



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

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MINUTES

WMAC(NS) QUARTERLY MEETING

**Aklavik Council Chambers
Aklavik, NWT
December 10-11, 2000**

**Joint Secretariat Library
Inuvik, NWT
December 13, 2000**

Sunday, December 10, 2000

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Danny C. Gordon- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Herbert Felix- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Dorothy Cooley –Alternate – Yukon Government
Alan Fehr, Parks Canada- Alternate- Government of Canada
Aileen Horler – WMAC(NS) Secretariat

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at noon.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda and highlighted the items that will need the most attention. In addition to a number of updates, members need to consider next steps in the review of the draft of the Muskox Management Plan, the Yukon North Slope grizzly bear quota, several research proposals and how to move ahead with coastal zone planning. Guests at the meeting will be Doug Chipertzak, DFO, and Dave Ladret of YTG Parks Branch.

Motion

To adopt the agenda.

Moved: Herbert Felix

Second: Alan Fehr

Motion carried

C. Review and Approval of Minutes of the September 11-12, 2000 meeting

Members reviewed the minutes of the September 11-12, 2000 meeting. Alan Fehr requested that the reference to the clean-up of Komakuk be changed to read “much of the clean-up has been completed”, as there are still some materials remaining that need to be barged out.

Motion

To accept the minutes of September 11-12, 2000 meeting.

Moved: Danny C. Gordon

Second: Dorothy Cooley

Motion carried

D. Review of Action Items of the September 11-12, 2000 meeting

Outstanding Items

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.

Revised. Dorothy Cooley reported that she had met with Danny C. Gordon to discuss the possibility of Danny doing more ground-based snow surveys again in March. This time the survey would involve taking students along with him. Council members commented on the value of doing ground-based work as well as the aerial surveys. The Chair noted that the intent of expanding Dorothy’s report is to show strengths and weaknesses of the two methods. It is important to demonstrate the benefits to the community of ground-based work.

Action 00-12-01: Dorothy Cooley will send an electronic version of her report on the spring 1998 muskox survey and ground-based monitoring to the Secretariat.

Action 00-12-02: Dorothy Cooley and Danny C. Gordon will prepare a proposal for ground-based snow surveys, to be conducted in the spring of 2001.

Action 00-12-03: The Secretariat will circulate Dorothy Cooley's report on the spring 1998 muskox survey and ground-based monitoring for comments. Comments will be incorporated along with a section describing the community benefits into an expanded report that shows the strengths and weaknesses of the two methods.

Action 99-05-22: 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.

Outstanding. The issue is to be raised during the next meeting with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee.

Action 00-05-08: The Chair will contact Wildlife Habitat Canada regarding future funding interests and potential involvement in the Herschel Island Climate Change project.

Revised.

Action 00-12-04: WMAC(NS) will write to Wildlife Habitat Canada to inform them of the Council's interests in finding partners to conduct habit studies on the North Slope. The letter will include a copy of the Yukon North Slope Long-term Research Plan and information on habitat work currently being undertaken.

Action 00-07-02: The Secretariat will contact a curriculum specialist to determine what needs to be done to integrate the information gathered for the muskox school unit into the current curriculum.

Outstanding. Pending receipt of the school unit from Dorothy Cooley. See action 00-09-01.

Action 00-07-03: The Secretariat will ensure that communication protocol developed by WMAC(NS) is added to the agenda of the Roles and Responsibilities workshop.

Outstanding. The Chair reported that the Roles and Responsibilities Workshop is still scheduled for January 24-26, in Inuvik, but that the issue of who is to attend is still not settled. The Joint Secretariat has the responsibility to organize the workshop. The workshop needs to be kept small and workable in order to get results and determine the working relationships between all parties. It was suggested that a good working group would consist of the members of the Joint Secretariat Board of Directors, one IGC and one HTC representative per community, and one representative of each government agency with implementation funding and a seat on a joint committee. The issues to be

addressed need to be identified in order to determine who should attend. (See Action 00-12- below)

Action 00-07-15: WMAC(NS) will write to all relevant organizations to inform them of the intent to conduct consultations on the Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan in the fall of 2000. The letter is to inquire as to their interest in being consulted and on what level. Copies of the letters are to be sent to YTG and Parks Canada.

Completed.

Action 00-07-16: WMAC(NS) will write to the Inuvialuit Game Council and interested Alaskan participants to propose that the next meeting on North Slope muskox management be scheduled for December 2000. The Secretariat will facilitate the organization of the meeting.

Completed.

Action 00-07-26: The Secretariat will send a copy of the Canadian and international list of species at risk to all Council members.

Outstanding. The international list needs to be sent.

Current items

Action 00-09-01: Dorothy Cooley will send a copy of the muskox school unit to the WMAC(NS) Secretariat.

Outstanding.

Action 00-09-02: WMAC(NS) will develop a draft of an issues questionnaire that should be circulated prior to the Roles and Responsibilities workshop. The questionnaire is to be forwarded to the Joint Secretariat for review and circulation.

Retired. The Council agreed that given the short time frame, it would be more helpful to provide a suggest list of discussion items. Issues identified were as follows:

- How to deal with issues, complaints, concerns? How are they dealt with? Who do you call? What is the process for communicating and resolving issues? This applies at all levels.
- Review of explicit mandates as established in the IFA for each organization attending to consider its role, responsibilities, reporting relationships and accountability.
- Process of review, approval and recommendation of research programs. How the process relates to each group. Establish timelines for recommending projects.

- Communications- who should be communication what to whom?
Communications between agencies on research activities.
- Improvement of communications between meetings in order to provide information and to consult. There needs to be more opportunity.
- Circumstances of authority and veto. Does anyone have veto authority?
- What is the process for consultation? Who, in what order, why and when?
- EISC- How are they communicating? What do they want to know? What is the relationship between the EISC and co-management bodies?
- Establish timelines for approving quotas
- What level of input do the various bodies have on transboundary issues?
- Who has the responsibility for developing and implementing management plans?

Action 00-12-05: The Chair will write a memo to the Chair of IGC, the Chairs of IFA Joint Committees and the Executive Director, Joint Secretariat, regarding the proposed Roles and Responsibilities workshop. The memo is to outline suggestions for the workshop's purpose and participation as well as a number of issues which should be addressed. The suggestions are to be presented as points for further discussions and recipients are to be encouraged to advance their thoughts to Norm Snow.

Action 00-09-03: The Secretariat is to arrange a lunch meeting with the Board of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee on Tuesday September 19, during the Yukon North Slope Conference.

Completed.

Action 00-09-04: WMAC(NS) Secretariat will develop a discussion document on a process for reviewing and recommending funding for North Slope wildlife management and research projects for review at the Council's meeting in December.

Outstanding.

Action 00-09-05: The Secretariat will contact the Clerk of the Senate Subcommittee on Aboriginal Economic Development in Relation to Northern National Parks to obtain more information.

Completed. More information was obtained but the hearings were postponed.

Action 00-12-06: The Secretariat will phone the Clerk of the Senate Subcommittee on Aboriginal Economic Development in Relation to Northern National Parks to inform her that the Council is interested in appearing at the hearings.

Action 00-09-06: WMAC(NS) will write to the YTG Minister of Renewable Resources regarding the need for a meeting this fall to begin the development of the Yukon Wildlife Act regulations.

Completed. The Chair reported that this item was raised when he, Norm Snow and Duane Smith met with the Minister of Renewable Resources in September. The working document on the regulations has still not been tabled. It was to be ready a year ago. The IGC will be raising this issue again when it meets with YTG representatives this week.

Action 00-09-07: The Secretariat will circulate the tourism guidelines developed by WMAC(NS), for members to review.

Outstanding.

Action 00-09-08: As an interim measure, YTG Parks Branch will be requested to provide an operations report for the 2000 summer season to the WMAC(NS) for discussion at the Council's December meeting.

Completed.

Action 00-09-09: WMAC(NS) will write to YTG Parks Branch to request that a workplan for the upcoming year for Herschel Island Territorial Park is tabled at the Council's meeting each December. The letter will also request an end of season report at the Council's September meeting and a report in the spring on preparations for the year.

Outstanding. A verbal request was made but it still needs to be communicated in writing. The timetabling of both the workplan and the end of season report need to be incorporated in the management plan.

Action 00-09-10: WMAC(NS) will write to YTG Parks Branch to offer them every assistance in the review of the Management Plan. The letter is also to encourage the use of any unexpended IFA funds to engage the necessary resources to ensure the prompt and thorough review of the Plan.

Completed. The Chair reported that he communicated the Council's offer of assistance during the September meeting with the Minister of Renewable Resources.

Action 00-09-11: The Chair will incorporate members comments into the draft SARA letter and distribute the revised version for review.

Completed.

Action 00-12-07: WMAC(NS) will consult with the Canadian Wildlife Service, the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and the Inuvialuit Game Council to

get their comments on any submission that is prepared for future presentation to the Standing Committee on SARA.

Action 00-09-12: Dorothy Cooley and Ian McDonald will confer with John Nagy in order to incorporate the GNWT's perspective on Yukon North Slope muskox management into the draft plan.

Completed. A discussion was held regarding who will be required to sign off on the plan. It was suggested that the transmitting of the plan to the appropriate government Ministers could be done in a covering letter rather than in the body of the plan itself.

Action 00-09-13: Dorothy Cooley will coordinate the community consultations on the Muskox Management Plan, with assistance from the WMAC(NS) Secretariat as required.

Ongoing. Dorothy reported that she had received three responses to the letter send out by WMAC(NS) on the upcoming consultations. The Chair noted that the Muskox Management Plan will be discussed further, later in the meeting as well as with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and at the IGC Research Meeting.

Action 00-09-14: The continuation of the ITEX monitoring should be incorporated into the Herschel Island Management Plan.

Completed. The Council members will raise this as an issue during the review. All monitoring should be included in the operations plan as a regular activity.

Action 00-09-15: WMAC(NS) will draft and transmit requests for proposals to incorporate traditional knowledge into the species reports of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan and to undertake a traditional knowledge study on the muskox.

Revised. There is a need to get traditional knowledge input to the species reports. The Chair commented that all that is required is to have the reports reviewed and assessed for accuracy. Elders can be asked to comment on what they think about what information is included in the report. The need for collecting local knowledge about muskox is a separate issue.

Action 00-12-08: WMAC(NS) will draft and transmit requests for proposals to incorporate traditional knowledge comments into the species reports of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan

The need for collecting local knowledge about muskox could be done in a workshop and could include people from Kaktovik and the NWT. This is an item to be raised with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and during the joint meeting with the WMAC(NWT).

Action 00-12-09: WMAC(NS) will discuss the possibility of conducting a workshop to collect local knowledge about muskox with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and during the joint meeting with the WMAC(NWT).

Action 00-12-10: The Secretariat will draft a proposal for a workshop to collect local knowledge about muskox. The workshop is to be held in Aklavik and include participation from Kaktovik and the NWT.

Action 00-09-16: The Secretariat will prepare a discussion paper for the December meeting as to what are the appropriate actions to initiate in regards to coastal zone planning.

Completed. Doug Chipertzak will be attending the meeting to brief members on DFO's initiatives in the region.

Action 00-09-17: Council members will review the Aklavik Community Conservation Plan and submit comments to the Secretariat by October 15.

Completed.

Action 00-09-18: An item on the enforcement of the HTC By-laws is to be added to the December agenda.

Completed.

E. Correspondence

Council members reviewed the following letters:

- A memo from Joan Eamer regarding the establishment of a Conservation Data Center. Members agreed to defer the discussion of this item until the next day when Joan is present.
- A memo from Kelly Olson regarding sheep hunting opportunities in the Northern Richardson Mountains.

Dorothy Cooley reported that sheep management issues will be incorporated into the Fish and Wildlife Management Plan for the Vuntut Gwitchin Traditional Territory. There will be a planning workshop in March. Members agreed that a letter should be written to Brian Pelchat regarding the Council's interest in being consulted regarding the plan. The letter should include reference to the Council's specific interest in the management of the region's furbearers, moose and sheep under the Vuntut Gwitchin Plan as well as in the management of muskox and grizzly bears which are managed under their own specific plans. The letter should also suggest consultation with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee to determine their level of interest in the contents of the plan.

Action 00-12-11: WMAC(NS) will write to Brian Pelchat, Chief, Regional Management, YTG Renewable Resources, to inform him of the Council's interest in being consulted regarding the Fish and Wildlife Management Plan for the Vuntut Gwitchin Traditional Territory. The letter should also include other items discussed at the Council's December 2000 meeting regarding this issue. Copies are to be sent to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and Parks Canada.

- A letter on the outcome of Millennium Trek
- Press release from the FJMC on the awarding of the Inuvialuit/ Canada Fisheries Joint Management Committee Co-operative Management Award to Lois Harwood.
- A letter from William Josie, Director, Natural Resources, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, regarding the consultations on the Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan.

Dorothy Cooley explained the process for reinstating the special protected status for muskox in Yukon First Nation traditional territories where section 19-3 of the Yukon Act has been repealed.

A discussion was held regarding the letter from William Josie and the VGFN's role in the consultations on Yukon North Slope muskox management. Members agreed that the letter raises further questions on the consultation process between the VGFN and the Inuvialuit. The Chair commented that Annex S of the IFA provides for the negotiation for agreements for co-operative management between Old Crow and the Inuvialuit in the area north of the Porcupine River.

Action 00-12-12: WMAC(NS) will write to William Josie, Director, Natural Resources, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, in response to his letter regarding the consultations on the Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan. The letter will acknowledge the desire to consult, reiterate that it is a plan for the Yukon North Slope and refer to Annex S of the IFA.

Action 00-12-13: WMAC(NS) will forward the letter from William Josie, Director, Natural Resources, Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, regarding the consultations on the Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan to the Inuvialuit Game Council.

- Agenda of the December 2000 Yukon Land Use Planning Council Conference.
- Two letters from Peter Usher regarding a consultation being conducted by DIAND as a step towards the development of a policy statement regarding the management of human activities in the barren-ground caribou calving and post-calving areas on federal lands.

The consultation requires participants to answer a large number of questions. Members agreed that a coordinated approach to answering all the questions would be a useful way to respond. Questions were raised as to who else is being consulted. Alan Fehr commented that the letter was not sent to Parks Canada. The Chair agreed to talk to Peter Usher to get more information.

Dorothy Cooley inquired if the Council had received a copy of the draft Porcupine Caribou Management Plan as review comments are due on December 22. The Secretariat reported that it had not, to date, been received.

Action 00-12-14: The Secretariat will contact Linda Hoffman to obtain copies of the draft Porcupine Caribou Management Plan and circulate it to Council members. A teleconference will be scheduled to review the plan, if necessary.

F. Financial

a) December 2000 statement.

Members reviewed the December 2000 financial statement. The Secretariat outlined the expenses to date in each of the categories and reported that most items are within budget estimates.

The Chair noted the over-budget expenditure related to the North Slope Conference and reported that it was, in fact, about \$4000 higher. This additional amount has been allocated to the Chair's and Secretariat's fees, and recorded as part of their regular duties. Members agreed that it is important to reflect the actual cost of the Conference in the financial statements and suggested that all the expenses associated with the conference be allocated to that specific line item.

Action 00-12-15: WMAC(NS) will write to the Yukon Government to summarize the Council's role in the organization of the 2000 Yukon North Slope Conference and to indicate how much time the Council spent on the associated tasks.

Monday, December 11, 2000

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

Guests: Dave Ladret, YTG Parks and Recreation Branch.
Doug Chipertzak, ISR Oceans Program Coordinator, Fisheries and Oceans
Canada

G. Report from the Chair

The Chair reported on the meeting held with the YTG Minister of Renewable Resources, in September that he attended along with Duane Smith and Norm Snow. They raised a number of issues including the review of the Herschel Island Management Plan, and the delays in the development of the Yukon Wildlife Act regulations. They also discussed the Development Assessment Process and raised concerns regarding overlap with the process under the IFA. As the proposed process stands now, any development on the North Slope will have to undergo two screenings- a DAP screening and an IFA screening. It was noted that DAP screens for socio-economic impacts where the EISC only screens for environmental impacts. Suggestions have been made that this limitation of the EISC can be accommodated through administrative arrangements. There is duplication at the Environment Review Board level. Alan Fehr added that Parks Canada obtained a legal opinion indicating a duplication in the review process.

In reference to the repeal of section 19-3 of the Yukon Act, the IGC and the WMAC asked the Minister for a copy of the proposed language for the provision.

H. Members' Report

Danny C. Gordon inquired if there was a report available on the progress of the clean-up of Shingle Point, as there are a lot of concerns in the community about how things are being done. It is important to make sure that things are being done the way they are suppose to be done. It would be good if Aklavik residents were able to see that things are being cleaned up properly. It would be helpful if people could have a tour of the sight to know what is happening.

Alan Fehr reported that the clean-up of Komakuk is almost complete, except for some of the barging. The plan is for the spill sight and landfill at Komakuk to be monitored indefinitely. In reference to Parks staffing, Herbert Allen and Mervin Joe are both applying for Warden positions. The Western Arctic District has produced an annual research and monitoring report for all three parks. It will be presented at the IGC meeting later in the week. Water and soil samples were taken at Stokes Point in the summer and Parks is waiting for the site assessment report. There are plans to do contaminant site assessments at about 20 different places.

Joan Eamer reported the EMAN North is putting together a strategic plan and a funding proposal to build a network across the north. They are trying to determine the needs of northerners for ecological monitoring and assessment. Joan will send a copy of the strategic plan to WMAC(NS) when it is ready.

I. Old Business

1. Muskox Management

The Chair reported that the Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan is in a final draft form. It now includes revisions made by Dorothy Cooley and Ian McDonald, and additions made by John Nagy on parasites and concerns about range expansion.

The Chair also reported on the muskox management meeting held the previous week in Anchorage included discussions on research, population counts and harvesting, on both sides of the border. The draft Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan was tabled at the meeting, with a request for comments by the end of January. Both federal and state officials in Alaska presented information about muskox in their jurisdictions. The population in ANWR is thought to be stable to declining. Annual surveys are being conducted on state lands. The muskox are expanding westward and their range is being redefined. The harvest rate is 5%. The Alaskans were very supportive of the work being done in the Yukon, including the establishment of a harvest quota. Meeting participants agreed to share mapping information, develop a muskox website and establish a co-operative management agreement. WMAC(NS) will begin the drafting of an agreement to be circulated to the Alaskans for their input once model draft agreements have been received from the Alaskans for consideration.

Dorothy Cooley distributed several folders of maps that illustrate muskox distribution and population on the Yukon North Slope over a number of years. Dorothy commented that she wants to add a few more maps before distributing the set of them. Members agreed that there is a need for a base map that shows the entire North Slope population.

Dorothy added that she would like the Councils view about placing one of the recovered satellite collars on one of the muskox currently found near Old Crow. Members agreed to support the collaring as these are considered to be dispersing animals, a lot of valuable

information could be gained by tracking them. Dorothy commented that she will have to get support from Old Crow before she would deploy the collar.

2. Coastal Zone Planning

The Chair welcomed Doug Chipczak, ISR Oceans Program Coordinator Fisheries and Oceans Canada. Doug began his presentation with an overview of the Ocean's Act and the Oceans Management Strategy. There are three tools that have been developed to implement the Oceans Management Strategy- Integrated Management (IM), Marine Protected Areas (MPA) and Marine Environmental Quality (MEQ). DFO will act as a facilitator for the OM Strategy in the Western Arctic.

A scoping group was formed last year consisting of representatives from IRC, IGC, FJMC, CAPP (Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers) and DFO. This group set up terms of reference for a steering committee that will guide initiatives related to the development of a management plan for ocean-related activities in the ISR. The steering committee will have a maximum of seven members made up of representatives of CAPP, DFO, FJMC, IGC and IRC. The steering committee met for the first time in November. They will be concentrating on Integrated Management. Doug is currently developing a communications plan for the IM activities.

As it stands now, the guidelines being developed for IM only include the marine environment- the Delta, the Beaufort, some of the smaller watersheds. Doug commented that he would like to see this extended to the broader coastal plain and involve DIAND and ILA in a land use planning process that would be part of the IM strategy.

A number of questions were raised regarding representation on the steering committee and the role of DIAND and the ILA. Doug commented that DFO is representing the federal government but that DIAND and the ILA have been asked how they want to be involved. DIAND has an interest in becoming a member of the steering committee. Questions were raised as to who is representing the co-management boards and councils and the communities.

Doug reported that a number of programs have been initiated in the Western Arctic as a part of the Oceans Management Strategy. Community-based marine monitoring will soon start up in Aklavik and Tuktoyaktuk. A working group will be set up in each community. In Aklavik this working group will consist of representatives of the Hunters and Trappers Committees, the Renewable Resources Council, elders, youth, the Aklavik Community Corporation and DFO. The plan is to start with small-scale off-shore monitoring. When asked about what types of monitoring initiatives are planned in which communities, Doug replied that the indicators haven't been selected yet. DFO hopes to get each community involved in the selection and wants to complement the activities of others, such as the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op are doing. The Chair commented that it is important not to overload communities on monitoring programs as it causes confusion as to who is doing what monitoring and why.

Doug added that other initiatives underway include a pilot project by Natural Resources Canada to monitor coastal erosion. DFO is preparing an ecosystem overview of the Beaufort Sea, with a draft report due in March. An 'Oceans 10' science program is being developed as a stand alone credit and non-credit course for high schools. A draft will be ready by March 31, with a pilot in the schools in the fall. The Oceans 10 curriculum will include a traditional knowledge component.

Action 00-12-16: WMAC(NS) will contact Doug Chipertzak to obtain a copy of the report on the Marine Ecosystem Health Workshop held in Aklavik, March 2000.

The Council agreed to consider a number of questions. How can WMAC(NS) participate in the integrated management process? What are the Councils priorities? What is the best way to communicate? Which tools would be mutually beneficial to WMAC(NS) and DFO? Members decided to discuss these issue again, latter in the meeting.

3. Grizzly Bear Management

The Chair commented that it would be better to defer the discussion on this topic until after the IGC research meeting and the meeting with the WMAC(NSWT) when Council members would have more information on the research being conducted and proposed by the GNWT. Any consideration of research proposals can be done later in the meeting.

4. Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan

The Secretariat reported that copies of the draft of the Plan had been widely distributed for review in the fall, including to all participants at the North Slope Conference. Review comments were requested by December 1st. Comments from the EISC, EIRB and YTG are still pending but expected shortly.

Action 00-12-17: The Secretariat will circulate review comments on the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan to members in January. The Council will hold a teleconference to determine how comments are to be incorporated.

Alan Fehr reported that he has heard comments to the effect that the Plan is too general and that more specific actions would be useful. The Chair responded that the Plan is intended to give broad direction but that it is still possible to include more actions if that is what is suggested.

5. Long Term Research Plan

a) Report from the Implementation Workshop, January 2000.

Members reviewed a copy of the report from the Implementation Workshop, January 2000. The Chair commented on the high quality of the presentation made by Fred Roots

at the beginning of the workshop and suggested that it should be published as a separate piece. Members agreed that Fred should be contacted for his approval and that the budget should be reviewed at the next meeting to see if funding can be found to publish the presentation in a small booklet form. It should also be posted to the website.

Action 00-12-18: The Secretariat will contact Fred Roots regarding the publication, by WMAC(NS), of his presentation at the Long-term Research Plan Implementation Workshop, January 2000.

Action 00-12-19: A link should be added to the Long-term Research Plan website to a printable version of the Plan.

Members discussed the next steps in incorporating the comments from the implementation workshop. It was agreed that a general summary, without the tables, should be distributed to the participants. Funds should be made available for a contract to incorporate the additions and changes suggested at the workshop into the Plan.

Motion

to reallocate \$2000 in the WMAC(NS) budget, from unassigned funds to the Long-term Research Plan.

Moved: Dorothy Cooley

Seconded: Danny C. Gordon

Motion carried

Action 00-12-20: The Secretariat will prepare a general summary of the Long-term Research Plan Implementation Workshop and distribute it to the participants, with a letter to inform them of the process being undertaken to incorporate the changes and additions suggested during the workshop into the Plan.

b) Guide for Researchers

The Secretariat reported that the draft guide had been widely distributed for review in the fall, including to all participants at the North Slope Conference. Comments had been received from several sources. The comments will be reviewed and the guide finalized in the new year.

6. Yukon North Slope Conference

The Chair asked members to comment on their impressions of the conference. In general, members felt the conference was a success with many good presentations. The facilitators did a good job and it worked well to have an Inuvialuit and non-Inuvialuit working together to facilitate each workshop. The participation of the youth and elders was important. Hiring someone to do the media for the conference worked really well. The reporting back on the last day took far too long. The opening remarks by Randall Pokiak and Tom Berger were good but too long.

Action 00-12-21: The Secretariat will prepare a memo to file on the 2000 North Slope Conference which includes the members comments and the Council's experiences in the organization if the conference.

Meeting with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee

The Chair welcomed Danny A. Gordon, Jacob Archie and Richard Gordon, Directors of the Aklavik HTC. The Chair also welcomed Dave Ladret, YTG Parks and Recreation Branch.

Muskox Management

- Lindsay Staples reported on the Muskox Management Meeting held in Anchorage the previous week. Representatives from the North Slope Borough, and Alaskan state and federal governments met with Duane Smith, Dennis Arey, Ron Larsen, Dorothy Cooley, Lindsay Staples and Aileen Horler to discuss issues of muskox population, distribution and harvest on both sides of the border. Meeting participants agreed to begin the development of a co-operation agreement on muskox management and to meet again next year to discuss common concerns and initiatives.
- WMAC(NS) members expressed their interest in holding a workshop which would bring together people who are on the land, to talk about what they have seen and what they know about muskox. The HTC members supported such a workshop. Everyone agreed that it is important to ensure that local knowledge about muskox is being voiced and listened to. It would be good to have a workshop that brings people together, from Sachs, Paulatuk, Aklavik and Kaktovik, to share their knowledge and experience regarding muskox. Learning more about how and if the presence of muskox effects caribou is of special interest.
- Jacob Archie expressed concerns about the presence of muskox turning the caribou away from their usual migration routes. He commented that caribou are not being seen in areas where they used to be and that it may be because the muskox are moving in.
- Consultations will begin soon on the draft Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan. The plan addresses muskox harvest and the quota. Dorothy Cooley explained that the proposed quota is for 9 muskox of either sex. This is based on 6% of the population of 150 muskox. Dorothy presented a series of survey and distribution maps for North Slope muskox and explained the results of the satellite program.
- Richard Gordon asked if it would be possible to have a sport hunt on muskox if the subsistence quota isn't taken. Lindsay Staples responded that it is possible but would be very difficult to implement because the Inuvialuit right to harvest muskox east of the Ivvavik National Park is a preferential right not an exclusive harvesting right. Any surplus muskox in a total allowable harvest not utilized by the Inuvialuit for subsistence purposes would first be made available to resident Yukon hunters. All the actions over the past five years have been to secure a subsistence hunt in Aklavik. It is important to first get a quota in place and see how that works.

Aircraft Disturbance

- Danny A. Gordon raised a concern about the amount of aircraft disturbance on the North Slope. There is an ongoing problem with both helicopters and fixed wings.
- Danny C. Gordon added that it would be OK if they were flying higher but they are too low and are harassing wildlife.
- Alan Fehr commented that the beluga monitors at Shingle Point were collecting information on the number of aircraft in the area, last summer. WMAC(NS) could contact the FJMC to see if these numbers are available.
- Richard Gordon commented that there are recommended flight levels but no one abides by them. Acceptable flying levels are set but it is only a voluntary compliance.
- Meeting participants agreed that to be effective the recommended levels have to be stronger than just a policy. There is no way to enforce the recommendations. The problem is with the airlines. They need more education on the importance of staying away from the wildlife.

Barging from Komakuk

- Richard Gordon raised a concern regarding the barging of materials from the clean-up of Komakuk. There have been reports that it is not being done the way it is suppose to be done. For example, there were reports that there were no sides on the barge. There are community concerns that the barging is effecting the wildlife. It is important to show the community that their concerns are being addressed..
- Lindsay Staples replied that this is a community issue. The HTC should follow-up with the company, the EISC and the IRC. It is not within the mandate of WMAC(NS).

Herschel Island Territorial Park

Dave Ladret distributed a number of documents related to Herschel Island Territorial Park, including a draft Training and Development Plan for the Park Rangers and a brief 2000 Season Summary. Dave made the following comments regarding the Park's management and operations:

- Next summer a site analysis of the gravesites will be conducted to determine the best way to deal with the existing problems.
- There are plans to construct a new sod house and an icehouse.
- Quite a lot of damage was done to some of the buildings by the recent storm. YTG will be hiring people from Aklavik to do the repairs next summer and for ongoing maintenance.
- A Training and Development Plan for the Rangers on Herschel Island has been drafted.
- The Park Ranger 2 position will be advertised in a couple of weeks' time. It will be possible to hire an underfill in this position and then provide the necessary training. A protocol document for hiring has been developed.
- Two cruise ships visited the island this summer, each with about 270 passengers. The Rangers observed 107 aircraft.
- In reference to the Management Plan Review Process, YTG has received a lot of comments on a number of issues. Dave was able to meet with the HTC in October to

hear their concerns and comments. The next step is to begin a public review of the identified issues.

The Chair commented that it is important to circulate the identified issues for review. He asked whether the supplementary plans, identified in the original Herschel Plan, were implemented. It is important to ensure that an implementation section is included in the new plan.

Meeting participants inquired about the interpreter position and asked how YTG was planning to manage the impact of visitors. Dave commented that he has been preparing an issues summary that addresses all the concerns that were raised by the HTC. This summary will be ready for distribution soon. Dave finished by saying he will be shortly returning to Aklavik to discuss the proposed changes and additions to the Plan with the community and to review the HTC's concerns.

Lindsay Staples thanked the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee representatives for coming to the meeting.

Council members met briefly with Billy Archie, Regional Contaminants Co-ordinator, IRC, to discuss his proposal titled 'Monitoring the Health of Arctic Peoples and Ecosystems and the Effectiveness of International Controls'. The main object of the program is to develop community-based monitoring in which harvesters can document and communicate observations of changes in wildlife in a systematic and useful way. A discussion was held regarding how the program would work and Billy asked for the Council's support in recommending some funding. Council members agreed to talk about the program when they met with the WMAC(NWT) and during their discussions of 2001-02 wildlife programs.

Wednesday, December 13, 2000

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

7. Inuvialuit Harvest Study

The Chair commented that there was not much new to report regarding the Inuvialuit Harvest Study. The Yukon protocol for accessing harvest study information has been approved, and generic protocols for accessing harvest information have been circulated to the Harvest Study Management Committee members. Efforts are underway to publish the 10 year data set as soon as possible. A meeting of the Management Committee is scheduled for that evening

8. WMAC(NS) Charitable Status

The discussion of this item was deferred to the next meeting.

9. Frequency of Population Surveys

As a follow-up to the meeting held the previous evening with WMAC(NWT), this subject will be discussed further over the next year.

10. Conservation Data Center

Joan Eamer commented that the memo she wrote to the Chair regarding the proposed Conservation Data Center was included in the binder as an information item and that no further discussion was required at this time.

11. Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-operative Annual Gathering

Joan reported that the next Gathering will be held in Aklavik, March 1-3. The theme of the Gathering this year will be climate.

12. Grizzly Bear Management (continued)

Both WMACs recognize the need for a population survey. Danny C. Gordon commented that there is a need to do a survey and adjust the quota if possible. This is a priority issue with the HTC. Danny added that Aklavik is asking to do away with the quota allocation boundaries, such as the NWT border. Dorothy Cooley responded that the boundaries were set up to distribute the harvest so that hunting pressure is not all concentrated in one area. The Chair added that under the IFA it is the HTC's jurisdiction to say where the Inuvialuit hunt will be conducted. The Council's mandate is to recommend a quota and provide comments as appropriate in its recommendation on harvest distribution. Members agreed on the possibility of considering a system which would allow for the maximum to be harvested from any one area before hunters would be required to move on to another area.

Danny reported other HTC community concerns included problems with tag distribution and the roll-over of unused quota allocations. The Chair noted that the issue of roll-over was never raised during the grizzly bear workshop last March by Aklavik hunters, although it was expected that they would.

Members agreed to reaffirm the existing quota resolution. The letter of transmittal of the resolution is to assert the need for a grizzly bear population survey on the Yukon North Slope and to acknowledge the need to address community concerns on this issue.

Action 00-12-22: WMAC(NS) will write to the Yukon Government, Parks Canada and the GNWT to reaffirm the existing grizzly bear quota resolution and to recommend that, in recognition of community concerns, the three parties get together as soon as possible to discuss how to proceed with conducting a population survey on the Yukon North Slope.

Motion

To reaffirm and move the existing grizzly bear resolution, and to acknowledge the need for a grizzly bear population survey to address the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee's concerns.

Moved: Danny C. Gordon
Seconded: Dorothy Cooley
Motion carried

13. Ivvavik National Park Management Plan

Alan Fehr reported that Parks Canada have received comments on the latest draft of the Ivvavik National Park Management Plan. Once all the comments are incorporated, Parks will go to Aklavik and meet for a day with the HTC and the Aklavik Community

Corporation to go through the Plan. The Plan will then be distributed to the various agencies for their final comments. The draft will then be ready for final recommendation.

14. HTC Bylaw Enforcement

Danny C. Gordon expressed a concern regarding the enforcement of Aklavik HTC bylaws regarding the hunting of whales. Danny reported that the bylaw was developed very quickly and not many of the hunters are aware of it. There needs to be more education so that hunters understand what is required of them. Members suggested that the HTC should write to the FJMC and DFO to forward their concern. The Chair agreed to convey this issue to Bob Bell.

Action 00-12-23: The Chair will convey the concern regarding the enforcement of the Aklavik HTC's whale hunting bylaws to Bob Bell, Chair of the FJMC.

15. YTG Trapper Education

Dorothy Cooley distributed a memo from Helen Slama, YTG Fur Harvest Technician regarding a proposed Yukon trapper education upgrading workshop for trappers in Aklavik. Helen is trying to set up a joint presentation with the GNWT. Dorothy explained that any trapper wishing to receive a Yukon Trappers License must have graduated from a recognized trapper education workshop. There is a \$100 fee for taking the workshop but that it is hoped the trappers will be subsidized. The Chair commented that it is important the fee doesn't prevent people from taking the course. Danny C. Gordon reported that the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee has agreed to support the workshop.

16. Coastal Zone Management (continued)

A discussion was held on the next steps the Council should take regarding coastal zone planning, in light of the presentation made by Doug Chipertzak earlier in the meeting. Members recognized DFO's interest in working with a variety of agencies as they develop their Integrated Management Plan for the Western Arctic. Questions were raised as to what is the Council's place in the development of the Plan, what is the timeline and how will the interests of WMAC(NS), Parks Canada and CWS be advanced.

The Council has a need to see certain work undertaken as soon as possible in order to be better prepared for any potential gas development off the North Slope. At the same time it is important not to lose perspective of the other issues which are relevant to the coastal zone of the North Slope such as the effects of climate change and issues related to Shingle Point and marine use of Pauline Cove. Members agreed that it would be useful to begin an ecosystem overview of the North Slope rather than wait for DFO to do it in a couple of year's time. There is value in doing a literature review for the area and looking

through all the old printed materials from the 70's and 80's. It is important to identify the issues and learn about the work that was done in the past. Council members agreed that the coastal zone covers an area that includes the coastal plain, the near-shore and Herschel Island.

Action 00-12-24: WMAC(NS will prepare a Request for Proposals to undertake a literature search of materials related to the coastal zone of the Yukon North Slope. The Secretariat will circulate the RFP to members before it is distributed.

Action 00-12 -25: The Secretariat will contact the EISC to inform them of the Council's intention to undertake a literature search of materials related to the coastal zone of the Yukon North Slope.

17. 2000-01 Wildlife Management and Research

The Secretariat reported that there is an unallocated balance of \$43,103.

a) Muskox Ecology

The Chair noted that three projects- the March muskox survey, the annual muskox fuel haul and the muskox satellite data fees -were recommended in earlier meetings, but still require a motion for funding. Funding required for the three projects totals \$35,635.

a) Porcupine caribou body conditioning

Dorothy Cooley explained the proposed changes in the body conditioning study. Danny C. Gordon reported that the HTC doesn't support the project, as they are concerned about people hunting just for the money that they would receive for submitting samples. The Chair commented that Dorothy needs to talk with the Aklavik HTC to address their concerns. Dorothy agreed and added that the project will not go ahead until she receives the support of the Aklavik HTC.

c) Porcupine caribou conventional collars

Dorothy distributed a proposal for the purchase of more conventional collars to be deployed on the Porcupine caribou herd in March 2001. The caribou census that will be conducted this summer is critical to the monitoring and management of the population. The more collared animals there are the more accurate the count will be. Each collar costs about \$1200 to purchase and deploy. A number of other agencies have already committed funds to purchase collars. Members agreed that it is important to support this program and recommended \$4500 for the purchase of 3 collars.

d) Tundra swans

Council members considered a proposal submitted by Heather Swystun, a graduate student at the University of Northern British Columbia. The objective of the study is to develop a way to monitor Tundra swans as an indicator of environmental health. Heather was requesting \$5000 to fund a traditional knowledge study in Aklavik as one component of the research.

Questions were raised as to the benefit of this research to Aklavik and whether the HTC and RRC in Aklavik had been contacted for their approval and to secure their participation. Danny C. Gordon reported that he didn't think that the HTC was aware of this proposal. It must be clear that the community is willing to participate in order to conduct a traditional knowledge study. Council members agreed to support this project in principle, to a maximum of \$3000, contingent on the researcher securing the participation of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and local hire.

Action 00-12-26: The Secretariat will contact Heather Swystun to inform her of the Council's support for her project, contingent the participation of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and local hire.

Motion

To recommend \$16,000 be allocated toward the March muskox survey; \$6,135.00 to the annual muskox fuel haul; \$13,5000 to the Muskox satellite data fees; and \$4500 toward the purchase of conventional collars for the caribou census, in the 2000-01 fiscal year. The Council also gives approval- in-principle of \$3000 to Heather Swystun's Tundra Swan study, contingent on the researcher securing the participation of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and local hire.

Moved: Danny C. Gordon

Seconded: Joan Eamer

Motion carried.

18. 2001-02 Wildlife Management and Research

As a follow-up to the meeting the previous evening with members of the WMAC(NWT), a discussion was held regarding the kinds of projects which should be considered for 2001-02. Once the minutes of the joint meeting are completed, a package of proposals should be put together for the Council to review. This package should include proposals for a local knowledge study of muskox, sheep surveys in Ivvavik and a grizzly bear population count.

Action 00-12-27: The Secretariat will prepare a package of proposals for 2001-02 wildlife management and research project for Council members to review in February.

J. Next Meeting

No discussion was held regarding the time or location of the next meeting.

K. Adjournment

Motion

To adjourn.

Moved: Herbert Felix
Seconded: Dorothy Cooley
Motion carried

WMAC(NS) Chair

Date

WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Date