



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

P.O. Box 31539, Whitehorse, Y.T. Y1A 6K8 Canada

Telephone: (867) 633-5476 Fax: (867) 633-6900

E-mail: wmacns@web.ca www.taiga.net/wmac

MINUTES

WMAC(NS) QUARTERLY MEETING

Aklavik Dec 10-11, 2001

Inuvik Dec 13, 2001

Monday December 10, 2001

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Danny C. Gordon- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Herbert Felix- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Doug Larsen – Member- Yukon Government
Joan Eamer- Member- Government of Canada- Canadian Wildlife Service
Aileen Horler- Secretariat

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 4 pm.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Chair welcomed Council members to the meeting and noted that Dorothy will not be attending due to a family obligation. The Chair reviewed the agenda and highlighted the items that need the most attention. These include the Muskox Management Plan, the Council's budget and the Species at Risk Act. Dave Ladret and Richard Gordon will be attending the meeting on Thursday, in Inuvik. Members commented on the quality of the reports provided by Richard Gordon at the Council's last meeting and on how well he is carrying out his duties as the Senior Park Ranger on Herschel Island.

Action 01-12-01: WMAC(NS) will write a letter to Richard Gordon to acknowledge the good work he has done over the past year as a Park Ranger on Herschel Island Territorial Park. A copy of the letter is to be sent to Eric Val, Yukon Parks and Protected Areas Secretariat and to Duane Smith of the Inuvialuit Game Council.

Motion

To adopt the agenda.

Moved: Danny C. Gordon

Second: Joan Eamer

Motion carried

Tuesday December 11, 2001

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Danny C. Gordon- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Herbert Felix- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Doug Larsen – Member- Yukon Government
Joan Eamer- Member- Government of Canada- Canadian Wildlife Service
Alan Fehr- Alternate- Government of Canada- Parks Canada (late afternoon only)
Aileen Horler- Secretariat

Guests: Ron Larsen- Parks Canada
Ian McDonald- Parks Canada
Eric Chernoff- Environmental Impact Review Board

C. Review and Approval of Minutes of the October 15-16, 2001

Members reviewed the minutes of the October 15-16, 2001. No changes were made to the minutes.

Motion

To accept the minutes of the October 15-16, 2001 meeting.

Moved: Joan Eamer

Second: Herbert Felix

Motion carried

D. Review of Action Items

A written status report on action items was distributed. Comments were made regarding the following actions:

Action 01-10-01: WMAC(NS) will draft a Request for Proposals to retain a contractor who can prepare and implement a proposal for the development of a communication and educational package on Yukon North Slope muskox.

The Secretariat distributed a draft of an RFP for the preparation and implementation of a proposal for the development and production of educational materials and communication products related to Yukon North Slope muskox. Members reviewed the draft and commented that what is needed is an overall multi-year communications strategy which should include how to relay and gather required information. This should include a review of annual population information and communications associated with the implementation of the muskox management plan. Changes to the RFP are to be made by the Secretariat before it is distributed.

Action 00-09-04: WMAC(NS) will develop a discussion document on a process for reviewing and recommending funding for North Slope wildlife management and research projects.

The Secretariat distributed a draft document titled “The Process for Reviewing and Recommending Projects and Funding for Yukon North Slope Wildlife Management and Research Programs” Members reviewed the document and made suggestions for additions to a number of points.

Action 01-12-02: The Secretariat will ensure that the document titled “The Process for Reviewing and Recommending Projects and IFA Funding for Yukon North Slope Wildlife Management and Research Programs” is added to the Yukon North Slope Research Guide, both on the website and in future hard copies. Copies are to be mailed to the Inuvialuit Game Council, the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, Parks Canada, the Canadian Wildlife Service, Yukon Government’s Department of Renewable Resources, Government of the Northwest Territories’ Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, Environmental Impact Screening Committee Wildlife Management Advisory Council (NWT) and the Environmental Impact Review Board

Action 01-05-08: WMAC(NS) will obtain a copy of YTG’s past correspondence regarding North Slope harvest information requirements and forward it to the other co-management bodies and Chair of the Inuvialuit Harvest Study Management Committee.

Completed. The Secretariat received the required information and no further action is required. Members commented that the way in which harvest is reported should be an item discussed at the joint meeting with WMAC(NWT). Ron Larsen added that a number of management plans refer to the Inuvialuit Harvest Study as being the mechanism to collect harvest information.

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.

Outstanding.

Action 01-05-01: WMAC(NS) will contact the new Acting Director of the Yukon Parks and Protected Areas Branch to discuss land management options for the special areas on the Yukon North Slope which are identified in the Aklavik Community Conservation Plan.

Outstanding.

Action 01-05-11: WMAC(NS) will provide COSEWIC with the Council's response to the list of a species assessed in the Yukon.

Outstanding. This issue needs to be dealt with later in the meeting.

Action 01-05-15: WMAC(NS) will write to those who provided comments on the draft Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan, indicating how the Council responded to each suggestion.

Outstanding. The letters have been written but need to be distributed.

Action 01-05-14: The Chair will request that the IGC propose a meeting date for the Wildlife Act Amendment Working Group to review regulation requirements.

Outstanding. The Chair commented that he will raise this issue when he meets with the IGC later in the week. There needs to be a formal schedule for meetings to ensure that the work gets done.

E. Correspondence

Members reviewed the following correspondence:

- A letter from Alan Koprowsky regarding the allocation of YTG's IFA implementation funds during non-conference years. Attached to the letter

was a document titled 'Annex B- Yukon Workplan and Expenditure Plan – IFA Implementation'.

The Chair explained that this issue relates to the implementation funding that YTG receives from Canada and the negotiation of how that funding is to be spent. It was the Treasury Board submission that outlined and rationalized the funding for the implementation of identified tasks. This rationale was agreed to in discussions between officials representing federal, territorial, and IFA organizations (joint committees, Inuvialuit Game Council).

At these meetings seven years ago funds were identified and allocated for the Community Conservation Plans. A decision was also made at that time for the funds required for the North Slope Conference to be used for the implementation of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan in non-conference years. This funding has been made available for wildlife research on the North Slope, consistent with the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan, until this year, when some of it was allocated to cover expenses related to Herschel Island.

Members agreed that this issue raises several concerns. The Council should have been informed of the re-allocation of funds from wildlife programs to Herschel. It appears to be contrary to the agreement that was established between the parties and which formed the basis of the Treasury Board submission, and it has implications for other programs. A question was raised as to what funds will be available for the implementation of the Conservation and Management Plan. Further concerns were expressed regarding Annex B and the apparent obligation for the Council to implement the Plan. The Council was never informed of any of this.

WMAC(NS) needs to review the original documents regarding the North Slope Conference funding. Communications on these issues needs to be improved with YTG. Clarification is needed regarding Annex B and the responsibility of WMAC(NS) regarding the implementation of the Plan. It needs to be clear that the funds were assigned for the implementation of the Plan and not directly for wildlife programs or Herschel Island.

Action 01-12-03: Doug Larsen will arrange a meeting with Alan Koprowsky and the Chair to discuss issues regarding the allocation of North Slope Conference funds in non-conference years and the funding for the implementation of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan.

- A letter from the Chair relaying the Council's comments on the draft Yukon Environmental Socio-economic Assessment Act (YESAA).
- A letter from Robert Hornal (Chair, EIRB) relaying the EIRB's comments on the draft Yukon Environmental Socio-economic Assessment Act.

The Chair commented that the IRC is waiting to see the actual YESAA legislation in the spring. If the issues are not addressed then they will go to arbitration under the IFA.

- A letter from Alaska Fish and Game Department providing the results of the 2001 Porcupine caribou census.

The count shows that the population has declined again, but is still higher than it was during the 1970's. Danny C. Gordon asked at what population level will managers start to address the issue of population decline? Members agreed that this is an issue that the PCMB should be addressing right away. How low can the population go before hunting is stopped? The PCMB should be carefully monitoring the population using all available sources.

Action 01-12-04: WMAC(NS) will write to the Porcupine Caribou Management Board and raise the issue of how the board in the course of monitoring the herd's population will determine a sustainable harvest level.

F. Old Business

1. Muskox Management

The Chair commented that the recent Muskox Management Workshop in Aklavik was a success. It was well attended and a lot was accomplished. A summary report was prepared and distributed to all participants and other interested parties. The proceedings should be available by mid- January.

The next step is the distribution of population maps in order for local community members to report the locations and numbers of muskox they have seen over the past year. In order for muskox harvest quotas to establish, it is very important to determine, as accurately as possible, the size and distribution of the muskox population. Local observations cover both a wider region and longer time period than the aerial surveys. John Nagy has prepared the maps. In Dorothy's absence, it was decided that the Secretariat should distribute the maps with a covering letter of instructions and Ian McDonald agreed to follow-up on their completion and collection. A method for collecting local information on an annual basis needs to be established.

Meeting with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee Board of Directors.

The Chair welcomed Danny A. Gordon and Dennis Arey, members of the AHTC's Board of Directors. The Chair noted that Danny C. Gordon is also a member of the Board. The other HTC members are out of town.

The Secretariat distributed copies of the minutes from the last meeting with the HTC Board, which was held in June, 2001.

Grizzly Bear Management

- The Chair reported that the Council wrote to the Yukon Government Minister of Renewable Resources to clarify several issues that have arisen with regard to the management and harvest of grizzly bears on the Yukon North Slope.
- In reference to the additional bear that was shot in the area to the east of the Babbage River, the Council recommended no reduction in the allotment of tags issued by the Yukon Government to the Aklavik HTC for the 2001-02 grizzly bear hunting season. This recommendation was made on the basis that there is no over-harvest of grizzly bears in 2000-01 in the Aklavik Grizzly Bear Hunting Area, and that the conservation issue here is essentially a tag administration issue.
- Consistent with the AHTC bylaw, the emergency kill that occurred on Herschel Island in August 2001 will result in the assignment of 1 of the 11 tags for the Aklavik Grizzly Bear Hunting Area to that Herschel bear. Ten tags remain for allocation in the 2001-02 harvest year. In the letter to the Minister, the Council recommended that, consistent with their responsibilities, the Aklavik HTC should determine where the tag for the emergency kill should be assigned, resulting in one less available tag in either Ivvavik National Park (2 instead of 3) or the eastern North Slope (4 instead of 5).
- The letter to the Minister also recommended a population assessment of Yukon North Slope grizzly bear be conducted as soon as possible. The Chair commented that the two WMACs will be holding a joint meeting later in the week. The topic of how to proceed with a population assessment and quota review will be discussed.
- Additional work for the coming year includes a review of the ISR Grizzly Bear Plan.
- A discussion was held regarding the benefits and problems of having a three-year quota system. Concerns were raised by HTC members about the potential of using the entire quota in the first year.
- Another concern was raised regarding the zoning of grizzly bear tags. The HTC would like to see this reviewed. It is difficult to get over to Ivvavik to hunt. The Chair commented that it is up to the HTC to decide how the tags are zoned. Dennis Arey commented that as most of the problems with bears

occur near Shingle Point, the hunting effort should be concentrated in that area.

Amendment of the Yukon Act

The Chair reported that the Yukon Act has been recently amended to restrict any other native person in Canada from subsistence hunting on the Yukon North Slope consistent with the laws that are required to implement the *Inuvialuit Final Agreement* given effect by the *Western Arctic (Inuvialuit) Claims Settlement Act*.

- This measure would apply to all wildlife that is harvested on the Yukon North Slope that is recognized in the IFA and the related Yukon Wildlife Act regulations.
- HTC members commented that they are still interested in pursuing an agreement with the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation so that they can hunt on each other's land. The Chair agreed to raise this issue with the IGC.

Action: 01-12-05: The Chair will write to the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation, the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and the Inuvialuit Game Council regarding the issue of pursuing an agreement which would allow the Inuvialuit of Aklavik and the Vuntut Gwitchin of Old Crow to hunt on each other's land.

Bear Fences at Shingle Point

- The Chair reported that the Council had reviewed a proposal submitted by Ian McLeod to construct bear fences at Shingle Point. The Council did not feel that this would be an effective way to deter bears and was not going to recommend funding for the project. Dennis Arey commented that the HTC no longer supported the project either.

Muskox Management

- The Chair reported that a summary of the muskox workshop has been distributed.
- The next step is to distribute the location maps to each community.
- The Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan has been revised by Ian McDonald, based on the review done at the workshop. The Council will be reviewing the latest draft later in its meeting.
- The Council hopes to see the plan finished and a quota in place by the end of March.

Yukon North Slope Research Priorities

- The Chair repeated that WMAC(NS) will be recommending an assessment of the North Slope grizzly bear population during the upcoming year. Dennis Arey questioned the need for a government person to conduct the work. Why can't the HTC write a proposal and hire a contractor? The concern is with getting the job done not with who will do it.
- The Chair noted that the satellite collars need to be removed from the muskox in the spring. The need to continue some kind of monitoring program was

recognized at the recent muskox workshop. The HTC was asked to consider what interests they have in monitoring the population.

Yukon North Slope Species Status Reports

- The Chair reported that the Council still wants to proceed with a project to assess the Species Status Reports.
- A number of local hunters and people who spend time on the land would be hired to assess the reports on the basis of their traditional knowledge.
- This assessment would be done over a couple of days in a workshop format. There are currently 26 species in the report.
- The Council hopes to have this work completed by March.

The Chair thanked the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee Board of Directors for coming to the meeting.

Action 01-12-06: WMAC(NS) will write to the Aklavik HTC to inform them of the research priorities for the coming year identified during the joint meeting with the WMAC(NWT).

G. Old Business (continued)

1. Muskox Management (continued)

Ian McDonald reviewed the changes he had made to the Muskox Management Plan as a result of the recent workshop. As members reviewed the text the following comments were made:

- There is still a need to shift the focus away from the North Slope and WMAC(NS). The plan should now include other agencies and areas. For example, the objective under population management should include other wildlife management organizations as well as those responsible for the Yukon North Slope.
- The 'recommended by' page should be removed. The plan should instead be sent out with a letter of transmittal.
- Management of the entire population needs to be reflected throughout the plan.
- Under harvest management, the section on current status needs to include more than just the IFA. Add 'exclusive' to the sentence referring to Inuvialuit rights to hunt in Ivvavik National Park for subsistence. Also add the interest in the Yukon for a resident muskox hunt and opportunities for wildlife viewing.
- A list of actions should be sent out with a draft of the plan to ask agencies what they will be able to do. It is important to identify who will do what.
- The harvest allocation determined at the workshop should be added. Also add the process used to allocate the harvest over the four jurisdictions.

Members discussed the tracking of the harvest and how to determine if there is an overharvest during the year. In areas where the muskox will be hunted under quota it will be easy to do, but some regions won't require tags. Some sort of permitting system will be needed to keep track of the harvest.

Ian agreed to make the suggested changes to the draft as soon as possible. Members will review the changes and discuss the draft again in a teleconference.

2. Cumulative Effects Monitoring

The Chair welcomed Eric Chernoff, Resource Person for the Environmental Impact Review Board.

Eric's presentation to the members addressed the issue of cumulative effects initiatives in the ISR. Eric explained that cumulative effects is a way of considering the effects of all development combined. This is especially important now with the increase in hydrocarbon activity. One development may not be harmful but more than one development in the same area may be a problem.

The ALCES computer model is being used. This model provides predictions of what land will look like in 10-20 years, given certain activities. Eric outlined the history of the workshops and training sessions related to the use of ALCES that have been conducted to date in the area. ALCES has facilitated cooperation between different groups to work together on cumulative effects.

A decision has also been made to work toward the development of a regional spatial database. Eric has prepared a proposal describing what this database will look like. There is a meeting next week to discuss this idea further. ALCES will be an effective long-term tool, but the immediate need for information could be met by the regional spatial database. The database will cover the North Slope. All information in the database will be fed into the ALCES model.

Phase 1 of the process has been a Capacity Review, which is available as a draft report for review. Phase 2 includes two documents - Cumulative Effects Assessments in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region: A Guide for Proponents and Cumulative Effects Assessments in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region: A Guide for Reviewers. Both of these documents are now in draft. The draft Guide for Proponents can be viewed at www.bmmda.nt.ca

Questions were raised regarding the provision for access to information from all agencies involved. When asked about how values will be assigned, Eric replied that the users must define the parameters and have them entered into the model. Doug Larsen commented that it is very important to include social impacts and not just biological impacts.

There was a discussion regarding the application and limitations of the model. Eric commented that the model is still being assessed to see how well it will work. It is a good tool to raise questions but it will not necessarily provide all the answers.

Eric asked about the Council's interest in participating in this initiative, especially in the development of the spatial database. The Chair replied that it is important to know what is needed and then the Council can determine how best to fit into the process.

3. Species at Risk

Joan Eamer reported that the Species at Risk Act is at the committee stage. The Standing Committee has developed a document of its recommendations that needs to go to Parliament for debate. It is difficult to estimate the time that the next stages will need for completion, but it will take several weeks. The Standing Committee has made a lot of changes but there is little indication as to which ones the government will adopt. Joan added that CWS in the Yukon is in support of the next month's workshop in Whitehorse to address a Yukon solution to addressing species at risk.

Doug Larsen commented that some of the changes that the Standing Committee has made to the Bill have significant impact for Boards and Councils. The changes have left the Territorial Government out of much of the process. Many of the changes go against the principles of the Accord signed between the federal government, provinces and territories. The Accord stated that as long as the Territory developed its own legislation then the federal government would allow for it. The changes proposed by the Standing Committee go back on this commitment. There are also concerns regarding the definition of habitat and the expectations for consultation.

The workshop being proposed for January 22 is for all local agencies to hold discussions regarding a one-window coordinated approach to assessing, listing and recovering species at risk. This would be a parallel process to the assessment work done by COSEWIC.

The Chair commented that WMAC(NS) has been invited to attend a workshop, being hosted by Environment Canada, in Edmonton, in January, to discuss the roles of wildlife management boards in the implementation of the Species at Risk Act. Members agreed that more information is needed on the objective of the workshop, and what other agencies have been invited, before a decision is made to send a participant.

A discussion was held as to the outcome of the work conducted by Barney Smith, on behalf of CWS, regarding the incorporation of traditional knowledge in species assessment. Members agreed that they would like to have an opportunity to read the several papers Barney completed to address this issue.

Action 01-12-07: Joan Eamer will determine the status of the report prepared by Barney Smith, on behalf of CWS, regarding the incorporation of traditional knowledge in species assessment and forward a copy to the Secretariat.

Thursday December 13, 2001

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Danny C. Gordon- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Herbert Felix- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Doug Larsen – Member- Yukon Government
Joan Eamer- Member- Government of Canada- Canadian Wildlife Service
Aileen Horler- Secretariat

Guests: Ron Larsen- Parks Canada
Dave Ladret, YTG Parks and Protected Areas Secretariat
Richard Gordon, Herschel Island Territorial Park

2. Cumulative Effects Monitoring (continued)

A discussion was held as a follow-up to the presentation given by Eric Chernoff. Members agreed that the Council supports the work being undertaken by the EIRB. It is good to make the effort to gather baseline data in an effort to monitor cumulative effects but questions were raised as to how the Council fits into the entire process. It is important that the Council be kept informed about how the initiative is progressing. Questions were raised as to how the information from the Yukon will be incorporated into the proposed wider database.

Action 01-12-08 : WMAC(NS) will write to the Environmental Impact Review Board to inform them of the Council's support for the initiatives being undertaken regarding cumulative effects monitoring in the ISR. The letter will also convey the Council's interest in being kept up-to-date on the initiatives and inquire as to how the information from the Yukon will be incorporated into the proposed wider database. The Council will also request an opportunity to comment on the document titled Cumulative Effects Assessments in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region: A Guide for Reviewers.

4. Herschel Island Management Plan

The Chair welcomed Dave Ladret and Richard Gordon. Dave reported that the draft of the revised Management Plan has just been released and distributed. Some of the issues and concerns that were raised during the consultations aren't in the Plan but will instead be addressed in other documents such as the Bear Safety Strategy, the Operations Plan and Manual and the Emergency Response Plans. For example, communications concerns will be addressed in an Operations Plan. The Management Plan itself is focusing on monitoring and visitor issues.

Richard explained that for reasons of public safety, the Plan recommends the closure of hunting in the historic zone, from April to September. The no hunting zone would be from the end of the spit to the Anglican mission house. Consideration has also been given to changing this initiative to include the whole historic zone and to tie it into the bear strategy. A closure would be supported by the Yukon Wildlife Act that states no one can hunt within one kilometer of a building. There are plans to do further consultations on this issue.

Dave continued that any MOU signed with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee needs to address issues of keeping the area clean. Winter hunters leave gut piles which later in the year attract bears. This is a safety issue and also has implications regarding the impact of defense kills on the grizzly quota.

Dave reported that he has plans to consult further with Aklavik. The HTC has the draft and Richard will have the opportunity to go over it with them. Dave added that he will inform the Council once these consultations with Aklavik have been completed.

There are still some issues which have not been addressed in this draft. These include the use of snow machines, four-wheelers and the collection of medicinal plants. Issues related to fire management and how to deal with oil and gas development and caissons also need to be addressed. Dave commented that all of these will be incorporated into the next draft.

In regards to charging fees for visiting Herschel, Dave reported that YTG has been clear that it doesn't want to see any user fees imposed.

Ron Larsen raised the issue of fuel storage and commented on the importance of this to Parks Canada. Dave responded that this also has to be addressed in the next draft. The way fuel is stored now is unacceptable.

A question was raised as to the meaning of the sentence 'All research and monitoring will be passed on for implementation through the Yukon North Slope Long-term Research and Monitoring Plan'? (p.12) Dave replied that the idea is

to develop one database for Herschel that would be linked to the Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan.

Members agreed that the bigger issue is where to locate the data that is being collected now so that it is accessible. Dorothy Cooley has done some work to enter data on animals and bird observations but it is not clear where it is or what it is to be used for. What questions are being asked of the data? There is a need for the collection to be consistent for the information to be of value. Parks Canada, the Yukon Government and the Council all have an interest in seeing information housed in one database. More thought should be put into this. Joan Eamer commented that the EMAN North database meets some of the needs but not all.

Members made a number of additional comments as follows:

- In reference to climate (p.13)- What is meant by 'Additional data will be collected, as it becomes available'? The seconded stated action is not clear either.
- In reference to coastal erosion (p.13) - WMAC(NS) doesn't have a coastal erosion program. This work is done by Geographical Survey of Canada.
- In reference to aircraft access (p.10) – What is meant by minimizing access? This needs to be made clearer.
- Actions should be numbered for easier reference.
- The plan should include the importance of putting a monitoring program in place. Include the question of how to share/ manage/ collection and storage of data. The plan should state this need and then the 'how to' could be part of the Operations Plan. The action item needs to be very clear. The 'need to do' should be stated. The 'how to do' can be worked out later.

Dave added that the Implementation Workplan will include the who, what, and how of the actions. The intention will be for actions to be reviewed each year.

Members agreed that this draft plan goes along way to include an understanding of co-operation and co-management. It is a great improvement over the first plan and addresses many more issues.

Action 01-12-09: Members will send their comments on the draft Herschel Island Territorial Park Management Plan to the Secretariat by mid- January, to forward to Dave Ladret.

5. Grizzly Bear Management

The Chair referred members to the letter written by Duane Smith to the Chairs of WMAC(NS) and WMAC(NWT) in reference to concerns brought to the attention of the IGC by the HTC's regarding grizzly bear incidents. The Chair commented that he plans to discuss the suggesting made in this letter at the IGC meeting. There is a need to review the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan. Any process to adjust sustainable harvest limits should be done in the context of a review of the plan.

Doug Larsen commented that using aerial surveys to do population counts is expensive and doesn't also produce the desired results. You need to do surveys in combination with local knowledge to get a population estimate.

A discussion was held regarding defense kills and whether they should be included in the quota or not. Any defense kill has to be considered part of the sustainable harvest but may not have to be included in the quota.

6. Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan

The Chair commented that the final revisions to the Plan have been completed. These need to be circulated for review.

Action 01-12-10: The Secretariat will circulate the final revisions to the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan to the members, the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, the Inuvialuit Game Council and the Fisheries Joint Management Committee. Comments are to be returned to the Secretariat by the third week of January.

1. Muskox Management (continued)

A discussion was held regarding the next steps to take in managing the muskox. In order to recommend a quota the location maps need to be distributed and compiled and the total population numbers established. The plan must also be finished. Both WMAC(NWT) and the VGFN should see the plan before it is distributed.

Doug Larsen commented the Muskox Management Workshop did not satisfy the Yukon Government's consultation requirement. This has to be done government to government which means that each affected First Nation must be consulted about the plan. This is not expected to be a problem and shouldn't slowdown the process of recommending the quota once the plan is finished.

Questions were raised regarding the need for the continued and ongoing monitoring of the herd. It was noted that the participants at the muskox workshop agreed that monitoring should continue for management purposes. The muskox currently collared must be recaptured in March before the batteries on their collars run out. Members agreed that this would be a good opportunity to replace the satellite collars rather than remove them.

F. Financial Report / Wildlife Research Funding

Members reviewed the December 2001 financial statement and the projected expenditures until the end of the fiscal year. The Secretariat noted the unassigned balance for the year of \$5571. The muskox workshop expenditures are projected to be over budget by \$7500. This amount needs to be recovered from YTG.

At the October meeting, members agreed to conduct three projects for which no funds were allocated- the Traditional Knowledge Assessment of the Species Status Reports, a Coastal Zone Literature Search and a Muskox Communications Project.

There is approximately \$9,435 remaining in YTG's Wildlife research budget. Members agreed that some of this funding can be used to cover the additional costs incurred by WMAC(NS) related to the muskox workshop.

Action 01-12-11: WMAC(NS) will write to YTG to inform them of the final costs of the muskox workshop and suggest that IFA implementation funds be used to cover the additional \$7500 required to cover all the expenditures associated with the workshop.

A discussion was held regarding the funding for the muskox satellite collars. The collars must be purchased as soon as possible in order to have them by March. Members agreed to recommend the \$20,900 currently allocated to cover the costs of removing the collars in March is used instead to purchase new collars. The removal and replacement of the collars can be carried out in April using 2002-2003 funds. The unspent balance in the IFA implementation funds can also be used towards the cost of the new collars. Additional sources of funding for the collars, such as the GNWT and the VGFN, should be pursued.

Members returned to the review of the 2001-2002 WMAC(NS) budget and discussed the allocation of project funds. Funding for the Coastal Zone literature search will be delayed until later in the year. The database must first be updated and consideration given to incorporating this search into a broader one. This left an unassigned balance of \$3000 that members agreed could be used to contribute to the purchase of muskox collars.

Motion:

to allocate the following amounts in the 2001-2002 WMAC(NS) budget- Traditional Knowledge Assessment (\$5000); Muskox Communications Project (\$5000); and Muskox satellite collars (\$3000).

Moved: Joan Eamer
Second: Herbert Felix
Motion carried

Motion

To recommend that the \$20,900 in YTG's IFA wildlife program budget allocated to the removal of the muskox satellite collars be reallocated to the purchase of new satellite collars. In addition, any further funds remaining in the wildlife program budget should also be used towards the purchase of collars. Funds required for the removal and replacement of the collars should be expended from the 2002-2003 budget.

Moved: Doug Larsen
Second: Danny C. Gordon
Motion carried

H. Upcoming Meetings

The next Coop gathering will be held in Fort McPherson, Feb 28 and March 1-2. Danny and Herbert both expressed an interest in attending if they are available.

The next Council meeting was scheduled for April 2-4, in Whitehorse. Members agreed to have a teleconference before that when needed.

Members decided to meet on the North Slope in July 2002. The meeting should include an opportunity to visit sites on the North Slope by boat. Ron Larsen commented that the Council would probably be able to use Parks Canada's boat. Danny C. Gordon also agreed to make one of his boats available. The preferred timing for the meeting would cover a week in mid- July. The Secretariat will follow-up on establishing the dates as soon as possible.

I. Adjournment

Motion
to adjourn.

Moved: Doug Larsen
Second: Danny C. Gordon
Motion carried

WMAC(NS) Chair

Date

WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Date