



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

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MINUTES

WMAC(NS) QUARTERLY MEETING

**Aklavik Council Chambers
Aklavik, NWT**

December 16- 17, 2003

Tuesday December 16, 2003

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Danny C. Gordon- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Doug Larsen – Member - Yukon Government
Dorothy Cooley - Alternate- Yukon Government
Paula Pacholek – Member – Environment Canada
Alan Fehr – Alternate- Parks Canada
Evelyn Storr- Alternate- Inuvialuit Game Council
Carol Arey - Alternate- Inuvialuit Game Council
Aileen Horler- Secretariat

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 3 pm. Paula Pacholek was welcomed as the new member representing Environment Canada. Paula is the Northern Ecosystem Specialist at Environment Canada in Whitehorse.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda and outlined some of the issues to be covered during the meeting. These include a discussion of the next steps in the implementation of the Wildlife and Conservation Management Plan, the next steps in finalising the Muskox Management Plan, research in 2004-2005, and a review of the North Slope Conference.

Motion

To adopt the agenda

Moved: Danny C. Gordon

Second: Doug Larsen

Motion carried

C. Review and Approval of Minutes of September 2003 meeting.

Members reviewed the minutes of the September 2003 meeting and requested the following changes be made:

- page 4, 7 and 16- change SDC to SSDC
- page 17 - under Muskox Management- change “In a small population it may be different.” to “In a small population it may be difficult to manage for stability in such a narrow range.”
- Page 18 – change the second and third sentences in the first paragraph to read “..... YTG acknowledges that the Richardson Mountains population are a separate group and are not counted with the others in the North Slope population survey. They are accounted for in the total population count but they are noted as reported sightings. Management of the Richardson population is a shared jurisdiction and there is currently no interest from others (such as GNWT, GRRB) to get together to talk about management options.

Motion

To adopt the minutes of the September 2003 meeting.

Moved: Doug Larsen

Second: Danny C. Gordon

Motion carried

Carol Arey asked to receive a copy of the draft minutes when they are distributed, in addition to the finalized minutes. Members agreed that all members and alternates should receive the draft minutes even if they did not attend the meeting.

Action 03-12-01: The Secretariat will distribute the draft minutes to all members and alternates.

D. Review and Approval of Minutes of September 2003 joint meeting with WMAC(NWT)

Members reviewed the minutes of the September 2003 joint meeting with WMAC(NWT). No changes were requested.

Motion

To adopt the minutes of the September 2003 joint meeting with WMAC(NWT).

Moved: Doug Larsen
Second: Dorothy Cooley
Motion carried

E. Review of Action Items

Action 03-05-02: The Council will review the Inuvialuit Harvest Study access protocol at its next meeting. The Council will also ensure that the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee has had an opportunity to review the protocol and supports it's application to the current harvest collection program in Aklavik.

Outstanding. The Chair commented there needs to be a protocol in place in case it is needed. It must be drafted, reviewed with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and eventually approved.

Action 03-05-04: WMAC(NS) will prepare at Fact Sheet to explain IFA Implementation Funding pertaining to the Yukon North Slope, the level of funding and what tasks the funding is used for.

Outstanding.

Action 03-09-01: The Chair will raise the issue of chain length of the new modified traps with the Inuvialuit Game Council.

Complete. Danny Gordon reported that the AHTC has been working on this issue with the GNWT.

Action 03-09-02: The Secretariat will contact Helen Slama to encourage YTG to conduct a trapper education workshop in Aklavik in February, and offer the Council's assistance in facilitating the organization such a workshop. The workshop should be a forum to inform and educate trappers about current and proposed regulations.

Complete. The Secretariat distributed a copy of an email from Helen Slama saying that YTG is very interested in holding a trapper workshop in Aklavik. Helen raised some concerns about being able to hold the workshop in February due to time and financial constraints. Late winter or early spring was suggested as a better time.

Danny C. Gordon agreed that February would be a good time to conduct the training but asked how it would benefit the local trappers. Dorothy Cooley responded that many experience trappers in the Yukon have taken the course and said they benefited from it. Evelyn Storr commented that Helen should discuss the workshop dates with the AHTC before a time is set. The Chair added that it would be good to have someone from the GNWT to attend as well.

The Secretariat agreed to continue to follow-up with Helen Slama to provide assistance, if required, in conducting a trapper education workshop in Aklavik.

Action 03-09-03: The Secretariat will contact Wendy Nixon to determine if the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee has been asked to provide their comments on the background information papers prepared for Bluethroat, Yellow Wagtail and Black Guillemot.

Complete. The Secretariat reported Wendy has not contacted the HTC.

Action 03-12-02: Secretariat will forward the background information papers prepared for Bluethroat, Yellow Wagtail and Black Guillemot to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee. The Secretariat will ask Wendy Nixon to follow-up directly with the HTC and supply them with colour photos of the birds to assist in identification.

Action 03-09-04: The Secretariat will contact Kelly Olson to obtain information on the reasons why five proposals for changes to the Trapping Regulations did not receive internal YTG approval.

Complete. The Yukon Wildlife Act was amended to bring it into conformity with the Inuvialuit Final Agreement. The next step is to make changes to the wildlife regulations. A Working Group meeting was held in January 2003 to review the Trapping Regulations and suggest changes. Many of the proposed changes were approved by YTG during an internal review but five were not. The Secretariat contacted YTG to find out why this happened. The response from Kelly was tabled at the meeting but Council members requested more clarification.

Action 03-12-03: The Secretariat will follow-up with Kelly Olson to determine why five of the proposed changes to the Trapping Regulations did not receive internal YTG approval and to assess need for a follow-up meeting and discussion on this issue.

The Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee is on the working group. Kelly needs to keep the AHTC informed of the process.

F. Correspondence

Members reviewed the correspondence in the meeting binder and discussed the following items:

- A letter to the Chair from Frank Pokiak, Chair, Inuvialuit Game Council, inviting WMAC(NS), WMAC(NWT) and FJMC to take over the responsibility of hosting the annual Research Update Day. The Chair noted that this issue is on the meeting agenda and will be addressed later.
- A letter to the Chair from Gaby Fortin, Director General, Parks Canada, Western and Northern Canada, regarding the approval of the Ivvavik National Park of Canada Management Plan. The Chair commented that the letter is in response to one sent by the Council asking if the Plan would be approved before the North Slope Conference.
- A letter to the Chair from Alan Latourelle, Chief Executive Officer, Parks Canada, supporting the Council's recommendation for a quota increase of two bears for the entire Aklavik Grizzly Bear hunting area. The letter also conveys support for the removal of the zero quota for Herschel Island and the re-assignment of the quota of three bears to Ivvavik National Park to include Herschel Island.
- A letter to Larry Carpenter from Jim Antoine, Minister of RWED, GNWT, regarding the assignment of tags to problem bears at the end of the season.
- A letter from the Aurora Research Institute regarding the issuance of a permit for study titled "Social and Cultural Influences in Grizzly Bear Conservation in Canada". Evelyn Storr commented that the researcher attended an AHTC meeting and talked about his work. It was a really good meeting and he got a lot of information from the HTC and the community.

Two additional letters were distributed by the Secretariat.

- A letter from Katherine Thiesenhausen regarding the WMAC(NWT)'s response to an additional letter to Larry Carpenter from Jim Antoine, Minister of RWED, GNWT (attached), regarding the WMAC(NWT)'s request for an increase in the grizzly bear quota.
- A letter from Murray Bates, the youth participant from Tuktoyaktuk, to the Inuvialuit Game Council conveying his thanks for the opportunity to attend the Yukon North Slope Conference.

Carol Arey and Evelyn Storr commented that it would be very useful to get copies of the meeting binders, even if they aren't able to attend the meetings, so that they can be kept up to date on Council business.

Action 03-12-04: The Secretariat will send a meeting binder to all alternates, regardless of their ability to attend the meeting.

G. Report

a) WMAC(NS) Budget

Members referred to the Council's December 1, 2003 expense statement. The Chair noted that the Council is two thirds through the year. A number of large expenditures such as the North Slope Conference, and the publication of the Term Report, Volume 2 of the Conservation Plan and the Aklavik report have left the Council short of funds for the balance of the year. The Council needs to make some decisions about where to assign the available resources for the rest of the fiscal year and reallocate funding between categories if required.

Council members reviewed the budget and expenses, and the following comments were made:

- If another meeting is required, members will meet by teleconference. This will leave about \$1000 in the 'meetings-regular' category that can be reallocated as needed.
- There is only \$9000 remaining in the budget for Secretariat fees for the next 4 months. The Chair commented that, until the end of March, he anticipates his time being spent primarily on the Muskox Plan and SARA. Members agreed that \$5000 should be reallocated from honorarium to Secretariat fees. This will ensure that there is enough money to keep the Secretariat functioning, although at a somewhat reduced level, until the end of March.
- The Council will not produce another newsletter this year. Work is to stop on the website. This will save the Council about \$2300 that can be reallocated to cover the deficit in the Term Report.
- The outstanding balance of \$2300 owed for work on the library can be paid in the new fiscal year and reallocated as needed.
- \$2000 allocated for the Trapper Regulations may not be required as no meeting is currently scheduled.
- Alan Fehr agreed to contribute \$3000 to the Muskox Plan from Parks Canada's wildlife programs budget. This will allow for the reallocation of this amount within the WMAC(NS) budget as needed.
- The Council's expenses related to the North Slope Conference were over \$11,000. This covers the Chair's and Secretariat's time in organizing the conference. Their attendance at the conference is covered under 'meetings-other'.
- No further funds are to be spent on purchasing assets.

The Secretariat noted that, if the Council is overspent at the end of the year, it will be possible to cover the deficit from funds for 2004-05. However, it may be necessary to get a bank overdraft to meet cash flow requirements until the new YTG contribution agreement is in place.

Motion

To authorize the Secretariat to obtain a bank overdraft of up to \$5000, if necessary, to meet cash flow requirements at the end of the fiscal year.

Moved: Carol Arey
Second: Paula Pacholek
Motion carried

Wednesday December 17, 2003

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Danny C. Gordon- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Doug Larsen – Member - Yukon Government
Dorothy Cooley - Alternate- Yukon Government
Paula Pacholek – Member - Canadian Wildlife Service
Alan Fehr – Alternate- Parks Canada
Evelyn Storr- Alternate- Inuvialuit Game Council
Carol Arey - Alternate- Inuvialuit Game Council
Aileen Horler- Secretariat

Guests: Ron Larsen- Parks Canada
Mervin Joe- Parks Canada

G. Financial Report (continued)

b) Proposed WMAC(NS) budget for 2004-2005

The Secretariat tabled a draft budget for 2004-2005. It was noted that the spending categories vary somewhat from the designations of previous years. The new designations reflect the categories and spending levels proposed under the new five-year agreement with the federal government.

The Chair reviewed the individual items in the budget. Overall the increase in funding that the Council will be receiving is a reflection of the increase in the amount of work the Council is required to do. Funds available for Chair's honorarium have increased slightly. Meeting expenses cover the expenses for both the Chair and Secretariat to attend a variety of meetings, as well as the

expenses for holding the Council's meetings. The Chair attends one or two meetings annually of the Joint Secretariat Board of Directors. These meetings are important to set direction for the Executive Director and to discuss staffing issues. Funding for administrative expenses, projects and workshop/ conference attendance has also been increased. The major increase in the budget is for staffing with the establishment of the Secretariat position as full time. The budget includes benefits that are in line with those received by the Joint Secretariat staff members.

Motion

To approve the Council's budget for 2004-2005, as tabled.

Moved: Doug Larsen

Second: Carol Arey

Motion carried

The Chair noted that, in the next year, in addition to reviewing the action items in the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan, completing the Muskox Plan, and participating in the research update day, the Council should also review and update the Long-term Research Plan.

H. Report from the Chair

The Chair commented that since the last Council meeting most of his time has been spent in relation to the North Slope Conference and in getting a variety of the Council's publications finalized.

At the last meeting of the Joint Secretariat Board of Directors, the Chair of WMAC(NS) was made a full member. Until this time, the WMAC(NS) Chair has only been an ex-officio member. Alan Fehr noted that the Joint Secretariat makes many decisions that effect WMAC(NS) so it makes sense that the Council would have full membership on the JS Board.

Frank Pokiak was elected in October as the new Chair of the Inuvialuit Game Council. Frank plans to attend community meetings and would like to have the opportunity to attend WMAC(NS) meetings when possible.

In reference to the Mackenzie Valley Pipeline Project, a co-operation plan has been signed between the Environmental Impact Review Board, the Mackenzie Valley Review Board, the National Energy Board and CEAA. They have agreed to co-operate on reviewing the project but they are having problems with a few issues. A joint panel will do the review. There will be two seats for Inuvialuit on the panel. The IRC and IGC will select the Inuvialuit representatives. Evelyn Storr commented that it is very important for whoever represents the Inuvialuit to be active in the area. It is a huge commitment for someone for the next two years.

I. Members' Report

Carol Arey reported that she thought the North Slope Conference was a good conference, but that it was too rushed with too many presentations. There were too many presenters in each workshop and too many workshops happening at the same time. The Chair noted that there will be an opportunity for the Council to discuss the conference further later on in the meeting.

Alan Fehr reported that Parks Canada wants to establish more regular communications with Aklavik. Parks is not satisfied with the way communications have been to date as it has usually been on a project basis only. Alan has written to both the Aklavik Community Corporation and the AHTC expressing this interest. He has proposed holding joint meetings with them on a regular basis. An ad hoc steering committee could be set up in relation to specific projects. Evelyn Storr noted that the Elders' Committee should be added to those invited to attend the joint meeting.

Alan added that Parks Canada has completed preliminary site assessments at Stokes Point. Parks has had discussions with the Department of Defence and DIAND to try to establish who is responsible for the clean up. Alan thinks that Parks will probably be the ones who will wind up doing the clean up. It is important to try to figure out how much garbage is there before the clean up starts. Maintaining this as an issue is included in Parks' business plan. It would be good to have a discussion with Aklavik to find if this is a priority for the community. Carol Arey commented that the IRC Directors support Parks Canada in their efforts to clean up the site. Alan replied that a letter of support written to Parks Canada on this issue would be very helpful.

Dorothy Cooley reported that the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board was not totally satisfied with the consultation process regarding the proposal to open a limited sheep hunting opportunity in the Richardson Mountains. Dorothy believes they will ask YTG to delay until more discussion is held. Dorothy clarified that the hunt is proposed for two males in the northern Richardsons. Only a very small portion of this area is in the ISR. It mainly affects the Vuntut Gwitchin and the Tet'lit Gwich'in.

Danny C. Gordon reported that there are still concerns in Aklavik about establishing an overlap agreement with the Tet'lit Gwich'in. It's a real problem and a real priority. Carol Arey noted that at the recent meeting of the 42 Directors of the IRC, it was decided to revisit the issue of the overlap agreement. The Chair said he would raise the issue again with the ICG. Danny also commented that there is a real need to do a count of grizzly bears and that he hopes it is seen as a priority. He is pleased to have an increase in the quota but

it is important to know how many bears there are to make sure that this increase is all right.

Paula Pacholek commented that she had nothing to report at this time.

Evelyn Storr commented that she is pleased to have the chance to attend WMAC(NS) meetings when they are in Aklavik. It will be good to receive the meeting binders and other information so that she can stay up to date with Council business. Evelyn added that she is happy with the relationship between WMAC(NS) and the AHTC.

J. Old Business

1. Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan

Members discussed the next steps for the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan now that the second volume has been completed. There is a need to review all the action items to bring them up to date and to identify which ones should be given priority to implement. The Plan doesn't specifically assign actions to any agency. There needs to be some thought and discussion put into who can take on responsibility for which actions.

Evelyn Storr commented that WMAC(NS) should send a copy of the actions to the AHTC who can then identify which ones they can undertake on their own or in partnership with others. It would be a good idea to get all the relevant agencies together to determine who can be responsible for implementing which of the actions.

Council members discussed a variety of ways to proceed. It was agreed that action items need to be prioritized. The Council could send a letter and an action item summary to all potential implementation partnership agencies. Within YTG it should go to all departments dealing with resources management. WMAC(NS) could ask the agencies to review the actions and respond with their comments. Agencies would be asked to identify what they see as overall priorities for the North Slope, and what they see as their role in terms of implementing, funding and/ or supporting these priority actions. WMAC(NS) could then decide on how to proceed. If a workshop is warranted, it could be held in the fall. Agencies would need to come to any implementation meeting or workshop with priorities already identified. And, as some actions require funding to implement, agencies would need to also know how much money they can commit.

Action 03-12-05: The Secretariat will prepare a list of agencies that should review the action items of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan and forward it to the Council members to review.

Action 03-12-06: WMAC(NS) will send a letter to all relevant agencies regarding the implementation of the action items of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan. The letter should ask agencies to review all the action items and to identify the items that they see as priorities for the North Slope within a three-year timeframe. Then given those priorities, each agency should be asked to identify which actions it is prepared to implement or to commit resources, including funding. The action list should be sent to the agencies in an electronic format so that comments can be entered directly on to the document.

The Chair added that he would be attending the EIRB meeting in February to give them a briefing on the Plan.

2. Muskox Management

A meeting was held in Inuvik in June to review the latest draft of the Muskox Plan. There are some outstanding issues, such as the conservation objective, that still need to be resolved. YTG wants to maintain a stable population but the GNWT has concerns about the eastward movement of this population and the potential for it to mix with other muskox in the NWT. NWT interests, including WMAC(NWT), do not want a quota imposed on the North Slope muskox if they move into the NWT. There is also a need to update the survey information.

Members agreed that rather than trying to establish specifically how potential conflicts will be resolved, the plan should establish a mechanism for addressing these issues, if and when they arise. There should also be actions included that address the genetics and parasite issues.

The Chair noted that Old Crow wants to keep their options open so that Vuntut Gwitchin members will be able to exercise their right to harvest in their traditional territory should the opportunity arise. Doug Larsen suggested a paragraph be added to the plan that clarifies that the intent of a quota is not to limit Inuvialuit or First Nations' rights but to be used as a tool to ensure harvests are sustainable. A quota doesn't mean that anyone's right to harvest is being limited.

Alan Fehr commented that Parks Canada wants to see the plan completed. Parks is not opposed to a small harvest in Ivvavik National Park and is prepared to work to establish a quota.

Members agreed that Ian McDonald, Dorothy Cooley and John Nagy should get together to discuss how to proceed with the technical aspects of the plan.

Action 03-12-07: WMAC(NS) will facilitate a teleconference in the new year to decide who will take responsibility for the outstanding items to be addressed in the Muskox Management Plan. Teleconference participants should include Ian McDonald, Dorothy Cooley, Evelyn Storr, Lindsay Staples, Doug Larsen and John Nagy.

3. 2003-2004 Wildlife Management and Research Updates

Dorothy Cooley reported that the fall collection of harvest data in Aklavik has been completed. Catherine Pinard had to go to Aklavik to train a new worker so the cost of the program was a bit higher than expected.

The Chair commented that, for compensation purposes, it is important for individuals to have access to their harvest records. The use of the data effects what is included in any access protocol. Dorothy Cooley noted that currently the information is being collected to wildlife management purposes only. Someone should evaluate the data to assess if it will be useful for compensation purpose. Carol Arey added that people need to know there are benefits to providing the information.

Dorothy Cooley also reported that the final cost for the Hershel Island raptor and fox survey is about \$3500. Funds available in the 03-04 YTG budget for the grizzly bear study is about \$24,000.

Alan Fehr noted that, of the balance of funds in Parks Canada's budget for wildlife research, \$3000 will go to WMAC(NS) as a contribution toward the Muskox Plan and the remainder will be put towards the bear project. Parks intends to provide funding to support the bear project in the next year as well.

4. Parks Canada Report

Mervin Joe presented an update of Parks Canada activities in Ivvavik National Park.

- Ivvavik staff did a number of field trips during 2003. There were 2 raft trips on the Firth. During these trips staff monitor the campsites and record wildlife sightings. The first trip also included a breeding bird survey. Staff also did a trip into the park by snowmobile in the spring.
- A number of coastal patrols were also done. One of the three storm surge probes set out in 2002 was retrieved. Parks will try to retrieve the other two next summer.
- A salvage archeological project was carried out in Clarence Lagoon. Many artifacts that were in danger of being lost because of erosion were excavated and retrieved. The artifacts are being stored by Parks Canada. Plans are being developed to
- Artists from different parts of the country spent 13 days out on the land as part of the 'Artist in the Park' project.
- Parks Day was held at Shingle for the third time during the summer.
- Water quality and quantity monitoring continued on the Firth River.

- Fuel drums (both full and empty) were removed from Komakuk and transported to Inuvik for disposal. Drums have also been moved from Stokes to Shingle Point.

Meeting with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee (noon to 1 pm)

AHTC Board member, Danny Gordon Jr. joined the Council for the meeting. AHTC president, Evelyn Storr and member Danny C. Gordon were already in attendance.

1. Call to Order and review of agenda

The Chair welcomed Danny Gordon Jr. to the meeting and commented that it is always valuable for the Council to meet with representatives of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee.

2. Review and Approval of Minutes from the May meeting

The minutes of the May meeting between the AHTC and WMAC(NS) were reviewed and approved.

Motion

To adopt the minutes of the May 2003 meeting between the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and WMAC(NS).

Moved: Evelyn Storr
Second: Doug Larsen
Motion carried

3. Aklavik HTC Issues and Concerns

Evelyn Storr commented that the HTC is happy with the way WMAC has followed up with many of the HTC's concerns. Evelyn reported that no issues came forward at the HTC's AGM. The HTC used the AGM to remind its members of the MOU between the HTC and YTG regarding the use of the cabin on Herschel Island. It is important to keep it clean. The HTC is hoping to start producing a newsletter for its members.

Evelyn noted that the HTC sees a lot of research applications and that this can be a lot of work. The HTC supports the ongoing work on the muskox.

There has been a lot of improvement in communications regarding the activities on Herschel Island. Richard Gordon has let people in Aklavik know about the Park Ranger jobs that need to be filled. Richard comes to the community to report on what YTG is planning to do. He has also been reporting on the SSDC.

In reference to the SSDC, Evelyn commented that when the consultation was done regarding parking it at Herschel Island, no one said how long it would be there. Now the community is hearing it could be 5 years but this was not mentioned at the time. The community was led to believe it would only be there a year. There is a feeling that the community was misled.

The Chair commented that the Council is expecting a draft of the Herschel Island work plan for the next year. The AHTC could also provide their input. Carol Arey added that it is important to support the reestablishment of the interpreter position on Herschel.

4. North Slope Research

The Chair commented that, in addition to the ongoing work on muskox, the priority for the next few years would be the major project on grizzly bears. Carol Arey noted that there have been several observations of grizzly bear behaving differently. The project should include the observations of local people. Doug Larsen reported that the project does include a traditional knowledge component.

5. Trapper workshop

Evelyn Storr commented that the HTC would be interested in seeing the workshop done in Aklavik. Helen Slama should contact the HTC directly about setting the dates and to discuss the logistics.

6. Parks Canada

Ron Larsen reported that Parks Canada had submitted an application to the Environmental Impact Screening Committee to establish a landing area on the Babbage River. This would be a very low impact strip. Parks wants to have another area where visitors can go. The Babbage would be used as a day use area only. It is a good place for hiking. Parks doesn't anticipate any increase in fishing pressure. Fishing activity will be closely monitored.

7. Other Business

Evelyn Storr commented that Sharon Keaton was going to clarify the issue of who has authority to enforce wildlife regulations on the Yukon North Slope. Questions have arisen as to the extent of Ian McLeod's authority. The HTC hasn't heard anything from Sharon.

Action 03-12-08: WMAC(NS) will contact Sharon Keaton to get clarification as to who has authority to enforce wildlife regulations on the Yukon North Slope.

4. 2004-2005 Wildlife Management and Research Proposals

The Chair commented that the December meeting is a good opportunity for members to review the research that each agency is considering for the following year. Not all projects need to be recommended for funding at this meeting, as some will not be initiated until the summer. However it is a good time to recommend any projects that will be conducted in the spring and to have a discussion about priorities for the North Slope over the coming year. Projects will be considered again at the Council's next meeting, in March or April, and can be recommended at that time.

a) Yukon Government

Dorothy Cooley distributed a summary of the Yukon Government's proposed wildlife research programs for 2004-2005. There is about \$120,000 available for research once funds for Dorothy's salary, IFA related travel and meeting expenses, and fuel related costs are subtracted from the total budget of \$190,000. Dorothy summarized YTG's proposals as follows:

- i) Porcupine Caribou Herd Satellite Location Program-** This is an ongoing program with many contributors. YTG's contribution would be \$2000 toward a \$10,000 to \$12,000 program.
- ii) Aklavik Harvest Data Collection-** This is the continuation to the program that has been conducted in Aklavik over the past two years. Hunter recall surveys are done in the spring and fall. The proposed budget is \$3000.
- iii) Yukon North Slope Muskox Satellite Program 2002-2005 -** This is the second year of a three-year project to monitor satellite-collared muskox. It includes a spring census and composition count. A survey is planned for early April. Funding for this project covers the costs of fuel, helicopter and plane time as well as satellite system fees and data retrieval. The budget is \$36,000.
- iv) Herschel Island Vegetation Plot Remeasurements-** The objective of this project is to remeasure the permanent vegetation plots established in 1999. Jill Johnstone would work with YTG staff to carry out the work. The cost of the project is estimated to be about \$6000. Carol Arey commented that there are people in Aklavik who have done this kind of work in Ivavik. There may be someone who has an interest in accompanying the people who will do the work on Herschel.
- v) Trapper Training Course in Aklavik-** The summary of YTG research proposals didn't give any information on this project. Dorothy noted that a full proposal would be coming from Helen Slama and Harvey Jessup. Carol Arey added that it is very important for them to contact the Aklavik HTC before setting a date for the course.

vi) Bird of Prey and Ptarmigan Population Monitoring – The objective of this project is to conduct an aerial survey of known nest sites of birds of prey along the Yukon North Slope and Herschel Island to document productivity parameters. The budget for this project is \$12,600.

Council members had questions about the need to do another survey. Birds of prey are being monitored on Herschel, as part of a new monitoring program and peregrines and other birds will be surveyed in 2005 as part of the national survey done every five years. It is not clear as to how this proposed survey would add to the existing information. Until this is made clear, members agreed they would not consider supporting the project.

vii) Understanding Grizzly Bear Populations and Movement in the Yukon North Slope - The budget for this project in 2004-05 is about \$190,000. An allocation of \$100,000 is requested from IFA research funds. It's not clear yet how much funding will be available from other sources. There may be a need to adjust the entire project to meet available funding levels.

Carol Arey commented that the community should be involved in the early stages of the proposal development. It's not enough to come to the community with a fully developed proposal and ask for their approval. The community can contribute more than that. It has a lot of resources.

The Chair noted that this research is a priority. The Council's last resolution on the Yukon North Slope grizzly quota included the assumption that a population count would be done in the near future.

Council members agreed that a technical advisory group should be established to review and oversee the proposal and research. This group would consist of Ian McDonald, Dorothy Cooley, Danny C. Gordon, Evelyn Storr, John Nagy, Doug Larsen, Lindsay Staples and Ramona Maraj. The group needs to meet as soon as possible. Members also agreed that before the technical group meets it is important for Ramona to meet with the Board of the AHTC to review the proposed grizzly bear research.

Action 03-12-09: A technical advisory group, consisting of Ian McDonald, Dorothy Cooley, Danny C. Gordon, Evelyn Storr, John Nagy, Doug Larsen, Lindsay Staples and Ramona Maraj, should meet to discuss the North Slope grizzly bear proposal and research.

b) Canadian Wildlife Service

Paula Pacholek distributed summaries of two proposals from the Canadian Wildlife Service.

i) Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op- The Borderlands Co-op annual community-based monitoring project will continue in 2004/5 in Aklavik and several other regional communities. A local researcher in each community will conduct interviews with community experts, collecting and communicating information about the conditions and changes observed during the year. An allocation of \$10,000 from CWS wildlife project funding is being proposed to be used for contracts, honoraria and expenses in Aklavik, and toward the development and coordination of the program and reporting of results at the Annual Gathering.

ii) Collaring and Monitoring of Short Yearlings in the Porcupine Caribou Herd – An allocation of \$15,000 is proposed as a contribution toward the purchase and deployment of radio-collars on short yearlings (10 months old). This study will initiate a program of collaring caribou just short of their first birthday in order to gain information on survival, age-specific pregnancy rates, survival rates and range use. Dorothy Cooley added that this project is still in the early stages of development. More work needs to be done on the project design before it can be undertaken.

c) Parks Canada

Ron Larsen commented that Parks Canada has \$35,000 to contribute to North Slope wildlife research. It is proposed that \$5000 of this go to the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op’s programs. About \$11,000 is required if an additional muskox survey is needed in the summer. The balance would be contributed to the grizzly bear research.

The total funds available from all three agencies are \$170,000. Council members agreed to support YTG’s proposal to hold a trapper-training course in Aklavik but decided that YTG should try to find another source of funding. It was suggested that the project to collar and monitor short yearlings in the Porcupine Caribou Herd be deferred until the next year. Funding for the Herschel Island Vegetation Plot Remeasurements was not seen as a priority. Funding requirements for remaining proposed projects were summarized as follows:

Porcupine Caribou Herd Satellite Location Program	2,000
Aklavik Harvest Data Collection	3,000
Yukon North Slope Muskox Satellite Program 2002-05 (year 2 of 3)	36,000
Understanding Grizzly Bear Populations and Movement in the Yukon North Slope	100,000
Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op	15,000
Yukon North Slope Muskox Survey	11,000
Total	\$167,000

Council members agreed to recommend funding for the spring muskox work and give notional support to the other projects. These projects will be considered further at the next Council meeting.

Motion

To recommend the allocation of \$36,000 from IFA wildlife program funding to the Yukon North Slope Muskox Satellite Program 2004-05 (year 2 of 3).

Moved: Doug Larsen

Second: Danny C. Gordon

Motion carried

5. Herschel Island Territorial Park

The Council held a short meeting prior to the North Slope Conference to review the latest draft of the Herschel Island Management Plan. At that time the Council members agreed to recommend the Plan to the Yukon Minister of Environment. YTG has since asked that additional text be included regarding the SSDC and parking of industrial type rigs adjacent to Herschel. The Secretariat distributed copies of the text as forwarded to the Council by Dave Ladret.

Action 03-12-10: Members will review the text proposed by YTG for addition to the Herschel Island Management Plan regarding the SSDC and parking of industrial type rigs adjacent to Herschel. Members will notify the Secretariat by January 12, 2004 if they have objections to the text being added to the Plan.

6. COSEWIC/ Species at Risk

The Chair drew the members' attention to the document in the meeting binders titled "Appendix E5: Proposed process to include the Wildlife Management Boards in the COSEWIC Status Assessment process". It is a proposed appendix to the COSEWIC Operating Procedures. This document was prepared by COSEWIC and is the result of meeting held between representatives of COSEWIC and the Wildlife Management Boards in Whitehorse in April 2003. The Chair asked members to review the proposed changes so that they can be considered further at the next meeting. The Chair added that COSEWIC will be meeting again in Ontario in early May. This would be a good time to try to finalize the changes.

7. North Slope Conference

A discussion on this item was deferred to the next meeting.

K. New Business

1. Attendance Policy

Frank Pokiak requested that all IFA committees establish an Attendance Policy. The Secretariat distributed a copy of the IGC's policy. The Chair noted that a WMAC(NS) policy would differ in that the Council would seek remuneration from the IGC should the Council incur expenses for an absent the IGC representative. Further discussion on this item was deferred to the next meeting.

2. IFA Research Forum

A discussion on this item was deferred to the next meeting.

L. Upcoming Meetings

The Annual Gathering of the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op will be held in Inuvik February 23-25, 2004. Danny C. Gordon agreed to go to represent the Council.

The Chair added that he would be attending at conference in Victoria in early March on the recovery of species at risk. He has been asked to take part in several panel presentations.

The Council members agreed to meet by teleconference before the end of March, if necessary. Otherwise the next meeting will be held in early April in Whitehorse. Members also agreed to try to hold a meeting on the North Slope in early summer. Mid-June at Sheep camp was suggested. The Secretariat agreed to follow-up with Parks Canada.

M. Adjournment

Motion

To adjourn.

Moved: Carol Arey
Second: Paula Pacholek
Motion carried

WMAC(NS) Chair

Date

WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Date