



## MEETING MINUTES

WMAC (NS) Teleconference  
October 28, 2008

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**Lindsay Staples** Chair • **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Doug Larsen** Yukon Government (Member) • **Dorothy Cooley** Yukon Government (Alternate) • **Michelle Christensen** (Secretariat) • **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat)

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### **A. Call to order**

The meeting was called to order at 3:00pm.

### **B. Review and approval of agenda**

The Chair highlighted points about important agenda items. He indicated that there are five months left in the fiscal year to re-assign outstanding unspent IFA research funds.

The Council's comments on the Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management Plan are due by Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>. Doug reminded the Council that our comments are needed for the Working Group's Nov. 4-6 meeting.

The Council should finalize its response to Wayne Wysocki's report which reviewed the Arctic Borderlands ecological monitoring program for the upcoming ABEKC meeting.

#### *Motion 08-10-01*

*To approve the agenda for the October 28, 2008 meeting, as presented.*

*Moved: Danny C. Gordon*

*Second: Doug Larsen*

*Motion Carried*

### **C. Allocation of remaining IFA-Research funds**

Michelle walked the Council through the remaining IFA research funds and explained that of the \$182,000 available, \$174,000 was allocated, which leaves a total of \$11,600 left to be assigned. Dorothy explained that there will be an additional \$6400 of unspent money

across some of the Yukon Government projects (Herschel Island Monitoring and Black Guillemots), bringing the total unspent funds to \$18,000.

Michelle explained that there are a handful of projects that are potential candidates for the unspent funds: Dorothy's projects, grizzly bear project, wolf report, and muskox work.

Dorothy said that she does not need additional funds for her project this year. Ramona requires an additional \$16,000, pending receipt of IFA salary surplus funds, to complete the DNA work for the grizzly bear project this year. Michelle explained that Barney Smith is looking for money for the North Slope wolf report which was a research project carried out from 1987 to 1993 by Bob Hayes and others. The project was never written up. If the report is written up now, it may be able to inform the Harvest Management Plan in terms of predator/prey relationships.

Doug explained that before WMAC (NS) commits any money to the report, he would like to see a proposal including a budget.

A few Council members explained that they had not seen the report and were unaware of the project.

**Action Item 08-10-01: The Secretariat will send all members a copy of the North Slope Wolf presentation by mail or a web link.**

Danny explained changes that he has observed in wolf trends over the past 10-20 years. He said that he has noticed a big change in the numbers. He said that there are fewer wolves now; he sees more in the Delta, but very few in the hills. He said that once the wolves get into the hills people harvest them; he hasn't seen a group of wolves in over five years.

The Chair commented on the importance of the DNA analysis aspect of Ramona's work and mentioned funds directed to the project would be money well spent in contributing to research findings and potential management outcomes.

Michelle provided the Council with an update on the muskox work. She explained that GNWT was approached to partner in the project: they were not interested in supporting work on the Yukon side. Kris Huntermark in Fairbanks could likely complete the work by the end of March 31<sup>st</sup>. He also explained that the work would cost ~\$7000 but that he could try to work within the \$5000 budget.

The Council discussed holding off on the muskox work until there is more support from WMAC (NWT) and GNWT, because it is largely their issue. Since there is a person willing to do the analysis now, the Council decided that it was favorable to proceed with the work and to inform GWNT and WMWAC (NWT).

The Chair suggested that \$15,000 of the unallocated funds be redirected to the grizzly bear project and the remaining \$3000 be given to the muskox genetics work, which would bump up the genetics work to \$8000.

Of the projects outlined, Doug explained his view that the grizzly bear project was of highest priority, followed by the muskox work. The wolf work is also important, but writing up the report may not provide people with any more information than what is in the PowerPoint presentation unless further analysis is done on the data. The other factor to consider is that the information could be quite different now.

Dorothy explained that Yukon Government has already narrowed the scope of the work and asked Bob to write up Yukon's interest in predation information.

Dorothy pointed out that Alaska is a potential funding partner in the muskox work and that they run on a different fiscal year and may have funds available at different times.

*Motion 08-10-01*

*To recommended the amount of \$15,000 of IFA research funds to be spent on the North Slope Grizzly Bear Project and the amount of \$3000 of IFA research funds to be spent on muskox genetics work.*

*Moved by: Doug Larsen*

*Seconded by: Danny C. Gordon*

*Motion Carried*

**Action Item 08-10-02: The Secretariat will send a letter informing Stephanie Muckenheim at Yukon Government of WMAC (NS)'s recommendations on the allocation of remaining IFA surplus funds.**

Dorothy requested that WMAC (NS) provide her with a letter that describes the recommendations for the \$3000 to the muskox genetics work so that she can explain to Yukon Government the importance of Kris carrying out the work.

**D. Finalize recommendations on ABEKC review- Wysocki report**

The Council reviewed the draft Council comments and recommendations which are a response to Wayne Wysocki's report on the Arctic Borderlands data base. The Chair suggested adding that the Council accepts the findings of the Wyscoki report. A few more changes were suggested and incorporated.

**Action Item 08-10-03: The Council will send the Wyscoki report and the Council's response document to ABEKC and other partners.**

A Council member mentioned that if we accept the recommendations of the report, we have an obligation to make sure people know about it. The Secretariat will also post the report on the Council's website.

**E. Upcoming Meetings**

The Secretariat explained the following meetings:

- Yukon and Alaska Land Claims Symposium, Whitehorse and Teslin November 6-9, 2008. Not specifically related to the IFA.
- Arctic Borderlands Program Review, October 30, 2008. Michelle will be going to represent the Council.
- Parks Canada Visitor Experience Review, Inuvik, November 20, 2008. The Council agreed to send Doug. Ernest may also be interested.
- CARMA, Vancouver, B.C., December 2-4, 2008. The Council agreed to send Danny as he has been following these meetings.
- Arctic Change, Quebec City, December 9-12, 2008. Ernest is interested. The Secretariat will look into the JS participation budget. Lindsay is also interested. The timing of it is difficult.
- WMAC (NS) December Meeting. The Council agreed to meet Dec 15-18 in Aklavik. The Council will accept conceptual IFA research proposals at this meeting.

**Action Item 08-10-04: The Secretariat will send out a letter to all potential researchers requesting that proposals be delivered for the December meeting.**

The Secretariat will develop an agenda for the Aklavik HTC meeting in December and distribute it to members before sending it out.

The Council will also discuss themes for the North Slope Conference at the December meeting. In the meantime the Secretariat will canvas other organizations for their views. 2020 YFWMB conference, Nov 26-28. The Secretariat will look into it to find out more details.

#### **F. IFA evaluation survey**

Michelle explained that INAC is conducting a survey of the effectiveness of land claims agreements and the IFA has been selected for review. It is a short survey; once members have completed the survey they can send it to Michelle for submission.

#### **G. Adjournment**

The Chair concluded the meeting, explaining that comments will be sent out within the week on the Porcupine Caribou Harvest Management Plan.

The Chair thanked everyone for their participation on the call.  
The meeting was adjourned at 4:12pm.

*Motion to adjourn the meeting.*

*Moved: Ernest Pokiak*

*Second: Doug Larsen*

*Motion carried*