



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

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Minutes

WMAC(NS) QUARTERLY MEETING

Public Library Meeting Room

Inuvik, NWT

April 9 – 10, 2005

Saturday April 9, 2005

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Herbert Felix- Member- Inuvialuit Game Council
Ernest Pokiak- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Evelyn Storr – Alternate - Inuvialuit Game Council
Harvey Jessup – Member - Yukon Government
Dorothy Cooley - Alternate- Yukon Government
Ron Larsen – Member- Government of Canada (Parks Canada)
Wendy Nixon – Alternate - Government of Canada (Environment
Canada)
Aileen Horler- Secretariat

Guests: Richard Gordon - Herschel Island Territorial Park
Alan Fehr - Superintendent - Parks Canada, Western Arctic Field
Unit

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM. The Chair welcomed Evelyn Storr to the meeting and thanked her for attending.

Important items for the members to address at the meeting include the identification and allocation of funds for Council projects. These are the projects that the Council will fund from its own budget. The Chair added that Richard Gordon will be coming to the meeting later in the day to provide members with an update on activities related to Herschel Island Territorial Park.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

Motion

To adopt the agenda.

Moved: Ernest Pokiak
Second: Harvey Jessup
Motion carried

C. Review and Approval of Minutes

a) December 6-7, 2004

Members reviewed the minutes of the meeting held in Inuvik December 6 and 7, 2004.

The following comments and requests for changes were made:

page 16: Change “that’ to ‘than” in the last sentence on the page.

page 5: Second paragraph (i) Add the phrase underlined below to the first sentence so that it reads “Ron Larsen commented that the Western Arctic Field Unit has proposed a regulation change to allow Parks to issue tags for any species where a quota has been recommended by the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope) in the national park”.

(ii) change “superintendent” in the last sentence to “Minister”.

page 4: (i) The total allowable harvest and the harvest quota for North Slope grizzly bear population is 13, not 14. Only one additional North Slope bear, not two, was recommended (by WMAC(NWT)) in the NWT area of the Aklavik Grizzly Bear Hunting Area. The table needs to be changed to correct this mistake.

(ii) The last sentence which reads “WMAC(NS) also made a recommendation to expand the jurisdiction of one of the 3 tags designated to Ivvavik National Park so that it is valid for use on Herschel Island” is incorrect. It should read “WMAC(NS) also made a recommendation to remove the zero quota for Herschel Island and re-assign the quota of 3 bears for Ivvavik National Park to include Herschel Island.”

Motion

To adopt the minutes of the December 2004 meeting, as amended..

Moved: Ron Larsen
Second: Ernest Pokiak
Motion carried

b) Joint meeting with WMAC(NWT)- December 7, 2004

Members reviewed the minutes of the joint meeting with the WMAC(NWT) held in December 2004.

The following changes were requested:

page 2: Under the section on grizzly bear management in the ISR, Ron Larsen requested the addition of “on behalf of the Minister” at the end of the sentence in the third paragraph that reads “Ron Larsen explained that Parks Canada’s wildlife regulations are currently being amended to include wording that would allow tags issued by another government agency to be endorsed by the Superintendent.”

page 2: Also under the section on grizzly bear management in the ISR , Harvey Jessup requested that the last sentence in the third paragraph be removed and replaced with “Harvey Jessup added there is a mechanism under the Yukon Wildlife Act to recognize HTC bylaws through a regulation adoption or amendment.”

Motion

To adopt the minutes of the December 2004 joint meeting with the WMAC(NWT), as amended.

Moved: Harvey Jessup

Second: Herbert Felix

Motion carried

Members held a discussion on the issue of compensation for research related losses of wildlife. The Chair noted that the Council wrote to the IGC in December to suggest a workshop to develop a common regime for compensation across the ISR. The IGC responded that before proceeding any further they want to get comments from the Hunters and Trappers Committees on what they think about the issue. The Chair added that the GNWT has a compensation policy for grizzly bears losses that it will be using as an interim arrangement. As a result there are different compensation policies between the two territories. This could lead to confusion. It is very important that any decision on a compensation policy is not inconsistent with what the IFA’s requirements regarding wildlife compensation.

Members agreed that the Council needs an update on this issue. The Council should write to the IGC requesting an update on their actions. The letter should refer to the letter the IGC wrote to the Council earlier in the year. The letter should also reiterate the Council’s concerns.

Action 05-04-01: WMAC(NS) will write to the Inuvialuit Game Council to request an update on their actions regarding research related compensation.

c) Teleconference – March 10, 2005

Members reviewed the minutes of the March 2005 teleconference. No changes were requested.

Motion

To adopt the minutes of the March 2005 teleconference.

Moved: Ernest Pokiak

Second: Ron Larsen

Motion carried

D. Review of Action Items

The Secretariat and Chair reported on the status of the action items as follows:

Action 04-10-01: The Secretariat will work with Ron Larsen to expand the regulation and enforcement summary table to include the RCMP, DFO and others, as required, and to produce a poster that summarizes the responsibilities and authority of the different agencies.

Complete. Ron commented that following the workshop held in Aklavik in March, Parks Canada produced a poster to tell people who to contact if they have any questions related to enforcement in Ivvavik National Park. Other agencies are planning to produce posters as well. Ron added that a poster that summarizes the responsibilities and authority of all the different regional agencies would contain too much information and could lead to confusion. The agencies that participated at the workshop would all like to do again next year. Evelyn Storr added that it was a very good workshop from a community perspective.

Action 05-04-02: Information on the Enforcement Workshop held in Aklavik in March 2005 should be included in the next WMAC(NS) newsletter.

Action 05-04-03: Ron Larsen will send a copy of the INP enforcement poster to the WMAC(NS) Secretariat.

Action 04-10-02: The Secretariat will add the “Flora of Herschel Island Territorial Park” brochure, the updated Herschel Island visitors’ guide and a link to the

Herschel Island monitoring information on the CANTTEX website to the WMAC(NS) website.

Complete. There is now a Herschel Island site on the WMAC(NS) website. A checklist of birds and a map of the island have also been added.

Action 04-10-03: The Secretariat will contact the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board to find out how they have decided to proceed with their regulation proposals.

Complete. The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board will proceed as usual with their regulations cycle for 2005-2006.

Action 04-10-05: The Secretariat will obtain and circulate a copy of YTG's Environmental Protocol to Council members.

Complete.

Action 04-10-06: The Council will review all protocols related to the management of fuel caches on the North Slope at its December meeting.

Complete. On the agenda for the current meeting.

Action 04-10-07: Harvey Jessup will work with the Secretariat to ensure that two extra grizzly bear tags are issued to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee. One of these tags is for use in the Yukon and one in the NWT.

Complete.

Action 04-10-14: Harvey Jessup will modify the protocol that was developed for the Inuvialuit Harvest Study to suit to circumstances of the Aklavik study. As soon as this is complete, the Secretariat will distribute the draft to the members and to the HTC for their review and feedback.

Ongoing. Harvey Jessup reported that he has completed a draft Aklavik harvest study protocol.

Action 05-04-04: The Secretariat will obtain the draft Aklavik harvest study protocol from Harvey Jessup and include it in the binder for discussion at the next meeting.

Action 04-12-01: The Secretariat will obtain a copy of the most recent Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee grizzly bear by-law.

Complete. Members noted that the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee need to update the by-law to reflect the addition of two bears to the quota.

Action 04-12-02: The Secretariat will determine if the additional grizzly bear tags were issued by the appropriate authority for the Aklavik Grizzly Bear Hunting Area in the NWT and for the Yukon North Slope in 2004.

Complete. Harvey Jessup reported that the Aklavik HTC has received nine tags from the Yukon Government. THE GNWT will issue the tags for the NWT portion of the Aklavik Grizzly Bear Hunting Area.

Action 04-12-03: WMAC(NS) will write to Cameron Eckert to inform him of the Councils' decision regarding his request for IFA Implementation funds.

Complete.

Action 04-12-04: The Secretariat will write to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee to ask for their comments on the draft community involvement strategy. The letter will also ask which actions the HTC sees as the priorities and request their support in proceeding with them.

Complete. Evelyn Storr comment that the HTC will be able to respond to WMAC(NS) after its meeting the following week.

Action 05-04-05: The Secretariat will follow-up with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee to get their comments on the Grizzly Bear Project Community Involvement Strategy.

Action 04-12-05: The Secretariat will circulate more information to the members on the grizzly bear traditional knowledge study that YTG is proposing to begin in Aklavik in February.

Complete. Information on the project was included in the meeting binder.

Action 04-12-06: The Secretariat will prepare and submit a pre-proposal to the Canadian International Polar Year Committee.

Complete. A copy of the proposal was included in the meeting binder.

Action 04-12-07: The Secretariat will prepare a budget and the Terms of Reference for a contract to prepare a summary report of information collected about the North Slope as part of the Borderlands Coop program.

Complete. The work is underway by Catherine Pinard. A discussion of the project was deferred to later in the meeting.

Action 04-12-08: WMAC(NS) will write a letter to Dorothy Cooley conveying the Council's support of the 2005 Porcupine caribou herd calving survey and photocensus, and the expansion of the study area into the Yukon if required.

Complete.

E. Correspondence

Members reviewed the following correspondence in the binders:

a) *A letter from the WMAC(NWT) to all HTC's regarding Community Conservation Plans.* The Chair commented that each community has a CCP. The Aklavik CCP is reflected in the Council's Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan. These plans are supposed to be updated every 5 years. This is a big job and it may be better to make amendments to the existing plans rather than rewriting them. Revisions can take a long time and they may not be relevant or current by the time they plans are actually approved.

b) *An email from Fran Mauer regarding the recent developments in the US that would allow for drilling in ANWR.* Fran has written to ask the Council to write letters re-stating their opposition to opening ANWR to drilling.

Action 05-04-06: WMAC(NS) will write to the appropriate people to convey the Council's opposition to the opening of the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil leasing and development.

Action 05-04-07: WMAC(NS) will prepare and distribute an information sheet on actions to oppose recent initiatives to open the coastal plain of the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to oil leasing and development.

c) *A letter from Randall Tetlichy regarding the transition to a new Program Director for the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op.* The Chair commented that he and the Secretariat met with Martin Raillard and Mike Gill to discuss the future of the Co-op. The Annual Gathering had to be cancelled this year because of a bad flu in Old Crow so there is still a need for Co-op supporters to get together to discuss the future running of the Co-op. The Secretariat reported that CWS is trying to organize a planning meeting with key individuals and agencies for early May.

d) *A letter, dated January 19, 2005, providing an update on the implementation of the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act.* Ron Larsen reported that under the draft YESAA regulations, any handling of wildlife would be a trigger for a YESAA screening. However the regulations also allow for an exemption if the project is reviewed by the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management

Board or local Renewable Resource Council. There is no mention of WMAC(NS) or the Council being giving similar exemption authority for the Yukon North Slope.

The Chair commented that projects undertaken on the North Slope will have to go through two screenings- one by the EISC and the other under YESAA. It is only at the review level that YESAA will defer to the EIRB.

Action 05-04-08: WMAC(NS) will obtain a copy of the draft YESAA regulations and provide comments to the appropriate government authorities.

F. Report from the Chair

The Chair reported that he recently attended a meeting of the Porcupine Caribou Management Board. He gave a presentation on the Council's Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan and discussed the PCMB's responsibilities under the plan.

The Chair also reported on the Access and Benefits Sharing (ABS) workshop he attended in Whitehorse in March. The workshop was hosted by the Biodiversity Convention office based in Ottawa. The workshop focused on the use of genetic resources and associated traditional knowledge. Discussions were held regarding the protection of resources and economic benefits. This issue is the responsibility of the IGC in any international forum. The Chair distributed some summary documents from the workshop.

In reference to the Withdrawal Order, the Chair commented that there has been no further correspondence on this issue from the Yukon Government.

G. Ongoing Business

1. Herschel Island Territorial Park

a) Activities for 2005

The Chair welcomed Richard Gordon to the meeting. Richard provided the following update on activities related to Herschel Island Territorial Park.

- YTG has filled the positions for two new Rangers for the park. The selection process included written, oral and practical components. The new Rangers are Jonas Meeyok and Philip Ross.
- The park will open April 14 and will close about September 11.
- Ian Sterling will be on the island April 4 to 13 doing polar bear research.
- Parks Canada will be doing a winter patrol in the area beginning April 13.

- April 18, Chris Burn and Douglas Joe will be traveling by skidoo to do snow depth measurements and permafrost studies. Richard plans to talk to Chris about a monitoring program for the icehouse on Herschel.
- Pam Sinclair (CWS) will be on the island in mid-June to do a shorebird survey.
- The first rafters are expected about June 19.
- YTG will be doing rare plant work in the area starting mid-July. Catherine Kennedy will also be doing plant research.
- Dorothy Cooley will be on the island doing muskox work later in July. Cameron Eckert will also be on the island to look at the guillemots.
- Herschel will be included in the Peregrine survey early to mid-July.
- YTG Heritage Branch will be working on the Ranger cabin in late June.
- Chris Gustafson will be giving a law enforcement workshop to the Rangers.
- The Rangers will check the airstrip for Eider duck nests before anyone is allowed to land. The strip must be free of Eiders before any landings will be allowed. It will probably be OK to use the strip after July 15.
- It looks like funding will be available to run the Elder and Youth Program for two weeks. The program will involve two elders, two youth and one camp assistant. It is up to Aklavik to pick the elders. The elders will then decide the best time to go. Participants will follow a daily program.

When Evelyn Storr inquired about access to the Trappers' cabin, Richard responded by saying that he will send a schedule to the HTC of the dates he knows the cabin will be in use.

Richard added that he is still trying to get the photos of the sea floor around the SDC from DFO. There were no leads off the SDC last summer. The ice just melted in place. Evelyn commented that she recently attended an oil and gas strategic planning workshop in Inuvik. At the workshop Devon said they want to use the SDC and plan to move it from Herschel late August, early September.

Richard gave Council members a power point presentation on the Herschel Island Management Plan. The presentation provided information on how the plan developed and what it contains.

2. Parks Canada

The Chair welcomed Alan Fehr, Superintendent, Parks Canada, Western Arctic Field Unit.

Alan introduced the new Babbage River Day Use Program in Ivvavik National Park. Parks Canada has been working with the residents of Aklavik and Arctic Nature Tours to establish a day use area on the Babbage River. The initiative began from a desire on the part of both Parks Canada and Aklavik to see more opportunities for people to visit the park and to increase economic opportunities for local residents. In general, tourism in the Inuvik region is limited, with very few

community benefits. Currently, visitor access to Ivvavik National Park is expensive, physically demanding and requires planning months in advance.

Developing a day use area in Ivvavik National Park was explored for the following reasons:

- Inuvialuit expressed an interest in the project.
- It is a goal of the Ivvavik National Park Management Plan.
- The majority of Dempster travelers to Inuvik stay for one or two days, making day use an appealing option for a side trip.
- It offers a park experience to diverse groups of people on relatively short notice and preparation.
- A day trip is economical for a wide range of travellers' budgets.
- The travel time between Inuvik and the Babbage River is not very long.
- It offers a unique alternative to existing tours in the area.

Potential local benefits of day use include job creation, interpretive skills development, active local participation in the delivery of interpretation programs, increased tourism for Aklavik, and other business opportunities such as craft sales and the catering of traditional meals.

The trip out of Inuvik will last from four to six hours. A twin otter will take 10 to 13 passengers, including two interpreters, out to the day use area. The flight to the Babbage River is about one and a half hours and includes lots of sightseeing opportunities. Visitors will have about three hours at the site to hike and see the area. There is a possibility of stopping in Aklavik for a tour and a traditional meal.

Arctic Nature Tours will run a pilot project this summer. They have applied to the EISC for a landing strip and other project related activities. Parks Canada will be doing a CEAA screening. The landing sight has been selected using local air charter company expertise. Preliminary hiking routes have been identified. Parks has also completed a preliminary cultural resources inventory.

A Steering Committee has been set up with representatives of Parks Canada, Aklavik and Arctic Nature Tour. The community has expressed concerns about the impacts of tourists fishing in the area. Parks will be monitoring any fishing activity carefully to make sure its effects are understood. There have also been some discussions about potential bear problems and how to handle them.

Next steps include preparing the interpretation program, training interpretation staff and contractors from Aklavik, and preparing a marketing strategy.

The Chair asked Alan about winter activities in the park. Alan replied that while dog mushing is allowed, non-Inuvialuit are prohibited from using a motorized vehicle. Any amendments to this can be addressed by Parks Canada through zoning.

3. Herschel Island Territorial Park (continued)

b) Manual for Rangers and Draft Monitoring Plan

Richard Gordon reported that an instruction manual has been prepared for the Rangers on Herschel Island. The manual includes instructions for carrying out monitoring activities and surveys.

Richard also presented a draft of the Monitoring Plan for Herschel Island that he and Dorothy have been preparing. Dorothy commented that when they were developing the Monitoring Plan, they went through the Herschel Island Management Plan in order to identify all the monitoring activities. The Monitoring Plan includes information on concerns, status, actions and timing of different activities.

Council members were very pleased with the contents and layout of the Monitoring Plan. Dorothy will send the draft to WMAC(NS) for comment as soon as a few more sections are complete.

Sunday April 10, 2005

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Herbert Felix- Member- Inuvialuit Game Council (afternoon only)
Ernest Pokiak- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Evelyn Storr – Alternate - Inuvialuit Game Council
Harvey Jessup – Member - Yukon Government
Dorothy Cooley - Alternate- Yukon Government
Ron Larsen – Member- Government of Canada (Parks Canada)
Wendy Nixon – Alternate - Government of Canada (Environment Canada)
Aileen Horler- Secretariat

3. Herschel Island Territorial Park (continued)

c) Herschel Island Management Plan

Council members reviewed further revisions to the Management Plan provided by Dave Ladret. A discussion was held regarding the proposed text of the oil and gas section 4.4. Concerns were raised about the future of development activities in the area and the SDC.

Members agreed the Council should write to the Yukon Government and make the following requests for changes to the wording in section 4.4 of the proposed text (March 2005):

- **Under actions, change action (b) to read-** The YNSWCMP and the LTRMP of WMAC(NS) will be used to guide the assessment of proposed oil and gas activities in the vicinity of Herschel Island –Qikiqtaruk Park and the management of these activities should they occur.

- **Under actions, change action (c) to read-** The Yukon Government will monitor existing structures and related activities associated with oil and gas exploration and evaluate their effects on the visual landscape and visitor experience of the park. When appropriate, the Yukon government will work with the companies and the appropriate permitting agencies to minimize the visual impact to the park.

- **Under actions, add an action (d) as follows-** As the existing structures are incompatible with the objectives of the Park and the adjacent National Park, renewal of lease and applications for future leasing will be assessed accordingly.

Action 05-04-09: WMAC(NS) will write to Erik Val, Yukon Department of Environment, to convey the Council's requests for changes to the wording in the proposed text (March 2005) of section 4.4, as determined at the April 2005 Council meeting.

4. Muskox Management

a) Muskox Management Plan

The Chair reported that he has been working on the revisions to the plan based on the meetings in November in Anchorage. It may be necessary to get all the affected parties together for a day to produce the final document.

b) April survey

Dorothy Cooley reported that the spring survey was conducted April 5 to 7. A total of 86 muskox were counted in 7 groups in the survey area. Seventeen percent of the animals counted were yearlings. Surveyors saw lots of moose as well as caribou, sheep and lynx. Four of the collared bears were also located. Snow measurements were done in several places and permafrost was measured on Herschel Island. The next survey will be done in July. The last satellite collar will be removed then as well. Dorothy hopes to have a report on the six years of research ready in 2006.

Members discussed the problems associated with setting harvest quotas on a population that fluctuates so much. The Muskox Management Plan calls for surveys every two years so it won't be possible to have a count every year on which to base the quota.

5. Grizzly Bear Management

a) Yukon North Slope Grizzly Bear Research Project

Harvey Jessup reported that YTG biologists Ramona Maraj and Al Baer plan to begin their field season around April 19. They will start by looking for the bears with the defective collars so that they can be replaced before the batteries fail. They will also be looking for new bears to collar. This work should be finished by early June. Ramona is also proposing to try to do some aerial counts of the bears to see how well it works.

Work on the traditional knowledge component of the project got underway in February. Ramona worked in Aklavik with Barney Smith and Marsha Branigan. Mervin Joe from Parks Canada was also involved.

A discussion was held about the source of funding for Ramona to attend meetings to report on the progress of the bear project. The question of funds being allocated as part of the project budget or through YTG's IFA implementation funds is an internal matter for YTG to deal with. WMAC(NS) contributes funds to involve Aklavik residents and the HTC as part of its budget.

b) Communications and Community Involvement

The Secretariat distributed a summary list of communications and community involvement activities associate with the grizzly bear project to date.

- Ramona met and consulted with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee 4 times in 2004.
- Lee John Meeyok (resident of Aklavik and Herschel Island Park Ranger) participated in spring and fall captures.
- Ramona gave a presentation on the research at a public meeting in Aklavik and at the ISR Research Day in Inuvik (December 2004)
- Ramona presented an update on the project to WMAC(NS) members at their meeting in October and December 2004.
- Ramona, Barney and Marsha consulted with Lee-John Meeyok, Danny C. Gordon and Jonas Meeyok regarding the type of information they believe should be gathered about bears as part of project. (February 2005)
- WMAC(NS) applied for funding through the Habitat Stewardship Program to develop an education program and involve community further in management of bears.
- Traditional/ local knowledge project begun in Aklavik (February 2005)
- GB project newsletters: 2004 spring and summer editions produced and distributed; 2005 spring edition (describing upcoming fieldwork) in preparation. (200 copies)
- WMAC(NS) Wildlife Watch newsletter: write-up on GB project summer fieldwork results included in Council's fall newsletter. (500 copies)
- Fact sheet describing capture and handing of grizzly bears produced by WMAC(NS) and YTG
- Parks Canada developed and distributed information poster

- The Council expanded the information on grizzly bears on its website.
- Information on the research project as well as information to harvesters related to the recovery of collars and consumption of meat is being prepared to include in the tag bag kits distributed by the GNWT to Aklavik hunters.

The Secretariat added that Ramona tried to do a presentation on the project to the school in Aklavik in February but it wasn't possible at the time.

An additional list outlined the proposed projects for the coming year. Some of these projects require funding.

Action 04-05-10: WMAC(NS) will send a summary of the community involvement and communication activities associated with the North Slope Grizzly Bear Project to the Inuvialuit Game Council.

c) North Slope Grizzly Bear Tags

Harvey Jessup reported that Marsha Branigan and Tim Devine (GNWT) have expressed their concerns about YTG changing the season dates of the tags issued for grizzly bear harvest on the North Slope. For the past seven years the dates have been July 1 to June 30 to correspond with the NWT dates. YTG has changed the dates to April 1 to March 31 to match the dates in the rest of the Yukon. Harvey explained that there is no longer a mechanism in the Yukon to issue tags for a season that differs from the rest of the territory, without going through a regulation change. Harvesters in Aklavik will now have differing effective dates on their tags depending on which territory they are hunting in. The GNWT is concerned that this will cause undo confusion for the harvesters and was done without consultation.

Harvey explained that currently YTG Environment gets a permit under the Yukon Wildlife Act that gives them permission to issue 9 tags for the North Slope. These tags are allocated to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee for distribution. YTG has just issued the 9 tags for 2005-2006, effective April 1 to March 31.

A discussion was held about potential problems associated with this date change, as the start date of April 1 is so close to the beginning on the hunting season. Evelyn Storr reported that the issue was raised by Sharon Keaton when she last met with the Aklavik HTC. The AHTC members did not feel there would be a problem. The quota remains at 9 bears. Most hunters are going out on the land in early April. If any go out in late March they will have to exchange the tag the first of April if they are still wanting to hunt. This may require more administration but shouldn't really be a problem for the hunters themselves. As the tags have already been issued for this year, the Council agreed that the changed system should stay in place and monitored for problems. Harvey said that YTG will make every effort to get the tags to Aklavik in plenty of time to be distributed at the start of the season.

Members noted that the AHTC needs to update their grizzly bear hunting bylaw to reflect the new quota numbers and harvest distribution. Evelyn commented that the Joint Secretariat assisted the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee in developing policies and procedures to direct the administration of the tags. It has worked very well to date. The Chair added that it is very important for the procedures for the administration of the tags be really clear and straightforward.

Action 05-04-11: WMAC(NS) will obtain a copy of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee policies and procedures for the issuance of bear tags, and review them for any implications associated with the recent change in tag season for the North Slope harvest.

Action 05-04-12: WMAC(NS) will forward the email the Council received from Marsha Branigan expressing the GNWT's concerns regarding the change in dates for North Slope grizzly bear tags to Evelyn Storr. In addition, WMAC(NS) will respond to Marsha Branigan's email by forwarding a summary to her of the Council's discussion and decision on this issue, arising from the April 2005 meeting

d) Overlap Agreement Discussions

Evelyn Storr reported that the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee met with the Aklavik Renewable Resource Council to discuss the possibility of an agreement that would allow the Aklavik Gwich'in to use one of the Aklavik Inuvialuit grizzly bear tags. Frank Pokiak and Nelson Perry also attended this meeting. At the meeting, Evelyn suggested the ARRC write to the AHTC requesting a tag. This could be followed by a community meeting to discuss the overlap issue with legal people in attendance.

Herbert Felix joined the meeting after the lunch break.

6. Research process and permitting guidelines on the Yukon North Slope

The Secretariat reported that Kirsten Madsen is completing a contract to update the Long-term Research Plan 'Guide for Researchers'. Kirsten's primary activity is to update all the contact information. More work will be required after Kirsten is finished to assess the impacts of changes that have occurred in permitting and regulations since the document was developed five years ago. There have been some significant changes, such as the introduction of YESAA.

Ron Larsen commented that guidelines for conducting research in the national parks administered by the Western Arctic Field Unit are now available on-line. The website provides a checklist of the required permits, licences, and approvals.

The Chair referred members to a table in the binder that summarizes the permitting requirements for natural science research, archaeological, historic, and socioeconomic studies on the Yukon North Slope.

A discussion was held on the need to improve the Council's understanding of all research underway on the North Slope. The Council currently receives some information about research activities, but there are gaps. It is also important to know what information the EISC is receiving. There is a need to be clear about the roles of the Aurora Research Institute and the Yukon Heritage Branch. What mechanisms would have to be put in place so that the Council knows about all North Slope research, including that being conducted by academic institutions and industry?

Action 05-04-13: WMAC(NS) will assess the current research permitting and reporting process to determine (1) what kinds of research the Council and the EISC are and are not receiving information about, and; (2) what mechanisms can be put in place to ensure that WMAC(NS) knows about all North Slope research, including that being conducted by academic institutions and industry

7. Species at Risk

a) COSEWIC

The Secretariat provided members with an update on information received from COSEWIC. The COSEWIC Operating Procedures includes a process for involving the Wildlife Management Boards in species assessment. The process was only formally adopted last year and so far it has been working very well.

Action 05-04-14: WMAC(NS) will write to Gloria Goulet at the COSEWIC Secretariat to convey the Council's support for the current process to include the Council in the assessment process.

b) RENEW

The Secretariat reported that she had contacted all the other Wildlife Management Boards to see if any of them had provided feedback to Environment Canada on the latest draft of the RENEW Recovery Handbook. All of the boards that responded indicated they had not.

Action 05-04-15: WMAC(NS) will write to the appropriate contact at Environment Canada enquiring as to EC's intentions regarding the recognition and role of WMBs in the recovering process. The steps EC has taken as follow-up to the meetings held in Whitehorse in April 2003 on this matter should also be queried.

8. Parks Canada (continued)

Ron Larsen distributed copies of Parks Canada's March 2005 Update. Ron reported on Parks Canada's activities as follows:

- Parks has received a report from Inuvialuit Environmental Group (IEG) regarding the clean-up of the fuel spill at Sheep Creek. IEG recommended using a land farming technique for the clean-up. This will cost about \$80,000. There are some additional costs as well. The work is scheduled for August so as not to disturb any visitors to the park.
- Parks wanted to do a Phase 3 assessment of Stokes Point this summer but the funds won't be available until 2006. The estimate to do the work is \$400,000. The cost to Parks Canada is \$80,000. Some preliminary work such as consultation with the residents of Aklavik will be done in 2005. After the Phase 2 assessment is finished, the clean-up project itself will cost over a million dollars.
- Parks Canada is trying to get regulations in place that will allow harvesting by any Inuvialuit with a valid tag in a national park, as long as the appropriate authority has recommended a quota. Members of the IGC raised some concerns about this issue when Ron briefed them at their last meeting.

Action 05-04-16: WMAC(NS) will write to Parks Canada regarding how and when zoning issues in Inuvavik National Park will be reviewed, notwithstanding that the revised management plan has not been approved by the minister responsible for Parks Canada.

Action 05-04-17: WMAC(NS) will review and comment on the wording of Parks Canada's revision to the regulations regarding the harvesting of quota species in national park.

9. International Polar Year

The Secretariat noted that the Council's proposal to the IPY is included in the binder. The IPY organizing committee hasn't yet secured any funding but they are still hopeful the federal government will agree to support the initiatives. Dorothy Cooley agreed to work on the further development of the proposal with Richard Gordon.

H. Financial Report

a) Revenue and Expenses March 2005

The Secretariat referred members to the Statement of Revenue and Expenses for March 2005. This statement is not a year-end report but it does give an approximation of the Council's expenditures to the end of the year. The Council's accountant will prepare the year-end statement once all the final bills for the

fiscal year are paid. There will be a surplus of about \$45,000 which can be carried over into the next fiscal year.

b) WMAC(NS) 2005-2006 Budget- Project Funding

The Chair commented that the Council approved its initial budget for 2005-2006 during the March teleconference. At that time, a lump sum of about \$37,000 was approved for projects. The additional funds carried over from 2004- 2005 (approximately \$45,000) can also be used to funds projects. The Council needs to allocate some of these funds to specific projects.

The Chair referred members to a list of projects for their consideration. The list was developed from the list of the Council's Strategic Priorities and other ongoing activities. Council members discussed the following items and the needs for funding:

- Arctic Borderlands Coop - Annual contribution to operating costs and the production of the 10-year report. The Council has contributed \$3000 annually to the general operating costs of the Coop. The Secretariat has also contributed time to the organization of the Annual Gathering. The Coop needs to secure more funding now that Environment Canada will no longer be contributing a program coordinator from their staff. Members agreed to increase the Council's contribution to \$5000 for 2005-2006.
- Grizzly bear research - WMAC(NS) contribution to the Habitat Stewardship Program proposal and the community involvement and communications programs. The Secretariat noted that the Council hasn't yet received any word on the funding proposal submitted to Environment Canada's Habitat Stewardship Program for the grizzly bear project. The Council has an obligation to contribute some funds to the program if Environment Canada supports the proposal. It is not possible to determine the amount of funds the Council will need to contribute until the amount of Environment Canada funding, if any, is known. In anticipation of receiving the funding, Council members agreed to allocate \$10,000 to the grizzly bear research project. Further funding, if required, can be considered at the fall meeting.
- Muskox management - Final consultations on the Management Plan and the printing and distribution of the plan. Funds may also be needed at some time to pursue an international muskox agreement.
- Bylaws, Regulations and Legislation - Funding may be required for further meetings regarding trapper regulations, to review the draft YESAA regulations, to assist with the revisions to the AHTC grizzly bear by-law, and to consider zoning requirements in Ivvavik National Park.

- Climate change report- Preparation of a final document for distribution based on the report completed by Clair Eamer, including printing and distribution
- FJMC summer student mentoring program - Contribution by the Council to support student involvement in North Slope projects. Salary and some fieldwork costs are supplied through the program. The Council members agreed to provide a further \$3000, if required, to support the costs of an Inuvialuit student working on one of the Yukon North Slope field projects.
- Polar bear jurisdiction review - Preparation of a briefing report on the current jurisdictional arrangements for the management of polar bears on the North Slope, including recommendations for change, if required.
- Rare plants and animals on the Yukon North Coast- The Council committed \$4000 from its budget to assist in the field component of this program.
- Implementation of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan -The Plan was finished last year. There is a need to consider how actions identified in the plan could and should be implemented.
- Update Traditional Knowledge database- The database was developed over 5 years ago and needs to be updated to include recent publications and initiatives
- Further inclusion of traditional knowledge in Council's species reports- Barney Smith completed a series of interviews in Aklavik in 2003. Information from the interviews was incorporated into the Councils' Species Status Reports, but not all species were covered.
- North Slope Conference- The next conference is scheduled for 2006-2007. Funds are possibly required to begin initial consultations on the content of the conference and to set up a working group.
- Education pamphlet to explain quotas- The Council has identified the need for a pamphlet on quotas. Funds would be required for its production.
- Traditional use- A project could be considered to work with Elders to get information on their use of the land. This could include an update of Murielle Nagy's work. It would be good to make this information more accessible.
- ISR research reporting- Funding may be required for the Council's participation at the ISR Research Forum being proposed for later this year.

Council members agreed to the following allocation of funds:

Arctic Borderlands Coop	5,000
Grizzly bear research	10,000
Muskox management	5,000
Bylaws, regulations and legislation	5,000
FJMC summer student mentoring program	3,000
Polar bear jurisdiction review	2,500
Rare plants and animals	4,000
TOTAL	\$34,500

Motion

To allocate funds in the 2005-2006 WMAC(NS) budget to the following projects: Arctic Borderlands Coop \$5,000, Grizzly bear research \$10,000, Muskox management \$5,000, Bylaws, regulations and legislation \$5,000, FJMC summer student mentoring program \$3,000, Polar bear jurisdiction review \$2,500, and Rare plants and animals on the Yukon North Slope \$4,000.

Moved: Ron Larsen
Second: Ernest Pokiak
Motion carried

The Secretariat needs to provide more information on the funding requirements for a number of the projects. Members agreed to consider the allocation of funds to the other projects at the next meeting.

Action 05-04-18: The Secretariat will assist Bruce Bennett with the logistics of the summer rare plants and animal fieldwork on the North Slope.

Harvey Jessup commented that YTG would like to get the support of the Inuvialuit Game Council to reconfigure the Vuntut Gwitchin Group Trapping Area boundary. The current boundary is a straight line and YTG would like it changed to match the ISR boundary. The Chair responded that YTG should write to the IGC directly to discuss this issue.

G. Ongoing Business (continued)

10. Fuel cache policies

Discussion of the Yukon Government and Parks Canada fuel cache policies was deferred to the next meeting.

I. Upcoming meetings

a) Summer 2005

Members expressed an interest in holding the summer meeting on the North Slope that would include a visit to Herschel Island, Shingle Point, the Parks Canada Sheep Creek facility and / or the proposed Babbage River day use site. Members indicated that some time in the last two weeks of July would be a good time to have the meeting. The Secretariat will follow-up on a proposed schedule.

b) Fall 2005

The Chair noted that the IGC will be meeting in Whitehorse Sept 6 to 9. The Council could meet in Whitehorse before the IGC.

J. Upcoming conferences/ workshops

Information on the following three conferences was available in the binders:

- Northern Oil and Gas Best Management Practices Symposium *Reducing the Footprint Of Oil And Gas Development In The North*- April 26-27, 2005, Whitehorse, Yukon
- Adapting to Climate Change in Canada 2005; Understanding Risks and Building Capacity, Montreal, QC -May 4-7, 2005
- Rapid Landscape Change and Human Response in the Arctic and Subarctic, Whitehorse, YT -June 15-17, 2005

Herbert Felix expressed his interest in attending the Best Management Practices Symposium in Whitehorse. Ernest Pokiak said he would contact the Secretariat once he checks his availability.

K. Adjournment

Motion

To adjourn the meeting.

Moved: Herbert Felix
Second: Ernest Pokiak
Motion carried

WMAC(NS) Chair

Date

WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Date