southern Beaufort polar bear analysis and there is a narrow timeline to provide input. The letter asked how the Council would like to be involved. The Council decided to coordinate a response with WMAC (NWT) and IGC. Rob said that this work is leading to a population assessment report and some of the key management orgs are not involved.

Lindsay spoke about how some concern had been raised that PBSG members are picked by the chair and not by the jurisdictions.

Ernest suggested from his CITES experience that it could be helpful to get continued support from WWF, and Lindsay expressed that the TRAFFIC assessment reports are even handed.

Rob expressed concern about the lack of engagement of all agencies with management authority.

Lindsay said that he would raise the issue in Paulatuk and suggest a joint letter be written.

- c. *Letter from CWS on Lesser snow geese as overabundant*
- d. *Correspondence from Sara Neilson re the Herschel Island interpretive strategy-*
Danny agreed to sit down with Sara to review this in Sept, or before
- e. *AHTC letter on Roles and responsibilities*
Stephanie asked who would be involved in the workshop, just the boards, or governments as well and asked if a product would be coming from it. Lindsay said that these details still need to be worked out, but directed her to the report coming out of the previous workshop that was conducted.
- f. *CWS letter to come to our Sept meeting*
- g. *YG Parks letter on Herschel monitoring plan*

Action Item 06-13-05: The Council will invite the Director of Yukon Parks to the September meeting to discuss the role of WMAC (NS) in the management Herschel Island. In preparation for the meeting, the Council will review the Herschel Island Technical Committee TOR.

- h. *Collaring correspondence* The Chair asked for questions, comments, or considerations. Michelle said that when she first started in her job, there was a workshop on roles and responsibilities and there should be an annual update and orientation sessions. Michelle said that there was good info available during the collaring workshop.

Action Item 06-13-02: The Council will develop an educational package and module on the collaring issue and workshop.

Michelle said that there were many positive aspects brought forward at the collaring workshop and those need to be brought up. Ernest said that at the workshop, nobody liked the collaring, but people agreed that it was needed.

C. Financial Report

- a) **Review of 2012/13 financial engagement report**

Jennifer presented the draft financial report from Kim Tanner. The document was circulated to Council members for review. She explained that the unspent revenues (carry forward amount was \$16,973, of that \$5,000 has been allocated to K. Thiesenhausen's project, leaving \$11,973 in accumulated surplus.

She explained that \$5000 would be held in a GIC as security for the Council credit card.

b) Quarterly financial update

Jennifer presented the 'Running Budget' (Quarterly Financial) update.

She provided an update on the projects: WMCP – Katherine has completed a report, Communications – Activity/Term Report -2k. This is a term report year with only 2k budgeted - proposal to Council that term report (5-8k) be produced every three years instead of every two years. Activity report fulfills Council's reporting responsibilities. A term report every 3 years could coincide with NSC. Layout and design is a large portion of the cost for producing a term report, \$2,000 would allow for some photos and a bit of printing, or editing.

The Council decided to allocate project money between the WCMP, management instruments and PBTk.

Stephanie mentioned that the glossy term reports are a nice communications piece, but with respect to meeting reporting requirements though activity reports, those would be adequate.

Term report could be every three years, refresh on layout and design and seek more economical options for layout and design. Two annual report years followed by a three yr roll up in a term report. Michelle said the HTC members to take the term reports and read them. Chris suggested that we could shop around for a better price on layout and design, and could simplify. Rob said that people like the glossy report are and more likely to read it if it is good quality.

Jennifer mentioned that there are a few other production pieces under management instruments that the council could focus on e.g. compensation poster if not doing term report this year.

Chair expressed the importance on putting 'corporate memory' on paper for future.

D. AHTC meeting

The Council met with the Aklavik HTC from 12:00-1:30pm (see separate minutes). The Chair commented that it was a good meeting and good considerations for future research projects were raised.

E. IFA implementation Funding

Lindsay briefed the Council that a letter has been drafted from the board and committee Chairs to Canada to accompany the IFA funding submission. The JS has submitted funding proposal for all committees except the WMAC (NS), which will be submitted through Yukon Government. The Chairs decided to send a letter after they learned there would be a delay in providing new funding. Canada suggested that they would be extending the current funding levels for another two years while the funding agreement has already been extended by five years. The delay has been explained by a federal review of environmental screening processes in the ISR. The changes are meant to streamline the processes. Canada has said that there would be no new funding arrangements until the review was completed. The Chairs agreed that if the committees are not affected by regulatory review, why wait for a new agreement.

Lindsay said that regulatory reform was a concept that come from the Neil McCrack review which did not include the wildlife management boards.

Stephanie said that there is also lack of clarity and certainty about the process. She has requested clarification on the framework, timelines and opportunities for inclusion; she has yet to receive a response.

Danny explained that he had an unexpected appointment and would not be able to attend the meeting on Tuesday and Wednesday. Ernest also apologized for his absence for Tuesday and Wednesday for attending the petroleum show.

The Council set the meeting dates for September. The dates are Sept 24-26.
The Chair adjourned the meeting at 4:10pm.

Lindsay Staples (Chair) · **Rob Florkiewicz** Yukon Government (Member) **Chris Hunter** Government of Canada (Member) · **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat) · **Rosa Brown** (Secretariat) · **Michelle Gruban** Inuvialuit Game Council (Alternate) · **Evelyn Storr** Inuvialuit Game Council (Alternate) · **Stephanie Muckenheim** (Guest) Yukon Government, IFA Implementation and Projects Coordinator

June 11, 2013

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:10am. He thanked Evelyn and Michelle for joining the meeting as Danny and Ernest were unavailable today. Rob was ill.

He explained to Michelle and Evelyn that Jennie Knopp would be calling to talk about CBM and that Katherine would call in to talk about the contract she is doing for us on the eastern north slope. He explained the nature of her project in collecting what is known about wildlife, traditional use and development on the eastern North Slope
The Chair thanked Rosa for her work with the Council and noted that this is likely her last meeting.

The Chair worked through the remainder of the correspondence.

Outgoing:

- a) *Letter to Sara Nielson on the Herschel interpretive plan* Sara has contracted someone to revise the old plan. The Inuvialuit have a huge role with respect to the plan related to culture and history. The WMAC letter was an attempt to have necessary inclusion of WMAC and Aklavik in the review. We want it vetted through the people that are connected to the place.
- b) *Monitoring at Herschel-* The Council wrote a letter suggesting that engaged and relevant people involved with Herschel Island have a review session of the recent 10 year report. The report rolls up ten years of monitoring data largely collected by the Rangers. The monitoring program takes up a large part of the rangers time and that should be balanced off with their other commitments.

The Council discussed sending a letter back to the Yukon to invite a more in depth discussion on the relationship with the Herschel and the council and have them come to our meeting in Sept. The chair mentioned that it would be helpful if Stephanie can help out on this.

- c) *Letter to Chris Hunter re Firth River management guidelines*
Chris reported on the guidelines, which discuss group size limits on the Firth river.
He also reported that the Parks staff would no longer be doing the Firth river patrols; that they used to go twice per year. The decision is based on higher use at Sheep Creek.
Where the patrols were necessary for EI monitoring protocols, other ways will be looked at for achieving the same objectives.

Lindsay talked about the site plan at sheep creek. He said that the day hiking opportunities out of sheep creek are amazing. There are also longer hikes, like sheep creek to Komakuk which would take about 5-6 days. There could be some effort put into marketing these types of hikes.

- d) *Collaring letter from Lindsay Staples to IGC* and cc'd to the HTC's and others.
This letter was an opportunity to be on record with respect to research expectations in the IFA.
- e) *Temp travel restrictions-* A joint WMAC letter was sent to IGC and HTC's to put a temporary restriction on travel until some issues with respect to clarity of messaging when representing Councils and committees at meetings, especially at international meetings were addressed. The letter was an attempt to educate ourselves on mandates etc. Evelyn agreed and she spoke about her experience in meetings where individuals did not represent the agreement well. She said that it is important that if people are going to travel they should be well informed about what the message is and not speak out of turn. She suggested a caucus meeting before people travel to ensure they are on message.

- f) *Geoscience work letter to Maurice Colpron* Lindsay explained that the YGS program is doing field studies to learn about the history of rocks and minerals of the North Slope. The studies will be publicly available. As a result of the full disclosure of results, there may be companies interested in investigating in the area. Currently companies are unable to do so due to the WO in place. Lindsay explained that the Agreement in principle (AIP) was to have a national park across the whole north slope and there were negotiations after that. YT took the position that they didn't want to give up all the access to the coast and then the park became just the western half. So in eastern half, conservation became number one goal and put in place conservation protections under the WO.

The Council reviewed the information items on their own.

F. Report from the Chair:

Lindsay briefed the members on his recent meeting with the CBM Steering Committee (SC) (chairs of the IGC, WMACs and FJMC). The SC meet with the program coordinator Jennie Knopp who is qualified, motivated and committed to the program. He explained the program as a platform to integrate existing programs and coordinate new programs related to monitoring in the ISR. The program has been funded for two years, but beyond that, the future of the program is subject to available funding.

The SC would like the program to continue beyond two years, but if it does not, the two years will have been a learning opportunity.

He said that the program is designed to allow for specific community interests as well as some overarching programs. The SC is working on Terms of References for operating which will need to balance community needs with those of management agencies. There will also be a technical advisory committee that would have representatives on it from communities and governments. The technical committee would also review the program and provide feedback.

He said that there has been a fair amount of letter writing for correspondence in this quarter and that IFA funding has taken up a fair amount of time as well.

Report from Secretariat

Rosa reported that she has been in conversations to generate a picture guide for North Slope birds.

Evelyn mentioned that there may be one already, but not specific to the North Slope. Chris suggested that this would be a great project for a student to take on.

He explained that Parks did something similar to this, but with a plant guide: a student worked on it and it turned out really well.

Michelle said that borderlands is also looking to generate some guides like this as well.

Evelyn said that a bird checklist could be quite useful for students etc. youth camp.

Rosa said that Wendy, from Environment Canada, also expressed interest in working on this project.

Action Item 06-13-03: The Council will discuss the development of education material re. North Slope birds at December meeting.

G. Parks Canada Update

Chris provided a Parks Canada update.

He said that filling staff vacancies continues to be a high priority; there is about 50% vacancy within the Western Arctic Field Unit. He said that there have been some recent hires: Jean-Francois has been successful in the Ecologist Team Leader position (Molly's current position). Molly has been extended until end of June. Several existing staff have moved into new positions. A few competitions are underway now for: accounting assistant, resource management tech, and asset manager. He said that Adrianna, current site manager, has moved on.

He said that in this year's budget decisions there was strong direction to staff internally, and the WA Unit fought to offer opportunities to beneficiaries, and more recently they have been able to extend the competition to the general public. There still remains a tiered approach to hiring: Internal employees, beneficiaries, and then external applicants.

Chris explained that he has been the acting resource conservation manager since Sept, but he will be returning to his previous position as the Ivaviik/Pingo Site Manager, which creates another vacancy. He explained that someone would be filling the conservation manager position for 3-4 months.

EI Monitoring – Chris provided a summary table of indicators and ecosystems that are being monitored and measured. 2013 activities include: breeding bird surveys in forest/tundra (just completed), five wildlife cameras at Sheep Creek, as discussed for a better picture of elusive species distribution and use (ex: wolverine and lynx). In total there will be 17 cameras in sheep creek and the firch river corridor. The design may need to be refined design based on the outcome of this year. He said that a research plan has been devised for this project and is based on experience from other parks. He said that the cameras also provide a unique outreach tool. The caribou video that was produced is up on parks Canada website and youtube.

He said that river flow, water quality, and benthic invertebrates are being monitored as well. The coastal monitoring is planned for late June/early July to pilot measures discussed with council and community. There is continued support for PCH monitoring .

Coastal monitoring workshop – Chris presented the council with a map and summary incorporating traditional knowledge arising from the meeting. The map is a visual summary of the information heard in workshop. They are interested in receiving comments from WMAC for the confirmation of information on the map to ensure the community is comfortable with the information represented.

The Council recommended that a large map be left with the AHTC and Parks Canada could contact workshop participants directly to ask them to go and review the map for accuracy. Another map would be available with the AHTC for community comments to be recorded on.

Outreach – There has been one youth camp in the Park and it was successful despite cold weather. Another youth group was just beginning. A Parks Canada staff person will have presence at the visitor center in Inuvik five days per week to increase exposure of the parks to visitors and tourists.

Visitor camping weekends – all five are completely booked, with waiting lists. They are working with MEC, Canadian North, NWT Tourism and Capital Suites to create a contest where the prize is a visitor camping trip to Ivvavik. The trip would be next summer.

Site planning and future programming-PC would like to expand on cultural programming at the park. Eric Bear is working with the communities to find someone that could come on the trip and talk to people about history and culture at the site. The person would have to be comfortable on the land and talking to people. This will be a pilot for the august weekend. If it is successful, it can be built into the program. Chris said that Canadian and US journalists are showing interest in the trip, and it could result in a positive media experience. The idea will be trialed in Paulatuk as well end of July.

Chris said that the visitor camping trips are unique to this area, but similar products are being planed for other areas.

Sheep Creek Site plan – The outhouse is full and has been moved. Progressing toward procurement of a grey water waste system, work will be completed in 2014. Work this year has been in preparation for next year. The old generator building has been cleared out in preparation for housing.

Public works is doing an assessment of the runway at sheep creek. The assessment would allow for a better sense of cost and work required to improve landing strip. They still don't know if the improvements will be feasible.

Lindsay suggested that Parks could consider a risk assessment for the airstrip to be explicit about conveying relative risk so people can judge for it themselves. Ernest commented that risk assessment could be part of operations.

Chris said that they have learned, through discussions with pilots that there is no minimum length for a strip, but short strips do now allow for much margin of error.

Lindsay commented that there are many factors including plane weights and recently planes have been re-weighted and the payloads are now 600lbs less.

Lindsay mentioned that the assessment could be done for Herschel Island as well. An assessment of airstrip could be considered for IFA funding.

Site planning – Chris said that they met with the community to provide an update on the sheep creek planning. He said that they would like to start fresh with the right people on the team and think of a vision for the site. They would like to start the process with a site visit. It was suggested that Danny be a member on the team to represent the Council. Comments from the community meeting included moving at a reasonable pace and building a site with a shared vision.

Wild Animal Regulations – Parks has been working on updates for some time. Consultations finished in Dec 2011. The AHTC and WMAC submitted a joint letter with comments and concerns. The process was Canada wide so it has been challenging to get input from across the country to piece together in one set of regulations. The process is not yet completed; there is no timeframe for the next draft. They are being mindful of concerns expressed in this area.

Interim guidelines for firearms – in northern national parks, certain individuals can carry firearms for protections – guides, researchers, beneficiaries and sovereignty operations. Guidelines, and a permitting process exist. Individuals carrying firearms require a license and description of qualifications. Parks will work with co-management boards to build a description of adequate qualifications. Currently the superintendent has the discretion.

NHK – is a Japanese film company interested in doing a feature on the PCH. The Japanese contact has been to Aklavik to present the project. The crew would like to film caribou throughout their lifecycle. Concerns have been expressed. They have a willingness to have community people on board as community monitors (Vuntut and Ivvavik). Apr 2014 – Sept they would like to plan two part visits. Working with PC and communities (Aklavik and Old Crow). PC suggested liaison with production company with better feel for landscape, more details and that they contact WMAC(NS).

** Rob joined the meeting at 1:30pm**

The Chair updated Rob on the morning's activities.

Lindsay talked about IFA responsibilities. There used to be a 200-question exam on the environment section of the IFA that Chairs were required to take. The Council expressed interest in seeing this exam and in developing some education tools about the important aspects to know about the IFA as it related to wildlife.

H. Polar Bear

a) PBAC update

Lindsay provided an update on the PBAC meeting he attended in Victoria. The PBAC consists of the directors of wildlife in polar bear jurisdictions as well as management boards, where they exist. This included Torngat board, Nunatsiavut government, and Makivik, NTI, Nunavut Wildlife management board, WMAC(NWT) and (NS) and IGC. The PBTC has the same make up, but with technical people. The Committee meets once per year.

Since the Council has been involved he has seen a shift in the way people are working together and that the co-management boards are better represented. The TOR for both have been revised. The Chairs for the PBAC and PBTC are now from northern jurisdictions.

The PBTC usually takes three days to present to technical work which results in a status table of each sub population and there is an assessment given, which is sent forward to the PBAC. The PBTC advises the PBAC. The concern with PBAC has been that it doesn't supersede the jurisdictions authorities, it is an important forum because of shared jurisdictions, but the authorities are laid out by jurisdictions already.

The PBAC meeting used to be held by teleconference during the directors of wildlife and then they became full day meetings and next time will likely be two days. The issues are taking longer. 75% of discussion at PBAC this year was related to CITES. The listing in Canada as a threaten species and the need for a management plan for the sub population in Canada and CITES were the two big issues.

For South Beaufort and North Beaufort we need to start thinking about developing a management plan. One way to do this would be to use the conservation strategy as a template and determine what the management objectives and goals are and what the assessment is. Before the next CITES this should be done.

The second major discussion, was what happened at CITES and what are the repercussions. Canada is under scrutiny for polar bear management. This means that the management of one sub population could effect the view of all populations. This has been happening with Davis Straight population (shared with Green land) and South Hudson's bay. Thirdly, there is a lot of attention on how harvests are being reported and biological samples being submitted. All areas are under more scrutiny. It is important to be well informed when speaking in international forums; Terry Adula did an amazing job representing Inuit in Canada at CITES.

Evelyn reiterated the need for everyone to go to these kinds of meetings on the same page. The east and west really had to cooperate and that was achieved.

The Canadian delegation was lead by Environment Canada. Basile has been helpful with respect to coordination with Canada and Inuit coordination. He is involved with other countries internationally as well. He came to PBAC with new management measures that the jurisdictions may think about adopting before the next CITES. He had about six to

eight management tools. Some measures compromised the management rights and authorities that we have in Canada. One measure was to have an international body be heavily involved in Inuit harvest in Can. The council needs to go back and talk about this.

In Inuvik two yrs ago there was discussion to develop an ATK protocol, this is still viewed as a priority. It is a draft of the development for integrating Tk and science. There has been a timetable developed and a working group. The idea is that since TK is under more scrutiny, the development of a national protocol for treatment of TK would be helpful. This is an attempt to elaborate on general statements about including TK. He said that he thinks that the work that Peter has done for us on the TK project will really help. Each jurisdiction is required to report on subpopulations.

b) Inuvialuit – Inupiat Meeting

Jennifer provided an updated on the I-I meeting in Barrow. Danny and Ernest attended and were also there for the WWF trans-boundary workshop. She said that there were a number of people who could not make it to the meeting. USGS did not present their research program, just reviewed their information. Evelyn also participated. The USFWS, the North Slope Borough, and ENR presented their polar bear research programs (see meeting package for presentation). The USGS was represented by Todd. The USFWS seemed to be working better with North Slope Borough, better integration. Marsha presented the south and north Beaufort information including the Yukon projects. On the last day of the I-I commissioners get together in-camera and make recommendations. They are not finalized yet but they build of 2012 recommendations (see pkg). Climate modeling, and development of five-year research plan are ongoing recommendations. Lindsay said that the same comment was made about climate models during in PBTC in Iqaluit.

She said that there was more emphasis on non-invasive techniques e.g. genetic samples hair and skin through darting. Increased darting in research programs by 20% to use less collars. Hair snagging with wire also used.

Lindsay said that there was a lot of discussion about handling at I-I and PBTC. He said that a lot of time is going toward looking at other techniques. Really important that as a group the subject is understood.

Jen said that US designation of critical habitat, which was done when polar bear were listed, included large portions of sea ice, was argued by industry so now rescinded. This matter is still before the courts.

USGS looked at random hair loss (alopecia) looked at bacteria, allergens, persistent pollutions and didn't find any of those to be the cause. About 28% of bears have hair loss, less occurrence this year, it fluctuates.

Evelyn said that it was good week because everybody was together and it is interesting how Alaskans in some areas have different arrangements with respect to co-management.

In contrast the IFA clearly outlines responsibilities. Lindsay said that the Inupiat have resources because of oil and gas revenues. They are well funded more so than Canadian, but here we have co-management bodies and relationships with government that the Inupiat do not; like agreements regarding involvement in management decisions. Jen said that there was a concern raised by the Inuvialuit about Ak harvest reporting for the South Beaufort population. In Alaska, it is voluntary. IGC has been recommending harvest recording and the NSB has been moving in that direction. Marsha has offered to share the “tag kit” system as well.

I. Community Based Monitoring

Jennie Knop joined the meeting by telephone at 2:30pm

Jennie described the current status of the Community Based Monitoring Program and where it is headed over the next six months:

A lot of information was collected during the community tour. The results will be summarized in a report, which the communities will have a chance to review. A training program will be implemented this year; Jennie is currently working to determine how the program will be delivered. It will be base training (covering data collection and analysis, safety and inter-personal skills) which will take place each of the six communities. Additionally, in each community, instruction will include sampling/monitoring methods for the top three priority monitoring needs identified by the community. A data management plan is being developed. It will include a database. The database is now populated with past and current monitoring data. The goal is to transfer this information to a map based tool for use by the communities. It will help determine areas of overlap. Jennie is currently discussing how best to use TK in CBM. There are lots of protocols for how to collect TK. She will summarize the protocols used in the ISR to determine how to best use TK in the CBM program. She is also looking at how to undertake map based data gathering.

This year the program will launch several pilot projects: 1) passive beluga monitoring in Paulatuk to determine abundance; 2) collection of PCH harvest data in Aklavik and Inuvik in partnership with ENR and IGC; 3) water quality work with NWT water stewardship program (Inuvik and Aklavik).

In developing the training program, Jennie is talking to Aurora College, and exploring opportunities to reduce the existing college program from five weeks to a one week program. The communities have requested that the training take place in each community. There may be options for accreditation based on tracking training and work hours.

Other program activities include looking for on-going funding and developing outreach information (pamphlets and website). There may be an opportunity to join a local environmental observer website in Alaska. They will train many people in each

community; ultimately they will need community coordinators as well as people to work with them. (BEAR – building environmental aboriginal resources).

People in the communities were asked how to include TK in CBM. There are different inputs – straight mapping, voice recordings, mapping over time (for example, caribou migration route). There was a common response from all six communities – there is no set way to do it throughout ISR – want standard protocols.

The Chair said there are other TK collection options beyond those described in the ISR. A best practices manual is planned to be produced by PBTk authors (Armitage).

Lindsay also mentioned the work on developing the national Inuit protocol of ATK for polar bear.

Lindsay commented that the scope of the program is broad and asked how priorities would be identified and program not stretched beyond its means to deliver.

Jennie said there should be a guideline about how priorities are determined, now they are described by communities and funding.

Lindsay said that the message of WMAC is that less is more and there are merits of graduation out rather than overreaching and imploding.

Jennie said that CIMP approved CBM for full funding – received 40K to implement program and will provide data on water quality, Porcupine caribou harvest and potential fish monitoring in conjunction with the FJMC.

Jennifer asked what her view of viable funding options were. She said that Oceans north is interested in seeing it continue, CIMP is receptive. Salary funds are missing though and harder to secure.

Lindsay asked about CBM's role with respect to collecting PCH harvest info. Jennie said that it is in its initial stages and being sorted out. The database would be housed at the JS office. CBM could help with input of data to database, and training. Limited resources are available at the moment. Marsha and Dorothy have been working with her on this.

Chris asked if training would be broadly offered to community members or to specific programs. Jennie said it would be broadly offered but would try to target individuals best suited or experienced. Chris said that a shorter training might be useful and flagged that they might not get commitment unless lined up for future employment.

Another challenge is how does training stay relevant and current because they wouldn't be hired for another year.

Jennie left the call at 3:00pm

The chair asked for any comments on the CBM talk.

Chris highlighted the need to secure long term funding for the program to be implemented properly. Evelyn said that industry does a lot of work on TK and what protocols they use. She mentioned the difficulty in using the information, even in communities when it's returned to them for use- it is a challenge to use the information effectively. Lindsay said he has come across a lot of protocols over the years. He made the following comments: communities or TK holders are not clear about how the information should inform decisions, waiting for others to do studies will not yield the best results, communities being proactive is necessary. He said that, it works best when the community organization takes control to do the study and hires those necessary to do the work.

He mentioned that Imperial did a TK study for the pipeline. For Inuvialuit use of the info there is no master database of TK studies; it should be driven by what's going on across the landscape. It would be helpful to start to build bodies of information spatially, and build the layers of info. The application in changed environments is becoming challenging as well.

Evelyn said that the information for TK comes from the people, and they can feel overwhelmed when they are continually asked for it. Michelle commented that there should be a systematic way to collect and store the TK information. Companies are often required to include TK in their studies when they are going through a review, we need to start applying the lessons learned from TK , so that this can be done in a more meaningful way.

Evelyn spoke about a woman who came to Aklavik to present material that was collected during the Berger inquiry. She said it was amazing to hear the audio tapes of elders speaking about their experiences on the land. The remarkable thing was that the things they were speaking about are still the concerns of today. The material was completely relevant. It was nice to see something being done with the information that had been collected.

J. Polar bear Traditional knowledge project

The Chair provided an update with regard to progress on the PBTk project. Peter has produced a report and the next step is for the Steering Committee (SC) to give comments back to Peter by the end of July. There will likely be an additional section on polar bear management and how it has changed since the signing of the IFA as well as an appendix that speaks about Inuvialuit, science and TK holders. The SC is Lindsay, Jennifer S , Larry C, Marsha B + Jen L. The project is run by both WMACs. In Sept the draft report will be tabled for formal review and distributed to HTCs so they can review at same time. There will be about one month's time to provide comments back to Peter so that he can have final product for us by Dec. The transcripts and the coding work would also be provided back to us for management purposes as well as a best practices guidelines prepared by Peter and Stephan Kilburn for mapping and collection on tk.

K. Roles and responsibilities:

The Council discussed a workshop that would inform and address misunderstandings, and clarify interpretations with respect to roles and responsibilities under the IFA.

The workshop could be attended by all implementing parties, or broken out in groups. The Council thought it would be beneficial to have HTC, IGC, WMACs, FJMC and a couple of representatives from each of the governments. Michelle mentioned that there are about 42 people including all of the HTC members.

The workshop would be facilitated or chaired, with resource people who are viewed as knowledgeable. It would also be useful to have a lawyer there to interpret some understandings. It would be an opportunity for questions and interaction.

The workshop could be structured by section of the agreement or by organization (ex HTC, WMACs, IGC...)

Evelyn suggested that it would help people be able to represent their committee accurately and effectively. Committee mandates are different and it is important representatives are aware of what they are. She said that it would be useful to have training packages committee by committee. Michelle said that here is a paper on roles and responsibilities for HTCs, but she's not aware if there are used.

Evelyn suggested that a workshop could be held in Inuvik or it could be done community by community – which may lead to higher attendance.

Chris mentioned that TTN management board is another co-management board that they could be involved.

Stephanie mentioned that Scott Alexander (GNWT) would be a great resource, before he retires.

The Chair said he would raise the concept with the IGC, as they would be an appropriate committee to lead it.

Evelyn suggested that it would be helpful to have an information sheet describing co-management board responsibilities when people are putting their name forward so that they understand the commitment.

In conclusion, the Chair spoke of the importance of including the responsible governments in the roles and responsibilities workshop and of continuing direct relationships with government departments as opposed to implementation of the IFA moving to the YFA Self-government Secretariat. Stephanie said that although she does her best in communicating information to her peers, it would be beneficial for these people to meet and interact with other individuals involved with co-management.

The Chair called the meeting to a close at 4:30pm.

Lindsay Staples (Chair) · **Rob Florkiewicz** Yukon Government (Member) · **Chris Hunter** Government of Canada (Member) · **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat) · **Rosa Brown** (Secretariat) · **Michelle Gruban** Inuvialuit Game Council (Alternate) · **Evelyn Storr** Inuvialuit Game Council (Alternate)

June 12, 2013

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

L. Eastern North Slope

The council reviewed Katherine T.'s work in the status of information on the eastern portion of the Yukon North Slope. Her work focused on three main sections: wildlife, Inuvialuit use and development.

The Council agreed that they were satisfied with the work. A few comments were raised.

Rob suggested that it would be helpful to see the wildlife projects spatially on the north slope that could be referenced to specific geographic locations.

With regard to a list of questions generated by Katherine, Michelle Gruban said that DFO has char monitoring at the coast – related to harvest levels on Dolly Varden char. FJMC has some going way back.

Lindsay flagged the need to involve the FJMC in some way in the project to bring in the fisheries perspective.

Action item 06-13-04: The council will provide comments to Katherine by the end of June with the goal to assist her complete the project. Michelle, Evelyn, and Danny will review the work based on their familiarity with the area.

Evelyn said that it is good to have outstanding questions in mind (as Katherine provided), whether they are addressed or not, it is important to know what they are. Evelyn said that she has a question about use of king point and she said that people go there for fishing and it is pretty much the only place to go for shelter.

With regard to wolverine, we have the harvest study and all wolverine harvest will be submitted through Marsha's program for the incentive and there is not always good location information. Michelle said that the majority of them are from the Shingle area.

Evelyn said that her dad used to go to Shingle during the wintertime and stay and trap and nobody does that really now.

Rob said that the location information for wolverine is important to have. Michelle said that with the monthly draw program it is recorded. It was a good program, but she said they are not doing it anymore.

Michelle said that it was good because the harvester used to come in and you got a lot of information from them. Michelle said that they would work with Marsha on her surveys and the CBM as well.

Lindsay talked about the value of mapping information as a visual tool to convey information. There is not a lot of spatial data available (eg. Traditional activities). Talked about giving GPS units to active folks on the land to record where they go etc.

Evelyn and Michelle talked about how oil and gas TK reports are not returned to the community. They take the information but do not share it back to the community. Lindsay said that TK holders should be the ones who 'own' the information. Michelle said that recently the HTC said no to a TK study because there is a lot of information out there and they haven't been adequately compensated, and the information has not come back to the community.

Jennifer suggested that this could be a condition of doing the work through the screening process.

Lindsay said that all the original recordings and transcripts should be stored with the community. Sometimes arrangements are made that the information is housed in two places.

Evelyn said if it was this way, other industry studies could be directed toward existing studies. Lindsay said IGC should have generic standard protocol that could be tweaked by the HTC's.

***Katherine joined the meeting by phone at 10:20 AM ***

Lindsay introduced Katherine and said everybody pleased with material produced. It was an enormous task with limitations in time and budget. Thank you for a great job. Some of the questions on page 19 speak to areas that need more digging, or suggest an existing gap. In the summary report, state of information, outside of resource inventory reports for Ivvavik there is not a similar statement for other areas of NS. This is the first information summary of its type.

Rob asked about opportunities to link information spatially to specific regions. Geo-spatial info for wildlife data is lacking. It depends on scale of data (snow goose TK study broad scale – Com Conservation Plan) very broad and would be valuable to link geo-spatial databases. TK studies spatial data very broad, and harvest data at 10x10km blocks.

Lindsay asked about the Inuvialuit harvest study and the physical production of maps. The screening committee did use the JS GIS staff person to produce maps, but have moved toward developer producing the maps because JS no longer has GIS capacity. IHS – may be a couple years of gaps, but for bulk of 10 years, maps were used and put into a GIS system. ENR NWT has database as well.

Rob asked about waterfowl information along the coastal zones. There are a lot of past studies from various pipeline proposals. More recent is TK study info. CWS recently updated. But it didn't include the Yukon. This is an area that Katherine did not assess. Would be interesting to know about King Point re. deep water port.

Lindsay asked Katherine, if there were any spatial sources of traditional use on the North Slope outside of harvest data study and community conservation plans. She said that there have been more recent TK studies that include traditional use undertaken by industry (Devon – is proprietary because it is rolled into impact statements). Lindsay asked if industry was that asserting they own the information. If it has been done in the last decade, it would be interesting to compare to the past use to see if there are changes.

She said that Michael Fabian from Kavik is largely in contact for that information. Katherine pointed out that if the information has not been returned to Aklavik, has it been verified? Regarding traditional Use, it would be useful to have this info in Aklavik when discussing community conservation plans because there is very little information in the plans. Areas are listed and described as data deficient, requiring further info.

Chris asked about near term development scenarios. 2012 Lynn Cowell forecasting reports for next 15 years. They forecast one to two shallow platform drilling 2014, 2020 drilling. Conoco Phillips (Amauligak field – largest oil and gas) undertaking feasibility study. Options for transport include YNS tankering to AK or sub-sea pipeline off coast.

Katherine said she welcomes feedback on the report. With respect to the questions that she has raised on page 19: -Dolly Varden, she has collected information and files but hasn't reviewed them. Regarding wolverine, there is not a lot of information available for YNS, but there is for AK and NWT.

Katherine has copied information that she has collected onto a hard drive for the Council. She will list the documents she has collected so that the Council knows the information is there.

Lindsay commented that Katherine has become an expert on the information and is now a resource to the Council. Katherine said the database she has created would allow others to become experts as well. She relied on the Council to be the experts on wildlife, so focused on other two areas of the contract. Lindsay said there is interest from others in this work (partners, HTC, Parks Canada, etc).

*** Katherine left the meeting at 11AM***

M. COSEWIC Wolverine Report

The Chair asked for comments on the report. Rob said that YG is looking to determine harvest levels in the Yukon and there is not information on the Yukon North Slope because Yukon animals are caught through the NWT system. Lindsay said that the harvest is being recorded at least in the NWT, though not specific to area.

Rosa added that Danny said in his opinion wolverine in the local area have decreased a bit. GNWT offers a program for wolverine and for wolves where payment is received for the pelt in order to do research. Marsha suggested that it could be time to review both of these programs.

Evelyn said that when they started the incentive program for wolves a lot of wolves were being taking, so it seems like this might be case. Michelle said that there are a lot of wolves out here to take. Rosa said that the wolves provide carrion for wolverine and so the incentive program could be affecting the wolverine.

Evelyn said that the western population includes a large range in the report, which covers the area of the ISR. Rosa asked if any one had the background on wolverine in the past, Nunvut wildlife management board commented on the western population and the council clarified that they are part of the western population .

Lindsay mentioned that the Yukon isn't mentioned much compared to NWT and he raised the question of what the argument would be for regulating the harvest. He said that you can still have a regulated harvest without having a quota.

The Council noted that sweeping statements could be addressed.

Action Item 06-13-05: Secretariat to incorporate ISR management regime, address any sweeping statements and comments from Danny into a response to the COSEWIC report on wolverine.

Evelyn noted that of the list of threats in the report, none of them apply to NS area,

Evelyn said that in Paulatuk she doesn't see that many parkas with wolverine trim anymore, so she wonders about the status of harvest.

Lindsay said they do reference carcass collection program in the report.

N. Round River discussion

The Chair provided background information about Round River Conservation Studies. He explained that they have indicated they would be interested in working in the eastern north slope area to assist the council in determining the conservation requirements of the area. He said that we are looking to them to help us design some strategies and approaches for this area.

We cant currently do it on our own because:

#1 – we don't have much money as a council or government to do this work. This is not funded through implementation \$.

#2 – capacity- it will take a look of work to do this piece –lack of professional resources to work on drafting of a strategy in the area.

He suggested that the council go to their website to look at some of the work they have done. They raise money to fund the work the do for others. They fund themselves to do the work.

They will come to our Sept meeting to introduce themselves to the Council and to the IGC.

Lindsay suggested that Michelle or Evelyn come to the Sept meeting so that we know people in Aklavik are comfortable with the idea.

The Council members seemed interested in pursuing the work.

Action Item 06-13-06: Send Round River an invite letter for them to attend our September meeting.

With any partners will need to have a letter of agreement which is clear about what the arrangements are.

Rob said that the ecological land classification group in his dept may be looking at doing land class work as early as next year. In YG this is Nadele Flynn, Katherine Kennedy, and Mike Sutor at some level.

Chris raised the idea about looking at other organizations too, so that we have a Plan B as well. Council decided to go ahead with Sept meeting and assess. The chair emphasized the need for strong timelines on planning exercises like this. If you don't the can take a long time.

Evelyn said that this fits nicely with Katherine's work and it is coming up soon with the five -year review of community conservation plan. She suggested that they could add more to the CCP s as well when the review comes up.

O. Wildlife Research Funds

Chris and Rob provided the status of wildlife current wildlife research projects for Parks and YG.

Evelyn spoke to the idea presented by the AHTC re. hiring their own researchers. She said that the important thing for this to work is to know what you want out of it.

She suggested that an implementation funding factsheet would be useful to have for the HTC that would explain who is utilizing the funds, and for what etc. Lindsay agreed something like a flowchart that outlines the progress of money in would be helpful. The roles and responsibilities workshop could have a section on funding. The Council has always tried to be transparent and tried to achieve partnerships between governments and agencies. Rob pointed out that agency money is also contributed to these research projects as well.

Evelyn suggested posters as communication tools for the grizzly bear study would be useful.

Michelle asked if there was any way they could get information about when the planes will be out. People on the land are always commenting on there being plane activity. Lindsay confirmed that this was a reasonable request and that researchers need to be reminded to inform the community of their flying schedule.

Action Item 06-13-07: Secretariat staff will develop a flyer that will be included in letters to researchers outlining what is expected with regard to communicating with the community about flight schedules. A draft of this letter will be sent to the AHTC for review.

Michelle said they get regular briefings from Herschel re. flights and users.

Evelyn said that EISC could convey this. Rob said that YG flights are mainly for PCH monitoring.

P. Dall Sheep Plan

The Chair explained that the plan has been circulated again by Yukon Government. The Council last provided comments in 2008. Leadership on the project has changed over time from GTC to Yukon/Vuntut. It is great to see it move forward, but other parties may have revisions, including WMAC suggestions in 2008 (not sure how they were incorporated). May want to consolidate all suggested revisions, and then call a meeting to review.

Rob said they have taken the plan arrived at by everybody's comments and tried to deal with clarification of the language around the harvest, survey intervals and actions.

Action Item 06-13-08: Re. Dall's Sheep Plan – The Chair will draft a letter to YG and VGFN to suggest an alternate process for completing the plan; the draft report should be sent to the Working Group, then to the Parties, after which, there should be a meeting of the Parties to discuss the collective comments. This letter will be circulated to the Parties.

Rob- said that the plan is much of what people have seen before and that substantive changes are around harvest.

In preparation of a response to the most recent draft Dall's Sheep Management Plan, Secretariat staff/the Chair will review the status and relevancy of comments submitted to YG in 2008.

The chair asked for other comments:

Evelyn raised the concern of shingle point garbage. Lindsay said that incineration has worked out the best. Its always been tricky to find the funding because is not a community in the Yukon, but nor is it NWT. Need to recast as a bear management instrument.

Action Item 06-13-09: The Council will assist in finding a solution to garbage incineration at Shingle Point. Efforts could include reviewing the options report developed by Ramona M. and Michelle C., talking to Richard G. and researching funding options.

Chris said that the Torngat mountains base camp has proactive garbage management; they use basic technology for clean incineration.

In closing, the Chair thanked the Council members for their time and participation.

Motion 06-13-03

To adjourn the meeting.

Moved: Rob

Second: Evelyn

The Chair called the meeting to an end at 3pm.