



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

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MINUTES

WMAC (NS) QUARTERLY MEETING

Inuvik Centennial Library

December 14-15, 1999

December 14, 1999

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Joan Eamer – Canadian Wildlife Service – Member – Government of Canada
Danny C. Gordon – Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Herbert Felix – Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Alan Fehr – Parks Canada – Alternate – Government of Canada
Dorothy Cooley – Regional Biologist – Alternate – Yukon Territorial Government
Alice Hartling – WMAC(NS) Acting Secretariat

Guests: Ron Larsen, Chief Park Warden, Ivvavik National Park, Parks Canada, Inuvik
Steve Travis, Ivvavik National Park, Parks Canada, Inuvik
Hillarie Greening – District Planner, Parks Canada, Inuvik
Ian McDonald, Parks Canada, Inuvik

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:15 AM. All were welcomed.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda. Among the items that need to be covered during the meeting are Wildlife Management and Research proposals for 1999/2000 and 2000/2001.

The following items were discussed and added to the agenda: Future newsletters and WEB placement; status of YNS poster. The presentation from Parks Canada will be at 4 PM on Tuesday. Also, a time will be arranged in January for an Aklavik open house.

Motion

To adopt the agenda, as amended

Moved: Danny C. Gordon

Second: Joan Eamer

Motion carried

C. Review of Action Items of September 27-28, 1999 meeting

Outstanding Items

Action 98-12-09: Dorothy Cooley will prepare a summary of the actions and funding required to produce a final version of the muskox school unit. Dorothy is to send the summary to Alan Fehr for his review.

Completed.

Action 98-05-04: Dorothy Cooley will expand the report she wrote on Danny C. Gordon's survey to include other aspects of the ground survey method, such as the aspects of community-based involvement and interest, as well as the Council's perspectives.

Outstanding. Dorothy to contact Lindsay.

Action 99-05-05: Alan Fehr will pursue how to best inform the appropriate schools about the muskox school unit and suggest ways to integrate the unit into to current curriculum.

Outstanding.

Action 99-05-21: The draft Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan will be reviewed by the Council during its September meeting.

Outstanding.

Action 99-05-22: WMAC(NS) will write to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee to determine if there is any interest in considering the land management options for the special areas on the Yukon North Slope which are identified in the Aklavik Community Conservation Plan.

Revise. The Chair will discuss the issues around protected areas with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee Board of Directors to determine if there is any interest in considering the land management options for the special areas on the Yukon North Slope which are identified in the Aklavik Community Conservation Plan and to determine how the HTC wants to proceed with this issue.

Current items

Action 99-09-01: The Secretariat will distribute copies of the report titled 'Obtaining Permanent Protection for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge in Alaska' to members.

Completed.

Action 99-09-02 : The Secretariat is to prepare background materials to be made available at the Yukon North Slope coastal zone planning workshop.

Retired and deferred for future consideration.

Action 99-09-03 : The Secretariat will call Billy Archie to encourage him to forward Ann Munier's report on the Aklavik HTC's Culture and Science camp to the other HTCs.

Completed.

Action 99-09-04: An item on how the Council can contribute to summer camp initiatives will be added to the agenda of the March 2000 meeting.

Completed.

Action 99-09-05: The Secretariat will distribute copies of Statistics Canada report on the Inuvialuit Harvest Study to Joan Eamer and Harvey Jessup.

Completed.

Action 99-09-06 : WMAC(NS) will draft a communications protocol, addressing the need to establish clear lines of communication between all parties responsible for resources management on the Yukon North Slope. The draft is to be circulated in November so that it can be discussed and recommended at the Council's December meeting.

Outstanding. The Chair will draft Communication Protocol/ Guidelines.

Action 99-09-07 : WMAC(NS) will write to the YTG Parks Branch regarding the Yukon Wilderness Tourism Act. The letter will convey the Council's discussion on the Act including the need for the Branch to look at the consistency in the licencing requirements

between the two territories, the clarification of the requirements to local interests and the need for a licencing outlet in Inuvik.

Completed.

Action 99-09-08 : WMAC(NS) will forward the letter dated June 28, 1999 regarding the Yukon's Development Assessment Process to the Inuvialuit Game Council and the Environmental Impact Screening Committee and Review Board.

Completed.

Action 99-09-09 : WMAC(NS) will forward the list of issues related to Herschel Island Territorial Park that have been identified by Council members to Dave Ledret.

Completed.

Action 99-09-10 : WMAC(NS) will write to the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation and the Aklavik Community Corporation regarding the restoration and maintenance of Inuvialuit gravesites on Herschel Island.

Outstanding. This issue needs to be addressed at Herschel Island Management Plan discussion. The Council should also meet with Aklavik Elders Council to discuss this issue.

Action 99-12- 01: The Secretariat will contact Billy Archie to arrange a meeting with the Aklavik Elders Council to discuss their position on the restoration and maintenance of Inuvialuit gravesites on Herschel Island.

It was suggested that a meeting could correspond with an open house in Aklavik.

Action 99-09-11 : WMAC(NS) will write to Art Hoole to thank him for his support of the Council and Inuvialuit interests during his time as Director of YTG's Fish and Wildlife Branch.

Completed.

Action 99-09-12 : WMAC(NS) will send the fact sheet on the immobilisation drug used in the muskox collaring to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee.

Completed.

Action 99-12-02: The Secretariat will initiate the development of a library of fact sheets on select topics, such as quotas and monitoring.

Action 99-09-13 : WMAC(NS) will write to the Inuvialuit Game Council outlining the Council's discussion regarding the immobilisation drug that was used during the muskox collaring. The letter is to inform the IGC that the Council's concerns regarding the use of the drug and the lost dart had been satisfactorily addressed. A copy of the fact sheet on the drug used in the muskox collaring is to be attached.

Completed.

Action 99-09-14 : The Secretariat will develop a budget for a Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan implementation workshop and a Yukon North Slope Coastal Planning workshop.

Completed. A budget for the Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan implementation workshop was completed. The Budget for a Yukon North Slope Coastal Planning workshop was deferred..

Action 99-09-15 : Council members will review the Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan Guide for Researchers and forward their comments to the Secretariat by November 30, 1999.

Revised.

Action 99-12-03: Joan to forward an electronic version of the Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan Guide for Researchers to Secretariat. Edits are to be made based on Parks Canada's and the Chair's review comments. Copies are to be distributed to the IGC and AHTC.

D. Review and Approval of Minutes of September 27-28, 1999 meeting

Members reviewed the minutes of the September 27-28, 1999 meeting. The following changes were suggested:

Page 7 – remove the word “less” from the third sentence of the second paragraph; revise sentence to read: “Information is going one way only from the communities to the IHS manager, Management Committee and Joint Secretariat”; correct spelling of “IHS” in fourth paragraph.

Page 8- correct word ‘hunters’ in fourth paragraph

The Chair noted that the suggestion made by Danny C. Gordon regarding the collection of data was taken forward to the IHS Management Committee.

Page 13- Change the sentence in the fourth paragraph to read ‘Members have heard reports of poor communications...’; correct the spelling of Ladret

Page 15- in the fifth paragraph, the sentence should read ‘Canadian tundra ecosystem monitoring...’

Page 16- YTG contribution to WMAC(NS) should be changed to \$147,184 annually.

Page 18- add ‘Wildlife Conservation and Management’ to the reference of the North Slope Plan

Page 19- Revise first paragraph to read: “Danny C. Gordon commented that he felt much better about the use of the drug and the lost dart having heard Phillip’s presentation. Dorothy Cooley previously had given a presentation on the drug to the community; additional technical information was provided by Phillip to address some of the issues raised by the community.”

Page 20 – Revise IHS statement: “allocated towards the IHS”

Page 22 – Revise third bullet to read “Long Term Research Plan”

Motion

To accept the minutes of September 27- 28, 1999 meeting, with changes as recorded.

Moved: Joan Eamer

Seconded: Herbert Felix

Motion carried

E. Correspondence

Members reviewed the correspondence in the meeting binder. Correspondence included the following items:

- A letter from Piers McDonald to Robert Nault regarding YTG’s interest in proceeding to negotiate an oil and gas agreement related to the offshore that recognises the Yukon’s interest in this area.
- A letter to the Chair from James Moore, ADM, Northern Affairs Program regarding 19(3) of the Yukon Act.
- Legislative Gap in Canada’s Ability to Regulate Hunting and Management of Polar Bears in the Offshore – Correspondence from Canadian Wildlife Service

Action 99-12-04: Dorothy Cooley will forward a copy of the paper titled ‘Legislative Gap in Canada’s Ability to Regulate Hunting and Management of Polar Bears in the Offshore’ to John Russell.

- DAP letter from John Bailey of DIAND (lead Federal DAP Negotiator) to Duane Smith. The letter outlines the differences that will exist between DAP and the EIRB. Bailey explains that two assessment processes will not duplicate each other and that the IFA has precedent over the UFA.
- A letter from Roger Horner to the Chair regarding Inuvialuit participation in the North Yukon Regional Planning Process.
- A letter in response to the above. The Chair recommends that Roger Horner contact the IGC regarding the withdrawal of the Yukon North Slope and ISR from any planning process in North Yukon and that the Inuvialuit be consulted throughout the planning process on any issue that may affect their interests.
- A letter from Alan Fehr, Parks Canada, regarding the opportunities for educational field trips.
- A notification for the North American Moose Conference and Workshop for June 5-10, 2000 in Whitehorse.
- A notification the Millennium Trek and request for support to protect ANWR.

F. Financial Report – December 1999 statement

The Chair reviewed the December 1999 statement.

A discussion was held regarding the reallocation of funds in the Council's budget. Several categories are showing surplus fund that can be used to cover expenses in other areas. It was agreed that funds allocated to coastal zone planning should be reallocated to the long term research plan in order to cover the expenses of the upcoming implementation workshop.

Action 99-12-05: Alan Fehr will review the long term research plan and identify what Parks Canada is interested in working on, set priorities, identify opportunities and who is doing what.

In reference to the youth intern position, the members agreed to the hiring of a youth intern to assist in the completion of the Wildlife Conservation Management Plan. The intern will work with partners to update the plan. The intern needs to work closely with the Chair to build on what has already been done and facilitate the inclusion of all the other plans. The Council's budget includes \$8000 to fund the position. Members agreed that additional funds should be allocated to cover the costs of the intern's travel to the communities.

Action 99-12- 06: The Secretariat will prepare the terms of reference for the youth intern and circulate it to members for review.

Action 99-12-07: An allocation of \$4,000 from the Council's budget is be used for one of the Herschel Park rangers from Aklavik to attend EMAN meetings in Toronto in January. The Secretariat is to make any necessary arrangements.

Action 99-12-08 : The Council will hold a conference call in early February to consider the allocation of unspent funds.

G. Old Business

1. Grizzly Bear Management

In preparation for the afternoon's meeting between WMAC(NWT) and WMAC(NS), the Council discussed plans for a workshop being proposed by the GNWT. The workshop is being planned for early 2000 and will discuss issues regarding quotas and the many different views around quota techniques. The Council needs to discuss these issues further in the next two days so as to provide comments to GNWT.

Minutes from joint meeting between WMAC(NS) and WMAC(NWT) are attached as Appendix A

Council members had a discussion regarding priorities for the Grizzly Bear Workshop. Members discussed issues around historical quotas, various methods of population counts, sport hunting and other factors that effect grizzly populations. Alan Fehr said he would like to see the workshop utilize resource people and get feedback from locals, especially the AHTC's view of grizzly management and what has worked and what hasn't.

2. Muskox Management

The Chair reported on the one day Muskox meeting held the week before in Anchorage. Ron Larsen, Brian Pelchat, Dorothy Cooley, Lindsay Staples, Duane Smith and Dennis Arey all attended. The Alaskan contingent consisted of federal and state Fish and Wildlife representatives as well as representatives from Barrow and Kaktovik.

Action 99-12-09: The Chair will write a memo to file on the meeting held in Anchorage regarding the management of muskox on the North Slope.

Ron Larsen gave a summary of the meeting. He told the Council that the Alaskans use similar techniques for population estimates and that agreeing on a 5% harvest came with many compromises. They have decided upon special quotas around important areas (i.e. increased quotas in areas which are critical for caribou). Ron also said that the Alaskans appear to be more polarised over the issue of muskox than in the Yukon.

The Chair discussed how the meeting was useful for co-ordinating efforts around muskox management. Sharing harvest information, integrating survey methodology, and working

together on co-management plans would be useful for both jurisdictions. Alaska is to take the lead on developing a population management plan which would include the Yukon. They also discussed forming an informal technical committee, having regular meetings and having Inuvialuit/ Inupiat co-ordination. Canadian representatives agreed to have a finalised management plan and a quota recommendation for the YNS in the next 6 months. 2002 was the deadline for completion of the Alaska North Slope Muskox Management Plan.

Drafts of the Yukon North Slope Draft Muskox Management Plan were circulated between Alaska and the Yukon. The plan does not need much to finish it off. Dorothy and Ian McDonald will work to do so by the end of March. It was noted that RWED and Gwich'in input is missing. Dorothy and Ian need to address that. The Plan is not attempting to go beyond ISR but should be mindful of sharing information.

Action 99-12-10: Dorothy Cooley and Ian McDonald will complete a draft of the Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan by March 2000.

3. Ivvavik National Park – Management Plan review

Hillarie Greening, District Planner, Parks Canada, Inuvik, reported on the review process for the management plan for Ivvavik. She presented a *Scoping Document* that summarises the goals and objectives of the review process, steps in the planning process, the timeframe and the issues to be address. She also presented a summary of public input that included meetings at Inuvik, Aklavik, Whitehorse, Dawson and Old Crow.

As a result of public consultations and internal work at Parks Canada, three main issues have been identified: day use, Sheep Creek operation centre and aircraft disturbances. Options for these issues were summarized in the handout. A January 13th meeting in Inuvik will evaluate these options.

The Council agreed to discuss these options so as to give direction to Parks Canada. As well someone will be named to follow this process.

4. 1999/2000 Wildlife Management and Research Proposals

a) Re-survey Moose from the Richardson Mountains to the Babbage River

In order to effectively manage moose in the ISR it is necessary to determine the exact size of the population. Current moose management guidelines recommend periodic re-surveys of the area to assess the impact of harvest on the moose population. It has been 10 years since the last survey in the area.

Moose management biologist, Rick Ward, YTG, has proposed that in March 2000, a YTG survey leader and at least one local observer will participate in a five day survey.

Thirty-six hours of helicopter time will be used to survey the moose from the West Mackenzie Channel to the Babbage River.

There was a discussion regarding this project as Danny C. Gordon commented that he would like to see the project study area boundaries be expanded to include the Babbage River, due to the interest by Aklavik and Parks Canada in this area. Members agreed to increase funds recommended to this project by \$7,700, to a total of \$38,400, in order to provide for the inclusion of the Babbage River in this survey. Parks Canada agreed to contribute \$4000 to this expanded survey. The Council recommended that the remaining \$34,400 be funded through YTG's IFA implementation funds for wildlife management.

b) Inuvialuit Harvest Study

Council members recommended a further \$12,500 be contributed to the Inuvialuit Harvest Study. This represents a portion of YTG's annual contribution.

c) Porcupine Caribou Satellite Program

Dorothy Cooley presented a proposal for the Porcupine Caribou Satellite Program. In order to ensure the effective management of the Porcupine Caribou Herd, it is necessary to support research that provides insight to the habitats and behaviours of the herd.

In 1997/98, WMAC(NS) sponsored 2 of 10 satellite collars on Porcupine Caribou. Other co-operating agencies were Canadian Wildlife Service, the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board, the US Fish and Wildlife Service and the Porcupine Caribou Management Board. In March and June 1999, YTG replaced the collars with new transmitters that were supposed to last for 3 years. However, a transmitting error in 3 of the collars has given cause to replace these 3 in March 2000.

The total cost of the project is \$13, 820. Dorothy reported that funds will be requested from other sources as follows; Vuntut National Park - \$6000, GNWT - \$2000, and Canadian Wildlife Service- \$2000. The Council recommended \$4000 towards the cost of replacing the collars and satellite data retrieval.

d) Yukon North Slope Land Use and Wildlife Atlas

The atlas is intended to provide environmental assessment, land use planning bodies and wildlife management organizations with a wide range of maps covering wildlife distribution and habitat, land use and environmentally significant areas on the Yukon North Slope. The collection of hard copy maps will aid planners, managers and decision-makers by providing general and site-specific references for cultural, historical, wildlife and other land use information.

The atlas is now completed and has been distributed to interested agencies. WMAC(NS) has been covering the cost incurred on this project in 1999-2000. In order to recover its cost, funding is being requested from IFA Implementation Funds. The total cost of completing the atlas is \$8050. The Council recommended that \$6850 be allocated towards the cost of this project from IFA implementation funds. The balance of the required funds will be covered from the Council's budget.

Recommendations were summarized as follows:

Re-survey Moose from the Richardson Mountains to the Babbage River (YTG \$34,400: Parks Canada \$4000)	\$38,400
Inuvialuit Harvest Study	\$12,500
Porcupine Caribou Satellite Program	\$4000
Yukon North Slope Land Use and Wildlife Atlas	\$6850

Motion

*to recommend that the following amounts be allocated from the 1999-2000 IFA implementation funds for wildlife management: Re-survey Moose from the Richardson Mountains to the Babbage River-\$38,400 (YTG \$34,400: Parks Canada \$4000); Inuvialuit Harvest Study- \$12,500; Porcupine Caribou Satellite Program-\$4000; Yukon North Slope **Land Use and Wildlife Atlas - \$6850.***

Moved: Herbert Felix
Seconded: Joan Eamer
Motion carried.

Wednesday, December 15, 1999

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Joan Eamer – Canadian Wildlife Service – Member – Government of Canada
Herbert Felix – Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Alan Fehr – Parks Canada – Alternate – Government of Canada
Dorothy Cooley – Regional Biologist – Alternate – Yukon Territorial Government
Alice Hartling – WMAC(NS) Acting Secretariat

Guests: Hillarie Greening, Planner, Ivvavik National Park, Parks Canada, Inuvik
Dave Ladret- Special Projects Officer, Yukon Government, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Office
Doug Olynyk – Historic Sites Co-ordinator, Yukon Government, Heritage Branch

H. Members' Reports

a) Joan Eamer

Joan reported that the Sustain project renewal had been approved. It appears that Kaktovik will be included in the project, as well as a coastal and beluga component.

In reference to the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-operative, Kent Sinnott has working for the Coop since October and will remain until at least March. The proceeding from the fourth Gathering have been distributed. The next gathering will be in Old Crow, February 21-23. Things are running behind schedule on the community based monitoring. Annie B. Gordon and Susan Ross are the Aklavik community monitors and they have almost completed their work. The school in Aklavik has taken on a burbot liver study in order to fundraise for a Firth River trip.

The next EMAN meeting is Jan. 18-20, in Toronto. There is a move to develop a set of core areas that are monitoring productivity and species diversity. The 2002 EMAN meeting may be in Whitehorse.

b) Herbert Felix

Herbert indicated that he had attended the CEAA workshop – Arctic Environmental Assessment and was about to become involved in the Environmental Impact Review Board review of the Tuk Reindeer Project.

c) Dorothy Cooley

Dorothy told the Council that there was nothing new to report regarding the wolf sample analysis.

In reference to the muskox ecology studies, 135 muskox were counted on the Yukon North Slope, in March 1999. A group of 11-13 has been located in the Richardson Mountains as well as 10 near the Bluefish River, which would put numbers up to 157. Snow depths and densities have been measured close to the ITEX plots.

The survey and composition count conducted in July found 118 muskox of which 18 were calves (high) and 2 were yearlings (low). A discussion was held regarding the possibility of putting the muskox locations on the WMAC website. Dorothy responded that they could be posted on an annual basis. A monthly reporting would show too little movement to be of interest.

Herschel Island vegetation work was continued last summer by Catherine Kennedy, Scott Smith, Dorothy and Chris Burn (a permafrost specialist). Catherine found a measurable and visible difference in vegetation. Species diversity has increased as well as the amount of grass and lupines. They are working on a statistical design to see if it is possible to statistically detect changes in species composition. An ITEX site has been set up to do phenology measurements with 3 plots, looking at one species in each. These will be measured every year by rangers. There is also one permanent transect to monitor biomass and composition which will be measured every 5 years.

In reference to the Yukon Wildlife Act Amendments, Dorothy reported that follow up actions are being reviewed by Kelly Olson. A draft of the regulatory changes required is expected before the end of December.

The GNWT were not able to get collars from the bears in the Richardsons as scheduled in the fall. It has been proposed that the \$10,000 allocated to the collar removal be used to purchase and shuttle fuel to Aklavik to be used next year when the collars will be removed.

d) Alan Fehr

Alan reported that the clean up continues at Komakuk Beach. Parks Canada is working with Department of National Defence to come up with standards regarding waste. There was a meeting in Aklavik to address the issue of moving the fuel to Shingle. People in Aklavik didn't like that idea. They view it as Parks Canada's garbage. PCB's will have to be buried but Park Canada doesn't want to establish landfills in park. However, DND will move it only as far as Shingle. There is a need for education regarding this issue to ensure there is a high standard across the entire ISR.

Alan also commented on the public review of Ivvavik National Park Management Plan. Hillarie Greening will be integrating the Ecosystem Management Plan with WMAC(NS)'s Conservation and Management Plan. Parks Canada has hired a GIS technician and are buying a plotter.

I. Report from the Chair

Inuvialuit Harvest Study

- The IHS Management Committee held a meeting in Leduc, Alberta
- Discussed reworking and redesign of the Harvest Study.
- It was suggested to that the HSMC meet twice a year in order to maintain existing membership. As well, it was discussed to establish a local technical support group to advise on technical concerns. Group would be made up of representatives from various agencies plus JS, IGC
- The management structure was also reviewed. The program manager has been reworked to encourage regional hire
- A shortened species list, as decided upon by the HTC's, was proposed and will be circulated.
- An approved formula for projection of a total estimated harvest from the reported harvest is required.
- Discussed communication plan for the harvest study which includes timelines and products
- Confirmed 2 year commitment for funding from the various agencies.
- Agreement to push for sign off on the 10 year data.

G. Old Business (continued)

1. Grizzly Bear Management

Council members reviewed WMAC(NS)'s 1999-2000 action items from the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan.

1999-2000 Work Plan Actions	WMAC(NS) Actions/ Response
<p>Population Information</p> <p>2) Support the first year of the Richardson Mountains population study</p> <p>3) support the population studies recommended by the HTCs/ IGC/WMACs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council to participate in workshop planned for March 2000 • Pending workshop recommendations
<p>Habitat and Range Use</p> <p>1) Review with IGC and WMAC(NWT) the GNWT/ YTG/ Parks Canada recommendations on habitat classification methods and select method to use in ISR</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding

<p>2) Support the vegetation studies recommended by the HTC/ IGC/WMACs.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supported Herschel Island Vegetation Studies 1998, 1999 and 2000
<p>Harvest Management</p> <p>6) Work toward amending the Yukon Wildlife Act so that the definition of ‘cub’ is consistent with the Aklavik Grizzly Bear By-law and so that it includes arrangements to allocate and account for tags used each year on the Yukon North Slope.</p> <p>7) Work toward amending the National Parks Act to include provisions for regulations to manage the harvest of wildlife by aboriginal people in National Parks.</p> <p>7) Work on harvest regulations and make arrangements to allocate and account for tags used each year in Ivvavik National Park that is consistent with those used by the DRR-YTG and DRWED-GNWT.</p> <p>9) Explore alternate ways to manage the grizzly bear harvest eg. the points system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Will be addressed in changes to Wildlife Act regulations. • Parks Canada to table in 2000. Amendments will be passed. • Action pending changes to legislation (anticipated) • Discussions held at Council meetings and with Aklavik HTC. Council in support of Aklavik HTC’s request for a three-year harvest quota. • Will be addressed at March 2000 workshop
<p>Co-management</p> <p>1) Complete and distribute the video about grizzly bears and their management in the ISR.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding. Will be undertaken on completion of the video.
<p>Culture and Education</p> <p>1) Support and help with the project to translate the COPE tapes.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council is supportive of initiatives to have tapes translated and transcribed. Underway in Tuktoyaktuk at the Cultural Centre

<p>3) Help complete non-technical reports on the biology and management of grizzly bears in the ISR that includes traditional and scientific knowledge.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GNWT (John Nagy) has taken the lead.
<p>3) Give the Grizzly Bear Management Plan and the annual reports to libraries, schools and the public</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ongoing.
<p>3) Work on posters on grizzly bear biology and management issues in the ISR.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Underway by GNWT and YTG

5. 2000-2001 Wildlife Management and Research Proposals

a) Muskox Ecology Studies

This is the second year of a 3-year study of muskox on the Yukon North Slope. The survey work will be conducted in April 2000. The Council recommended that \$16,000 be allocated for the costs of the Muskox Ecology Studies.

b) Herschel Island Climate Change

The Yukon North Slope Long-term Research and Monitoring Plan identifies the need to develop long-term habitat monitoring, consider/predict potential impacts of climate change, support long-term research on ecosystem mechanisms that are sensitive to climate change and incorporate permafrost and soil temperature into climate monitoring. The proposed project is for long-term (at least 10 years) monitoring of several biophysical components of the Herschel Island ecosystem. The activities, proposed for the summer 2000, include permafrost temperature monitoring and a re-survey of vegetation species/soil activities that have shown dramatic change over the past 15 years. The permafrost monitoring will require the installation of a 3 inch diameter deep-core probe to monitor the temperature of the permafrost at a depth of 15 metres below the surface. Temperatures will be recorded at various depths for at least 10 years (minor maintenance will be required). Temperature trends at these depths will depict long-term climate fluctuations and provide a clear indication of the direction and magnitude of temperature change in the permafrost of the island.

The Council members agreed to support the project in principle but requested proponents explore other funding partnerships. The cost of the project is a one-time contribution of \$16,200.

Motion

to recommend that the following amounts be allocated from the 2000-2001 IFA implementation funds for wildlife management: Muskox Ecology Studies - \$16,000 and Herschel Island Climate Change - \$16,200.

Moved: Herbert Felix
Seconded: Joan Eamer
Motion carried.

Danny C. Gordon left the meeting in order to attend the meeting of the Inuvialuit Game Council

Ivvavik Management Plan

A discussion was held regarding the review of the Ivvavik Management Plan. Hillarie Greening reviewed the key management issues under review with the Council.

1. Day Use – Options

- Picnic sites, overnight camp sites
- More commercial opportunities – boat trips, guiding, flights
- No day use allowed

Presently, a stay has to be more than one day. There is no day use allowed. A one night stay is permitted although very rarely done.

There seems to be a demand from people of Aklavik to do boat trips and to have flight stop overs on the way from Herschel. Shingle Point could be set up as a camp in order to go into Park for the day, however, the feasibility of this is not known.

The Park would like to offer some appropriate day use activities, although a protocol would need to be established. The Park needs to consider the implications of more air traffic and the impact of more people.

In order to have day use a number of issues need to be considered. These include how much interpretative information would be needed and identifying appropriate places for day use activities.

2. Sheep Creek

Hillarie provided explanation of current Sheep Creek facilities. The options for the camp are:

- Could leave as is for operations

- Leave centre as is and open up for co-operative management groups and partners to use for management needs, research and education
- Down size centre while still providing space for minimal visitor interpretation
- Down size to a warden station

To down size would mean to either remove all but one of the buildings or build something that is more reflective of the landscape.

Expanded use could mean some interesting opportunities for research and for the people who live in the area: use for meetings, retreats, naturalists, etc. However, it would mean significant management and financial considerations.

At this point, there has been no comment from the communities about it. However, it is clear that the rafters don't like it.

A discussion took place regarding how Aklavik could get involved as the Park is also committed to providing economic benefits to the people of Aklavik. Having a facility may provide people with an opportunity for tourism. It was decided that Danny needed to be brought into this discussion. WMAC will also bring up this issue at the open house in Aklavik.

3. Disturbance caused by aircraft

Joan Eamer reported that the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-operative has already done some research into this issue.

Education and awareness is the key regarding flights. Pilots need to be aware of the effects of low flying on people and wildlife. The EISC has looked into this issue and should be consulted.

It was noted that Herschel has a central log book which may help determine how much air traffic is happening.

Action 99-12-11 : Joan Eamer will instruct Kent Sinnott to contact Hillarie Greening regarding information on aircraft disturbance which has been collected by the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-operative.

Action 99-12-12: Secretariat will contact Danny C. Gordon to see if he can represent the Council at the January meeting sponsored by Parks Canada which is being held to discuss some of the identified Ivvavik Park management issues.

12. Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan

The Chair reported that the Implementation Workshop for the Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan is scheduled to be held in Whitehorse January 26-27.

Action 99-12-13 : Secretariat will contact members in early January to discuss basic organisational work that needs to be done in preparation for the Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan Implementation Workshop.

J. New Business

1. Yukon North Slope Conference

The theme of the last conference, which was held in 1997, was transboundary partnerships. Climate change, international participation and building bridges were all components of the conference.

This year's conference is scheduled to be held in the fall. The theme needs to be broad enough that it can continue to include international representatives and also industry, especially oil and gas. The Council needs to consider recommendations on the theme and the chairperson. Some possibilities of themes could be the subject of change and new directions in the North. (ie climate change, contaminants).

Action 99-12-14 : The Secretariat is to review recommendations from the 1997 North Slope Conference to assess their status.

There is a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Whitehorse on September 21- 24, 2000. Due to Alaskan participation at this meeting, it would be a good to have the North Slope Conference either immediately before or after the AAAS meeting.

10. Herschel Island Territorial Park Management Plan review

The Chair welcomed Dave Ladret, Special Projects Officer, Yukon Government, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Office and Doug Olynyk, Historic Sites Co-ordinator, Yukon Government, Heritage Branch.

Dave presented a Scoping Document that outlines the review process, issues and potential options regarding how to proceed with the review process. At this point they are still waiting government approval to go through a public process at this time. He also stated that Cabinet had not given them permission to go to Aklavik for a public meeting.

Dave noted that the Council's concerns had been incorporated. Additional recommendations can be added should they come up.

The Chair expressed concern on behalf of the Council members over the fact that Yukon Parks were unable to pursue the review of the management plan. The Management Plan Review is an outstanding obligation and the objectives should be straight forward. The Chair then asked what work can proceed.

Dave said that they can only work on developing issues internally with minimal consultation.

The Chair reiterated that there were good reasons for doing the review and that there were no publicly contentious issues with Herschel Island Territorial Park. But without input from the communities of Aklavik and Inuvik then there is no point in proceeding.

The Council reviewed the document and provided suggestions to YTG Parks.

Action 99-12-15: The Chair will write to the Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources indicating that there is a need move along the process of the review of the Herschel Island Territorial Park Management Plan and begin consultations with the communities.

Dave will make further changes to scoping document and send it back out for comment. The Chair confirmed that there will be further opportunities for other issues to come forward. Dave agreed.

Dave also updated the Council on the hiring of a new head ranger for the Park. Kevin Johnson, a YTG-Renewable Resources Conservation Officer in Ross River, is on secondment for a year until March 31, 2001.

K. Next meeting

Members proposed March 21st is a possibility date for next meeting. The Secretariat will contact members to confirm a suitable date.

L. Adjournment

Motion

To adjourn

Moved: Herbert Felix
Seconded: Joan Eamer
Motion carried

WMAC(NS) Chair

Date

WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Date