



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

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

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

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

MINUTES

WMAC(NS) QUARTERLY MEETING

**Alpine Bakery
Whitehorse, Yukon**

April 30- May 2, 2002

Tuesday April 30, 2002

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Danny C. Gordon- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Herbert Felix- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Doug Larsen – Member- Yukon Government
Martin Raillard- Member- Government of Canada- Environment
Canada
Dorothy Cooley- Alternate - Yukon Government
Aileen Horler- Secretariat

Guests: Ron Larsen- Parks Canada, Inuvik

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9 am. The Chair welcomed Martin Raillard to his first meeting as the newly appointed WMAC(NS) member for the Government of Canada.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda and highlighted the items that need the most attention. These include the approval of the 2002-03 budget and the sign-off of the 2001-02 year end statement. The Draft Muskox Management Plan, the Draft Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan and the Draft Ivvavik National Park Management Plan all need to be reviewed and discussed. Several guests will be making presentations, including Kirsten Madsen who will present the work she has done in developing a Muskox Communication Strategy.

Motion

To adopt the agenda

Moved: Herbert Felix

Second: Doug Larsen

Motion carried

C. Review and Approval of Minutes of December 2001 meeting and March 2002 teleconference

Danny C. Gordon requested a change be made to the June 2001 minutes. Page 8 of the minutes should refer to the Aklavik Indian Band not the Vuntut Gwitchin.

Members reviewed the minutes of the December 2001 meeting. No changes were made to the minutes.

Motion

To adopt the minutes of the December 2001 meeting.

Moved: Herbert Felix

Second: Danny C. Gordon

Motion carried

Members reviewed the minutes of the March 2002 teleconference. No changes were made to the minutes.

Motion

To adopt the minutes of the March 2002 teleconference.

Moved: Martin Raillard

Second: Doug Larsen

Motion carried

D. Review and approval of minutes of December 2000 joint meeting with WMAC(NWT)

The Chair noted that he has already signed-off on the minutes of the December 2000 joint meeting with WMAC(NWT). The minutes are provided in the binder for the members benefit.

Doug Larsen asked about the grizzly bear workshop that was scheduled to be held in the NWT in February. The Chair reported that it was not held but still needs to be.

E. Review of Action Items

The Secretariat distributed a summary of the status of action items from previous meetings. The following items were discussed:

Action 01-12-03: Doug Larsen will arrange a meeting with Alan Koprowsky and the Chair to discuss issues regarding the allocation of North Slope Conference funds in non-conference years and the funding for the implementation of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan.

The Chair reported that he has located the minutes of the 1993 meeting that established the use of North Slope Conference funds in non-conference years. During this 1993 meeting participants agreed that the funds would be allocated to the implementation of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan. Doug Larsen noted that the agreement only covered a five-year period and was never formally extended into the following contribution agreement. The Chair replied that the Council should have been notified if there were any changes as it was understood that this agreement would remain in place. Now that the minutes of the 1993 meeting have been located, Doug will arrange the meeting.

Action 01-12-04: WMAC(NS) will write to the Porcupine Caribou Management Board and raise the issue of how the board in the course of monitoring the herd's population will determine a sustainable harvest level.

This item was completed.

Further to the issue of the management of the Porcupine caribou herd, Doug Larsen gave members an update on the meeting of the PCMB held earlier in the month in Inuvik. The meeting began with a workshop that considered different potential responses by wildlife managers to decreases in the herd's size. A population of 100,000 seemed to be the critical level in most minds. Everyone at the workshop agreed that something should be done now to prevent the population from dropping to a critical level. Of the

many factors affecting the herd's size, managers can only influence hunting pressure. But this is a social not a biological issue. There was a public meeting on the second day that was well attended. The four regulations that are currently in place were reviewed. There was general support for maintaining the regulations, except possibly for the corridor. There was some interest in modifying the corridor. Other issues were raised but there wasn't enough time to deal with them. A sub-committee will discuss these issues further. There won't be any changes to the regulations for at least fifteen months. Doug added that he is hoping to raise a number of other issues at the next meeting in June. He commented that the discussions in Inuvik were very positive. There was recognition that there is a problem and that something must be done about it.

Dorothy Cooley noted that the reported harvest on the herd is currently between 2500 and 3000 animals. She added that the PCMB wants to develop an interjurisdictional group to address a number of questions, including a harvest plan. It is this group that would look at the issue of the decline of the herd.

Danny C. Gordon commented that the importance of not hunting cow caribou in the spring should be stressed. Doug responded by saying that there were some discussions regarding a voluntary cut back on cow kills. The Chair asked if there had been any discussions regarding First Nations regulating their own hunts. Doug reported that there is a desire among First Nations to amend the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement to bring it in line with land claims. YTG would now like to see all user groups have a seat on the PCMB and change the representation of YTG and CYFN.

A discussion was held regarding the presentation given by Don Russell on factors affecting the size of the Porcupine caribou herd. A suggestion was made that it should be made available on the PCMB's website. A link could then be made to it from the WMAC(NS) website.

Action 01-12-07: Joan Eamer will determine the status of the report prepared by Barney Smith, on behalf of CWS, regarding the incorporation of traditional knowledge in species assessment and forward a copy to the Secretariat.

Martin Raillard reported that the documents in question were circulated by his department once they were completed. The Council for Yukon First Nations raised a strong protest concerning the lack of consultation during the reports' preparation. As a result of this protest the documents were withdrawn from circulation. Martin noted that the intent of preparing the papers was to stimulate discussion during the consultation process and they were never presented as a final assessment. Consultation now needs to take place before the papers are released again. The Chair commented that the Joint Secretariat, the WMAC(NWT) and the IGC should never-the-less

receive a copy for the purposes of their own internal discussions and review. Martin agreed to provide the Secretariat with a copy of the report for distribution to the three agencies.

Action 02-04-01 : The Secretariat will obtain a copy of the report prepared by Barney Smith, on behalf of CWS, regarding the incorporation of traditional knowledge in species assessment and distribute it to the Joint Secretariat, the WMAC(NWT) and the IGC, for discussion purposed only.

Action 01-05-01: WMAC(NS) will contact the new Acting Director of the Yukon Parks and Protected Areas Branch to discuss land management options for the special areas on the Yukon North Slope which are identified in the Aklavik Community Conservation Plan.

Members agreed to retire this item.

F. Correspondence

The Chair noted the following correspondence in the meeting binder:

- A letter from Dale Eftoda, YTG Minister of Renewable Resources, dated December 31, 2001, in reference to the North Slope grizzly bear harvest. The Minister wrote to forward his support for the recommendation made by WMAC(NS) in regards to the 2001-02 quota and tag allocation by the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee.
- Two letters from John Bailey, Federal Yukon DAP Negotiator, one to Duane Smith and one to Nellie Cournoyea, regarding the draft Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act. The Chair noted that there is still a great deal of concern regarding overlapping processes in screening on the North Slope. As it now stands the process could lead to two separate screenings. The issue is the paramouncy of the IFA as it was the first to be signed. Nellie has said that if there changes are not made as requested, the Inuvialuit will take the issue to arbitration.

G. Report from the Chair

The Chair reported that he had spent the previous week in Inuvik talking to a variety of people. Discussion will soon begin regarding the next five years of implementation funding. Some IFA committees want to put more effort into the next round of discussions. As it stands now, the funding amounts have just been rolled over from the previous five-year agreement. We are now in the fourth year of a five year agreement so it's time to start thinking about the process. Many agencies would like to see their funding increased.

The consulting firm Kavik- Axys has just completed an analysis of the gaps in research in the ISR. There was a workshop in Inuvik recently to look at the results of this work but WMAC(NS) never received an invitation. The Secretariat will try to get a copy of the Kavik- Axys report.

The Inuvialuit Harvest Study ten-year report was held up by the need for comments on the tables. This work has now been completed and it is hoped that the document will soon go to press. Many parties would like to see current harvest reporting funded as a specific line item in either the Joint Secretariat or Inuvialuit Game Council budget. There is some frustration around the lack of coordination and communication in the reporting of the results.

Dorothy commented that YTG has an arrangement with John Nagy for YTG to collect harvest data in Aklavik for both the Yukon and NWT. John will be collecting data on the basis of species of interest in each community. In Aklavik information was collected on moose, sheep and caribou. Doug commented that there is a need for more coordination and a formal workplan.

Danny C. Gordon commented that he was interviewed this year. There is an expectation in the community now among people being interviewed that they should receive payment for the information they provide. When no payment was made for the harvest information this year it caused an uncomfortable situation for the person doing the interviews.

The Chair noted that it is the responsibility of the co-management boards to request harvest data from the Hunters and Trappers Committees. The question is how do agencies and co-management groups work together. How do the HTC's facilitate the collection of harvest data?

Council members agreed that it would be valuable for harvesters to report their harvest of sheep, caribou and moose, twice per year, in the spring and fall. The AHTC should be contacted to see if they have an interest in seeing harvest data collected for any additional species.

Action 02-04-02: WMAC(NS) will write to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee to inform them that it is YTG's intention to collect harvest data in Aklavik for moose, caribou and sheep. The letter will also ask if the HTC has an interest in seeing harvest data collected for any additional species.

Action 02-04-03: WMAC(NS) will write to the Yukon Government to ask them how they would like to proceed with harvest reporting in Aklavik. The letter will express the Council interest in seeing the harvest data collected in an effective manner and raise the issue of how to make the program successful at a community level. Copies of the letter are to be sent to the IGC, WMAC(NWT), FJMC, DFO and the GNWT.

Action 02-04-04: The Chair will phone the Chairs of the other co-management bodies to discuss the issue of harvest reporting in the communities.

The Chair commented that the Council's Operating Procedures should be reviewed for their definition of 'meetings'.

Action 02-04-05: The Chair and Secretariat will review the WMAC(NS) Operating Procedures to ensure that the definition of 'meetings' includes meetings other than Council's regular business meetings.

Action 02-04-06: The Secretariat will distribute copies of the Council's Operating Procedures to members.

H. Old Business

1. Muskox Management

a) Muskox Communication Strategy

The Chair welcomed Kirsten Madsen to the meeting. Kirsten distributed copies of the draft Muskox Communications Strategy she had prepared under contract to the Council. Kirsten began her presentation on the strategy by giving members some background on the project. Kirsten said that she began her work by reviewing existing materials related to muskox. She spoke with a number of people in the Yukon, Alaska and NWT, to find out their views on muskox and how to communicate information to communities. The next step was to develop a number of communication goals. The strategy identifies the target audiences with the focus on communities, not managers and scientists. Communications objectives for each target audience are also stated.

Kirsten noted that many people in the communities have concerns about muskox. Any products the Council produces must take that into consideration. Fostering an understanding will take time. Kirsten reported that all information she had gathered says that changes in attitude and perception will only occur if:

- People are able to express their opinions, however negative, and feel that they've been heard
- People physically encounter the species and see for themselves ie. Muskox/caribou interactions, aggressive or non-aggressive behaviour
- Harvesting begins to occur and the animals become valued as a subsistence species

This influences the messaging in the following ways:

- We should acknowledge people's anxieties about muskox and caribou
- We should provide opportunities, where possible, for muskox viewing

- We should clearly communicate information about harvesting: how management works, how quota is being established, and how to hunt muskox. The first hunts could be events in themselves.

When Kirsten spoke to managers in Alaska, they reported that they made mistakes in not consulting or involving people in communities initially, and they paid a price for that. Their feeling is that Canada does a better job of communicating with aboriginal communities. They learned to keep their mouths shut in meetings and just allow people to speak, and listen to their concerns without trying to counter them.

Based on discussions with people and her experience talking to people at the Co-op Gathering, Kirsten came up with a series of questions that she believes people have about muskox. Kirsten distributed a sheet of questions that she feels inform the content of any product coming out of the strategy.

Members reviewed the section in the Strategy titled 'Communications Methods and Products'. The first part of this section deals with ongoing and annual information requirements. Members agreed on the methods proposed to gather and distribute information on muskox locations. Dorothy will continue to fax out satellite location information. Dorothy also suggested that satellite locations and maps should be posted on the muskox website. Members also supported the development of a system to communicate harvest information and to distribute information from annual surveys and ecological studies.

Kirsten reviewed a number of ideas for communications products. These included the further development of a school unit, other school activities, fact sheets, posters, a video, muskox radio spots and the website. A database of sources on muskox could also be developed and the WMAC(NS) newsletter can continue to be used to report information.

The Chair commented that any materials that are developed can be put on the website. Then others could print the information for their own use. The website could include an educational power point presentation. Members agreed that priority should be given to the development of the school related materials and the fact sheets. Kirsten agreed to begin work on these. Material will be added to the website as it is developed. Members also recognized the importance of direct communications with the communities. It is important to keep meeting to discuss the issues. Once the Muskox Management Plan is finished the Plan itself and its release will need to be communicate to a larger audience.

Motion

To adopt the Muskox Communication Strategy.

Moved: Martin Raillard

Second: Danny C. Gordon

Motion carried

I. Members' Reports

Danny C. Gordon informed members of a bear that was shot illegally by someone on patrol for the Canadian Rangers. The bear was shot in the NWT. The hunter did not have an Aklavik tag and he was not supposed to be hunting while on patrol. The hide has been seized. Danny added that the allocation of grizzly bear tags has been tightened up. People are now better informed about having to return the tag on time.

Herbert Felix and Dorothy Cooley both said they had nothing to report in addition to items that would be reported at other times in the meeting.

Martin Raillard reported the following items:

- The Minister of the Environment, David Anderson, visited the Yukon in early March.
- CWS is working on a Vuntut Territory vegetation map.
- CWS and YTG are working on establishing a Conservation Data Centre. The Centre is compiling existing information into one place. Information is being reformatted onto maps that will be able to serve a number of uses. The Centre would like to have some feedback on the products it should be producing. Martin asked Council members to consider how WMAC(NS) wants to be involved.

Action 02-04-07: Martin Raillard will give a presentation on the Conservation Data Centre to members at the next Council meeting.

Doug Larsen reported that YTG is proceeding with the second phase of the amendments to the Wildlife Act. These are the amendments related to Species at Risk. Don Toews will be talking about these later in the meeting. Doug added that YTG still hasn't hired a grizzly bear biologist but it is very close. If this hiring proceeds it will still be another 6-8 months before the biologist is on staff.

H. Old Business (continued)

2. Parks Canada Report

Ron Larsen reported the following:

- A new Manager of the Ecosystem Secretariat will be hired this month.
- The staffing in Ivvavik National Park will be the same this year as it was last year.
- Parks Canada is trying to develop economic opportunities for Inuvialuit and will be offering a guide training course.
- The IRC is reviewing the Firth River MOU which outlines how guiding activities take place. The MOU will also be reviewed by the Aklavik Community Corporation. The MOU currently limits the number of people on the river at one time.
- Arctic Nature Tours is looking at the Babbage River area for a site to be used as a day use area.
- Ian McDonald has prepared a report for Trout Lake. He has compiled all the known information about the area. The information will be presented to Aklavik residents.
- There will be less research in the park this year. Most activities will be focused on monitoring.
- In reference to wildlife regulations, Parks is trying to establish the ability to issue tags for grizzly bear and muskox. The proposal is to develop regulations under the National Parks Act that will give effect to Inuvialuit harvesting rights established in the IFA. The delay in the development of regulations has occurred in the regulatory affair branch. Currently, Parks Canada doesn't have a mechanism to regulate Inuvialuit hunting in the ISR parks. The tags for Ivvavik are currently issued by YTG.

Action 02-04-08: WMAC(NS) will prepare a letter to the Minister of Heritage regarding the importance of making the necessary changes to Parks Canada regulations to allow for the issuance of harvesting tags to Inuvialuit. The letter should be signed by WMAC(NS) and WMAC(NWT) and copied to the IGC and Alan Fehr.

- An Environmental Stewardship Program has been developed for grade four. The program includes videos and posters. Parks Canada staff have been delivering the program but it is available for anyone to use.
- The Ivvavik National Park Management Plan has been distributed for final review. Ron noted that WMAC(NS) will be providing its comments later on in the meeting.

Ron distributed a summary of a project titled 'Full Circle' and presented its objectives.

Action 02-04-09: WMAC(NS) will write a letter in support of the Full Circle project.

3. Muskox Management (continued)

b) Muskox Management Workshop

The Secretariat distributed copies of the draft proceedings of the Muskox Management Workshop, held in Aklavik in October. Members were requested to return their comments to the Secretariat by May 15. The Secretariat will then send the draft proceedings to all the participants and give them four weeks to respond with any comments. The proceedings can then be distributed to a broader audience.

4. Wildlife Management and Research Proposals -update on completed projects

Dorothy Cooley provided an update on the March 2002 Porcupine caribou field work. Composition counts were done on both sides of the border. On the Canadian side they found 31 calves per 100 cows. The herd was quite spread out this year. Two satellite collars were deployed; one on a new animal and one on an animal that was recollared. Work was also done on the Hart River herd.

In reference to the North Slope muskox survey, 186 animals were counted in the survey area, between Shingle Point and the border. Dorothy commented that she hasn't heard many reports of muskox outside the study area. One has been reported on Crow Mountain. Ron Larsen noted that two muskox were seen west of the delta. The muskox satellite program continues. The captures will take place in July using a different drug. A composition count will be done at the same time. There will be an opportunity for an Aklavik resident to take part as an observer in the work that will be conducted in the fixed-wing.

Information from the vegetation plots on Herschel Island collected by the Rangers has been compiled and will soon be ready for distribution.

Wednesday May 1, 2002

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Danny C. Gordon- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Herbert Felix- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Doug Larsen – Member- Yukon Government
Martin Raillard- Member- Government of Canada- Environment
Canada
Dorothy Cooley- Alternate - Yukon Government
Aileen Horler- Secretariat

Guests: Ron Larsen- Parks Canada, Inuvik
Dave Ladret- YTG Dept. of Environment
Don Toews- YTG Dept. of Environment
Kathy Kusuta- YTG Dept. of Environment
Allan Koprowsky- YTG Dept. of Environment

5. Herschel Island Territorial Park

The Chair welcomed Dave Ladret, YTG Dept. of Environment. Dave gave a summary of park operations for the year.

- The park will be open this year from April 16 to September 12.
- The same people are being employed this year as last.
- They want to hire a part time office assistant to help in the Inuvik office.
- As part of YTG's Renewal, the park rangers are now reporting to the Conservation Protection and Public Education Branch. There is a transition team in place. The Parks and Protected Areas Branch is ultimately responsible but now there is also the involvement of this additional branch.
- Rangers are being offered a number of training courses this year such as water rescue.
- They tried to get the Elderhostel program going this year but it was held up by trying to figure out who would cover the costs. The program could get going toward the end of the summer if the funding can be resolved. Elders will be taken to Herschel Island for Park's Day celebrations, July 20.
- Two cruise ships are expected this summer. Parks staff will be placing limits on how many can be on shore at one time. The number now considered is 50. the Rangers may get some help from Conservation Officers while the cruise ships are there. That would make it possible to handle more visitors.
- There will be two film crews on the island this summer. This has raised questions regarding permitting. Ron Larsen commented that in the national park film crews require permits so the projects must go to the EISC. Doug Larsen added that no permit is needed in the Yukon.

- A visitor survey will be conducted again this summer.
- Consultations are continuing with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and the Inuvialuit Game Council regarding the voluntary no hunting zone in the historic area.
- The MOU for the use of the Hunters and Travelers cabin has been drafted. It addresses the use of who will be staying in the cabin. It is hoped the MOU will be signed soon.
- YTG is still working on a policy for the management of graves.
- YTG is working with the Aklavik Community Corporation to develop some contracts for work on the maintenance of the historic sites.
- YTG wants to build a new ice house and hopes to be able to involve the Aklavik school.
- Two fuel storage units will be built this summer.

In reference to the Herschel Island Territorial Park Management Plan, Dave reported that his work on the plan was put on hold for a couple of months while he worked on other land claim issues. Dave commented that he wants to get the draft out for editing within the next 4-5 weeks. Then it will go out for final review in the summer. He added that he hopes the plan can be recommended in the fall. The Chair told Dave that the Council's next meeting was going to be held in mid-July. It would be good if the Council was able to look at the revised plan then, so that the Council could recommend it in the fall.

Action 02-04-10: Doug Larsen will send a copy of the new YTG Organization Chart to the Secretariat.

6. Withdrawal Order – Update on Status (YTG)

The Chair welcomed Allan Koprowsky, YTG Dept. of Environment. Allan distributed a map titled "Interim Protected Lands in North Yukon" that was prepared for the recent IFA Implementation Coordinating Committee meeting. Allan also distributed a table summarizing the history of the withdrawal orders that have been issued for the North Slope.

The Withdrawal Order for the Yukon North Slope currently extends into areas outside of the ISR, as far south as Porcupine River

Allan reported that YTG's understanding of the Withdrawal Order is that it was put in place as a temporary measure to protect the North Slope until the IFA was established. This understanding affects YTG's interpretation of what is meant by 'maintained'. How do we consider future development east of the Babbage River? The Withdrawal Order now precludes development.

The area covered by the Withdrawal Order outside of the ISR will be addressed by the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation. The Inuvialuit have agreed to defer to the

Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation on this. YTG will now go to the VGFN and ask them about their interest in maintaining the Withdrawal Order.

Allan clarified that it is possible to revoke the Withdrawal Order and then reapply it to the ISR only. The Withdrawal Order would then no longer include lands within the Vuntut Gwitchin Traditional Territory.

IFA Section 12 (4) states that the Withdrawal Order should be maintained, subject to the section. There is no mandate for the Vuntut Gwitchin Traditional Territory.

There is no interest by the Inuvialuit to change the North Slope portion of the Withdrawal Order. The Inuvialuit have concerns regarding their representation in the Development Assessment process. Until this is resolved the Inuvialuit won't address the Withdrawal Order.

After devolution YTG inherits the obligations regarding the Withdrawal Order. Because the Withdrawal Order is part of a Land Claim agreement, YTG can not act unilaterally. There has to be an agreement between the IFA signatories to effect any change. The Chair commented that difference areas affected by the Withdrawal Order have different needs. Care must be taken not to generalize. Allan added that the Yukon North Slope Wildlife and Conservation and Management Plan and what it recommends will also be a factor that effects future consideration of development.

The Withdrawal Order finds its effect under several pieces of legislation. The Territorial Lands Act that regulates land use disposition, the Yukon Quartz Mining Act, the Yukon Placer Mining Act and the Yukon Oil and Gas Act.

7. Species at Risk

The Chair welcomed Don Toews and Kathy Kusuta, YTG Dept of Environment. Don gave a summary of how the Yukon Species at Risk initiative has progressed to date. An initial proposal for a Yukon Species at Risk process was developed in October. A discussion paper was developed in December and reviewed through to March. Input was received from twenty-five groups and individuals. YTG hosted a workshop in January. All parties who had a mandate related to Species at Risk were invited. The Yukon program has to complement the federal program and legislation. Discussions were held at the workshop as to how to set up a Species at Risk program in the Yukon. During the review there was unanimous support for developing Yukon legislation as opposed to deferring to the federal legislation. There was agreement that the Yukon should have only one Species at Risk program. Support for this position was obtained from both industry and conservation groups. In the past few months YTG has been

considering what the Species at Risk program in the Yukon would look like and how a SAR Committee would operate.

Don added that Kathy has developed a second document summarizing what the public told YTG during the review process. The document also presents a proposal for what the SAR program would look like. It will be released in May. There will be another SAR workshop on May 27. YTG has invited all those who came to the first workshop plus a number of additional stakeholders. The focus of the next workshop will be to consider the role and make-up of the SAR Committee. The definition of wildlife in the Yukon's SAR legislation and the inclusion of other species in addition to vertebrates also need to be discussed. YTG has to decide if they are going to include other species. In the first round of consultation it was identified as a good idea. The definition of wildlife would then be the same as that in the federal Species at Risk Act.

Herbert Felix said that he is available to attend the workshop in Whitehorse May 27. The Chair and the Secretariat will also attend.

Martin Raillard reported that at the federal level all the amendments to the SARA that had been proposed by the Standing Committee have been dismissed. This includes an amended definition of residence. The legislation will now be reviewed clause by clause in parliament. The opposition parties could slow things down. Once the legislation has gone through third reading it will go to the Senate.

Don commented that the Yukon can proceed with the development of its own process and legislation and doesn't have to wait for the federal government to complete the establishment of their process. The federal government recognizes that the situation North of 60 is different and is supportive of the Yukon proceeding with the development of its own process. YTG hopes to introduce the SAR legislation at the fall session. The SAR Committee could be established right away but wouldn't have any legal status until the legislation is in place.

Don added that the Yukon is not dealing with a lot of species but once the SAR legislation passes the government will have to develop a Management Plan for grizzlies and wolverine. YTG will also have to review existing plans for bowhead whales, bison and Peregrine falcons.

8. Muskox Management (continued)

c) Muskox Management Plan

Ian McDonald joined the meeting by speaker phone. Ian introduced the current version of the Muskox Management Plan by saying that he has incorporated comments provided by the Council at its December meeting, the proceedings

from the Muskox workshop in Aklavik and comments received from the Chair. Most of the changes are a result of the workshop. Changes have been made to some of goals and objectives. The Plan now includes a Workplan and several maps.

The Chair thanked Ian for all the work he has done and asked members to comment on this version of the Plan..

Martin Raillard commented that there is a need for some editing and some work to be done on the structure. He referred to a comment on page 12 which states that there is a desire to harvest from the east but the Plan doesn't say why.

Herbert Felix commented that the Plan should be reviewed in three years as opposed to five, because it is a new plan. Herbert raised questions about resident Yukon hunters having preference over commercial or sport hunters. The Chair commented that there is still a need for some explanation of this in the Plan as rights to hunt vary by jurisdiction. For example, in the Yukon, the Inuvialuit have preferential rights to harvest muskox for subsistence purposes. Once the established level is reached, any additional animals available under the quota could be harvested by Yukon residents. Members agreed that the Plan should include a summary of the various rights to harvest muskox without getting into a detailed discussion that could raise a debate.

Ron Larsen questioned the use of the term 'as required' in the action item listed under Caribou- muskox interactions that refers to research projects. Ron commented that the action still remains vague. The Chair responded that the Plan should be as specific as possible but sometimes 'as required' is as far as it can go.

Concerns were raised regarding the refining of the population numbers. Ian explained that he has had trouble getting Aklavik to verify the information on population numbers that were reported at the workshop. Questions were raised as to how to proceed without verification of the numbers. A count of 332 is not a best estimate of population size because it has not been verified by people who are on the land. Some animals may have been double counted which increases the risk of an overharvest.

The Chair commented that a lot of IFA money has gone into establishing a population number. Hopefully there will be a benefit. The Inuvialuit shouldn't have to bear the burden of other groups not doing their part. If other groups are interested in a muskox harvest then they have to do their part. Danny added that there is a need to make more of an effort in Aklavik so that people understand that the information on local observations is critical to establishing a quota. Members agreed that the Plan has to put something in place to ensure a workable process for reporting observations.

Action 02-04-11: WMAC(NS) will provide their comments on the Muskox Management Plan to the Secretariat by mid-May.

Doug Larsen agreed that there is a need to do some editorial work to get the Plan to flow a bit better. Doug proposed that a smaller group get together in Whitehorse to do the editing. The Chair agreed to undertake the editing and restructuring of the Plan. The Chair and Doug Larsen will meet by the end of May in order to complete the suggested revisions.

Danny C. Gordon stressed that the completion of the Plan and the establishment of a quota has to be a priority.

9. Ivvavik National Park Management Plan

Members reviewed the final draft of the Ivvavik National Park Management Plan. The following comments and suggestions were made:

- As both the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan and the Muskox Management Plan are near completion references to them being draft reports can be removed.
- The North Slope Research Guide is also available as a finalized document.
- References to YTG Renewable Resources should be changed to Department of Environment
- References to the Porcupine Caribou Management Plan should be updated
- The section of soils is difficult to understand.
- On page 4 – add other plans referenced in this plan
- The integration of this plan with other plans is good.
- Parks Canada could use this plan to further the recommendations of the Senate Subcommittee report on Aboriginal Economic Development in Relation to Northern National Parks. Parks could show how it is responding to the recommendations of the report. There could be references to an employment strategy as an action item. Parks Canada could play a facilitating role in creating employment.

Members returned their copies of the plan to the Secretariat who will compile additional hand written comments and forward them to Parks Canada.

10. 2002-03 Wildlife Management and Research Proposals

The Chair commented that, when considering the proposed research projects, it is important to keep in mind the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee priorities as well as those contained in the Long-term Research Plan. The needs of the individual agencies must also be addressed.

Dorothy Cooley presented the proposals submitted by the Yukon Government. She began by noting that YTG has several North Slope related projects that don't require any IFA funding. These include the production of four posters for Herschel Island. There will be one on vegetation, raptors, foxes and geology. It is hoped that the Heritage Branch will pay for these. Other projects are the updating of the check list for birds and the check list for plants. Dorothy also reported that all the data collected by the Herschel rangers since 1985 has been entered into a computer file so is now in a useable form.

Dorothy referred to the project summaries contained in the meeting binder and gave a brief description of each of them as follows:

a) Porcupine Caribou Herd Satellite Location Program

The object of this project is to maintain satellite radio collars on cows in the Porcupine caribou herd to document annual migration routes and winter range use. When collars die they need to be replaced. This is an ongoing cooperative effort with many agencies contributing to the costs of system fees, data recovery and collar purchase. YTG proposed an allocation of \$2000 of IFA funds toward the costs of system fees and data recovery.

b) Porcupine Caribou Conventional Collaring, March 2003

The object of this project is to maintain between 80 and 100 conventional radio collars on the herd to assist in the location of the herd during composition counts and censuses. The collars are also used for the location and identification of individual caribou and have been crucial in documenting the importance of ANWR to calving caribou. Each year, as radio collared caribou die of natural causes, more collars need to be placed on caribou in order to maintain the desired number of collars on the herd. The total cost for deploying the conventional collars is \$17,600. There are additional costs of approximately \$10,500 to partner agencies for the purchase of the new collars.

A discussion was held as to the number of agencies contributing to work related to the Porcupine caribou and their level of funding support. Past contributions for collar purchase, satellite system fees and data retrieval have come from the Canadian Wildlife Service, Government of the Northwest Territories, the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, Ivvavik National Park, Vuntut National Park, YTG IFA Wildlife Programs, the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope), Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Action 02-04-12: Dorothy Cooley will prepare a table to summarize the funding contributed to studies of the Porcupine caribou herd.

Thursday May 2, 2002

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Danny C. Gordon- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Herbert Felix- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Doug Larsen – Member- Yukon Government
Martin Raillard- Member- Government of Canada- Environment
Canada
Dorothy Cooley- Alternate - Yukon Government
Aileen Horler- Secretariat

Guests: Ron Larsen- Parks Canada, Inuvik

2002-03 Wildlife Management and Research Proposals (continued)

c) Aklavik harvest data collection

The object of this project is to document harvest of moose, caribou and sheep, by Inuvialuit hunters in Aklavik from January to December 2002. YTG proposes to contract a local person, in partnership with the Aklavik HTC, to conduct recall interviews twice each year during freeze up and break up in Aklavik. Information collected would be added to the database of harvest information from the Inuvialuit Harvest Study. YTG also proposes that GNWT interview Inuvik hunters and the 2 agencies share data. The total cost for the project is \$10,000. The majority of these funds will be used for local interviewer wages. Other costs are supplies, travel to Aklavik and data entry and analysis.

The Chair commented on the importance of communicating the results of this project. Information has to make its way back to the communities. This has to be more than just collecting information. YTG has to demonstrate that they are collaborating and reporting back. Communications products need to be identified as part of the proposal. Also the AHTC should be asked if there are other species that they would like to see included.

d) Muskox Satellite Program

The need for ongoing information on muskox population size and distribution was identified as a priority at the Muskox Management Workshop, held in Aklavik, in October 2001. In addition, the Canadian North Slope Muskox Management Plan directs managers to monitor the size of the muskox population by conducting population surveys. In 1999, 10 muskoxen were fitted with satellite collars in order to better understand movements of muskox on the Yukon North Slope. These collars were designed to last 3 years and need to be replaced. Captures will take place in mid July 2002. All 5 muskox with currently active satellite collars

will be captured to remove the collars. Four of these 5 muskox will be fitted with new satellite collars plus 4 new muskox (1 cow and 3 bulls) will also be captured and collared. The object of this project is to use satellite collars to assist in the determination of habitat and movements of the muskox on the Yukon North Slope. This will be done in order to ensure proper and effective management and to assist in determining a sustainable harvest quota. The total budget for this project is \$52,600 to cover the costs of travel, helicopter time, fixed wing time, satellite data retrieval, salary for local observers and equipment.

e) Muskox Population Survey and Composition Count

A summary of this project is in the meeting binder but it was reviewed and recommended by the Council during a teleconference in March. The work was completed by Parks Canada in April.

f) Richardson Mountain Joint Muskox Study

The object of this project is to encourage affected organizations in Yukon and NWT to continue discussions regarding the management of the shared population of muskox in the Richardson Mountains. Discussions should include the possibility of a survey in the Richardson Mountains and possible refurbishment and deployment of the 5 satellite collars that will be retrieved in July 2002. To date, muskox survey work has been concentrated in Ivvavik National Park where most of the muskox occur. At the October 2001 muskox workshop, it was reported that there could be as many as 100 muskox in the Richardson Mountains. If there are, this represents about one third of all muskox in the Canadian portion of the range. Biologists from both Yukon and NWT agencies are interested in learning more about these groups of muskox. Some sort of common understanding by all groups concerned of what type of research might be useful would be invaluable to guide researchers. This common understanding could be generated by a joint meeting specifically discussing Richardson Mountain muskox.

The proposal presented included funding for the collar refurbishment and deployment totaling \$40,000. Members agreed that this amount should be cost shared by a number of organizations. The first step should be to have a meeting of all parties to decide on the management action. Travel costs should be borne by those organizations attending a multi-organization meeting to discuss joint management initiatives. Members agreed to recommend \$5000 toward YTG staff participation in a joint meeting and to contribute to an aerial survey in the area if managers decide to conduct one.

g) Traditional and Local Knowledge Assessment of the Yukon North Slope Species Status Reports

WMAC (NS) developed Species Status Reports which summarize population distribution, population size and trend, local importance and management actions. Most of this information comes from scientific sources and very little information on species comes from the local people who use the resources. This

project includes interviews with selected local experts familiar with the Yukon North Slope. Participants will be identified with the help of the Aklavik HTC. Different local experts may be needed for different species. Specific questions and a list of species to review will be developed in discussions with various WMAC members, technical staff in Yukon and NWT and the Aklavik HTC. Interviews will document a current and historical rating of abundance and distribution, a trend rating, summary of conservation concerns, other perspectives, and general comments on the content and relevancy of the technical content of the status reports. The Council has a long-standing interest in having this assessment completed. Barney Smith, YTG Dept of Environment, will be able to do the work. The \$5000 required for the project would cover Barney's travel to Aklavik and expenses plus the costs associated with the interviews.

h) Herschel Island Ecological Monitoring

In June, YTG personnel will travel to Herschel Island Territorial Park to spend time in the field going over terrain and vegetation units with the Park Rangers. This is needed to reinforce previous Ranger training to identify vegetation and terrain units as part of the continuing long-term multi-part monitoring program on Herschel Island. Expenses for the project are \$2500 to cover the air charters to the island and field camp supplies.

i) Richardson Mountain Sheep Joint Management Planning

The object of this proposal is to encourage the development of a joint management plan for sheep in the Richardson Mountains. Several times in the past the NWT has started to draft a sheep management plan for the Richardson Mountains, but it has never been completed. Biological work in this area has always been done jointly with NWT because it is a shared population. With the settlement of land claims, the Inuvialuit, Tet'lit Gwich'in and Vuntut Gwitchin have also become involved in the programs. The cost of a joint management planning session would be approximately \$10,000. Council members agreed to recommend \$2500 toward YTG's participation in a joint planning meeting if it occurs.

j) Hunter Education Workshop

Dorothy commented that recently YTG has started to intensify hunter education for caribou hunters along the Dempster Highway and will be arranging for workshops in Porcupine caribou user communities. These workshops focus on wildlife biology, hunting practices, and marksmanship, with a real focus on safety. YTG would like to conduct a workshop in Aklavik.

The Chair suggested that YTG should try to partner with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee. The workshop could be presented within the context of the IFA requirement for the effective use of wildlife. With this objective in mind it would be possible to provide an opportunity to the community to benefit from the information presented in the workshop. Doug Larsen commented that the

concept of community-based hunts was discussed at the recent PCMB meeting. There is a larger issue that includes a discussion of values.

Council members agreed to recommend that YTG works with the HTC to develop a workshop that will meet the objective of promoting the effective use of wildlife.

Action 02-04-13: The Chair will contact Larry Carpenter to discuss the concept of a hunter education workshop that addresses the IFA requirement for the effective use of wildlife.

Members agreed to recommend \$3000 toward this workshop, pending approval and acceptance by the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee.

k) Ground temperatures and recent climate warming, Western arctic coast

The object of this project is to obtain information on ground temperature warming on Herschel Island. Research on permafrost conditions at Herschel Island has been conducted over several years, but the work has largely considered the rates of erosion of ice-rich ground at coastal sites and the nature of ground ice. The intention of the work proposed for Herschel is to obtain data on ground temperature warming by drilling a hole to 50-m depth with a water-jet drill, to place a thermistor cable inside 1"-diameter steel pipe installed in the hole, and to obtain ground temperatures at 5-m intervals throughout the hole. The ground temperature gradient should indicate whether the ground is warming up. The work is planned for early August 2002. The personnel for this project are Chris Burn (Carleton University), Scott Smith (Agriculture and Agr-Food Canada), Herschel Island Park Rangers. Dr. Burns requested funding support of \$750 to be used toward the construction of the thermistor cable to be installed on the Island and read by Ranger staff.

l) Experimental Infections of Dall's Sheep with Muskox Lungworm

Muskox east of the Mackenzie River in the NWT are infected with a parasitic lungworm. It is not known if this parasite can infect Dall's sheep but there is concern that the lungworm may spread if these muskox cross the Mackenzie River and enter the Mackenzie and Richardson Mountains of the NWT and Yukon. The primary objective of this project is to determine if the muskox lungworm can infect Dall's sheep and, if it can, to determine its effects on the sheep. The study will be done at the Western College of Veterinary Medicine (WCVM) at the University of Saskatchewan, Saskatoon, Saskatchewan. Eight lambs will be infected with the muskox lungworm and monitored to see how the parasite infection affects them. The results of the project will provide the basis for decisions that will need to be made concerning contact between expanding muskox populations from east of the Mackenzie River and Dall's sheep in the Mackenzie and Richardson Mountains. The total required for this project is \$104,900. A total of \$10,000 was requested as a contribution from IFA funds.

Martin Raillard gave a summary of the projects submitted by the Canadian Wildlife Service as follows:

m) Community-based Ecological Monitoring in Aklavik

The Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op annual community-based monitoring project will continue in 2002/03 in Aklavik (Gwich'in and Inuvialuit), as well as in Old Crow and Fort McPherson, with possible projects in Kaktovik and Arctic Village. A local researcher in each community will conduct interviews with community experts, collecting and communicating information about the conditions and changes observed during the year. Questions will cover berries, fish, caribou, other animals, weather conditions, and general observations. Results from all communities will be compiled into a summary report, and a detailed report of Aklavik Inuvialuit observations will be provided to the HTC. The summary results will be discussed at the Co-op Annual Gathering, and at a public meeting in Aklavik, if desired. The total budget for the Coop's community-based monitoring project is \$29,500. CWS is proposing an allocation of \$10,000 towards the cost of the project. Approximately \$4,000 of this will be spent in Aklavik, on the Aklavik Inuvialuit component of the community-based monitoring program, through contract and expenses for a person to conduct interviews and present results, and through honoraria. The balance of the funds will go towards training, travel, co-ordination and reporting costs of the project as a whole.

n) Breeding Bird Distribution and Habitat Association on the Yukon North Slope

The object of this project is to clean-up and convert Yukon North Slope breeding bird field data from 1992 and 1993 into a spatially accurate database and GIS files. In order to ensure the best and most appropriate use of these data, the locations need to be checked against the original field sheets, and adjusted if necessary. The spatial and attribute data need to be converted to modern formats to make them appropriate for further analysis and distribution. This work will address a number of action items identified in the North Slope Research and Monitoring Plan. A total of \$10,000 is needed to cover the cost of hiring a contractor to conduct the proposed clean-up and conversion of data.

Ron Larsen distributed a written summary of the proposals submitted by Parks Canada and described them as follows:

o) Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op

Parks Canada wishes to support the activities of the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op, including the collection of Inuvialuit traditional knowledge, the tracking of environmental indicators and the 8th Annual Gathering. The annual budget for Co-op operations in 2002-03 will be approximately \$75,000, with funding support being provided by a number of government agencies and co-management boards and councils. Parks Canada is proposing an allocation of \$4,000 towards the Co-op's activities.

p) Vegetation Change – Ivavik and Herschel

The object of this project is to conduct a biostatistical analysis of vegetation data collected in Ivavik and on Herschel Island from 1985 to 1989, and compare it with similar data collected from 2000 and 2001. Analysis will also be conducted to investigate if there are any significant similarities or differences between similar vegetation communities in each park. The total budget for this project is \$1,800 to cover the consulting fees of a biostatistician to analyze the vegetation data.

q) Firth River Water Flow Monitoring

The object of this project is to document and monitor water flow in the Firth River in Ivavik National Park and to provide park visitors with current information on river navigability and river crossings. A station to measure water flow is located on the Firth River and is maintained annually by a Water Survey Canada technician. River water flow monitoring is conducted on the Firth River to determine current water cycles and to identify long-term changes to these cycles. It is also important for public safety. The annual budget for maintaining the Firth River water station is \$8,200. This covers the costs for a Water Survey Canada technician to travel by helicopter to the station to install, calibrate and remove the river gauge.

A discussion was held regarding the possibility of Water Survey funding this program again. Parks Canada took on the responsibility several years ago when Water Survey no longer had the funds to do it. But it may be that Water Survey can now contribute something towards the costs. Ron agreed to make some inquiries.

r) Weather and Permafrost Monitoring

The object of this project is to monitor weather, permafrost temperature and active layer in Ivavik National Park. Long-term monitoring of weather and permafrost temperature is required to track changes in the climate and to understand how these changes will affect the environment of the Western Arctic. Parks Canada has an agreement with Environment Canada to maintain the station and collect the data. A total of \$6,800 is needed to cover 8 hours of helicopter time to transport the weather station technician to the site.

s) Firth River Water Quality Monitoring

The object of this project is to determine the current water quality of the Firth River in Ivavik National Park and to determine if water quality changes over time. Various Parks Canada personnel will take part in the monitoring. Three sets of water samples will be taken over the summer. Water samples are collected as part of regular park activities so there is no cost associated with transportation to the site. The budget for water analysis by Environment Canada, as well as the costs of freight, data entry, storage and reporting is \$4,600.

Danny C. Gordon raised concerns regarding the quality of the water at Shingle Point. A discussion was held regarding the Council's mandate on this issue. The Chair commented that the water is used by harvesters. Water quality is also a habitat issue.

The Chair summarized the final proposal as follows:

t) Reproductive Ecology of Tundra Swans in the Mackenzie Delta Region

This is the second year of this project being conducted by Heather Swystun, a student at the University of Northern British Columbia. The objective of the study is to develop a way to monitor Tundra swans as an indicator of environmental health. Heather completed traditional knowledge interviews last year in Aklavik and Tuktoyaktuk as part of her research. Herbert Felix commented that he was interviewed. He said that there is a lot of interest in the community in seeing the results of the study. Heather is requesting \$5000 to assist with helicopter time and to aid in summarizing and verifying local knowledge interviews.

Members agreed that there is a need to take some time to look at all the projects as a whole and identify the ones that are ongoing. Funding commitments for ongoing projects need to be prioritized. It is important to consider which projects are the most relevant to the implementation of the IFA.

A discussion was held regarding the financial support for the traditional and local knowledge assessment of the Yukon North Slope Species Status Reports. Members noted that this project was initiated last year by the Council. The Council has a long-standing interest in having this assessment completed and agreed to fund it from its own budget.

Motion

to recommended the allocation of funds from IFA wildlife program funding to the following projects: Porcupine Caribou Herd Satellite Location Program (\$2,000); Porcupine Caribou Conventional Collaring, March 2003 (\$17,600); Aklavik harvest data collection (\$10,000); Muskox Satellite Program (\$52,600); Richardson Mountain Joint Muskox Study (\$5,000); Experimental Infections of Dall's Sheep with Muskox Lungworm (\$7,500); Herschel Island Ecological Monitoring (\$2,500); Richardson Mountain Sheep Joint Management Planning (\$2,500); Hunter Education Workshop (\$3,000); Ground temperatures and recent climate warming, Western arctic coast (\$750); Community-based Ecological Monitoring in Aklavik (\$10,000); Breeding Bird Distribution and Habitat Association on the Yukon North Slope (\$10,000); Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-

op (\$4,000); Vegetation Change – Ivavik and Herschel (\$1,800); Firth River Water Flow Monitoring (\$8,200); Weather and Permafrost Monitoring(\$6,800) ; Firth River Water Quality Monitoring (\$4,600 ; Reproductive Ecology of Tundra Swans in the Mackenzie Delta Region (\$5,000).

Moved: Danny C. Gordon
 Second: Doug Larsen
 Motion carried

All of the 2002-03 wildlife management and research proposals recommended by the Council were summarized as follows:

Funding available

Yukon Government	115,000
Parks Canada	35,000
Canadian Wildlife Service	15,000
Funding (from all sources)	165,000

Projects- recommended by WMAC(NS)

Porcupine Caribou Herd Satellite Location Program	\$2,000
Porcupine Caribou Conventional Collaring, March 2003	\$17,600
Aklavik harvest data collection	\$10,000
Muskox Satellite Program	\$52,600
Muskox Population Survey and Composition Count	\$17,600
Richardson Mountain Joint Muskox Study	
Experimental Infections of Dall's Sheep with Muskox Lungworm	\$7,500
Herschel Island Ecological Monitoring	\$2,500
Richardson Mountain Sheep Joint Management Planning	
Hunter Education Workshop	\$3,000
Ground temperatures and recent climate warming, Western arctic coast	\$750
Community-based Ecological Monitoring in Aklavik	\$10,000
Breeding Bird Distribution and Habitat Association on the Yukon North Slope	\$10,000
Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op	\$4,000
Vegetation Change – Ivavik and Herschel	\$1,800
Firth River Water Flow Monitoring	\$8,200
Weather and Permafrost Monitoring	\$6,800
Firth River Water Quality Monitoring	\$4,600
Reproductive Ecology of Tundra Swans in the Mackenzie Delta Region	\$5,000
TOTAL	\$171,450

Action 02-04-14: WMAC(NS) will prepare a summary of research projects supported at the April meeting and forward the summary along with the Council's funding recommendations to Parks Canada , the Yukon Government and the Canadian Wildlife Service. A copy of the summary will be sent to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, the Inuvialuit Game Council and the Environmental Impact Screening Committee, for their information.

J. Financial Report-

a) Year end financial statement (2001-2002)

Members reviewed the year end financial statement for 2001-2002. The year ended with a surplus of approximately \$18,000 that can now be carried over in to the next year due to a new funding agreement with YTG.

Motion

To adopt the year end financial statement for 2001-2002.

Moved: Doug Larsen
Second: Herbert Felix
Motion carried

b) 2001-2002 Review Engagement Report

Members reviewed the 2001-2002 Review Engagement Report as prepared by the Council's accountant, Kim Tanner. The Secretariat explained that this type of statement is a requirement of the Council's funding and is the final statement that needs to be prepared for the fiscal year.

Motion

To adopt the 2001-2002 Review Engagement Report as prepared by Kim Tanner.

Moved: Herbert Felix
Second: Danny C. Gordon
Motion carried

c) 2002-2003 WMAC(NS) Budget

The members reviewed the proposed budget for 2002-03, prepared by the Chair and Secretariat. The Secretariat explained that the budget is layout to show the proposed and actual expenditures of the previous year and the budget allocations proposed for the current year. The \$18,000 surplus from 2002-02 has

been added into the 2002-03 contribution from YTG. Proposed budget allocations are based on spending levels in previous years.

In reference to expenditures found under the heading of projects funded by WMAC(NS) the following comments were made:

- WCMP printing /distribution- \$4000 is required to print and distribute the hard copies of Volume 2.
- Bylaws regulations and legislation- \$3000 is required for the Chair's and Secretariat time involved with the Species at Risk Act and amendments to the Yukon Wildlife Act.
- Ecosystem monitoring/ ABEKS – \$3000 was allocated to the costs of organizing the Co-op's annual gathering
- Web page development - \$3000 for the ongoing maintenance of the website and the development of new pages.
- Muskox communications – Members agreed to allocate \$7000 toward the initiatives that Kirsten Madsen has suggested in the Muskox Communications Strategy.
- Long Term Research Plan – Members recognized that there may be a need to allocate funds to this project later in the year but decided to wait until the specific need was identified.
- Traditional Knowledge Assessment of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan- Members agreed to allocate \$5000 to this project.
- Database update - \$2000 was allocated to the updating of the database of information sources maintained by the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op.
- Muskox Plan - \$4000 was allocated to cover the costs of printing and distributing the muskox plan.
- Herschel Island Management Plan review – Some work will be required on the part of the Chair and the Secretariat related to the review of the Herschel plan. \$500 was allocated.
- Coastal Zone literature search- An RFP was prepared and distributed for this project early in the New Year but no one expressed an interest in doing the work. \$5000 was allocated to the project again and the RFP will be distributed again.
- WCMP implementation - \$5000 was allocated to the implementation of the plan.

There is still approximately \$12,000 of unassigned funds.

Motion

To adopt the 2002-2003 WMAC(NS) budget, as amended.

Moved: Danny C. Gordon

Second: Doug Larsen

Motion carried

H. Old Business (continued)

11. Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan

The Chair commented that the complete version of the revised Plan is in the meeting binders. He added that he has a few minor changes to make as a result of the recent meeting with YTG. Once they are completed the Plan will be printed and sent out for one last review to the IGC, the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, Parks Canada, YTG, the FJMC, WMAC(NWT), the IRC and CWS. Everyone will be given a month to respond with any final comments.

12. Grizzly Bear Management

The Chair commented that the Council's December 2000 Grizzly Bear resolution can be found in the meeting binder.

There are a number of important factors to consider regarding grizzly bear management that will affect any new resolution. The ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan is up for renewal. The Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee thinks it should be possible to harvest more bears. There is a strong desire to see an increase in the quota. In the Aklavik grizzly bear hunting area more bears are being seen and the harvest is below the quota. There is a recognized need for more grizzly research. At the joint meeting with the WMAC(NWT) in December a desire was expressed to have a workshop to address the issue of how to proceed with grizzly management. YTG still doesn't have a bear biologist. The GNWT is planning to do survey work in the NWT but it will still be another year before it happens. The question is how to proceed with the quota.

The Chair added that there is a need for a meeting with WMAC(NWT) and the GNWT to revise the quota before doing the survey work. The Council needs to report to the IGC in June on how the Council is responding to the issue.

Danny C. Gordon commented that the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee is expecting work to be done this summer to assess the grizzly population. They understood that it had to be delayed a year because of the demands of the oil and gas exploration but now they want to see something happen. The HTC thinks the only way to get an increase in the quota is to have a population count done.

The Chair said that he will contact John Nagy about the method for assessing the current.

13. Allocation of spending of IFA Implementation funds

As a way of sharing information on expenditures of IFA funds, Doug Larsen had previously suggested that each agency provide a briefing of their IFA budgets to each other at this meeting. The following information was provided.

Doug Larsen distributed two financial summaries- one showing YTG's IFA implementation expenditures from 1995/96 to 2000/01 and another showing YTG's 2002/03 IFA budget. The summary of expenditures shows a deficit in 2000-01. The costs associated with Herschel Island have increased quite a bit in the past few years. Most of the costs for Herschel Island are for salaries.

Ron Larsen distributed a summary of 2000-01 expenditures for Ivvavik National Park. He advised that Parks Canada doesn't distinguish between IFA funding and A-based funding. Because Ivvavik was established under the IFA it is the only one of the western Arctic parks that gets IFA funding.

The Chair noted that the submissions made to Treasury Board in 1985 and 1992 provide the background information and rationale on funding allocations for each agency.

Action 02-04-15: The Chair will obtain the consolidate submissions to Treasury Board and forward copies to the members.

Martin Raillard reported that CWS in the Yukon allocates \$15,000 each year to North Slope research and \$40,500 toward a 0.5 person-year. These later funds are distributed to different staff in the Whitehorse office doing work related to the North Slope. A further \$7,500 is allocated to travel.

The Chair noted that agencies receive IFA funds to cover additional costs associated with their responsibilities and legal obligations to implement the IFA.

14. Wildlife Act Regulations- update

The Chair reported that the Yukon Government has requested that work begin on the regulations required as a result of the changes made to the Wildlife Act to bring it in line with the IFA. The IGC wants WMAC(NS) to facilitate this process. This work needs to be initiated as soon as possible.

Danny C. Gordon raised the issue of a zero quota for muskox on Herschel Island. The Chair suggested that this issue can be addressed when the Council considers the distribution of the harvest.

K. Next Meeting

The next meeting is to be held on the North Slope. It will be an opportunity for Council members to see more of the area. Ron Larsen proposed the following dates in consideration of weather and other activities in the area:

- July 15- travel to Inuvik
- July 16- travel to Shingle Point
- July 17- travel to Herschel
- July 18- Herschel
- July 19- Herschel / Shingle Point
- July 20- Parks Day at Shingle
- July 21- return to Inuvik
- July 22- depart Inuvik for home

Members agreed to this schedule. Ron commented that the Parks Canada boat will be available but added that a second boat is needed in case the Parks' boat is called away for an emergency. The Chair clarified that it is acceptable for Council members to use one of Danny's boats and pay for the gas.

L. Adjournment

Motion

To adjourn.

Moved: Herbert Felix
Second: Martin Raillard
Motion carried

WMAC(NS) Chair

Date

WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Date