



MEETING MINUTES

WMAC (NS) Quarterly Meeting
Whitehorse, YT • High Country Inn, Whitehorse, Yukon
September 19-21, 2009

Saturday September 19, 2009

Lindsay Staples (WMACNS Chair) • **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Christian Bucher** Government of Canada (Member) • **Michelle Christensen** (Secretariat) • **Dorothy Cooley** Yukon Government (Alternate) • **Doug Larsen** Yukon Government (Member) • **Donald Reid** Short-eared Owl/Arctic Wolves Project Researcher (Guest) • **Richard Gordon** Senior Park Ranger, Yukon Government (Guest) • **Donald McLennan** Parks Canada, Ecological Integrity Branch (Guest) • **Ifan Thomas** Superintendent, Western Arctic Field Unit, Parks Canada (Guest) • **Stephanie Muckenheim** Inuvialuit Final Agreement Policy Analyst, Yukon Government (Guest)

A. Call to Order

The Chair welcomed everyone and called the meeting to order at 9:05am.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda and schedule of meetings taking place over the next few days.

Motion 09-09-01

To approve the agenda for the September 19-21, 2009 meeting.

Moved: Danny C. Gordon

Second: Christian Bucher

Motion carried.

C. Review and Approval of June Minutes and July Teleconference Meeting Record (Tab 1)

June 6-7, 2009 WMAC (NS) Meeting:

The Council brought forward the following revisions:

- Danny asked if the cause of death had been determined for the dead caribou found on Herschel Island. Dorothy said the cause has not been determined and may not be detectable.

- Page 6: first paragraph – change sentence to read: “Ernest requested that the Secretariat create business cards for members, as it would be useful to have when attending conferences and other events”.
- Page 6: Action 07-10-15: change second last sentence to read: “The Chair commented that research institutes in the N.W.T. have effective systems in place for research management”.
- Page 14: change third paragraph down to read: “The Chair suggested that another way of thinking about interim measures is that they are an attempt to implement conservation measures until such time that all management institutions have the necessary instruments to implement the Harvest Management Plan.”
- Page 17: delete first paragraph.
- Page 17: change second last paragraph to read: “Dorothy explained that periodically when not a lot of Porcupine caribou are on the Dempster there is a concern that people will take a large number of Hart River caribou, mistaking them for Porcupine caribou.
- Page 24: change sixth paragraph down to read: “Doug clarified that Yukon’s policy is not consistent with the N.W.T. or Parks Canada when it comes to defence of life and property kills.”

Motion 09-09-02

To approve the minutes for the June 6-7, 2009 WMAC (NS) meeting.

Moved: Doug Larsen

Second: Ernest Pokiak

Motion carried.

Members noted that in light of recent concerns from the Inuvialuit Game Council about WMAC (NS)’s minutes, the Council may want to change the way meeting minutes are recorded.

A member remarked that Joe Tetlichy has expressed interest in attending WMAC (NS) meetings.

Action 09-09-01: The Secretariat will invite Joe Tetlichy to WMAC (NS)’s future regular meetings.

July 20, 2009 teleconference meeting record:

Christian noted that the letter that was reviewed and approved at the teleconference meeting was copied to every minister except Parks’ – this was an oversight and should be kept in mind for future.

Motion 09-09-03

To approve the meeting record for the July 20, 2009 WMAC (NS) teleconference.

Moved: Ernest Pokiak

Second: Doug Larsen

Motion carried.

D. Review of Action Items (Tab 2) – see tab 2 for updates – note that only items updated/changed during the meeting appear below.

Action 06-09-13: The Chair and Dorothy Cooley will try to locate Council comments on the Borderlands Program that date back to when the program began regarding what the Council's monitoring needs were. **Retired.** Although the action is retired, Christian offered to try to retrieve Park Canada's comments.

Action 06-09-11: The WMAC (NS) Secretariat will locate and transmit to Dorothy a letter written a few years ago by the Council to the EISC stating their support for caribou monitoring work in Ivvavik. Dorothy will draft a letter on behalf of the Council supporting a three year permit commencing in 2010 for a calving survey, and the Chair will sign it.

A member noted that action item numbering needs to be corrected.

Christian said that in order for Dorothy to carry out her caribou research in Ivvavik, a Park permit is necessary only if aircraft land in the Park.

Members discussed whether or not caribou research in Ivvavik would be subject to environmental assessment through the Yukon Environmental and Socio-economic Assessment Act. The Chair recalled a clause in the Act exempting Council-approved and government research from screening.

Action item follow up: **The Secretariat will use Dorothy Cooley's September 17, 2009 letter concerning caribou research to form the basis for a letter from WMAC (NS) to Parks Canada, including reference to the Environmental Impact Screening Committee's flight guidelines and the Yukon Environmental and Socio-Economic Assessment Act's research exemption clause.**

Action 09-12-06: WMAC NS Secretariat will contact the Joint Secretariat to determine whether or not they plan to request an interim adjustment to implementation funding levels because the current funding cycle was extended from 5 years to 10. **The Secretariat will follow up with Norm Snow on this item's status.**

E. Correspondence (Tab 3)

The Council reviewed information items, and correspondence incoming to and outgoing from the Council.

Action 09-09-02: The Secretariat will use page numbering in the correspondence section of future meeting binders instead of numbering by item.

The Secretariat drew attention to a letter from the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee requesting an increase to the number of grizzly bear tags issued for the North Slope.

The Council discussed the request and decided that the quota would not be reviewed until the North Slope grizzly bear study has concluded.

Action 09-09-03: The Secretariat will respond to the AHTC request for more grizzly bear tags indicating that the quota will not be re-visited until the North Slope grizzly bear project has concluded.

It was observed that the grizzly bear quota in Aklavik has not been filled for the a number of years. Some members then questioned why the quota should be increased. The issue of people holding tags too long was raised as a problem.

The Chair noted that in the Yukon Inuvialuit do not have exclusive right to hunt grizzly bear, and that if a request for more tags was made and when the quota was not fully used, a case could potentially be made for licensed hunter tags to be issued on the North Slope.

Doug pointed out that a response from the Yukon Government should come in this afternoon regarding research permitting issues.

Dorothy updated members that the Old Crow moose project is complete.

F. Financial Report (Tab 4)

The Secretariat reviewed the financial update highlighting line items requiring attention. Ernest's travel to Ottawa for the Inuit meeting on polar bear will be reallocated to come out of the "Other Meetings" budget instead of from the Inuvialuit Participation budget, as it was a meeting the Chair would have attended had he been available.

A member commented that many of the categories were under spent.

The Secretariat informed members that almost \$24,000 is available to support additional staff. She has a potential contractor lined up to work on the North Slope Conference and should be able to confirm her availability in the next couple of weeks.

The Council expressed support to hire additional staff.

The Secretariat clarified that the amount budgeted for the Porcupine Caribou Traditional Knowledge report, \$21,847, includes printing.

The Secretariat explained that the funding assigned for Wayne Wysocki's phase II review of Borderlands data would be used as soon as the spatial data has been digitized, which should be in the next month or two.

G. Report from the Chair

The Chair identified concerns with Yukon's process for drafting its Species At Risk Act (SARA). The process has raised concerns about the implementation of the IFA-based co-management process, and the challenges of interjurisdictional management.

Action 09-09-04: The Secretariat will review Council minutes and determine what the original plan/schedule was for reviewing Yukon SARA legislation in order to determine whether or not we are on target.

Members discussed resolving issues around co-management within Inuvialuit organizations first before approaching the territorial governments with concerns about the implementation of co-management and that the North Slope Conference might be an appropriate venue to do that.

A member suggested that it might be a good idea to invite the Yukon's Deputy Minister of Environment to a Council meeting.

The Chair talked about the importance of territorial ministerial involvement and leadership on some of these larger issues - having the federal Minister of Environment present at the January Roundtable meeting on Polar Bear made the meeting very powerful.

Doug remarked that this Council's views are very much appreciated by the Yukon Government as well as by the Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB).

The Chair observed that there appeared to be growing uncertainty regarding whether or not the Council's input was having an effect on government decision-making, highlighting that there is much confusion around the roles and responsibilities of boards and councils, and governments' duty to consult with them.

Ifan suggested that because turnover in other organizations is so high, it is the responsibility of the boards to educate them.

1:00pm – Richard Gordon, Donald Reid, and Stephanie Muckenheim joined the meeting.

I. Ongoing Business – ii. Short-eared owl Project Update –*Donald Reid (Tab 7)*

Donald introduced the study as part of a larger project, Arctic Wolves and reviewed the context and objectives of the work.

He spent some time discussing limiting factors in the two study areas, Herschel Island and the North Slope: nest site availability and security, predation, weather, and food abundance.

Conclusions are tentative, given limited data, though prey abundance is thought to be a key factor. Competition from other raptors is likely affecting nesting density, and nest success is affected by human disturbance and predation on eggs, chicks, and adults.

The Arctic Wolves project is finished now, though Parks Canada is interested in keeping some work going at Komakuk. There is no plan for gathering more information in the future.

The Chair asked how occupation of hydrocarbon superstructures by predators affects short-eared owls.

Donald suggested that superstructures and associated infrastructure could become a concern on the North Slope in the future if oil and gas development increases. He noted that shorebirds in close proximity to human developments have been shown to have reduced nesting success.

He concluded by noting that the Arctic Wolves project will be written up in the next year or two.

I. Ongoing Business – iii. Parks Canada – IPY Research in Ivvavik –*Donald McLennan (Tab 8)*

Donald McLennan, Head of Inventory and Monitoring for Parks Canada, introduced Parks Canada's Northern Strategy, under which Ivvavik's ecosystem monitoring is covered.

Monitoring activities in the park include ecosystem mapping, plant biomass ground sampling, monitoring of changes in area of tundra shrubs, and wetland mapping.

He reviewed changes happening in Ivvavik's forests and coastal plain noting that change in the arctic is happening at two times the global average, some of which could have a

negative effect on caribou. A 70-80% shift in species composition in the central Canadian Arctic is projected over the next 50-75 years. In the context of such great change, monitoring is very important.

The Chair highlighted the importance of reporting in monitoring programs.

Donald said that Parks Canada has an obligation to report back every year, and that Parks' monitoring programs are based on their reporting requirements. He reviewed some of the reporting outputs, highlighting remote sensing as a tool that Parks plans to use increasingly.

The Chair asked when Parks might wrap up the Ivvavik project, complete with future projections, so that Aklavik residents can effectively plan for anticipated changes. He also noted that because the Council has an interest in monitoring on and offshore, replicating the Ivvavik study in other areas of the North Slope or area of Porcupine Caribou range would be valuable.

Members discussed some of the changes that have been happening on the land over the last 80 years, and some possible future changes. A question arose about shoreline erosion work. The Chair reported that Steve Solomon and Wayne Pollard are involved. Donald wondered if BREA may have funds available for monitoring work on the North Slope.

The Chair said that the Herschel Island Rangers' involvement in monitoring has been a big success story.

Ifan announced that he would be happy to present to the Council for review, Parks' monitoring program once it is set.

Danny recalled research work on terrain slumping done from Shingle Point to Herschel Island five to six years ago. He questioned what happened to the work and why results were not communicated.

The Chair reported that Arctic Borderlands is conducting a review of monitoring activities across the range of the Porcupine Caribou. Donald commented that including research in the review would be important.

I. Ongoing Business – iv. Herschel Island Update – *Richard Gordon (Tab 9)*

Richard presented his season report, highlighting an interesting wildlife occurrence: sik siks were observed on Herschel for the first time since 1987.

Stephanie Muckenheim said that Yukon hopes to charge a port fee in order to recover some of the costs associated with incoming cruise ships and the demands they place on Parks staff.

Wildlife count numbers were low compared to last year, and Alaskan visitor numbers seem to be on the decline, possibly because of the loss of elders. Danny surmised that the reduction in numbers may be a result of the new need for passports to cross the border.

A member asked about Inupiat harvesting rights on the North Slope. The Chair clarified that the Inuvialuit can share harvesting rights with the Inupiat to the extent that they agree to, though no formal agreements are currently in place.

Richard said that he is starting to work on next year's budget, despite difficulties around training. This year he had problems with an uneven work balance amongst different

crews, and an unnecessary medivac flight prevented Richard from flying into the Park. Next year he hopes to have more committed staff – to meet this end he will try to recruit people from Aklavik.

The Chair said that Herschel should be high on the priority list to receive more implementation funding.

Ifan commented that given the high visitation that Herschel receives, there is very good justification for increased funding.

Richard noted that Sara Nielson did an inventory of the Park and talked with the rangers about their workloads.

The Chair said that since the original park operations plan, rangers' workloads have increased substantially.

Richard noted that he was able to save some cost through flight-sharing, which might better enable North Slope Conference attendance by staff.

The Elders program did not happen this year because of scheduling conflicts and lack of funding.

I. Ongoing Business – i. North Slope Conference 2010 – Approval of Draft Program (Tab 6)

The Chair introduced the proposed theme for this year's conference, which marks the passing of the 25th anniversary of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement: wildlife management - what have we learned, what are the challenges to be solved. He proposed that the conference be two and a half days in length and suggested that each half day be devoted to an issue. Bob Bell and Andy Carpenter have accepted invitations to co-chair the event.

He suggested that when looking at issues and challenges, we look at answers from the perspectives of different organizations and groups, such as scientists, lawyers, co-management, parks, and Hunters and Trappers Committees.

The Chair went through a tentative list of speakers to sit on each panel and took additional suggestions from members.

Stephanie suggested that the conference come out with recommendations, based on feedback from last year.

The Chair noted that remedies are important, but the problem with recommendations is that they need to be directed at a specific party and they require follow up.

Doug asked if once speakers are identified, they will be canvassed about what issues they would like to discuss.

The Chair confirmed that once speakers are selected, a lead panelist could guide the panel through a teleconference, where common issues would be decided upon.

Christian questioned where youth and elders would come in to such high level discussions.

The Chair noted that the discussions will centre around how people live in the region – issues will touch on Inuvialuit rights etc. He noted that representatives from HTC's would comprise a panel and elders and youth would be invited to attend the conference.

At the conference meeting rooms could be set aside for panelists to meet and organize their discussions, equipped with guidelines from the Council.

Members discussed the importance of budget in the context of where speakers will be coming from, especially those from the eastern Arctic.

The Chair said that organizations need to be contacted immediately, and that depending on who people work for, compensating speakers for travel and honoraria may vary. If nobody outside the ISR is able to come, then attendance will be reduced and issues will be more focused on the Yukon.

Members agreed that the Hunters and Trappers Committee panel should be re-named “Local Perspectives” and would not include youth because speakers with a long history of working in the region on the issues are the focus, and youth by nature are not experienced in that way.

The Chair commented that setting up a living room-type atmosphere made speakers feel very comfortable at the last conference, noting that a similar set up would be good for this year.

Stephanie asked about conference chair responsibility. The Chair clarified that chairs introduce each panel, or alternatively that the panel lead could introduce each panel, but that basically the chairs oversee the business of the day and provide a keynote address.

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 5:30pm.

Sunday, September 20, 2009

Lindsay Staples (Chair) • **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Christian Bucher** Government of Canada (Member) • **Michelle Christensen** (Secretariat) • **Dorothy Cooley** Yukon Government (Alternate) • **Doug Larsen** Yukon Government (Member) • **Ramona Maraj** Carnivore Biologist, Yukon Government (Guest) • **Steve Baryluk** Resource Person, Inuvialuit Game Council (Guest) • **Frank Pokiak** Chair, Inuvialuit Game Council (Guest) • **Richard Gordon** Senior Park Ranger, Yukon Government (Guest) • **Ifan Thomas** Superintendent, Western Arctic Field Unit, Parks Canada (Guest) • **Bruce Hanbidge** Resource Person, WMAC (NWT) (Guest) • **Lindsay Croken**, Historian, Western Arctic Field Unit, Parks Canada (Guest)

The Chair welcomed Steve Baryluk, Frank Pokiak, and Bruce Hanbidge and called the meeting to order at 9:10am.

I. Ongoing Business – v. *Inuvialuit Game Council* b. Porcupine Caribou HMP/Interim Measures (Tab 10)

Frank raised concern over inconsistencies in how current numbers of Porcupine caribou are expressed as evidenced by discrepancies found in the WMAC (NS) minutes, governments and other organizations’ documentation.

Members discussed the reasons behind the discrepancies and spent some time discussing the different population estimations.

The Chair asked how the IGC plans to respond to the Porcupine Caribou Management Board's Harvest Management Plan.

Steve reported that the Game Council is waiting to hear from the Aklavik, Tuktoyaktuk, and Inuvik HTC's as well as the two WMAC's regarding support for the Plan before making any comments. Once those pieces are in place the Council will turn to the Plan's implementation plan focusing on how it will be applied in the ISR.

The Chair talked about how the Plan's implementation plan would work and the role of the HTC's in the ISR. He clarified that HTC bylaws are required to be enforced by the GNWT in the N.W.T., but that in the Yukon enforcement of HTC bylaws is discretionary by Yukon Government. Inuvialuit are not self governing, however the existence of HTC's give Inuvialuit certain self governing powers in terms of harvest management.

The Chair cautioned IGC representatives in how they interpret WMAC (NS) minutes, noting that a single statement regarding caribou numbers can easily be taken out of context.

The Chair expressed the hope that the Plan would be signed off and move towards implementation. He asked the Game Council if they planned to assume the lead on getting the Plan signed. Steve responded that the Council hadn't received any official encouragement to bring the parties together but that, as suggested by Billy Storr, they could do so if necessary.

Doug said that currently the PCMB is considering finalizing the implementation plan before the Plan is signed.

The Council continued to discuss the process for sign off and implementation of the Plan, concluding that it needs to be signed off soon before it unravels.

Doug took a moment to describe Yukon's intent by implementing Interim Measures and drew attention to the Measures' focus on mandatory reporting.

Frank expressed concern about mandatory reporting and noted the challenges in getting accurate reporting in a previously run harvest monitoring program out of Tuktoyaktuk, as well as how poorly tag systems have been respected in the past.

The Council discussed whether or not harvesting of caribou has increased or decreased because of the Dempster Highway and continued to debate the challenges of harvest reporting. Doug noted that uncertainty over the caribou harvest having increased or decreased reinforces the need for harvest monitoring.

The Council discussed Yukon's Interim Measures and the schedule for its implementation and implications on user groups. Doug clarified that the plan is for measures to be in place this fall but that "soft" enforcement would be practiced for the first year.

10:50am – Dan Lindsey and Ramona Maraj joined the meeting.

I. Ongoing Business – v. *Inuvialuit Game Council c. Polar Bear* – (Tab 11)

Frank raised issue with some of the comments made in WMAC (NS) minutes regarding polar bear, noting that many of them were inaccurate. He stressed that minutes should be reviewed carefully.

Some of the members defended several statements that Frank took issue with.

Regarding the view that harvesting is a major threat to polar bear populations, the Chair assured Frank that the Council is well aware that this is not the case. Ramona reiterated the same point on the Yukon's behalf.

Frank remarked that regarding polar bear management, the United States has had a good working relationship with Canada in the past, which led to the development of the user-to-user agreement between the Inupiat and Inuvialuit.

The Chair acknowledged Bruce Hanbidge's efforts to keep the Council informed and up to date on polar bear issues. He also acknowledged the importance of ensuring that minutes are accurate.

Frank commented that polar bear research only occurs in select communities and areas near shore, indicating that many people feel that the science is not geographically comprehensive. He also talked about how polar bears were managed traditionally by Inuvialuit and Inupiat.

After hearing Frank speak about traditional practices, the Chair highlighted the importance of moving traditional knowledge studies along.

Frank said he hoped that valuable information comes out in the studies – he noted that in Greenland there are no hunting restrictions and that in northern communities people only harvest for food and clothing, never bothering larger polar bears.

The Chair invited the Game Council to comment on polar bear management in Nunavut.

Frank reported that Nunavut and the N.W.T. are considering a government-to-government agreement, and that they are waiting for work on the Beaufort boundary changes to be completed before re-evaluating quotas. The Beaufort boundary change will also involve Alaska and the Yukon.

Frank asked if the WMAC (NS) has a mandate for both the northern and southern Beaufort populations.

The Chair said that Council has taken its guidance from the IFA definition of the North Slope as it may apply to the southern and northern Beaufort. However, he noted that many parties have differing opinions regarding the application of federal and territorial jurisdiction in the area. He suggested that it would be helpful to bring different parties together to at least better understand their different perspectives even if there is no agreement.

Steve raised issue with another comment that was made in WMAC (NS)'s minutes regarding the number of subpopulations in Canada and that the number is debatable. He said that the IGC does not view the number as debatable.

Ramona said that there is a debate on how delineations are made, and the Chair clarified that the point made in the minutes was not that the number was debatable, but that the way subpopulations are delineated is debatable.

Steve expressed concern that WMAC (NS) minutes do not have sufficient context.

Frank made a final point about WMAC (NS) minutes noting another inaccuracy – the minutes stated that polar bear was listed as endangered in the U.S. when in fact they are listed as threatened. The Chair agreed.

The Chair concluded that indeed the Council needs to be more vigilant with the accuracy of minutes.

11:30am Steve Baryluk, Bruce Hanbidge, and Frank Pokiak left the meeting.

The Chair suggested that the Council may want to engage someone like Nigel Bankes to prepare a review paper on jurisdictional issues in the Beaufort, which would benefit not only the Council, but the Inuvialuit, and the territorial and federal government.

09-09-05: The Chair will approach the IGC and the WMAC (NWT) to discuss the relative merits of Nigel Bankes preparing a discussion paper on jurisdictional issues in the Beaufort as they affect polar bear management.

Ramona suggested adding polar bear tag management to the agenda at the joint WMAC meeting on Tuesday, though she cautioned that jurisdictional issues would complicate the matter. She suggested working on an interim arrangement or waiting until jurisdiction is sorted out and then working out an arrangement at that time.

With regard to polar bear tags, the Chair said that the Council is essentially, from the standpoint of a hunter, trying to remove the jurisdictional lines to make things easier.

Because there are no zones in the south Beaufort, Ramona said that a south Beaufort tag could easily be jointly administered.

The Chair brought up the SARA and cautioned that if tags are not administered properly according to jurisdiction, there is a risk of government being taken to court.

Dorothy suggested the option of a registered hunt for polar bear, noting though that reporting can be an issue with this system.

Danny commented that a system like this would work with some success, and emphasized that interviews would be valuable.

Dorothy asked about scheduling of interviews, and Danny suggested that interviewing hunters every three months would be appropriate.

The Council discussed the problems associated with harvest reporting.

The Council turned the discussion back to polar bear and the upcoming Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) meeting in March.

The Chair said that at next March's CITES meeting there will be a push to up list the polar bear from appendix I to II which would prohibit international trade in polar bear

hides. The U.S. is preparing a submission to CITES and has invited input from Canada before doing so. Canada is looking to make the case that polar bears should not be up listed.

Ramona provided background as to why there is a push to up list polar bears.

Ernest updated the Council on his meeting with Inuit groups in Ottawa. The meeting focused on the upcoming CITES meeting and required efforts to lobby against the up listing.

The Council discussed the listing in more detail, noting that it would apply to all signatory countries of CITES and shut down polar bear trade within those countries, which would effectively shut down the sport hunt.

Ramona briefly mentioned the grizzly bear project, noting that next year is the project's final year, and that the Council should start thinking about how to best conclude it..

Polar Bear Traditional Knowledge Study

Ramona reviewed the study proposal and workplan, noting that the study is largely driven by management needs as well as the fact that the knowledge of elders is being lost.

She reviewed the six elements of traditional ecological knowledge that would be collected during interviews.

The proposal will be discussed with the N.W.T. before it is finalized, and may be applied in some Alaskan communities in order to cover the entire Beaufort.

Ramona explained that by integrating the two knowledge types, traditional knowledge is no longer marginalized and is given status. Steve Watkinson, an expert on the subject, would be hired to work on knowledge integration.

The Chair commented on how transcript ownership and use of information has worked in previous Council-run projects.

Danny said that polar bear traditional knowledge from Aklavik is very limited.

Ramona shared that in carrying out the grizzly bear traditional knowledge study she thinks the intergenerational knowledge about polar bear is richer than we might think.

Action 09-09-06: The Secretariat will send Council members Ramona's Annotated Bibliography of Inuvialuit Traditional Knowledge about Polar Bears in the ISR.

The Chair asked Ramona what her financial requirements are to finish the grizzly bear project.

Ramona estimated that \$40-50,000 would be necessary to conduct telemetry flights to retrieve collars. She also would like to have a workshop, but that would cost extra.

Danny expressed that people in Aklavik would like to see the project wrap up and are interested in increasing the quota.

Ramona said she will have a population estimate by March and suggested the possibility of having an interim quota.

Doug commented that grizzly bear research program should conclude with media follow up and meetings.

3:00pm – Ramona Maraj left the meeting and Lindsay Croken joined the meeting.

I. Ongoing Business – viii. Ivvavik – Heritage Resources – Lindsay Croken (Tab 14)

Lindsay provided the Council with an update on cultural resource management work in Ivvavik National Park.

She overviewed coastal monitoring work and archaeological investigations at Nunaluk.

The monitoring work tracks environmental changes in the context of cultural resource protection, along the Yukon North Slope. Degree of change in sites ranges from no change to significant change.

Erosion at the Nunaluk cabin has been significant, however because of the cabin's location, moving it is not a reasonable option. A series of test pits were dug this summer – no artifacts predating the 1970's were found. Parks has talked with the community about different ways to preserve the cabin, however, it does not seem to have any special significance. Lindsay suggested that the Workboat Passage cabin is a much stronger piece.

Lindsay reviewed the restoration project at Sheep Creek. Artifacts at Sheep Creek that were at one time left out in the weather, including a raft, are now stored in a shelter for safe keeping and visitor viewing.

Next year priority activities for restoration work include stabilizing the Stephanson's cabin.

Danny expressed that fixing the cabin at Clarence Bay is important. He asked what Parks plans to do with the skiff at Sheep Creek.

Lindsay responded that when she spoke with community members from Aklavik they were happy to keep it at Sheep Creek and provide an interpretive display. This winter Parks hopes to have a park-wide cultural resources plan complete with a five year plan identifying long term and short term goals.

The Council discussed with Lindsay how artifacts are dealt with in the Park, including items that visitors find to remains of plane crashes.

4:00pm – Lindsay Croken left the meeting.

I. Ongoing Business xi. IFA Wildlife Research Projects – Interim Project Reports 08/09 (Tab 17).

Dorothy updated the Council on the interim status of her projects.

Aklavik Harvest Data Collection – The HTC is collecting harvest data, and has taken input from Yukon and N.W.T. governments on how to do so.

Muskox Genetics – samples have been difficult to obtain which has delayed the project. Analysis is scheduled to start soon and the full \$6300 allocated to this project likely will not be used in full.

Porcupine Caribou Rut Composition Count – the last time the count was done was 1980. The count should be updated in order to provide baseline information for Yukon’s bull-only harvesting restrictions. Yukon has developed an agreement with Alaska so that if the caribou are there in October, the Alaskans would be responsible for conducting the count.

Porcupine Caribou Satellite Program – 12 adult females are currently collared. As long as the program can find contributors the program will continue. If more funding becomes available switching to GPS collars would provide more accurate information.

The Secretariat said that the interim report for the Short-eared owl project is filed under Tab 17 and that she is still waiting to receive reports from other projects.

Management Plan for Dall’s Sheep in the Northern Richardson Mountains

The Chair noted that finalization of the Plan has been stalled. Robert Charlie may be sitting in on Tuesday’s Joint WMAC meeting – an opportunity to discuss the status of the plan.

Members discussed briefly why the Plan is stalled and agreed to continue the discussion on Tuesday.

Meeting adjourned for the day at 4:15pm.

Monday September 21st, 2009

Lindsay Staples Chair • **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Christian Bucher** Government of Canada (Member) • **Michelle Christensen** (Secretariat) • **Dorothy Cooley** Yukon Government (Alternate) • **Doug Larsen** Yukon Government (Member) • **Jennifer Lam**, Resource Person, WMAC (NWT) (Guest) • **Norm Snow**, Executive Director, Joint Secretariat (Teleconference Guest) • **John Donihee** Legal Advisor, Joint Secretariat (Teleconference Guest) • **Steve Baryluk** Resource Person, Inuvialuit Game Council (Guest) • **Bruce Hanbidge** Resource Person, WMAC (NWT)(Guest) • **Larry Carpenter** Chair, WMAC (NWT) (Guest) • **Frank Pokiak** Chair, Inuvialuit Game Council (Guest)

9:00am – Jennifer Lam, Steve Baryluk, Bruce Hanbidge, Larry Carpenter, Frank Pokiak, John Donihee (telephone) and Norm Snow (telephone) joined the meeting.

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:15am. He welcomed all guests and reviewed the agenda: to review the proposed Yukon Species at Risk Act. He noted that once the meeting is adjourned later this morning, a smaller working group would be meeting with Yukon to conduct a legal review of the Act.

I. Ongoing Business – Yukon Species at Risk Act (Tab 12)

The Chair introduced John Donihee’s comments on the Act as substantively concerning process and the co-management system. Other concerns include the failing of the Bill to take into account provisions of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement as well as some more technical issues.

John cautioned that we provide focused comments to Yukon. He provided a brief background as to why Species At Risk legislation is coming into effect in the Territory and noted that the Inuvialuit have common cause with Yukon to produce a good bill that protects wildlife.

John said that the legislation is fairly standard Species at Risk legislation primarily driven by federal legislation. If Yukon legislation is to affect Inuvialuit harvesting, it has to be done in such a way that it implements the IFA, as was done with the Wildlife Act. He noted that the bill did not reflect Inuvialuit institutions such as the WMAC (NS) and the Inuvialuit Game Council.

John continued to work through his review, noting that the definition of aboriginal government does not and should include the IGC.

The Chair took a moment to outline some process concerns. Yukon has been working on legislation for over a year and WMAC (NS)'s involvement has been very limited. Consultation periods have been very short and opportunities to review the legislation were supposed to be made available months ago, while reviews with other groups went ahead. He expressed concern that changes in the Bill before us reflect consultations with other parties, but do not include the Inuvialuit. He said that discussing timelines for the development and passage of the bill would be important. He mentioned two pieces of legislation which formally recognize the IFA: the Yukon's Wildlife Act and federal Species At Risk legislation. THE WMAC(NS) and IGC should be confident that the standard of protection and the roles of wildlife management boards in the Yukon SARA is no less than what the federal legislation provides.

John commented that the draft legislation already contains comments from First Nations, which may make it more difficult to provide input at this point. Late changes or comments to legislation may have little effect because the policy direction has already been established.

John said that the Yukon legislation is subject to federal legislation, so it is unlikely that Yukon's act has departed too much from the federal framework.

John noted that the provisions for the Species At Risk Technical Committee do not line up with what the IFA requires for the establishment of a TAH.

The Chair expressed concern that existing co-management arrangements appear to be circumvented or duplicated by this Act.

John referred to Section 10 regarding listing and raised concerns over the requirement to consult and what that means for the Inuvialuit who already have a clear process on how recommendations are made to the minister.

Concern over the definition of emergency listing, and who determines the listings was raised. Section 12 as currently laid out infringes on harvesters rights.

The Chair flagged Section 11's use of the phrase "precautionary basis".

John expressed concern that a precautionary listing approach is not as objective an approach as one based on best available information. Once species appear on the list it can be a long process before they can be removed from the list.

John suggested that the WMAC and IGC review the remainder of his memo which deals with finer points. The broader issues mainly addressing the lack of reflection of the IFA will be raised with Yukon officials this afternoon.

10:30am – teleconference adjourned. All guests left the meeting.

The Chair reviewed the agenda highlighting the Muskox Plan and Polar Bear as important outstanding items.

A member expressed confusion over the process for the CITES up listing of polar bear: if the up listing is dependent on non detrimental findings, and they are not complete, on what grounds are up listings made? The Chair suggested scheduling time at the December meeting for a full briefing on polar bear matters.

Christian stressed that the Inuvialuit should be speaking as one voice on the issue in order to be most effective.

The Chair said that the minister must decide if species are of special concern or threatened under the federal SARA before declaring an international position.

Action 09-09-07: The Secretariat will look into inviting Ramona Maraj to the Council's December meeting to aid in outlining polar bear issues.

Members discussed the possible boundary change for the southern and northern Beaufort polar bear populations.

Action 09-09-08: The Secretariat will acquire a copy of the recent southern and northern Beaufort polar bear population survey, delineating bear location. Steve Baryluk indicated he had a copy.

I. Ongoing Business - Muskox Plan (Tab 13)

Dorothy Cooley reviewed the Plan highlighting changes that have been made to the draft.

In general the beginning of the Plan remains unchanged except for one minor change on page five: the Alaska North Slope Muskox Harvest Plan has been added as a reference.

Action 09-09-09: The Secretariat will acquire a copy of the Alaskan Muskox Plan and circulate it to members in time for the December meeting.

Dorothy outlined the reason for the population goal set out on page 10 and suggested another possibility for Council to consider when management actions are discussed.

Dorothy reviewed changes to management actions:

- Action 1: surveys will commence in 2011.
- Yukon and Alaska would like to coordinate Richardson mountain population counts despite budget constraints.
- Action 2: this is not new, but is a budget consideration – GPS collars should be used for tracking because they are more accurate.
- Action 5: Dorothy encouraged the Council to think about this action in the context of how difficult sightings can be to confirm.

The Chair asked if more muskox are being seen in the Richardson Mountains.

Dorothy reported that two different groups at different times were seen in the last count and totalled 98 animals. Due to the lapse in time between counts, it is possible that the two groups were in fact a single group.

Dorothy discussed changes to the Harvest Management section. She explained how survey results and management direction in different jurisdictions have influenced harvest rates and outlined the Plan's new recommendations.

As laid out, there is the potential to have no harvest in the Yukon portion of the ISR and only one tag for the Vuntut. The remaining five tags would be taken in the N.W.T. portion of the ISR - all six would be subsistence tags.

The Chair commented on the potential for the two muskox populations to mix. He noted it could be challenging to manage the five tags for a population having shared management between the Yukon and N.W.T..

The Council discussed the implications for the Yukon population if the N.W.T. harvest remains unregulated.

A member raised concerns about a quota based on population numbers that have not been verified.

Dorothy questioned what the management objective is for the N.W.T. subpopulation.

The Chair reminded the Council that originally the Council was tasked with a North Slope plan and the minister has since requested that a range plan be drafted, which has caused the Council to play a facilitating role between the N.W.T. and the Vuntut.

Dorothy noted she had a recent request from the Vuntut regarding the status of the Plan.

Members asked Dorothy about the history and extent of the population. Dorothy clarified that that Yukon muskox are from Greenland and animals near Paulatuk are mainland muskox – two different populations, which is why there is the concern about genetics mixing, hence the genetics work.

The Council agreed to delete the section on page 16 outlining that a process for increasing, reducing or stopping the harvest of muskox be determined before harvest begins.

Dorothy suggested that the Council think about all the proposed changes to the draft so that a final draft is ready for the December meeting.

The Chair thanked Dorothy for all of her changes and suggested that as long as all the supporting graphs and charts are up to date it be signed off as a draft for distribution at the December meeting and then released to other parties. In December the Alaskan Plan should be reviewed as well for consistency between the two plans.

Dorothy said that she would like final approval on a survey schedule. The Chair agreed it would be done in December.

Christian asked if the Plan is not signed off if surveys would still happen.

Dorothy said that surveys could still go ahead, however the last survey was done in 2005 and they said they'd wait for a Plan before surveying again.

The Chair asked the Council for any final comments.

Christian asked about the process in which alternates are appointed to the Council.

The Chair said that the process is clear for Inuvialuit appointments; this is not the case for the appointment of federal alternates. Yukon's approach to the appointment of alternates appears to be largely administrative and not political.

Christian said that because nothing is written in the IFA, different approaches are probably possible. He suggested talking to Wendy Nixon, the former alternate for Canada on how she was appointed.

Action 09-09-10: The Secretariat will inquire with the Canadian Wildlife Service and/or Wendy Nixon to determine how alternate Canada members for WMAC (NS) have been appointed in previous years.

Christian said that because the federal WMAC (NS) position is vacant, and because he works for Parks Canada, the federal alternate should be from a different department such as the Canadian Wildlife Service.

K. Adjournment

The Chair thanked everyone and adjourned the meeting at 12:05pm.