



**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](mailto:wmacns@web.ca) www.taiga.net/wmac

**MINUTES**

**WMAC(NS) QUARTERLY MEETING**

**High Country Inn  
Whitehorse, Yukon**

**May 12-13, 2004**

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**Wednesday May 12, 2004**

**Present:** Lindsay Staples – Chair  
Danny C. Gordon- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council  
Doug Larsen – Member - Yukon Government  
Dorothy Cooley - Alternate- Yukon Government  
Herbert Felix- Member- Inuvialuit Game Council  
Carol Arey - Alternate- Inuvialuit Game Council  
Aileen Horler- Secretariat  
Wendy Nixon- Observer – Environment Canada  
Richard Gordon- Herschel Island Territorial Park

**Guest:** Ramona Maraj- YTG Environment

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**A. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9 am. Wendy Nixon was welcomed to the meeting. Environment Canada in Whitehorse has requested that the Minister of Environment appoint Wendy as their new member on the Council. Until the appointment is confirmed Wendy will attend the Council meetings as an observer. Richard Gordon was also welcomed to the meeting. The Chair commented that it is always valuable to have Richard attend the Council meetings to comment on North Slope issues from a Herschel Island Park perspective.

## **B. Review and Approval of Agenda**

The Chair reviewed the agenda and outlined some of the issues to be covered during the meeting. These include the approval of the year-end financial report, a review of the Council's budget for 2004-2005, a discussion of the next steps to complete the Muskox Management Plan, a briefing on the grizzly bear research project, recommendations for the wildlife research funds for 2004-2005 and the next steps in the implementation of the YNS Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan.

Danny C. Gordon requested the issue of grizzly bear tags be added to the agenda.

### ***Motion***

***To adopt the agenda***

Moved: Danny C. Gordon

Second: Herbert Felix

Motion carried

## **C. Review and Approval of Minutes of December 2003 meeting.**

Members reviewed the minutes of the December 2003 meeting. Danny C. Gordon raised a question as to whether the area covered by the muskox surveys includes the Richardson Mountains. Dorothy Cooley clarified that the surveys referred to in the minutes are the aerial surveys. Local observations of muskox outside the aerial survey area, including the Richardson's, are added to the number of muskox counted during the aerial surveys to get the total population count.

Danny C. Gordon also commented that the need for a Trapper Education Workshop had been discussed at AHTC meetings. As no one from Aklavik is now trapping in the Yukon the HTC felt there is no point in having a workshop.

**Action 04-05-01:** The Secretariat will confirm with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee that they no longer think it is useful for YTG to hold a Trapper Education Workshop as no one in the community is currently trapping on the Yukon North Slope. The Secretariat will inform Helen Slama of the situation once confirmed.

No changes to the December 2003 minutes were requested.

### ***Motion***

***To adopt the minutes of the December 2003 meeting.***

Moved: Doug Larsen

Second: Danny C. Gordon  
Motion carried

#### **D. Review of Action Items**

The Secretariat reported on the status of the action items.

**Action 03-12-01:** The Secretariat will distribute the draft minutes to all members and alternates.

##### **Ongoing**

**Action 03-12-02:** Secretariat will forward the background information papers prepared for Bluethroat, Yellow Wagtail and Black Guillemot to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee. The Secretariat will ask Wendy Nixon to follow-up directly with the HTC and supply them with colour photos of the birds to assist in identification.

##### **Complete**

**Action 03-12-03:** The Secretariat will follow-up with Kelly Olson to determine why five of the proposed changes to the Trapping Regulations did not receive internal YTG approval and to assess need for a follow-up meeting and discussion on this issue.

##### **Outstanding**

**Action 03-12-04:** The Secretariat will send a meeting binder to all alternates, regardless of their ability to attend the meeting.

##### **Ongoing**

**Action 03-12-05:** The Secretariat will prepare a list of agencies that should review the action items of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan and forward it to the Council members to review.

##### **Outstanding**

**Action 03-12-06:** WMAC(NS) will send a letter to all relevant agencies regarding the implementation of the action items of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan. The letter should ask agencies to review all the action items and to identify the items that they see as priorities for the North Slope within a three-year timeframe. Then given those priorities, each agency should be asked to identify which actions it is prepared to implement or to commit resources, including funding. The action list should be sent to the

agencies in an electronic format so that comments can be entered directly on to the document.

### **Outstanding**

**Action 03-12-07:** WMAC(NS) will facilitate a teleconference in the new year to decide who will take responsibility for the outstanding items to be addressed in the Muskox Management Plan. Teleconference participants should include Ian McDonald, Dorothy Cooley, Evelyn Storr, Lindsay Staples, Doug Larsen and John Nagy.

**Retired.** This action was postponed pending the results of the April muskox survey. The issue of who will take responsibility for the outstanding items to be addressed in the Muskox Management Plan will be discussed later in the meeting.

**Action 03-12-08:** WMAC(NS) will contact Sharon Keaton to get clarification as to who has authority to enforce wildlife regulations on the Yukon North Slope.

**Revised.** The Secretariat reported that an email was sent to Sharon but there hasn't yet been a response. Dorothy Cooley reported that Sharon is trying to get clarification on this issue from the Whitehorse office.

Members agreed that it would be very useful to develop a document that provides information on which agencies have what kind of conservation authority on the North Slope. The document should cover who has authority and what kind of authority, including the authority to lay charges, investigate and go to court. Agencies to consider are Parks Canada, YTG Environment and other relevant YTG departments, DFO, Herschel Island Territorial Park, the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and the GNWT.

**Action 04-05-02:** The Secretariat will prepare a document that summarizes the type and extent of the authority of different agencies to regulate and enforce conservation related acts and regulations on the Yukon North Slope.

**Action 03-12-09:** A technical advisory group, consisting of Ian McDonald, Dorothy Cooley, Danny C. Gordon, Evelyn Storr, John Nagy, Doug Larsen, Lindsay Staples and Ramona Maraj, should meet to discuss the North Slope grizzly bear proposal and research.

**Complete.** A meeting was held in Aklavik in April.

**Action 03-12-10:** Members will review the text proposed by YTG for addition to the Herschel Island Management Plan regarding the SSDC and parking of

industrial type rigs adjacent to Herschel. Members will notify the Secretariat by January 12, 2004 if they have objections to the text being added to the Plan.

### **Complete.**

**Action 03-05-02:** The Council will review the Inuvialuit Harvest Study access protocol at its next meeting. The Council will also ensure that the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee has had an opportunity to review the protocol and supports it's application to the current harvest collection program in Aklavik.

**Revised.** The Chair reported that he has made several attempts to follow-up with Catherine Pinard on the issue of a protocol for the harvest information being collected in Aklavik.

**Action 04-05-03:** The Secretariat will contact Catherine Pinard regarding the establishment of a protocol for the harvest information being collected in Aklavik.

## **E. Correspondence**

Members reviewed the correspondence in the meeting binder and discussed the following items:

- A letter to Carol Arey, Chair of the Aklavik Community Corporation, from Ed McLean, Parks Canada, Inuvik, regarding the contamination at the Stokes Point DEW Line site. Parks Canada is still trying to identify who is responsible for the clean-up of the site.
- A letter from Alan Fehr giving one-time permission for the RCMP to travel through Ivvavik National Park on motorized vehicles based on the cultural and historical value of the project.
- A newsletter 'Dispatch' produced by Devon Canada that gives a summary of their activities and proposed program details.
- 2004 Spring Inspection Report from DC Marine on the SSDC.

Richard Gordon commented that there have been no Inuvialuit participants on any of the inspections. Members asked what commitment was made by the company to have Inuvialuit on their inspection tours. Questions were also raised as to other commitments made by the company and how well they have been met. What is the program for measuring compliance?

**Action 04-05-04:** The Secretariat will contact the EISC to find out what conditions were attached to the permit for the SSDC and inquire as to what program is in place to monitor the compliance of the permit conditions.

**Action 04-05-05:** WMAC(NS) will write to DC Marine to enquire about Inuvialuit participation of inspection tours of the SSDC.

Additional correspondence was distributed by the Secretariat and discussed as follows:

- A letter from Frank Pokiak regarding the ISR research update forum. The Chair commented that the IGC research forum was initiated as an opportunity for government researchers in the ISR to report on their work. After a couple of years it was expanded to include other research taking place in the region. The Inuvialuit co-management boards have agreed to take over the responsibility for organizing this forum. The objective of the forum will be to provide an opportunity for researchers to report on their work, collaborate with others in the region, and learn about issues such as the use of traditional knowledge in research design and implementation. There have been some discussions already about the forum but the co-management boards need to start putting more thought to it. The Chair will raise the issue at the upcoming Joint Secretariat Board of Directors meeting. The resource people for WMAC(NWT), WMAC(NS) and the FJMC could begin to collaborate to develop a proposal for the forum.

**Action 04-05-06:** The Secretariat will distribute to all members the record of the discussion regarding the IFA research forum held during the joint WMAC(NS) / WMAC(NWT) meeting in September 2003.

**Action 04-05-07:** WMAC(NS) will write to Frank Pokiak acknowledging the receipt of his letter about the ISR Research Forum. The letter should note that the issue has been added to the agenda of the upcoming Joint Secretariat Board of Directors meeting, in early June. The results of the discussion will be reported to the Inuvialuit Game Council at their June meeting.

## **F. Report from the Chair**

### **a) Withdrawal Order**

The Chair reported that he was contacted by the Yukon Department of Energy Mines and Resources regarding the Withdrawal Order on the Yukon North Slope.

A meeting with representatives of the department has been set up for the following day. EMR is interested in initiating discussions about the future of the Withdrawal Order and finding out who should be involved in any such discussions. YTG has also raised the issue of the Withdrawal Order with the Inuvialuit at the IFA Implementation Coordinating Committee meetings.

The Chair commented that discussions should be held between the parties to the IFA. WMAC(NS) can play a role in providing information on the references to the Withdrawal Order in the YNS Wildlife and Conservation Management Plan.

Richard Gordon expressed his ongoing concern about who has the authority to make decisions about industrial activities in the area that can have an affect on Herschel Island Park. Herschel Island Park doesn't have any authority in the off-shore but activities there can affect the Park's operations and the conservation of the wilderness.

The Chair commented that other ways have been and are being developed to protect areas of high conservation interest. These areas are being managed to adapt to development activities. Council members encouraged Richard to continue to express his concerns and bring conservation issues forward whenever he can.

**b) COSEWIC/ Species at Risk**

The Chair reported that he attended the Species at Risk Conference in Victoria in March where he made a presentation on the role of Wildlife Management Boards and the implementation of the Species at Risk legislation. He also made a presentation on multi-jurisdictional management of wildlife using the draft Canadian North Slope Muskox Co-management Plan as an example. He was also in a workshop where he was able to present the results of the traditional knowledge work done in Aklavik.

The Chair added that he took part in a teleconference in early May regarding revisions to COSEWIC's Operating Manual and the incorporation of the Wildlife Management Boards into the COSEWIC process. Most of the Wildlife Management Boards took part in the call to discuss the new draft of the manual. The relationship between the boards and the species specialists groups is especially important to establish. The WMBs made some further suggestions for revisions which the Chair of COSEWIC agreed to present to the members of the committee for their comments.

There is also a need for further discussions between Environment Canada and the WMBs regarding recovery planning.

**Action 04-05-08:** Wendy Nixon will ask Martin Raillard for an update on the status of the Recovery Planning Manual. The Secretariat will follow-up by supplying the members with any new information on the development of the manual.

**Action 04-05-09:** The Secretariat will contact Gloria Goulet to find out when the next draft of the COSEWIC Operating Manual will be ready for review. The Secretariat will follow-up by distributing the next draft to all members once it is available.

For the information of the members, the Chair distributed copies of the summaries of latest COSEWIC species assessments (Port Rowan, May 2004).

The Chair noted the endangered status of Peary caribou and some populations of beluga whales.

### **c) Staffing of the WMAC(NS) Secretariat**

The Chair reported that he participated in a number of discussions regarding the changing of the Secretariat position from contract to salaried. The Chair met with Doug Larsen and the current Secretariat to work out the conditions of employment. The salary will be \$48,000 plus pension and vacation pay benefits. The personnel policies of the Joint Secretariat will be adapted to reflect the WMAC(NS) circumstances and Yukon Government employee policies.

**Action 04-05-10:** The proposed WMAC(NS) personnel policies will be distributed to Council members.

## **G. Members' Report**

Wendy Nixon noted that the Habitat Stewardship Program can provide funding for projects related to Species at Risk. The funding can be used for any endangered species. Wendy agreed to provide more information to the Council on the program.

Herbert Felix reported that he attended a conference of the International Association for Impact Assessment in Vancouver in late April, on behalf of the EIRB.

Richard Gordon and Dorothy Cooley said that issues they wish to discuss will be covered elsewhere in the meeting.

Danny C. Gordon raised the issue of who has the responsibility or mandate to clean up and/ or incinerate the garbage at Shingle Point. A discussion was held as to the history of this issue and WMAC(NS)'s role in the past.

**Action 04-05-11:** The Secretariat will compile a record of the Council's and others' activities related to the issue of clean-up of garbage at Shingle Point.

## **H. Financial**

### **a) WMAC(NS) year end statement**

Members reviewed two documents related to the Council's year-end financial report:

- the 2003-2004 year-end financial statement prepared by the Secretariat from figures supplied by the bookkeeper and;



- the draft Review Engagement Report prepared by Kim Tanner.

The Secretariat explained the spending in a number of categories. Revenues included the contribution agreement from the Yukon Government, additional funding from the Yukon Government for the North Slope Conference and the Aklavik TK project, a contribution from Parks Canada toward the muskox plan and almost \$10,000 carried over from the previous year. There were a number of large expenses in the year including the publication of the Term Report, Volume 2 of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan, and the Aklavik report, as well as the North Slope Conference. The Council had very little money left to spend in the last three months of the fiscal year. The Secretariat was only able to work about 10 hours a week. At the end of the year the Council was overspent by about \$5000. An overdraft was obtained for the bank to cover this over expenditure. Funding received for 2004-2005 can be used to cover this debt.

The Secretariat noted that a Review Engagement Report is prepared every year. It is not as in-depth as an audit but is sufficient to meet the Contribution Agreement's accounting requirements. Once approved by the Council a copy of the Report will be submitted to YTG. A copy is also included in the Council's Term Report.

### **Resolution**

*To accept as accurate the Review Engagement Report for 2003-2004 (dated March 31, 2003) as prepared by Kim Tanner and the WMAC(NS) Year-end Financial Statement for 2003-2004.*

Moved: Herbert Felix  
Second: Doug Larsen  
Motion carried

### **b) 2004-2005 WMAC(NS) budget**

The Chair referred to the budget for 2004-2005 in the meeting binders. This budget was approved by the Council at its meeting December 2003. The categories included in the budget are those provided by the federal government during the funding negotiations. They represent a broad allocation of expenses. The Council can reallocate the funding as required.

Members agreed that the Secretariat should further breakdown the approved amounts into the budget categories the Council has been using to date.

A total of \$35,000 has been allocated to 'projects'. The Chair suggested that the allocation of this amount to specific projects be discussed further later on in the meeting.

## **I. Old Business**

### **1. Muskox Management**

#### **a) Spring muskox survey**

Dorothy Cooley reported on the muskox survey that was completed in April. Eleven groups were seen in the survey area, only three of which were on the coastal plain. Another group was reported from outside the survey area for a total population count of 144 animals. There were 16 yearlings. Only 3 of the satellite collars are still working on live muskox. There were 8 collars working in July 2002 but this number has dropped due to collar failure and animal death. A count was done in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge at the same time. Only about 30 muskox were counted.

Another survey will be done in the Yukon in July. All the collars will be removed in 2005. There will then be 5-6 collars that could be redeployed. There is a need to discuss how the collars can best be used.

#### **b) Muskox Management Plan**

A discussion was held regarding the next steps for completing the muskox plan. The survey results need to be updated. Other issues raised in the meeting in Inuvik last year, such as the allocation of a quota, need to be addressed. The plan should include mechanism to resolve disputes and /or allocate the harvest.

**Action 04-05-12:** Dorothy Cooley will update the survey information in the draft muskox plan. The Chair will incorporate suggested revisions based on written comments and the discussion at the muskox meeting in Inuvik in June 2003. A revised draft will be tabled at the October Council meeting.

The final draft should be reviewed with WMAC(NWT), the Vuntut Gwch'in First Nation and the GRRB, if they are interested.

Once the plan is complete it will be up to the WMACs and representatives from Old Crow to agree on a total allowable harvest and a harvest allocation. WMAC(NS) will recommend it to the Yukon Minister of Environment and the Minister for Parks Canada. It will be up to WMAC(NWT) to transmit the plan to the GNWT Minister for RWED.

#### **c) Meeting with the Alaskans**

Dorothy Cooley reported that Pat Reynolds has suggested a meeting in the fall between Alaskan and Canadian representatives to discuss the management of North Slope muskox. It may be possible to hold this meeting in Anchorage in conjunction with another meeting.

The Chair commented that it would be good to have an opportunity to review the draft of the muskox plan with the Alaskans as well as with representatives from Old Crow and WMAC(NWT). Two meetings have been held with Alaskan representatives (in 1999 and 2000) to discuss mutual muskox interests and issues. These meetings were very useful for sharing information.

## **2. Grizzly Bear Management**

### **a) YNS grizzly bear population study**

The Chair welcomed Ramona Maraj, the YTG biologist who is leading the grizzly bear research project proposed to take place on the Yukon North Slope over the next 6 years. Ramona gave a summary of the research as follows:

- We are doing this study to find out more about grizzly bear populations on the Yukon North Slope. We need to know how many bears are on the North Slope in order to review the current harvest levels and determine harvest quotas
- The Yukon Government (Department of Environment), Parks Canada, and the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee are all involved in the study.
- The study will focus on grizzly bears on the Yukon North Slope between the Firth and the Blow Rivers
- The study will include a review of harvest activity. We need to know how many bears are killed by hunters, including information on sex, age, and location of hunter-killed bears in the study area. We will get this information from the harvest report forms and we will talk with local hunters about where they hunt bears. One component of the research project will be for hunters to carry a GPS unit as a way of tracking hunter movement. This movement can then be compared to the movement of the bears.
- We will be recording local knowledge of grizzly bear numbers, seasonal movement, and use of habitats. A lot of local knowledge on grizzly bears has been written down. We will try to pull together all this information. We will talk with local hunters about bears and use local knowledge collected in previous studies to understand trends in the grizzly bear population and habitat use.
- We want to estimate how fast the population is growing. To do this we need to determine the number of bears that die, that are born, the number of bears that leave and come into the area, the age of each bear, the number of males and females, and the total number of bears. We get a lot of this information by using radio collars. We will also take tooth samples to age the bears.
- A hair-trapping study and mark-recapture study will help us to understand population size or grizzly bear density in the study area.
- We will also try to get more information on habitat use.
- A long-term monitoring project will be set up as well.

- We will try ways to bring local expert knowledge together with information obtained through scientific studies.
- Inuvialuit will be involved in many ways including the design of the program, in gathering samples and by providing information on bear activity. The community can also be involved through local student projects. Hopefully there will be opportunities to involve Inuvialuit college and university students.
- The fieldwork part of the study will last for 6 years. The timeline for the project is-
  - 2004- Fine tune study design in consultation with Parks Canada and the Inuvialuit, collar first set of bears, collect scats
  - 2005- start local knowledge study, collar second set of bears, begin hair-trapping study and mark-recapture study, do telemetry, collect scats.
  - 2006- Continue to gather local and traditional knowledge, do lab analyses on hair samples, maintain collars on bears, second hair trapping season, do telemetry and collect scats.
  - 2007/ 2008 – Hair trapping finished but will continue to gather local and traditional knowledge, do lab analyses on hair samples, do telemetry, maintain collars, monitor den sites, collect scats, analyze data.
  - 2009/ 2010- Analyze all the data and produce presentations, reports, and management recommendations
- Herschel Island will be used as a base for the study.
- The field crew will be starting the project as soon as the collars are received. There are 10 GPS collars and 15 radio collars. The radio collars will be put on females only.

Ramona explained the use of hair trapping stations to find out about bear populations and movement. The study area is divided into 70 grids. A station will be set up in each grid using scented baits to attract the bears. These stations are made of rebar surrounded by barbed wire to catch the hair as the bear tries to reach the bait. The stations will be set up from early June to late July starting in the summer of 2005. They will be moved several times within each grid over the summer. The stations will be visited on a regular basis to collect the hair.

Members agreed that it is important to establish Aklavik's participation in this project. The Council can play a role by developing a proposal, for community participation. This participation can include aspects of the field work, contributions of local knowledge, sample collection, student involvement, administrative functions (for the HTC), participation in focus groups and communications.

There is also a need to develop communications strategy or plan to ensure the general public and the community of Aklavik knows what is going on at all stages. Slides and/or videos can be used to show people what is going on with

the research and the results. Newsletters that make regular reports on the research would be useful too. Parks Canada has done a poster explaining the why, how and who of the project.

Danny C. Gordon commented that he found Ramona's explanation of the hair trapping very useful for him to understand the kind of work that is being proposed. Members agreed that it would be a good idea to set up a sample trap near Shingle Point so that people could monitor it and see how it works.

**Action 04-05-13:** WMAC(NS), in consultation with the HTC, Parks Canada and YTG, will develop a proposal for community involvement in the grizzly bear project.

**Action 04-05-14:** The Secretariat will develop an outline for a multi-year communication strategy for the grizzly bear project.

Danny C. Gordon raised the question of compensation should a collar damage the fur on a harvested bear. Why should a hunter lose income due to a research project?

The Chair distributed a copy of a letter from Marsha Branigan (GNWT) to Frank Pokiak (Inuvialuit Game Council) regarding compensation for mortalities or hide damage as a result of grizzly bear research. The GNWT wants to discuss this issue with the IGC on order to establish a research-related compensation agreement that specifies what compensation would be paid under varying circumstances. Doug Larsen commented that YTG doesn't usually pay compensation for wildlife research related mortalities or hide damage.

The Chair noted that the IFA states that no compensation will be paid in relation to wildlife enhancement projects. However the term wildlife enhancement projects has typically referred to the re-introduction of a species or population, not wildlife research.

Council members agreed that this is a serious issue. The IGC needs to be talking about this with the Yukon Government as well as the GNWT. Some mechanism should be in place in the Yukon. It is preferable to have a policy in place before it becomes an issue.

Members agreed that the Council should write to the IGC to forward the Council's interest in seeing the issue of compensation settled. The letter should express the Council's interest in participating in any discussions on this issue and ask the IGC to keep the Council up to date on any further developments. The letter is to be copied to the Yukon Government.

**Action 04-05-15:** WMAC(NS) will write to the Inuvialuit Game Council in response to the letter written to the IGC by the GNWT regarding compensation for mortalities or hide damage as a result of grizzly bear research.

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### **Wednesday May 13, 2004**

**Present:** Lindsay Staples – Chair  
Danny C. Gordon- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council  
Doug Larsen – Member - Yukon Government  
Dorothy Cooley - Alternate- Yukon Government  
Herbert Felix- Member- Inuvialuit Game Council  
Carol Arey - Alternate- Inuvialuit Game Council  
Aileen Horler- Secretariat  
Wendy Nixon- Observer – Environment Canada  
Richard Gordon- Herschel Island Territorial Park

**Guests:** Barney Smith – YTG Department of Environment  
Joan Eamer- Environment Canada/ Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op

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## **2. Grizzly Bear Management (continued)**

### **b) Grizzly bear quota**

Dorothy Cooley explained a problem that has recently arisen regarding the issuance of grizzly bear tags in Ivvavik National Park. Parks Canada doesn't yet have the ability to issue tags for harvesting in the park. As a result, YTG has been using sundry permits as the means for administering and issuing the tags. With the recent changes in the Yukon Wildlife Act, YTG can no longer issue sundry permits. This means there is no longer a mechanism in place for issuing tags for Ivvavik. The new harvesting season starts on July 1. Parks is working on their regulations but if something isn't in place by July 1, it won't be possible to issue any tags after that date.

The Chair commented that there have also been some problems associated with the proposal to have Herschel Island as part of the Ivvavik allocation.

Doug Larsen noted that YTG has written to Parks Canada to propose a solution for the issuance of Ivvavik tags. The Herschel Island quota won't be in place for another year.

Members agreed that Parks Canada should consider taking steps to put some sort of interim measure in place, as YTG did with the use of sundry permits.

Something should be set up in case the Parks regulations are not in place by the time the tags are needed.

**Action 04-05-16:** The Chair will contact Alan Fehr to suggest that Parks Canada consider developing an interim measure for the issuance of grizzly bear tags in Ivvavik National Park until such time as the proper regulations are put in place.

### **3. Wildlife Management and Research updates**

Dorothy Cooley reported that she attended an ITEX meeting in Vancouver in March. There are 16 ITEX sites across Canada set up to measure the effects of climate change on vegetation. Of all the sites, the one on Herschel Island is the best example of demonstrated vegetation change. Dorothy added that she will be going to Herschel Island this summer to do some work on the vegetation plots.

### **4. 2004-2005 Wildlife Management and Research Projects**

Dorothy Cooley reported that the Alaskans will be flying surveys along the coast to the Yukon border for polar bears. They would like the Canadians to do a survey too. Marsha Branigan is looking for funding. Council members could consider supporting this project when it occurs.

The Chair commented that the Council needs to pass a motion to recommend funding for North Slope research projects. The package of proposals from YTG, Parks Canada and CWS was reviewed at the December meeting. At that meeting members only recommended funding for the Yukon North Slope Muskox Satellite Program conducted in April 2004. The other projects need to be recommended at this meeting.

The Secretariat gave a summary of the projects as follows:

- **Porcupine Caribou Herd Satellite Location Program-** YTG's contribution would be \$2000, with an additional \$3000 coming from Parks Canada.
- **Aklavik Harvest Data Collection-** This is the continuation to the program that has been conducted in Aklavik over the past two years. Hunter recall surveys are done in the spring and fall. The proposed budget is \$3000, funded by YTG.
- **Understanding Grizzly Bear Populations and Movement in the Yukon North Slope -** The budget for this project in 2004-05 is about \$205,000. An allocation of \$100,000 has been requested from IFA research funds. This funding would be provided by Parks Canada and YTG.
- **Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op-** Parks Canada would like to contribute \$5,000 with an additional \$10,000 being contributed by CWS.

- **Productivity of North Slope Muskox-** This is the summer muskox work that includes a population survey and compositions count. Parks Canada is proposing a contribution of \$11,000.

The funding available for 2004-2005 is \$170,000. The allocation of the funds would be as follows:

Porcupine Caribou Herd Satellite Location Program	5,000
Aklavik Harvest Data Collection	3,000
Yukon North Slope Muskox Satellite Program	36,000
Understanding Grizzly Bear Populations and Movement in the Yukon North Slope	100,000
Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op	15,000
Productivity of North Slope Muskox	11,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$170,000</b>

**Motion**

*to recommend the allocation of funds from IFA wildlife program funding to the following projects: Porcupine Caribou Herd Satellite Location Program (\$5,000); Aklavik harvest data collection (\$3,000); Muskox Satellite Program (\$36,000); Grizzly Bear populations and movement in the YNS (\$100,000); Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op/ Community-based Ecological Monitoring in Aklavik (\$15,000); and Productivity of Yukon North Slope muskox (\$11,000).*

**Moved:** Doug Larsen

**Second:** Herbert Felix

**Motion carried**

**Action 04-05-17:** WMAC(NS) will prepare a summary of research projects supported at the May meeting and forward the summary along with the Council's funding recommendations to Parks Canada, the Yukon Government, the GNWT, the Environmental Impact Screening Committee 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 WMAC(NWT) for their information.

**Action 04-05-18:** WMAC(NS) will forward the summary of research projects supported by the Council at the May meeting to Richard Gordon. The covering letter should say the Council recognizes and supports the use of Herschel Island as a base camp for researchers associated with three of the projects (Grizzly Bear Populations and Movement in the Yukon North Slope and the two muskox projects).

A discussion was held about what types of projects are now required to go through the Environmental Impact Screening process. There is still some



confusion as well about what projects require a YTG Scientific and Explorers permit. Members agreed that a discussion is needed at the October meeting in order to clarify what types of projects need what types of permits and/ or screenings. What is the vehicle for the Council to be made aware of the projects that are happening on the North Slope?

**Action 04-05-19:** The Secretariat will prepare a briefing package for Council members to provide information on what types of projects need what types of permits on the Yukon North Slope. The package should include all letters related to the subject (EISC, IGC, WMAC(NWT)) as well as any communication from YTG, documents related to the Yukon Scientific and Explorers permit, Parks Canada's environmental assessment requirements and the process for obtaining and issuing Herschel Island permits. Members will review this issue at the October meeting

The Chair commented that the Alaskans are proposing to undertake a calving survey and photocensus on the Porcupine caribou herd this summer. Dorothy Cooley explained that calving surveys are done every year by the US Fish and Wildlife and the Alaskan Department of Fish and Game. They usually start these surveys in late May. They also survey the herd a month later to make an assessment of calf survival. The Alaskans are also proposing to do a photocensus of the herd this year if the conditions are right. Depending on where the caribou calf, there is a chance that all or part of the survey and photocensus will be conducted in the Yukon. It is important to have all the permitting in place in case this happens.

Members agreed to support the calving survey and photocensus, recognizing the importance of this work in estimating the size of the herd, assessing calf survival and documenting calving locations. Council members also agreed to support the expansion of the study area into the Yukon should the distribution and location of the herd make it necessary.

**Motion**

*to support the 2004 calving surveys and photocensus to be conducted by the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and to support the expansion of the study area into the Yukon if the distribution of the herd makes this a necessity.*

**Moved:** Danny C. Gordon

**Second:** Doug Larsen

**Motion carried**

**Action 04-05-20:** WMAC(NS) will write a letter to Dorothy Cooley conveying the Council's support of the 2004 Porcupine caribou herd calving survey and photocensus, and the expansion of the study area into the Yukon if required.

## **5. Aklavik Traditional Knowledge project- follow-up**

The Chair welcomed Barney Smith. Barney reported that he had come to the meeting to discuss the possibility of doing some work on the North Slope related to the Alaskan marmot. He is in the early stages of developing a proposal for the work and is currently interested in knowing if the Council members think it is an idea worth pursuing.

The presence of marmots in the region was reported as part of the traditional knowledge study in Aklavik last year. Barney believed them to be hoary marmots but was later informed by several biologists that hoary marmots do not range that far north. If in fact there are marmots in the area they would be Alaskan marmots and their presence would make them a new species for Canada.

NatureServe Yukon has an interest in finding out more about the possible occurrence of the Alaska marmot on the North Slope. There could be some good opportunities to work with others on this study. Verifying the presence of these marmots would involve trying to get some samples and could involve local people.

Barney is proposing to begin to develop a proposal this summer. The next step would be to validate the initial observations. He would like to be able to talk to people in Aklavik in the fall and confer with the HTC about how to proceed. It's possible there could be a public meeting as a way of gathering some more information. Wendy Nixon suggested that, based on the range of the Alaskan marmots in Alaska, it might be worth doing interviews in Old Crow as well.

Danny C. Gordon reported that he has seen bigger ground squirrel-like animals high in the mountains and near Aklavik. It would be nice to know if they are different from the small ones. It would be worth trying to find out. Council members agreed that it would be a good idea for Barney to proceed to the next step.

Barney added that the Aklavik report identified concerns about several others species including Common eiders and red-necked phalaropes. Follow-up work should also be considered on these species to get more information on their population status. There were concerns expressed in the community about their numbers.

## **6. Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op**

The Chair welcomed Joan Eamer. Joan distributed a summary of the activities and achievements of the Borderlands Co-op over the past year and plans for the coming year.

The main activities over the past year were as follows:

- The community-based monitoring program was expanded to include Tuktoyaktuk, Inuvik (Inuvialuit and Gwich'in) and Tsiigehtchic. The expansion into Inuvik and Tsiigehtchic was possible due to some extra funds that the Coop received from DIAND. DFO is funding the program in Tuk. Annie B. Gordon did the Aklavik interviews, assisted with training, and helped to review and improve the interview forms. Kaktovik participated as observers, and may participate next year.
- A review of the indicators for their relevance to cumulative effects assessment, and extension of the geographic range. This work is still in progress.
- The development of the Coop's organizational model and information sharing protocol. It was reviewed at the gathering (with assistance from Lindsay Staples).
- An update of WMAC database and web version of coastal zone planning section and literature review (jointly with WMAC) was completed.
- The first meeting of the directors was held in Inuvik in November. Most directors were also able to participate in the North Slope Conference.
- Most of the maps from past community-based monitoring interviews were digitized. We have started looking at the results, with assistance from University of Alaska and youth internship program.
- The 9<sup>th</sup> Annual Gathering was held in Inuvik NT, Feb 23-25, 2004. The summary report is available on the website.
- The new Administrative Coordinator is Deana Lemke. Deana also coordinates the Porcupine Caribou Management Board.
- Community-based monitoring database development is 80% complete, and more summary posters were produced.
- Randall Tetlich (the President of the Coop Board) attended 2 consultation sessions with oil and gas industry in Yellowknife. Gary Kofinas presented some of the Coop's results at the North American Caribou Conference. Joan was an invited speaker at a United Nations conference in Egypt.

Plans for the coming year (as directed from the 9<sup>th</sup> Gathering) include:

- Continue with the community-based monitoring program
- Further develop indicators and improve their accessibility
- Work towards a ten-year report for the Co-op by summarizing, analyzing and synthesizing results (additional funding required)
- Develop better procedures for the Society
- Develop better maps for the interviews (with Parks Canada)

Communications initiatives include:

- The preparation of a ten-year report summarizing the results of the Coop's activities
- The development of a communications protocol

- Information already brought together on a number of posters will be put on the website
- The production of a regular newsletter
- The preparation of the proceedings of the Gathering and the Community Monitoring reports.

Joan noted that the Directors for 2004 include Danny C. Gordon, Carol Arey (Secretary-treasurer), Doug Larsen and Ian McDonald, so WMAC(NS) is well-represented.

In reference to Coop funding, Joan reported that so far this year the US Fish and Wildlife has contributed \$10,500, and Parks Canada (Vuntut National Park) has contributed \$3000. DFO and the GRRB will also both contribute \$5000. The DIAND funding is only available for another year and the Environment Canada A-base funding that has been fairly secure for a number of years is uncertain. Joan added that she will be submitting a proposal to the GNWT for some funding. The WMAC(NWT) is another possible source of funding. Parks Canada (Inuvik) has agreed to contribute \$5000. Parks also has an interest in starting up a community-based monitoring program in Sach's Harbour and Paulatuk.

Joan added that a website has been set up to report and note 'unusual sightings'. ([www.yukon.taiga.net/unusualsightings](http://www.yukon.taiga.net/unusualsightings)). Right now you have to have a password in order to add a record to the database.

Richard Gordon commented that the Herschel Island rangers could fill out a monitoring form to report their observations on the island. Joan replied that the community form could be modified to suit reporting by the rangers.

The taiga.net website that hosts the WMAC(NS) website is run by the Coop. The Coop has to begin to charge user fees to recover some of the costs of providing this service. Members agreed to pay \$500 to the Coop annually to host the WMAC(NS) website.

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### **Meeting of the Chair with Yukon Government representatives regarding the Withdrawal Order**

The Chair reported on the discussions held over a lunch meeting with representatives of the Yukon Government regarding the Withdrawal Order on the Yukon North Slope. YTG has communicated their interest to the IFA Implementation Committee in seeing the Withdrawal Order removed from the North Slope while maintaining the conservation regime. YTG would like to initiate a more formal process for advancing their interest and begin discussions on the future of the Withdrawal Order. This will be a long process.

Over the lunch meeting, the Chair noted the references to the Withdrawal Order in the Yukon North Slope Wildlife and Conservation Management Plan. YTG committed to reviewing the Plan in order to assess their role in its implementation.

Also over the lunch meeting, the Chair expressed the general concerns about how the new Yukon Environmental Assessment Act will be applied to the North Slope.

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## **7. Herschel Island Territorial Park**

The Chair thanked Richard Gordon for taking the time to attend the meeting. Richard is always a valuable contributor to the discussions.

Richard distributed copies of the Herschel Island Territorial Park Report for the 2003 season, the Park's Bear Strategy Plan and up-date of activities prepared for the Council.

Richard reported that the Herschel Park rangers are taking on the responsibility for monitoring the impact of the SSDC. There is nothing in place so the rangers are going to do it. They now have to consider what and how to monitor. For example, how the ice is breaking up around it and what debris is coming off the vessel. The strobe lights put up on the vessel to warn planes and to assist navigation are no longer working. NavCanada says that's OK but under the conditions of the permit it's not OK. Members agreed that more information is needed on what is being done to monitor the company's compliance with their permit conditions.

In reference to the Bear Strategy, Richard reported that he has told the HTC they should have someone 'on call' who will be able to provide some direction as to what to do if there is a problem bear on the island.

Activities described in the update report and addressed by Richard included the following:

- Two new rangers were hired on a temporary basis. Both are from Aklavik. These positions will be filled permanently later in the year.
- The season this year will go from April 1 to August 31.
- The RCMP completed a patrol to Herschel Island from Old Crow.
- Ian Sterling was on the island in April doing polar bear work for the second year.
- Snow depth and permafrost measures were taken during the spring muskox surveys.
- Parks Canada did a patrol along the North Slope in April and stopped in at Herschel.

- There are several ecological monitoring programs being conducted on Herschel. These include the monitoring of erosion, several bird species, vegetation and permafrost.
- The rangers will be getting some training this season including small boat safety.
- The new black and white pamphlet about the island will be available. There is also a new pamphlet on the plants.
- A Code of Conduct has been developed for tourism operators.
- A decision has been made not to run any tours between 11 pm and 8 am for safety reasons.
- There hasn't been any confirmation of any cruise ships coming to the island this summer.
- Aklak is proposing to fly scheduled flights out to Herschel Island starting in July. They will fly the Twin Otter and land on the beach strip.
- The rent for the office in Inuvik has just been increased to \$3000 per month. This has to come out of the Herschel budget.
- The park is now charging \$12 a night to camp on the island and \$10 for a fishing licence. This money goes back into general YTG revenue, and is not being specifically designated to the budget for the operation of the park.

Richard also reported that the only major heritage related work scheduled for the summer will be to move one of the buildings away from the shore. Richard added that he requested a workplan from the Heritage Branch but did not receive one. He had suggested that Heritage schedule their work for late June but has recently been told that the crew will be on the island in late July - early August.

Council members noted that the update report includes a reference to plans to fill the two ranger positions on a permanent basis later in the year. A discussion was held about the importance of following the Herschel Island Territorial Park hiring protocol when hiring rangers. It is very important for an Inuvialuit Human Resource representative to be involved in the screening and interviewing of the candidates.

**Action 04-05-21:** WMAC(NS) will write to Erik Val seeking assurance that the Herschel Island hiring protocol will be used when recruiting for the permanent ranger positions in the Territorial Park later in the year. A copy of the letter should be sent to YTG Human Resources.

A discussion was also held about the importance of the Council having a chance to review the proposed workplan for Herschel Island before the season begins. Ideally, if this information was presented to the Council at their December meeting, there would be an opportunity for meaningful review and input.

## **8. North Slope Conference**

The Secretariat reported that YTG is almost finished preparing the proceedings from the conference. The proceedings will not include the write-ups of the workshops because there are some issues regarding how accurately they were recorded. However, as a way of ensuring that the workshop information is not lost, the existing write-ups will be put on the WMAC(NS) website as a separate document. Once this is done, the Secretariat will contact all the presenters to ask them to review their presentations. Any corrections or additions can easily be made to the web version if necessary. YTG is trying to get the raw notes from the workshops and will pass them on to WMAC(NS).

The Chair asked members to provide their impressions of the conference. The following comments were made:

- There were too many workshops going on at the same time. There shouldn't be more than two happening at any time.
- The workshop on traditional knowledge should have been done in a large plenary session. That way more people would have been able to attend.
- There should have been more coverage of local issues.
- Researchers need to have time to present their results in full not just provide a brief overview of the projects.
- There were too many presenters in some workshops. They took up too much time and there was no chance for any discussion at the end.
- Logistically the conference went really well.

The Chair commented that the planning for the next conference should be done by a multi-agency planning group that functions as a steering committee. Different agencies or people can then take responsibility for different aspects of the programming and logistics.

## **H. Financial (continued)**

### **a) 2004-2005 WMAC(NS) budget**

The Chair summarized the discussion held the previous day regarding the allocation of funds in the WMAC(NS) budget for projects. There is currently \$35,000 available in the projects category. Members agreed to allocate \$3000 to the Arctic Borderlands Co-op. In addition, \$3000 is to be allocated to the grizzly bear research project for use by the Secretariat when consulting on community involvement in the project. Members agreed to discuss the allocation of the balance of the funding for projects at the next meeting.

#### ***Motion***

*to allocate \$3000 to the Arctic Borderlands Co-op and \$3000 to the grizzly bear research project in the WMAC(NS) budget under projects.*

**Moved:** Doug Larsen  
**Second:** Herbert Felix  
**Motion carried**

## **J. New Business**

### **1. Attendance Policy**

The policy is meant to establish criteria for meeting attendance and would allow the Council to seek remuneration from the IGC should the Council incur expenses for an absent IGC representative. Once adopted the policy would be added to WMAC(NS)'s Operating Procedures.

Members reviewed the current IGC Attendance Policy in the meeting binder. The IGC policy allows for the remuneration of per diem and hotel costs if an HTC member is absent without cause. The Chair reported that he had contacted Norm Snow who was able to clarify that an absence of half a day from a meeting, without cause, meant a loss of honorarium for the time absent. A full day's absence meant the loss of travel, per diem and honorarium. A discussion was held as to which members should be covered by the policy. Members agreed that if the federal or YTG member is absent without cause then the Chair should write to the appropriate authority.

**Action 04-05-22:** WMAC(NS) will draft an Attendance Policy for review by the Inuvialuit Game Council. If supported by the IGC, the Council will adopt the policy and include it in the WMAC(NS) Operation Procedures.

## **I. Old Business (continued)**

### **9. Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan**

The Chair commented that the Council needs to decide on the next steps in implementing the Conservation Plan. The summer meeting should be a strategic one at which members can review the action items and make some decisions on the priorities, either for the Council itself to undertake or for the Council to pursue having others undertake. Members should also review the action items in the Long-term Research Plan and the recommendations from the North Slope Conference.

**Action 04-05-23:** The Secretariat will prepare a summary of the status of the action items in the Long-term Research Plan.

**Action 04-05-24:** Members will identify which action items (in the Long-term Research Plan, the Conservation and Management Plan and from the North



Slope Conference) they consider to be the priorities for the Council, prior to the meeting in August.

**K. Next meeting**

Members agreed to meet later in August. The Secretariat will liaise with Parks Canada to see if it is possible to meet at Sheep Creek in Ivvavik National Park.

**L. Adjournment**

***Motion***  
***To adjourn.***

Moved: Herbert Felix  
Second: Doug Larsen  
Motion carried

\_\_\_\_\_  
WMAC(NS) Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
WMAC(NS) Secretariat

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date