



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

Herschel Island, Yukon- July 17, 2002

and

Inuvik, NWT - Monday July 22, 2002

Wednesday July 17, 2002 – Herschel Island

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: Richard Gordon- Herschel Island Territorial Park
Mervin Joe- Parks Canada
Darielle Talarico

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 11 am. The Chair and members expressed their special thanks to Ron Larsen for his initial suggestion to hold the meeting at Herschel and Shingle Point. His efforts to facilitate the meeting and make the Parks Canada boat available for the trip are greatly appreciated. Members also thanked Danny C. Gordon for the use of his boat. Further thanks were given to Richard Gordon and the staff of Herschel Island Territorial Park for all they have done to make the Council's stay in the park a success.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda and outlined the issues to be covered during the meeting.

Motion

To adopt the agenda

Moved: Danny C. Gordon
Second: Martin Raillard
Motion carried

C. Review and Approval of Minutes of April 2002 meeting.

Members reviewed the minutes of the April 2002 meeting. The following changes to the minutes were requested:

- p. 4.- change to 'reported' harvest in second paragraph.
- p. 9.- under Danny C. Gordon's report- change from 'the hunter had an Aklavik tag' to 'the hunter did **not** have an Aklavik tag'.

Motion

To adopt the minutes of the April 2002 meeting.

Moved: Doug Larsen
Second: Herbert Felix
Motion carried

D. Review of Action Items

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

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, Parks Canada and the GNWT.

Complete: The Chair reported that this letter has been drafted and it will be sent to Doug Larsen for his review before it is sent.

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.

Complete: The Chair reported that he raised this issue at the recent Joint Secretariat Board meeting. The issue is operational. The agencies involved must ensure that they are coordinating their efforts.

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.

Complete: The Chair reported that he has drafted the letter. The letter will be sent under the signature of both WMACs.

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.

Outstanding.

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

Outstanding.

Action 01-06-03: WMAC(NS) will write to COSEWIC to inform them of the Council's intention to hold a workshop to assess the Yukon species list and invite them to participate.

Retire: The Council is no longer planning to hold a workshop.

Action 01-05-14: The Chair will request that the IGC propose a meeting date for the Wildlife Act Amendment Working Group to review regulation requirements.

Outstanding: The Chair commented that it is very important to get this work underway in September. There needs to be a meeting with representatives from the IGC, the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and WMAC(NS).

F. Correspondence

The Chair noted the following correspondence in the meeting binder:

- 2 letters from the Environmental Impact Screening Committee.

The EISC needs to be aware of all the projects being carried out in the ISR in order to assess cumulative effects. Co-management bodies also need to be informed. WMAC(NS) currently receives information from the Yukon Government's Heritage Branch on proposals and licenses issued for the Yukon North Slope, but receives nothing about projects carried on in the NWT. There are some concerns that the Aurora Research Institute isn't getting applications out in time for comment before issuing the permits. The EISC is proposing that it takes on the role of gathering information on all ISR research from Regulatory Agencies for distribution to the IGC and the IFA co-management bodies.

Industry research is no longer defined as development and therefore does not have to be screened before it is conducted. The only mechanism now in place for commenting on proposed industry research projects is through YTG's Heritage Branch or the Aurora Research Institute.

Action 02-07-01 : WMAC(NS) will meet with the Yukon Government's Heritage Branch to discuss the process for reviewing and commenting on Yukon North Slope research.

Members agreed that the Council should write to the EISC to forward support for the process they have proposed for coordinating information on ISR research.

Action 02-07-02 : WMAC(NS) will write to the Environmental Impact Screening Committee regarding the process for communicating information on ISR research projects. The letter should also inform the EISC of the Council's intention to meet with Yukon Government's Heritage Branch to discuss the current Yukon process. The letter is also to suggest that EISC include an explanation of why and how projects can be exempted from the screening process in any appropriate correspondence.

Action 02-07-03 : WMAC(NS) Secretariat will forward information received from the Yukon Government's Heritage Branch regarding Yukon North Slope research to Martin Raillard and Doug Larsen.

- A letter to the Chair from Joe Linklater, Chief, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation in response to the Council's letter regarding the establishment of reciprocal hunting rights. The Chief indicated that it would be better to wait until the VGFN's resource management process was established before any discussions are held regarding reciprocal hunting rights.

Action 02-07-04 : The Chair will write to Joe Linklater, Chief, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, to support future discussions regarding the establishment of reciprocal hunting rights.

- A letter from Joe Tetlich, Chair, Porcupine Caribou Management Board, regarding WMAC(NS)'s concerns about the decline in the size of the herd.
- A letter from YTG regarding the government's review of the draft Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan.
- An email from Alan Fehr notifying the Council about the passage of the Canadian Marine Conservation Areas Act
- A letter from the Environmental Impact Review Board regarding WesternGeco's seismic program. Herbert Felix reported that the review is on hold until the company rewrites its proposal.

G. Report from the Chair

The Chair reported that he attended the IGC meeting in Holman in June where he presented a summary of the 2002-03 research projects recommended by the Council. Concerns were raised at the meeting about the new drug being used during the muskox captures. There were questions about the effect it could have on any animal preying on or scavenging a captured muskox. Does the drug have the same toxic effect that it has on humans? YTG needs to do a presentation to the IGC in September to provide more information on the drug.

Action 02-07-05: WMAC(NS) will contact Phil Merchant (YTG Department of Environment) to request that he provides the IGC with a briefing on the recent muskox captures, including information on the drug being used.

The Chair added that the Council has recently received a resolution from the IGC supporting all of the research recommendations.

There is a grizzly bear workshop planned for the fall in Inuvik that will look at grizzly management issues across the ISR. Some of the topics to be included in the workshop are a review of the local knowledge information obtained by the GNWT, a review of the issues regarding problem bears and a review of methods for establishing quotas. This workshop is being organized by the WMAC(NWT). The Chair reported he informed Larry Carpenter that WMAC(NS) is prepared to contribute to the workshop, both financially and with logistics. The Chair added that he had talked to John Nagy about the Yukon North Slope quota and future adjustments. John suggested waiting until after the workshop when there will hopefully be a better understanding of population and assessment issues.

H. Members' Reports

Doug Larsen reported that he attended a Porcupine Caribou Management Board meeting in June. There will be no changes to the Dempster Highway hunting regulations except for a possible restriction to resident hunters. Concerns about the herd led to lots of discussion but no decisions on how to deal with the

problems. The PCMB will proceed with a Harvest Management Plan but it is not known how far this initiative will proceed without First Nations' agreeing on the problems. There is agreement that the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement needs to be amended but before it can be done a process for amending must be agreed to. All of this will take time.

Martin Raillard reported that he will be attending a CAFF meeting in Sweden in late August. Other items he wishes to address will be covered elsewhere in the agenda.

Herbert Felix, Danny C. Gordon and Dorothy Cooley commented that they had nothing to add at that time.

I. Old Business

1. Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan

The Chair reported that the latest draft has gone out to a number of agencies for a final review. It is hoped that all comments will be received by mid-August. It is possible that the Plan will be ready for sign-off at the next meeting.

Doug Larsen noted that YTG Energy, Mines and Resources have made some comments. He will forward them to the Council once he receives them in writing.

Members agreed that it would be a good idea to review the Plan in the context of the recent Species at Risk initiatives.

Action 02-07-06 : Martin Raillard will review the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan and suggest additions or changes as a result of the Species at Risk legislation and related initiatives.

2. Grizzly Bear Management

The Chair reported that Robin Fonger from the Joint Secretariat has been assisting the Aklavik HTC in preparing Grizzly Bear Policies and Procedures. The draft document closely follows the Aklavik Grizzly Bear Bylaws. The Secretariat noted that the HTC now proposes to issue tag numbers as opposed to releasing the actual tags. This is being proposed in an effort to eliminate problems of recovering unused tags.

The most recent version of the draft AHTC Grizzly Bear Policies and Procedures was reviewed by the members. The following is a summary of the comments:

- There are concerns regarding the HTC office having to chase down the tags. The women who work in the HTC office have been intimidated by some of the

hunters. Hopefully the issuance of a tag number instead of the tag itself will help

- Concerns were expressed regarding the waiting list. It shouldn't be the job of the personnel in the office to find the hunter.
- In reference to item #27, a hunter shouldn't go to the bottom of the list. If hunter can't be reached then tag should go to next hunter on the list but a person's original place on the list should be maintained.
- 13 and 14 are the same as 3. This duplication should be cleaned up.
- Regarding the definition of cub- it currently reads "that is 1.4 m in length...". It should read "that is **less than** 1.4 m in length..."
- It might be better to say that a cub is a bear with its mother
- The measurements should be stated in feet and inches as well as meters as not many people are familiar with metric measurements

Danny C. Gordon asked for clarification regarding Ian McLeod's ability to enforce YTG regulations on the North Slope. Dorothy Cooley replied she thinks that Ian has enforcement powers as some NWT officers are appointed as YTG officers. Members agreed that this information should be added to the document for clarification.

Action 02-07-07: The Secretariat will forward the Council's comments regarding the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee's draft Grizzly Bear Policies and Procedures to Robin Fonger and the AHTC.

3. Muskox Management Plan

The Chair reported that he has completed the changes to the draft of the Muskox Management Plan and will send copies to Dorothy Cooley and Ian McDonald for their review. John Nagy still needs to review the section on parasites. Members agreed that this draft should be circulated for final comment to all the agencies that attended the workshop in Aklavik in October, as well as to the Mayo RRC and relevant agencies in Alaska. Final revisions can then be made before recommending the plan at the next Council meeting. WMAC(NS) will recommend the Plan to the Yukon Territorial and federal ministers. The WMAC(NWT) will recommend the Plan to the GNWT Minister.

Action 02-07-08: The Chair will distribute the draft Muskox Management Plan to all Council members for their review.

Action 02-07-09: WMAC(NS) will send a copy of the draft Canadian Muskox Management Plan to all the agencies that attended the workshop in Aklavik in October, as well as to the Mayo RRC and relevant agencies in Alaska for final comment. Agencies are to be asked to provide their comments by the end of August.

4. Wildlife Management and Research Proposals -updates

The Secretariat reported that a summary of the Council's recommendations for North Slope is included in the binder for information purposes. It is the same document that was sent out to various agencies to inform them of the Council's recommendations for the year. Most of the projects haven't begun yet.

In reference to the Herschel Island Ecological Monitoring project, Dorothy Cooley reported that Catherine Kennedy had spent the previous week on the island reinforcing the training of the Park's Rangers. Catherine was able to get some suggestions from the Rangers on how to improve things.

Martin Raillard commented that there are 12 breeding bird survey locations in the Yukon and it would be good to add Herschel. Dorothy replied that the Rangers have been doing breeding bird surveys since 1990. They are part of the historical data that Dorothy has been summarizing and includes wildlife observations, breeding bird surveys, nesting surveys, and guillemot surveys back to the early 1980's, as well as the more recent vegetation information.

Members agreed that there is a need to summarize the monitoring and research that has been done on the island as well as what's going on now. It would also be valuable to summarize what is being planned and assessing if the proposed initiatives are compatible with monitoring being conducted elsewhere. Next steps for monitoring and research should be included in the Management Plan.

5. Species at Risk

Martin Raillard reported that Bill C-5 has been passed by Parliament and is now in the Senate. The Act should be in place by the fall. Once it is in place the Yukon will have to provide comment on what is being done to protect listed species resident in the Territory. The Yukon has to develop its own Act and legislation.

The Chair reported that there was a second Yukon Species at Risk workshop held in Whitehorse in May. At that meeting there was a common vision that there should be a committee to determine how species should be listed and what actions should be taken as a result of the listing. The Yukon Government is now drafting legislation but many people at the workshop felt that there should be another meeting to finalize a joint understanding of the process before this was done.

The Chair commented that he supports the committee concept. It would be a group that could work across all settlement areas. But there is still a need to describe the mechanics of the committee, not just its concept. The first time anyone will see the mechanics will be when it is in legislation. The workshop participants weren't comfortable with this. There was no resolution at the workshop as to how people will see the legislation proposal before it is tabled. It is still unclear what the committee will look like or what the jurisdictional relationships will be between agencies. There is an understanding the WMAC(NS) and the FJMC would be represented on the committee. The Workshop ended without a clear understanding of what is to happen next. It was inconclusive as to how the group will review the legislation and mechanisms of the Yukon's Species at Risk Committee.

Action 02-07-10: WMAC(NS) will write to the Yukon Government to forward the Council's interests in information briefings from the Government as the Yukon Species at Risk legislation is being developed.

J. New Business

1. Conservation Data Centre

Martin Raillard distributed a printout of a power point presentation titled 'Supporting Conservation Decision-Making in the Yukon'. Martin explained that funding is available to support jurisdictions in meeting their obligations under the Species at Risk. The Yukon must compile information on species at risk in the territory.

NatureServe Yukon is the name of the Yukon's Conservation Data Centre. The centre will make it possible for information on Yukon species to be held in one place. Right now this information is scattered and resides with many different agencies.

The handout outlined the Yukon's five ecoregions and noted the Territory's great biodiversity. Some of the plants found in the Yukon are not found anywhere else. There are currently four species found in the Yukon that are listed as being 'at risk' in Canada. The Yukon is also home to some species that are considered to be 'imperiled' globally.

Martin noted those who need information on Yukon's biodiversity. NatureServe Yukon will bring together existing information as well as collect new information. This will meet the need for information under SARA.

Members agreed that the Conservation Data Centre will be valuable in helping the Yukon meet the Territories SARA obligations. The Chair commented that the

Centre needs to be proactive in order to let people know what they are doing and why. Good communications are essential.

Action 02-07-11: WMAC(NS) will write to the Coordinator of the Yukon's Conservation Data Centre in support of the work being conducted by the Centre.

2. Activity Report

The Secretariat distributed copies of the draft 2001-02 Activity Report.

Action 02-07-12: Council members will provide comments on the draft 2001-02 Activity Report to the Secretariat by July 31, 2002.

3. Meeting Binder

The Secretariat reviewed the items that were included in the meeting binders.

- A copy of the federal Species at Risk Act (Bill C-5)
- The final version of the Muskox Communication Strategy that includes the additions and revisions made by Kirsten Madsen after the Council's last meeting. Kirsten is currently working on the muskox fact sheets and the school unit.
- Two items of correspondence from COSEWIC- the Draft Status Report on Wolverine and a report for the Anatum Peregrine Falcon, scheduled for assessment in November 2002.

Questions were raised by members about the distribution and review of information sent to the Council by COSEWIC.

Action 02-07-13: An item on the mechanism for the Council to review and respond to information received from COSEWIC will be added to the Council's agenda for the fall meeting.

Action 02-07-14: WMAC(NS) will contact COSEWIC to ask if the Council can delay its comments the draft Status Report on Wolverine until after the Council's next meeting in early October.

Action 02-07-15: The Secretariat will obtain information on a regular basis regarding the COSEWIC meeting to be held in the Yukon in the spring of 2003.

Also included in the binder was a proposal from Myrna Button regarding the WMAC(NS) library. The Chair explained that Myrna has been working to develop an Inuvialuit Resource Network. Documents held in several locations, such as the Joint Secretariat, are being catalogued digitally. Myrna is proposing to include the WMAC(NS) documents in the network. She would spend time in

the Whitehorse office in order to organize and enter the collection into the database. Once established, the Secretariat would be able to maintain the collection and enter new documents.

Members agreed that it would be a good idea to have this work done. The Secretariat is to contact Myrna to get a quote on the cost for the work. If the quote is less than \$5000 the work can go ahead without contacting the members again for further discussion on approving a budget.

I. Old Business (continued)

6. Herschel Island Territorial Park Management Plan

The Chair asked members to comment on the July 10, 2002 draft of the Plan. The following comments were made:

- The plan is well developed and there have been a number of improvements since the first draft.
- There is a need for a statement of vision at the beginning that indicates where we want to go. For example, maintaining cultural integrity, encouraging research, being open to visitors, as well as maintaining the look and feel of the place, as a place of history. This vision is not stated now but should be. Such a statement would address some operational issues, such as the hiding of fuel drums.
- It's important to maintain cultural, historical, and natural integrity. An explanation of each of these should be included.
- It's important to protect habitat too.
- There is a need to be really clear on what should be monitored and why.
- The action items regarding monitoring need to be more specific whenever possible. For example, on page 10, who, what and where are the sites? This needs more detail. Being clear about monitoring initiatives would give direction for Parks activities. The intention regarding monitoring is OK but the actions need to be more grounded and specific. Monitoring has to be defined more as a program.
- There isn't any information coming back to the Rangers to show them the value of what they are recording. It's important for them to understand that they are part of a program.
- There is a need to identify the purpose of the monitoring. Rangers have to have strategic direction.
- Who makes the decisions about the direction of the monitoring?
- In reference to the action items, the list of responsible agencies is now almost all YTG Parks and YTG. Responsibilities should be reviewed to include other agencies. It shouldn't all be left up to Yukon Parks.
- Is it possible to produce a monitoring report each year, similar to the Parks Canada reports, so that the Rangers and others know results? The production of a research and monitoring newsletter should be added to the

plan. It may also be possible to add Herschel information to Parks Canada's monitoring report for the Western Arctic. The WMAC(NS) newsletter could also be used to report on Herschel program results.

- The plan is weak on guidelines. Guidelines are needed for such things as the cruise ships.
- Monitoring is ill defined. Also there is no indication of what monitoring will effect decisions.
- How many visitors will be allowed should be part of the vision
- The plan recognizes increases in visitors as number one issue but there's nothing to address it
- Protection of driftwood for habitat is important. Camper fires and sauna use are impacting driftwood availability and abundance.
- Water is also an issue. Visitors will have to bring their own. Increases in visitor number mean an increase in costs to the park.
- There is no money in the Park's budget for increased costs. It's all IFA funds.
- There are other programs that could be initiated (elders, sod house) but can't be because of lack of funds. The Park should be able to charge user fees.
- IFA funds can't cover everything, including the needs of outside interests such as tourists.
- There is a need for other sources of funding.
- If the park has research needs they have to let the universities know about them. Herschel should keep a list and add it to the list that Parks Canada sends to universities.
- But first we have to clear on the vision that guides the research
- Other places to camp or have a wilderness experience could be considered.
- There is a need for a tourism plan for the northern Yukon to spread out the use and quality of experience
- Herschel has come a long way but it needs to go the next step especially regarding tourism

Members agreed to resume the discussion of the Plan when Alan Fehr and Ron Larsen are present, later in the week.

Action 02-07-16: WMAC(NS) will clarify the process for the issuance of research permits on Herschel Island.

Monday July 22, 2002 – Parks Canada, Inuvik

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

Guests: Ron Larsen- Parks Canada

The Chair welcomed Alan Fehr and Ron Larsen to the meeting and summarized some of the issues the Council discussed earlier on Herschel Island (Wednesday July 17).

- WMAC(NWT) and the GNWT are organizing an ISR Grizzly Bear Management Workshop early in the fall. The workshop will be in Inuvik and will involve representatives of government agencies, co-management boards, the IGC and the four mainland HTC's.

Action 02-07-17: The Secretariat will inform members of the dates for the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Workshop as soon as they are known.

Action 02-07-18: WMAC(NS) will ensure that the FJMC is being kept up-to-date on Yukon Species at Risk process by YTG.

The Chair also circulated a letter written to the Council by Robert Hornal, Chair, Environmental Impact Review Board, regarding cumulative effects assessment in the ISR. The EIRB is planning to assemble a database of information to be used in assessing the cumulative effects of a project. Members expressed concerns that the work associated with the development of the database could be done piecemeal and in an ad hoc manner. It is important that all parties work together on this project.

Action 02-07-19: WMAC(NS) will write to Robert Hornal, Chair, Environmental Impact Review Board to suggest that the EIRB consider the most effective way for all parties to work together in the development of a database of information to be used in the process of assessing cumulative effects.

I. Old Business (continued)

6. Herschel Island Territorial Park Management Plan

The Chair briefly summarized some of the discussion held by the Council during the meeting on Wednesday July 17, regarding the Herschel Island Management Plan, as follows:

- There is a need for a vision statement
- Monitoring initiatives need to be better defined.
- Interjurisdictional relationships need to be better defined and articulated regarding the implementation of action items. For example, what would WMAC and Parks Canada do?
- There is no reference to how the sub-plans, such as the Operational Plan, are linked to the management plan.
- The Plan doesn't reflect people's high expectations for the Park and its management.
- Is it adequate to rely on IFA funds alone? There is no mention specifically of fees. The Plan only states the need to find 'innovative' ways to increase funding.
- The plan needs to have more detail about visitor use and a visitor use plan. Visitor use includes water, shelter and firewood.

Members agreed that the Council should develop a draft vision statement. It would be better to provide Parks with specific wording and not be vague about what the Council thinks is needed. Comments on the rest of the Plan aren't enough either. The Council's ideas of wording for specific items should be drafted and put forward.

Action 02-07-20: Martin Raillard will draft a Vision Statement for the Herschel Island Management Plan and distribute it to members for their review.

Members also agreed that the Council should suggest the formation of a small working group (technical group) to work on the plan. It could consist of representatives from WMAC(NS), YTG and Parks Canada. Alan commented that Parks Canada would like to be involved. He noted that Hillarie Zimmerman is in Whitehorse and may be available to take part. In addition to Hillarie, members agreed to suggest the participation of Darielle Talarico and Dorothy Cooley.

Action 02-07-21: WMAC(NS) will write to YTG Parks and Protected Areas Branch to suggest the formation of a small working group to complete the Herschel Island Management Plan. The Council will suggest the names of possible members of the group.

Martin Raillard inquired about the possibility of including Herschel research information in the Parks Canada research newsletter and annual monitoring

report. Alan Fehr replied that there are several places where Parks Canada could include Herschel information in its documents. It would be easier if the information is provided in the right format.

7. Parks Canada Report

Alan Fehr reported that Parks Canada is interested seeing the Council become more engaged in substantive issues related to Ivvavik National Park. Parks Canada wants to have more involvement and improved communications with Aklavik. Right now the relationship is mainly operational. There is a need to talk more about priorities in the community. There is a Management Board for Tuk Tuk Nogait National Park that gets involved with the community. This is lacking in Aklavik. WMAC(NS) could begin to provide more direction to Parks Canada in the next years on a number of issues.

The Chair added that until now the Council's role in relation to Parks Canada activities has been mostly reactive. There has been a collaborative approach to research but less attention has been given to issues such as visitor use and policy guidelines. Parks Canada's attendance at the Council's meetings is welcomed. WMAC(NS) should have an interest in the funding that Parks receives in the next round of IFA funding talks. How should the Council schedule a focussed discussion on its relationship with Parks Canada?

Alan commented that Parks Canada produces an Annual Business Plan each fall that operationalizes the Management Plan. Alan agreed to send a copy of last year's plan to WMAC(NS) so that members could have an opportunity to determine how and where the Council can be involved.

Action 02-07-22: Alan Fehr will send a copy of Parks Canada's 2001-2002 business Plan to WMAC(NS). The Secretariat will distribute copies to the members.

Members agreed that a meaningful discussion on this topic would take a half a day and decided to add it to the agenda for the Council's meeting in December.

In reference to the Ivvavik National Park Management Plan, Alan told Council members that WMAC(NS) would have a last opportunity to review the plan before it is finalized.

K. Next Meeting

Members agreed that the next meeting would be held in Whitehorse the week of October 7, 2002.

Danny C. Gordon asked for clarification regarding harvesting muskox in the NWT. Is it a fact that once muskox enter the NWT they can be harvested without a permit or quota? The Chair responded that this is correct and added that it is an area that needs to be addressed with the WMAC(NWT) and in the draft Muskox Management Plan. Danny also asked if the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee have to be informed if muskox are harvested for research by the GNWT. Danny reported that the GNWT harvested a muskox but didn't tell anyone. There is a feeling in the community that the HTC is being bypassed.

Action 02-07-23: The Secretariat will contact John Nagy to discuss the issue of the GNWT informing or consulting with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee prior to harvesting muskox for research.

The Chair expressed the Council's thanks to Parks Canada for everything they had done to make the North Slope trip and Council meetings a success. Parks Day at Shingle Point was a big success and went far to build relationships with the community.

Alan commented that it is good to have meetings on the land. It is important to encourage a lifestyle on the land. Alan added his thanks to Annie B. and Danny A. Gordon for all they contributed to the success of Parks Day.

Members agreed that the next WMAC(NS) newsletter should focus on the trip and the value of spending time with people on the land. The concept of holding a meeting this way should be promoted as a way of learning and gaining experience.

L. Adjournment

Motion
To adjourn.

Moved: Herbert Felix
Second: Martin Raillard
Motion carried

WMAC(NS) Chair

Date

WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Date