



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

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Meeting Minutes

WMAC(NS) Quarterly Meeting

Aklavik, Northwest Territories

Aklavik Council Chambers

November 23, 2006

Lindsay Staples Chair • **Doug Larsen** Yukon Government (Member) • **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Dorothy Cooley** Yukon Government (Alternate) • **Michelle Sicotte** Resource Person

A. Call to Order

The Chair welcomed the Council to the meeting. PC and CWS were not present therefore the Council will avoid special resolutions. Financial decisions will be subject to their approval.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Council reviewed the agenda. Muskox management, North Slope Conference and the Council Budget were identified as priority items.

Motion to approve the agenda for the November 23, 2006 meeting as presented.

Moved: Danny C. Gordon

Second: Ernest Pokiak

Motion Carried

C. Muskox Management

The Council discussed the Muskox Management Workshop that was held in Aklavik November 21 – 22, 2006. Participants did not come to a consensus on a management approach for the population. The workshop did provide the opportunity to better understand interests in different jurisdictions.

There have been many changes in the population over the last six years. The population is volatile and unpredictable. There were some new ideas presented at this workshop that were not presented in 2001 (for example, open harvest in the NWT and a quota of zero on the YNS).

The Council agrees that having a management plan in place to guide decision making is important. The plan would be re-visited in five years or if there is a change in the population. Yukon Government requires the recommended plan. Also the plan is important for providing certainty to the community and for educational purposes. As well, government biologists are waiting on an approved plan prior to initiating further population monitoring. There is some concern about the considerable amount of time and resources that the Council has committed to the development of the muskox plan for the Canadian range. There is also concern that there are expectations on the Council to carry out the majority of the work.

The IFA is clear that co-management bodies are required to manage wildlife on a population basis. The Council is still of the mind that a plan for the Canadian range is essential and that a coordinated management strategy should be implemented across jurisdictions. Currently management bodies are supporting the goal of the draft plan; to maintain a healthy, productive and sustainable population of North Slope muskoxen.

The Council discussed ways to move forward to complete the plan. At the present time, WMAC(NS) is in the best position to review the entire area and can reflect the decisions and discussions at the workshop. Other bodies in the ISR are also in a position to make decisions about muskox management. Organizations in the GSA and VGTT require further consultations with their communities before moving forward. Any recommendations made by WMAC(NS) would be forwarded to other jurisdictions for support.

Inuvialuit harvesters need to be made aware of their rights to harvest muskox in the NWT for subsistence purposes.

The Council identified the following actions to follow the workshop:

- Draft a workshop report and circulate to participants
- Identify funds from the WMAC(NS) project budget to hire a contractor to redraft the plan (including maps) based on the workshop outcomes
- Hold a joint WMAC(NS)/WMAC(NWT) meeting to agree on a management approach for the ISR. Use this approach to identify options for the GSA and VGTT

- Return to Aklavik to meet with the AHTC.
- Undertake genetic work to understand genetic differences between subspecies

D. Herschel Island Territorial Park

Richard Gordon informed the Council of the upcoming meetings on the Herschel Island Management Plan with community members. Richard reviewed his presentation with the Council.

E. North Slope Conference

Michelle provided an update on the upcoming North Slope Conference. The Council provided input into the structure of the agenda and possible speakers. The Council also identified a list of potential speakers. Michelle will draft an agenda and continue to work with Yukon Government on conference organization.

F. IFA Wildlife Research

The Council discussed the surplus in IFA wildlife research funds. Dorothy presented a proposal to survey muskox in the Richardson Mountains. The Council agreed that this is timely work given the increase in numbers and the current sheep/bear/wolf project in the Richardson's; however it is work that the GRRB and GNWT should be funding.

Action 06-11-01: The Chair will draft a letter to GRRB/GNWT (copy Aklavik HTC) to determine if there are plans to monitor on the Richardson Mountain muskox population given the increase in numbers.

Action 06-11-02: Dorothy will look into contracting an expert to review the parasitology of muskox and the pros/cons of mixing the North Slope and NWT muskox sub-species.

G. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Moved: Danny C. Gordon

Second: Ernest Pokiak

Motion carried

Approved and directed to be signed:

Lindsay Staples, Chair

Date

Michelle Sicotte, Resource Person