



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

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MINUTES

WMAC (NS) QUARTERLY MEETING

Aklavik, NWT

May 8, 2000

-
- Present:** Lindsay Staples – Chair
Billie Archie – Alternate Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Carol Arey – Alternate Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Brian Pelchat- Chief, Regional Management - Member -Yukon Territorial Government
Alan Fehr – Parks Canada – Alternate – Government of Canada
Dorothy Cooley – Regional Biologist – Alternate – Yukon Territorial Government
Aileen Horler – WMAC(NS) Secretariat
- Guests:** Donald Aviugana- Aklavik Elders Committee, Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee
Dave Ladret- Special Projects Officer, Yukon Government, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Office
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A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM. All were welcomed.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda. Among the items that need to be covered during the meeting include the approval of the year-end financial statement, 2000-2001 WMAC(NS) budget allocations and updates on several initiatives. Dave Ladret will

update members on the Herschel Island Management Plan review. Items that need more time for consideration will be covered at the retreat meeting planned for July.

Motion

To adopt the agenda.

Moved: Brian Pelchat

Second: Billy Archie

Motion carried

C. Review and Approval of Minutes of December 14-15, 1999 meeting

Members reviewed the minutes of the December 14-15, 1999 meeting. No changes were made to the draft minutes.

Motion

To accept the minutes of December 14-15, 1999 meeting.

Moved: Alan Fehr

Seconded: Dorothy Cooley

Motion carried

D. Review and Approval of Minutes of March 7, 2000 teleconference

Members reviewed the minutes of the March 7, 2000 teleconference. No changes were made to the draft minutes.

Motion

To accept the minutes of March 7, 2000 teleconference.

Moved: Brian Pelchat

Motion carried pending approval of Joan Eamer.

E. Review of Action Items of December 14-15, 1999 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. Dorothy reported that she wants to consult with Danny before expanding the report.

Action 99-05-05: Alan Fehr will pursue how to best inform the appropriate schools about the muskox school unit and suggest ways to integrate the unit into to current curriculum.

Alan Fehr reported that he has talked to several teachers regarding the best way to integrate the muskox unit into to current curriculum but it is still not clear what is the best format to use. The unit needs more work before it can be used in the classroom. The material in the unit is now in a draft format for the teachers to use. It has to be further developed to target specific grade levels. It needs to be in a format that makes it more readily available for use in the classroom. A CD ROM is one possibility. It was suggested that muskox could be used as a way of introducing other topics, such as arctic ecology or contaminants.

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

Action 99-05-21: The draft Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan will be reviewed by the Council during its September meeting.

Retired. See action 99-12-10.

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. It was agreed to try to raise this topic at the meeting with the HTC to be held later in the day.

Action 99-09-06 : WMAC(NS) will draft a communications protocol, addressing the need to establish clear lines of communication between all parties responsible for resources management on the Yukon North Slope. The draft is to be circulated in November so that it can be discussed and recommended at the Council's December meeting.

Revised. The Chair commented that there is a need to clarify the first point of contact and lines of communication between agencies. There is a lot of confusion over the process of the review, recommendation and approval of research projects. This falls under the broader issue of roles and responsibilities of the different agencies and co-management bodies overall. The Joint Secretariat Board of Directors has proposed a workshop, to be held in the new year, to focus on the issues of roles and responsibilities. Brian Pelchat commented that there is a real need for better communications between all parties. Carol Arey added that the HTC is also interested in seeing communications improved and clarifying roles and responsibilities of each agency.

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.

Action 99-09-10 : WMAC(NS) will write to the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Aklavik Community Corporation regarding the restoration and maintenance of Inuvialuit gravesites on Herschel Island.

Revised. See Action 00-05-03 below.

Current Items

Action 99-12- 01: The Secretariat will contact Billy Archie to arrange a meeting with the Aklavik Elders Council to discuss their position on the restoration and maintenance of Inuvialuit gravesites on Herschel Island.

Revised.

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.

Action 99-12-02: The Secretariat will initiate the development of a library of fact sheets on select topics, such as quotas and monitoring.

Completed.

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.

Outstanding. The Chair reported that the Guide for Researchers is being edited and will be available for review by members at the July meeting. The Guide will then need to be reviewed with the community of Aklavik in a workshop.

Action 99-12-04: Dorothy Cooley will forward a copy of the paper titled 'Legislative Gap in Canada's Ability to Regulate Hunting and Management of Polar Bears in the Offshore' to John Russell.

Completed.

Action 99-12-05: Alan Fehr will review the long term research plan and identify what Parks Canada is interested in working on, set priorities, identify opportunities and who is doing what.

Completed.

Action 99-12- 06: The Secretariat will prepare the terms of reference for the youth intern and circulate it to members for review.

Completed

Action 99-12-07: An allocation of \$4,000 from the Council's budget is be used for one of the Herschel Park rangers from Aklavik to attend EMAN meetings in Toronto in January. The Secretariat is to make any necessary arrangements.

Retired.

Action 99-12-08 : The Council will hold a conference call in early February to consider the allocation of unspent funds.

Completed.

Action 99-12-09: The Chair will write a memo to file on the meeting held in Anchorage regarding the management of muskox on the North Slope.

Completed.

Action 99-12-10: Dorothy Cooley and Ian McDonald will complete a draft of the Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan by March 2000.

Completed. See discussion on the plan below.

Action 99-12-11 : Joan Eamer will instruct Kent Sinnott to contact Hillarie Greening regarding information on aircraft disturbance which has been collected by the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-operative.

Completed.

Action 99-12-12: Secretariat will contact Danny C. Gordon to see if he can represent the Council at the January meeting sponsored by Parks Canada that is being held to discuss some of the identified Ivvavik Park management issues.

Completed

Action 99-12-13 : Secretariat will contact members in early January to discuss basic organisational work that needs to be done in preparation for the Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan Implementation Workshop.

Completed

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

Ongoing. The recommendations will be available for members to review at the July meeting.

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.

Outstanding.

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.

E. Review of Action Items of March 7, 2000 teleconference

Action 00-03-01: The Council will write a letter of support to Eddy Carmack for the project titled 'Methane Storage and Release in High Latitude Lakes and Coastal Seas of the Yukon North Slope'. The letter will also explain the reasons why the Council was not able to recommend wildlife management funding for the project.

Completed.

Action 00-03-02: The Secretariat will write a letter to Dorothy Cooley indicating the Council's support for the Porcupine caribou calving surveys, census and composition count.

Completed.

Action 00-03- 03: The Chair will review Defence Construction Canada submission to the EISC for the clean up of the Shingle Point (BAR-2) DEW Line Site and forward any comments to the EISC, on behalf of the Council..

Completed.

F. Correspondence

Members reviewed the correspondence in the meeting binder. Correspondence included the following items:

- A letter from Duane Smith, IGC to Piers McDonald, Yukon Government Leader, regarding section 19(3) of the Yukon Act. (December 8, 1999)
- A letter from John Walsh, Deputy Minister of the Yukon Government Executive Council Office, to Duane Smith in response to the IGC's December 1999 letter regarding section 19(3) of the Yukon Act. (March 7, 2000)
- A letter from Aynslie Ogden of the Northern Climate Exchange inviting WMAC(NS) to appoint a representative to the Northern Climate Exchange steering committee. The Chair noted that Joan Eamer sits on the steering committee for Environment Canada and can represent WMAC(NS). (April 4, 2000)
- A letter from Tom Beck announcing his resignation as the Chair of the Environmental Impact Screening Committee. (March 21, 2000)
- A letter from the Joint Secretariat to the Inuvialuit Investment Corporation regarding a donation of \$30,000 to the Nelson Green – Joint Secretariat Memorial Scholarship. (March 17, 2000)
- A letter from Duane Smith, IGC to Ron Morrison, GNWT- DRWED, Inuvik, regarding the recent muskox hunt in the NWT, the review of the GNWT Wildlife Act, and the need for joint research to be conducted on the herd. (April 20, 2000)
- A letter from Tom Beck, Chair, Environmental Impact Screening Committee, regarding the inappropriateness of presentations on economic aspects of a project intended to influence screening decisions. (April 19, 2000)
- A letter from Dr. Fred Roots, Science Advisor Emeritus, Environment Canada to the Chair. (March 22, 2000)
- A letter to the Chair from R. Clarke, DFO, regarding the Council's input into the Arctic Science Planning Initiative. (January 28, 2000)

G. Financial Report

a) Review and approval of 1999-2000 year-end statement

The Secretariat reviewed the 1999-2000 year-end statement. Line items that were underspent or overspent were noted. There were no exceptional differences in spending from the budget allocations. The final figure for the year shows the budget as being \$97.99 underspent.

Motion

To accept the WMAC(NS) 1999-2000 year-end statement.

Moved: Brian Pelchat

Seconded: Billy Archie

Motion carried

H. Old Business

1. Muskox Management

Dorothy Cooley distributed copies of the draft Muskox Management Plan which contained the changes she had made. (Copies of the plan which include changes made by Ian McDonald of Parks Canada were distributed to members the previous evening.) Dorothy commented that most of her changes are organizational.

Billy Archie noted the need to include information on muskox parasites in the plan. Carol Arey commented that it would be very useful to compile and include traditional knowledge about the muskox. This could be done through a workshop. Dorothy commented that the need to incorporate traditional knowledge has been acknowledged in the plan and is included as an action item in the section on muskox ecology.

The plan will look at the entire North Slope muskox population. WMAC(NS) needs to be able to make a recommendation on a subsistence harvest level for the Yukon North Slope. Brian Pelchat commented that it will be necessary to go through a process to determine Inuvialuit subsistence needs, as laid out in the IFA, before it is possible to determine the harvest level. It is expected that there will be interest from other First Nations to hunt muskox in their traditional territories.

Members agreed that Dorothy and Ian should work together to produce a single draft of the plan based on the changes that they have each suggested. Members will review the two drafts and provide comments. The integrated new draft should be available for members to review at the July meeting. In addition members need to review the consultation process as it was previously developed.

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.

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.

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.

2. Wildlife Act Amendments

The Chair provided members with an update on the Yukon Wildlife Act amendments process. The Yukon Government contracted a lawyer last fall to determine the gaps in the regulations. This assessment is now going through an internal review at YTG. Once this review is completed there will be a meeting of the Working Group to move ahead with the process.

3. Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan

Kirsten Madsen has been working with the Chair and the Secretariat to review and update the Plan. Overall the progress has been very good. It has been necessary to make a lot of changes and additions to the last draft which was completed in 1994. Each chapter has been reviewed and further changes are anticipated as a result of a 2-day working session planned for the following week. There will be a new draft of the plan ready for the members to review at the July meeting.

4. Long Term Research Plan

The Guide for Researchers is currently under internal review. An updated version will be ready for members to review in July. The results of the January workshop are being written-up now. Once it is completed changes will be made to the Web site.

5. 1999/2000 Wildlife Management and Research Proposals Update

a) Yukon North Slope Poster

The Secretariat reported that the poster is in its final stages of production. It has to go to Toronto to be printed and will be available for distribution in early June.

6. Herschel Island Territorial Park Management Plan review

The Chair welcomed Dave Ladret, Special Projects Officer, Yukon Government, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Branch.

Dave distributed a new draft of the scoping document for the review of the Herschel Island Management Plan and informed members that the Branch is trying to get it ready to go to Cabinet. The Parks Branch is still waiting to get comments on the document from several sources including WMAC(NS).

The Chair commented that WMAC(NS) will be writing to the new YTG Minister of Renewable Resources regarding the review process. (see action 99-12-15 above) It is very important to move ahead as soon as possible with the review as there are many big

issues to resolve. Other stakeholders and organizations with an interest in the process for reviewing the management plan need to become involved as well. Dave acknowledged that there is a need to improve local involvement in the operations of the Park.

Dave reported that Kevin Johnson will act as the Senior Park Warden this summer. The Parks Branch advertised for the vacant Park Ranger position but no Inuvialuit beneficiaries applied for the job. YTG has gone ahead with the hiring for this position, anyway. There is a need for establishing key contacts among stakeholders to assist with the identification of Inuvialuit who could fill the Herschel Island positions. Ongoing training opportunities also need to be established to ensure that qualified people are available. There is a real problem with staff turnover. Better relationships need to be built between all parties.

Carol Arey commented the rangers who have worked on Herschel Island feel that their concerns are not being heard. They feel that they are stuck in one position and that nothing ever changes.

Billy Archie commented that the Rangers need to be trained in a variety of things such as monitoring and park operations. They also need to have an understanding of Inuvialuit hunting rights on the island. Billy added how valuable it was that Sandy Keop was able to go to Shingle Point last summer to meet with the HTC and community members.

A discussion was held as to how to proceed with the review process. It has been going on for almost two years and very little has happened. Members expressed their concerns about how long it is taking. As a meeting with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee is not a public consultation and can therefore occur before the scoping document gets cabinet approval, Dave was encourage to meet with the HTC as soon as possible. This would be one action which could be taken to get the review underway. Additional comments were made as to the growing concern over the number of flights in the area.

When asked who will be in charge of running the review, Dave commented that he will be responsible. It is anticipated that the review will continue on into next year. There will be other government departments involved as need, such as the Public Service Commission. The Chair commented that once the process is established it will be important to ensure that the resources are in place to carry out the review. There is a real need to improve communications between the rangers, the HTC and the community.

Dorothy Cooley reported that the raw data of bird observations and wildlife sightings collected from Herschel Island over the years is now being entered into a database.

I. Meeting with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee Board of Directors.

The Chair welcomed Marjorie Elanik, Danny A. Gordon and Jacob Archie, Directors of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, to the meeting. (Carol Arey, Donald Aviugana and Billy Archie, who are also Directors, were already present.)

1. Muskox Management

The Chair reported that the Council is making progress in the development of the muskox management plan. A meeting was held with Alaskan managers in December 1999 to discuss issues around the entire North Slope herd. The Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan will be out in draft this summer and will then be reviewed. Regulations need to be developed in order for a hunt to begin. Brian Pelchat explained the issue of Inuvialuit having preferential rights to hunt muskox on the Yukon North Slope, as opposed to the exclusive right that they hold in the NWT. Once the hunting ban is lifted on the North Slope muskox, the hunting will be open to all Yukon hunters. The Council has to make a recommendation regarding an Inuvialuit subsistence level before any harvest allocations can be determined.

Alan Fehr reported on the muskox survey that was conducted the second week of April, between the Alaskan border and the Babbage River. About 85 animals were counted. Two of the Yukon collared animals were found in a group of about 30 in Alaska. The count on the Yukon North Slope is lower than in previous years but it is believed that this is a result of some of the animals moving into Alaska. Carol Arey asked about the muskox not in the survey area. Dorothy Cooley replied that it is very expensive to survey the entire area where muskox could possibly be found. If animals are reported from elsewhere their numbers are included in the overall population count.

The harvest quota will be based on the entire North Slope population, including Alaska. WMAC(NS) will be working closely with WMAC(NWT). The allocation to the Inuvialuit will be done in consultation with the Alaskans.

2. Re-survey Moose from the Richardson Mountains to the Babbage River

Dorothy Cooley provided an update on the results of the moose survey that was conducted in March 2000. A lot of moose were found during the survey. The population numbers have increased by 67% since 1989 when the last survey was completed. It is the highest density of moose in the Yukon. There are no concerns about the harvest as the numbers are well within the sustainable limit. Only good habitat areas were surveyed. The area west of the Blow River couldn't be surveyed at this time because of the weather. Parks Canada has recently surveyed the area and the results will be available soon. It is hoped that other areas in the region will be surveyed. The Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board and the GNWT are interested in doing counts.

3. Yukon North Slope Research Priorities and Concerns

The Chair noted that the HTC had provided a list of research priorities for the Long Term Research Plan workshop held in January and asked if the Directors had any additional research that they would like to see undertaken on the Yukon North Slope. Directors were also asked to raise any general concerns they have about the North Slope. Below is a summary of the points were raised:

- It was suggested that a workshop be held to compile traditional knowledge about muskox.
- A concern was raised about the population of muskrats near Aklavik being lower. More muskrats are found closer to the North Slope. It was also noted that there are a lot of lynx on the North Slope.
- A concern was raised about waterfowl bringing parasites into the area.
- Several concerns were raised regarding the clean-up of Stokes Point. Alan Fehr commented that soil and water sampling will be conducted at Stokes this summer.
- A general discussion regarding water quality raised questions of where sampling was being conducted and what tests were being completed.
- A concern was raised regarding the difficulty of finding out the results of any biological samples sent out for testing.
- Concerns about aircraft landing on the North Slope lead to a discussion regarding the regulation of landings and low level flying.
- In response to a concern regarding fuel barrels left at the Big Fish River, Dorothy Cooley commented that they will be removed this summer.
- Carol Arey agreed to check through the previous HTC minutes to find out what other issues and research priorities were discussed.

4. Herschel Island Management Plan Review

The Chair introduced Dave Ladret, Special Projects Officer, Yukon Government, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Office. Dave reported that the Yukon Government has prepared a scoping document that outlines the process for the review of the management plan. The plan won't go out for public review until the scoping document gets Cabinet approval.

Kevin Johnson will be acting as the Senior Park Warden this summer. He is on a one-year secondment from his job as a Conservation Officer in Ross River, Yukon. No Inuvialuit beneficiaries applied for the vacant Park Ranger position. YTG has gone ahead with the hiring for this position, anyway.

Carol Arey commented that there is a need to involve former staff in determining why they are not returning and why people are not applying. Former staff should be involved in identifying problems and issues on the island in an effort to improve to the way things are run. Questions were raised as to why there is such a high turnover in staff. Meeting participants agreed that there is a need to look at the organizational structure of the Park.

Dave commented that there is a need to provide more training for people who are hired as Rangers. The Chair added that there is a need for training in ecosystem monitoring as well as in park operations.

When questions were raised about the interpreter position in the park, Dave replied that there were no plans for reinstating the position. Billy Archie commented that there are a number of economic opportunities associated with the park, such as the establishment of an interpretation service. Right now the Rangers are spending too much time trying to interpret for the tourist that takes them away from their other duties. Carol Arey also suggested that students could be trained to act as interpreters. The Chair indicated that he understands that Parks Canada is developing an Inuvialuit employment strategy for national parks in the ISR, and that a similar strategy possibly could be considered for Herschel Island.

All meeting participants agreed that it is important to hold a longer session in Aklavik to work through all the issues related to Herschel Island. The Parks Branch was encouraged to meet with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee as soon as possible to identify issues, prior to any broader public consultations.

5. 2000-2001 Wildlife Management Updates and Research Proposals

a) Muskox Ecology Studies

Dorothy Cooley outlined the initiatives to be undertaken as part of the Muskox Ecology Studies for 2000-20001. Additional funding is required over that identified and recommended at the December WMAC(NS) meeting. Members agreed to a revision of the recommendation.

The Council recommended that \$26,300 be allocated to the Muskox Ecology Studies project, to be used towards the summer survey, satellite output costs, activity budget analysis and fuel. This amount is in addition to the \$16,000 contributed by Parks Canada for the survey work conducted in April.

b) Herschel Island Climate Change

The Council reviewed a project titled 'Herschel Island Climate Change' at its meeting in December. At that time members agreed in principle to the allocation of \$16,200 towards this project and encouraged Dorothy Cooley to seek additional sources of funding. Dorothy reported no other funding sources have yet to be secured. The Council members agreed to recommend \$16,200 toward this project.

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.

Motion

to recommend that the following amounts be allocated from the 2000-2001 IFA Implementation Funds for Wildlife Management: Muskox Ecology Studies - \$26,300 and Herschel Island Climate Change - \$16,200.

Moved: Carol Arey
Seconded: Alan Fehr
Motion carried.

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.

c) Herschel Island Bird Survey

Dorothy Cooley reported that a bird survey of Herschel Island will be completed by Dave Mossop when he conducts the Peregrine falcon survey on the island this summer.

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

d) Remote sensing for muskox and sheep habitat.

Dorothy Cooley reported that she had discussed this idea with the GIS unit at YTG Renewable Resources. Although they are interested in the idea, until the technology is developed, the project will have to wait.

e) Peregrine Falcon Survey

Alan Fehr reported that a Canada-wide Peregrine survey is conducted every five years. All of the Yukon North Slope will be included in the survey which will be conducted in mid-July. This a co-operative effort between the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Yukon Government and Parks Canada.

6. Ivvavik National Park

Alan Fehr gave an update of activities related to Parks Canada and Ivvavik National Park.

- Ivvavik will be included in the Peregrine falcon survey this summer.
- Water sampling and possibly soil sampling will be conducted at Stokes Point this summer. Carol Arey added that there is a need for a general waste clean-up to be conducted in the area as well as the sampling.
- The clean-up of Komokuk is going ahead. Both environmental monitors who worked on site last year will be returning. All buildings will be taken down.
- In reference to summer staffing, one patrol person will be hired.
- Parks Canada has hired two summer students. One will be working with Cathy Cockney to assess and monitor archaeological sites on the coast. They will also be monitoring sites along the Firth.
- An environmental assessment will be done of Trout Lake this summer.
- In reference to Sheep Creek, it is still in the draft plan that the camp would be downsized to an operations cabin.
- The Ivvavik National Park Management Plan is going out for final review. It needs to be sent to Parks Canada's head office in Ottawa for their approval and will then be distributed. Parks has received very little comment from the Yukon Government regarding the plan. Parks intends to contact Jim McIntyre at the YTG Parks Branch

again to try to get him to respond. Parks will be following up with other organizations as well to get everyone's final comments.

- Bill Brake will be leaving his position as Superintendent at the end of the summer.

A discussion was held regarding the involvement of the Yukon Government in the review of the Ivvavik National Park Management Plan. The only written comments that Parks have received from the Yukon Government is a short note from John Russell. Members agreed that WMAC(NS) should encourage YTG to get involved in the review process as soon as possible.

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.

7. Yukon North Slope Conference

The Chair commented that the Council needs to provide the Yukon Government with suggestions for a theme and workshops for the North Slope Conference, which is to be held in September. He added that it is also important for the HTC to think about workshops topics.

At the December WMAC(NS) meeting it was suggested that the broad theme of the conference could be one of change. Topics could include the effects of climate change and the effects of changes brought on by the increase in development, such as oil and gas and tourism. The Chair stressed the importance of using Inuvialuit facilitators. This was done very successfully at the Beaufort Sea Conference. Facilitators were all given a facilitation training course before the conference.

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.

The Directors of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee were thanked very much for meeting with the Council members.

G. Financial Report (continued)

b) 2000-2001 WMAC(NS) Budget

The Chair explained that the unassigned funds in the 2000-2001 WMAC(NS) budget need to be allocated. Members agreed to allocate a further \$5000 to the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan to meet the costs of the work currently underway to complete the plan.

Interim allocations to projects were suggested as follows:

Bylaws, regulations and legislation	\$3000
Ecosystem monitoring	\$2500
Herschel Island Management Plan	\$1500
Web page development	\$5000
Long term research plan	\$1000
Coastal zone planning –workshop	\$5000
North Slope Conference	\$6000

Members agreed to allocate \$5000 to the development of the WMAC(NS) web page and \$6000 towards the North Slope Conference. The other proposed amounts are to be considered further at the next meeting.

J. New Business

1. Sheep hunting in the Richardson Mountains

Brian Pelchat distributed a copy of a 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. The letter is a request for the YFWMB to explore the viability of a sustainable Dall sheep harvest in the north Richardson Mountains. At the request of the YFWMB, the Yukon Government's sheep biologist, Jean Carey, provided them with information on the status of sheep in this area. A written summary of this information was provided. Brian comment that this request is under consideration by the Department of Renewable Resources at this time and that the Department may follow-up with a proposal later on this summer. Brian also indicated that the Department is not supporting a harvest in the ISR and, in any event, would comply with the "preferential hunting" requirement of the IFA.

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.

2. Biodiversity Working Group

Brian Pelchat reported that a Biodiversity Working Group is being proposed for the Yukon. The Department of Renewable Resources is suggesting that the Council be represented on this working group through their Whitehorse office (Secretariat or Chair). Two meetings each year are anticipated with the first one like in early fall.

K. Next meeting

The Chair proposed that the July meeting be held at Shingle Point in conjunction with the AGM of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee. This needs to be a longer working meeting and should last at least three days. After reviewing other summer commitments, July 8-10 was identified as the best time for members to meet. Carol Arey commented that this might be a little early for the AGM but that the HTC would try to hold it that weekend if possible.

L. Adjournment

Motion

To adjourn.

Moved: Billy Archie
Seconded: Brian Pelchat
Motion carried

WMAC(NS) Chair

Date

WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Date