



## DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

WMAC (NS) Quarterly Meeting  
Inuvik/Aklavik · NWT  
December 2-4, 2013

**December 2**, Aklavik, Mary Kendi Boardroom

---

**Lindsay Staples** (Chair) · **Rob Florkiewicz** Yukon Government (Member) · **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) · **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) · **Chris Hunter** Government of Canada (Member) · **Mike Sutor** Yukon Government (Alternate) · **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat) · **Christine Cleghorn** (Secretariat) · **Maurice Colpron** (Guest), **Karsten Piepjohn** (Guest)

---

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:45 and welcomed everyone to the meeting. He thanked Maurice and Karsten for attending, and reviewed the schedule for the next days. He explained that we don't have a full complement for research proposals available to review at this time and a teleconference is anticipated for January to further the review.

### Motion 12-13-01

To accept the agenda as presented.

*Moved by: Ernest Pokiak*

*Seconded by: Rob Florkiewicz*

*Motion carried*

The Council reviewed the agenda for the AHTC meeting in the afternoon. The focus is on the grizzly bear project and on the outcomes of it.

The intention is still to have a workshop with WMAC(NWT) to go through the project and to have a comprehensive discussion on the quota for the shared population. The Chair explained that Rob would be presenting the preliminary results of the project in the afternoon. Ramona would be presenting the full results at the future workshop.

### **A. Review and Approval of September Minutes**

The Chair asked for comments on the September minutes.

- Page 10- clarify the bear sired 20% of triad vs. population
- Page 7- yellow legs is same as white fronted goose-confirmed
- Page4- airstrip discussion- change to “looks like 30-40 m might be technically possible”.
- Page 5- end of page “fewer moose were counted” not large decline.
- Page 7- Danny and Ernest not shown on top bar on any page
- Page 8- change to “ Rob thought is would be more consistent and comprehensive”

Motion 12-13-02

To approve September minutes with revisions

*Moved by: Ernest Pokiak*

*Seconded by: Chris Hunter*

*Motion carried*

**The Council reviewed the joint WMAC minutes from Sept 25<sup>th</sup>**

The Council accepted the minutes as presented.

**The Council reviewed the October teleconference minutes (teleconference).**

The Chair asked for any revisions.

Page 2- remove “again” from “Billy Storr was president again.”

Motion 12-13-03

To approve October minutes with revisions

*Moved by: Danny C. Gordon*

*Seconded by: Rob Florkiewicz*

*Motion carried*

**The Council reviewed the June Joint AHTC minutes**

Page 1- “brought” the meeting to order

Lindsay raised the muskrat research request with Danny to see if AHTC has brought this request forward to the WMAC(NWT)/ GNWT. Danny said that the main concern is with contaminants in muskrat. He believes that the request has gone forward. Mike Suitor offered to look into the Murray Humphries project and forward that work to the AHTC.

There is a letter from the IGC to DFO regarding beaver overabundance. Danny said that prices for furs were up and there were more people harvesting them this year. Danny said that beaver were introduced from the south to Aklavik in 1949. People have seen them all the way to the Babbage River. They have caused a lot of flooding on various rivers.

Motion 12-13-04

To approve Aklavik HTC/WMAC(NS) June minutes

Moved by: Chris Hunter

Seconded by: Ernest Pokiak

Motion carried

**B. Review of Action Items**

Christine reviewed Action Items with the Council.

- Action 3-12-08: Ensure that the research guide is current. In progress.
- Action 7-12-01: Maps- Mike is going to provide us with some maps
- Action Item 12-12-04: Proceedings from the North Slope conference are completed and hard copies will be provided to all presenters. Proceedings are also available on our website for people who would like to download them
- Action 03-13-14: Chair will follow up – Outstanding (Screening exemptions for research projects)
- Action Item 6-13-13 – Traditional Knowledge protocols- completed- Jennie Knopp is looking at different TK protocols that the CBM program would apply.
- Action 9-13-05- CWS Migratory Bird regulations update - draft letter in progress for a joint submission with WMACNWT.
- Action 09-13-07 – continue to plan with Parks for a workshop in Feb.

**C. Review of correspondence**

The Council reviewed the correspondence and had the following comments:

Incoming:

*SSDC*- Ernest wondered about rust on the bottom. Danny said that last year they hired divers to do a full inspection of the bottom and found it was in good shape. Danny said that three times per year they inspect it and take someone from Aklavik with them on the inspections.

*Beaufort/ offshore drilling program*- EISC reviewed the program and it has been referred to EIRB for a full -scale review. Lindsay said that we can anticipate a larger workload going into the review hearings. This council will definitely want to be able to speak to potential impacts on the North Slope coastline and coastal plain. Our response could be to put a series of questions to Imperial/BP and with the expectation that these program proponents would conduct research to address the questions. The potential spill prevention and clean up program activities are also something to consider commenting upon.

Lindsay said that the IFA requires the proponents to come up with a worst-case scenario and to describe the cost of compensation associated with that scenario.. Norway has done a lot of work on contingency planning and oil spill response., There is also the ongoing debate regarding the application of same season relief well drilling in the Beaufort as a mitigation measure for well blow-outs. The problem for industry is cost and so they are looking at mitigative equivalencies.

*Gwitchin TK report on grizzly bears.*

This draft report was provided to us by the GTC. Rob mentioned that the mapped travel routes were interesting. The council discussed travel routes and how this may be interesting and useful information in the future.

Outgoing-

*Letter to Mike Gill on grizzly bear, SARA*

*Letter to AHTC on WWF naming proposal*

*Letter to PBSG Chair re status assessment* – Lindsay said that there was concern with the reassessment and the process was not inclusive with any co-management agencies in Canada. The new assessment was made available to the PBSG prior to any Canadian researchers and management bodies reviewing it. PBSG included this information in their status table. The new status table also fails to consider recent work undertaken by Nunavut.

The letter was sent in advance of the polar bear Range States meeting in Moscow and the Canadian delegation could address it there if necessary.

There is a PBTC meeting in Feb 2014 and this issue will be raised.

*Letter to DIAND-* request for supplemental funding. This is a request to offset costs associated with the eastern North Slope work and PBTk work. The Council has never requested supplemental funding in the past and the categories we have asked for are attached to legal obligations and tasks in the IFA. Yukon Government is looking at applying for additional funding to offset Herschel operating and capital costs.

#### **D. Financial report**

Christine presented the budget to date. We have one quarter left in the year and are within our budget on most categories. We will be managing the budget closely if we are unsuccessful in securing supplemental funding.

Tuesday December 3, 2013  
Mackenzie Inn, Inuvik

---

**Lindsay Staples** (Chair) · **Rob Florkiewicz** Yukon Government (Member) · **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) · **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) · **Chris Hunter** Government of Canada (Member) · **Mike Suitor** Yukon Government (Alternate) · **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat) · **Christine Cleghorn** (Secretariat)

---

The Council debriefed the meeting with AHTC. All agreed that meeting with the AHTC is beneficial to our work. The Council reflected on the success and lessons learned from the Yukon Geological Survey work on the North Slope in 2013. Ernest reminded the Council that ILA has developed course materials for training environmental monitors.

Danny noted that Maurice's first applications was for three to five people in tents, and by the time he did his project he had 20 people in his team. Lindsay recalled that the initial project proposal was revised and the first and second year programs were combined resulting in a larger camp and more people. It was this larger program that went to screening by the EISC.

There is an ongoing loophole with respect to research projects – if research is not going through screening it is hard to know how to monitor it. It would be worth raising this with the Game Council. Rob uses data sharing agreements as a tool for this. Lindsay will raise this with the Game Council.

#### Financial Report:

Canada has confirmed that our supplemental funding request (\$30,000) has been approved. Secretariat to revise budget and present at January teleconference.

#### Report from the Chair

The Chair updated the Council on his work on the PBTk project. He also discussed the Community Based Monitoring program at length. The technical advisory committee is meeting for the first time in Inuvik on December 16-17. Norm Snow has taken over the daily direction for the Coordinator. Current deliverable for March 31 is a report that describes in detail what the program looks like – including governance structures, technical aspects, operational guidelines etc.

Lindsay discussed training needs in the communities as they pertain to the CBM initiative. Mike asked the Council what the Council's expectations are vis a vis his contributions to the technical committee. It was reiterated that community interests

are to be balanced with the interests of co-management bodies in deciding what information should be collected and how it should be treated in the CBM project. He was encouraged to think in terms of “less is more” approach at the TAG meeting.

### **IFA funded research proposals**

The Council reviewed proposals for IFA Research funds. Parks Canada has identified \$35,000, Environment Canada has identified \$19,000, and Yukon Government \$132,000 as available research funds.

Yukon Government has submitted proposals for Porcupine Caribou Satellite program, Porcupine Caribou Use of the North Slope.

Mike Sutor reviewed the YG proposals. He described the many components and partners involved in the Porcupine Caribou monitoring work. With the satellite program, the same number of collars is kept on the herd, but now we are using different technology that maximizes the amount of information we are getting per collar. He noted that PC collar data was key in the last year in working with Northern Cross to mitigate the possible effects of their hydrocarbon exploration program on the herd. Satellite and VHF data will be useful in the coming year in updating the sensitive habitats report that Don Russell did in the 1980s. This year’s request is to allow for the purchase of a few new collars.

He provided an overview of the last year’s work, indicating where caribou have calved east of the Babbage, and his efforts to ground-truth the collar data. Photo census efforts were successful this year.

In response to Ernest’s question about caribou overgrazing, Mike indicated that the Richardson’s have a unique combination of lots of shrubs and windswept areas, which combine to make the Richardson Mountains very important summer habitat. Danny agreed that caribou eat shrubs and birch at certain points of the year. Danny noted that in the winter of 1995/96 the PC herd wintered in the Delta, and ate a great deal of the available food there.

Danny described an encounter with a large herd of Porcupine caribou during his walk from Barrow to Aklavik as a young boy. Danny and his brother walked into the middle of the herd and started yodeling and yelling. The herd began walking in a circle around them, and did so for about 20 minutes before moving away from the two boys.

Rob spoke to the Ptarmigan and Raptors proposal from Yukon College. Dave Mossop undertook this work in the 1970s and 1980s, and would like to revisit it to update the data. YG has been doing Peregrine surveys at 5-year intervals. Dave has been working with the Peregrine Fund and would like to add additional years of work on peregrine and gyrfalcons to explore using gyrfalcons as indicators of change on the

landscape. The project would visit known next sites and productivity parameters recorded.

Danny noted that ptarmigan are the only bird that has a “reverse gear.” He described their flight patterns around mating time. He noted that male ptarmigans have a different name during April and May when they wear a brown hood, and then at the end of May that name goes away and they go back to their regular name.

The Council discussed gyrfalcons and ptarmigans as indicators of environmental change. The Chair noted that this is a conceptual proposal – there is a lot more information that would be needed prior to a funding decision. Rob will follow up with Dave.

Council recommended the funds for porcupine caribou work (satellite program and herd use of the Yukon North Slope totaling \$37,000). Danny indicated his ongoing discomfort with collaring caribou. He also wondered if their dispersal into smaller groups now has to do with them being handled. In the past he didn't see the herd breaking into small groups so much, and wonders about this connection. Ernest wondered if, now that the numbers are back up, scientists should consider leaving them alone for a few years so they would have a break from collars. This might be an option if our only concern was regarding numbers of the herd. However, given that the herd mingles sometimes with other herds and we need to understand where they go as much as we need to understand how many there are of them, taking a break from the collar program may not be desirable option. Regardless, trade-offs are involved in the use and non-use of collars.

Motion 12-13-05

*To recommend the IFA research money in the amount of \$37,000 to Yukon Government caribou research (satellite collaring program and Porcupine caribou use of the North Slope).*

*Moved by: Danny C. Gordon*

*Seconded by: Chris Hunter*

*Motion carried*

Danny noted that he hasn't seen injuries to caribou from being collared, but he did note that he has seen damaged wolves and wolverine.

\*\*\*Dan Slavik joined the meeting at 2:30pm\*\*\*

**WWF oils spill trajectory-modeling project**

Dan provided the council with an overview of WWF projects. He indicated that there will be a presentation to IGC Thursday afternoon about their recent oil spill trajectory modeling work and encouraged people to attend if possible.

World Wildlife Fund has been in discussion with the IGC and JS to get direction on a project that would be useful in the region for oil spill response planning. ASA is a leader in this kind of work and was awarded the contract by WWF. They are often the same company that oil companies' use.

The report examines a broad range of oil spills, mostly offshore in deep water (in the Imperial lease area), near shore, shallow water (in Amauligak lease), spills from shipping, community resupply, and scenarios of getting oil to market (sub sea pipelines and shipping of oil in tankers). WWF can use different inputs for the model as the determination of what a worse case scenario might look like is developed. The results should be available in March. The scenarios will show the spill trajectories with and without the use of dispersants.

Ernest suggested that he thought it would be wise to also get some input from the communities. Dan said that they are still determining best ways to share info with communities. Likely it would be a presentation to each community.

Lindsay mentioned that there has been work done on how oil behaves in ice. He asked if the scenarios have been looked at with "weathered oil" as it behaves and changes quite a bit differently once it has been caught in the ice for a long time.

Ernest mentioned that currently the capacity to deal with spills is only for small spills. In order to deal with big spills, ships have to be brought in from overseas. There is going to need to be training and equipment if communities are going to be ready to respond. He further noted that the shoreline clean up project in Tuk was a good project.

### **Wednesday December 4, 2013 Mackenzie Inn, Inuvik**

---

**Lindsay Staples** (Chair) · **Rob Florkiewicz** Yukon Government (Member) · **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) · **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) · **Chris Hunter** Government of Canada (Member) · **Mike Sutor** Yukon Government (Alternate) · **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat) · **Christine Cleghorn** (Secretariat) ·  
**Guests: Pinette Robinson** (Parks Canada), **Jean Francois Basillion** (Parks Canada), **Shawn Hughes** (Yukon Government Conservation Officer)

---

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:07. After a round of introductions, Parks Canada provided a wrap up of last year's projects and provided an overview of plans for 2014.

Wildlife Camera Project – this project was very successful last year. More cameras were installed in the Firth River Corridor. This project is still in the pilot phase. The



cameras appear to work year-round even in -40 and in the dark. Up until now the focus has been on bear/ non-bear habitat. This winter there will be planning about species coverage, geo-referencing, and refining the protocol. At this point the project will focus on the Firth corridor and from there some conclusions can be inferred about the park. The plan is to purchase another 10 cameras.

Danny asked if baiting was allowed on cameras, JF said that he saw a report and it didn't change the detection. The Council discussed the logistics of setting up cameras, detection, triggers, and video. Danny suggested borrowing the cameras to set them up at a moose kill or at a muskrat push-up site.

JF talked about the coastal work being a part of the coastal vulnerability assessment. After their successful workshop in Aklavik, they also have their fieldwork completed for this project. The idea is to provide a long term monitoring plan along the coast. The exact metrics are still to be determined. Mike said that USGS is doing similar work and he will provide that link. A map was produced from the Aklavik data that will be instrumental in future work.

Danny suggested that PC look at Ptarmigan Bay and the melting and erosion there. Wayne Pollard has looked at this. Chris said that they monitor that site, but cannot do much more at this point. He suggested that it might be worth spending time as council focusing on cultural resource management.

The next Ivvavik project is permafrost monitoring. Parks is hoping to set temperature loggers (3) in the park this year at Margaret Lake, Sheep Creek and along the coast. Parks is working with Chris Burn (Carleton University) and talked to Vuntut National Park to make this project work. Chris Burn is interested and the protocol with VNP should prove helpful. . Chris is interested in setting up more stations along the coast as well.

Ernest asked how deep the loggers go in. JF responded that it is 15m. It has to be done with water or a diamond drill. The temp loggers are really small.

Chris presented on Environment Canada's project updates.

Birds of the NS field guide. The lead is Wendy, but the contact is Pam Sinclair and Maria Leung. They are hoping to collaborate with Yukon Parks. They are planning to use scientific and TK info available.

The researcher should sit down with Danny, and someone who can spell in Inuvialuktun. It was also suggested that the Council provide to Wendy Nixon names of people to work with.

It is a two-year project: work with TK holders in first year, layout and printing in second year. Chris suggests that the budget should be higher – another 5k in first year to provide payment to TK holders.

Rob suggests that it would also be helpful to see coastal sensitivity work done with shorebirds as well.

### **Rubber Bullet discussion**

Shawn Hughes, Conservation Officer, Yukon Government

Danny shared his thoughts on a workshop he attended in Banff several years earlier concerning problem wildlife encounters and management. At the meeting it was reported that a mix of moose and grizzly bears were killed by rubber bullets, and one polar bear killed at Pt. Barrow had a rubber bullet embedded in the lungs. He said that in Point Barrow they banned the use of rubber bullets there. They use bangers and regular rifle shells to chase away the animals.

Parks Canada policy allows for the use of rubber bullets by trained employees.

Shawn described the use of bear deterrents that Conservation Officers use, and the circumstances under which each should be deployed. There are four types of deterrents: rubber bullets, beanbags, firecracker-type rounds and lethal rounds.

Rubber bullets can be an effective bear deterrent because it offers considerable pain stimulus. The key is proper use of them. He provided the Council with the YG deterrent policy.

Chris provided information from the mountain parks and said that in the western arctic they don't have the training and expertise to use them in this region. Their policy requires two people: one with rubber bullets and one with live rounds. Parks Canada officers use a graduated approach, with no mixed loads. The staff at Ivvavik only train for bangers, and live rounds. They could pull someone in with more expertise if a problem bear situation arose.

The Council talked about graduated responses for deterrents for bears, including electric fences.

Shawn talked about training that occurred on Herschel Island with Chris Gustafson. Discussions are underway about whether or not to carry on with the training. He noted that Park Rangers recertify annually with shotguns.

Ernest said that rubber bullets shouldn't be used closer than 50 yards.

The Council discussed dual appointments for enforcement. Shawn will look into it and report back.

Lindsay discussed the need for education and training for those using rubber rounds. Danny said that he understands that PC and YG need to act under the policies that govern them, but wildlife monitors could be the ones who just use live

rounds as PC, could apply terms and conditions to groups that they work with. Right now it isn't spoken to in the firearms permits that they issue. PC could do this as a condition of the permit.

Mike said there are training models for industrial operations; the Council could enquire into the programs through ILA.

Ernest said that for PC staff, they would always have two people at a time; that is a good deterrent and a good policy for when there is a problem. In regards to researchers, they should have a wildlife monitor with them.

Lindsay summarized the discussion:

The Council could communicate the following points with regard to human-bear conflicts: ensure that people are well educated and trained for the use of rubber bullets; and with respect to researchers, guides and sovereignty operations, recognize that different groups and different situations require different tools. The challenge of training researchers, guides and those engaging in sovereignty operations is too great to ensure that they can effectively and safely use rubber bullets. These groups should not rely solely on rubber bullets, but use noise deterrents and live ammunition.

Summarize this conversation through specifying two different categories of users and deterrents appropriate for each group. Share this with YG and PC.

Council agreed with this summary and supported the drafting of a letter to this effect.

**Action Item 12-13-01: Draft a letter summarizing rubber bullet conclusions, share this with Parks Canada and Yukon Government and, cc AHTC.**

The Council resumed the discussion on EC IFA research funding. The Council has interest in seeing the coastal shorebird identification guide advanced.

The shorebird guide was originally intended as a communications tool and for people who are out on the land, so everyone has a common reference for species assessments etc. It would be helpful to have it in digital format as well.

The Council discussed the ABEKS proposal. A number of issues emerged:

- The Council has supported ABEKS for many years. It is an expression of our ongoing support for research and information about the Porcupine Caribou Herd, and community-based monitoring.
- Although there is supposed to be a report generated after each Gathering, the Council has not been in receipt of this report for a number of years.

- The Council would like to see a strategic plan that includes a work plan, for the next few years.
- Although the new database is supposed to be more user-friendly, the Council is not aware of what kind of analysis is happening with the old database.

**Action Item 12-13-02: Write and circulate a letter from the Council to ABEKS re conditions for IFA research funds. Invite Michael to our meeting in in March 2014.**

*Motion 12-13-06:*

*To recommend the proposed IFA research funds to ABEK in-principle with a letter that lays out conditions.*

Invite Michael to our meeting in one year's time or in March 2014. It would be helpful for the Council if Michael could come and present his proposal in person.

**\*\*Richard Gordon joined the meeting 14:30\*\*\***

Lindsay welcomed Richard to the meeting and briefed him on outcomes of our rubber bullet discussion. The Council will write a letter to YG re: the Conservation Officers and the Rangers, and vis a vis our concerns about how rubber bullets are used. Dedicated training on a regular basis will help people to be more knowledgeable and sensitive to the use of rubber bullets. Regarding the awareness and competence of Rangers and their use of rubber bullets, Richard is the best person to judge who is the best on his staff to have various responsibilities. It could be that training would be important every year for the Rangers, possibly provided by Richard, but every 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> year the Conservation Officers could use it. It will likely fall on Richard to identify training and support he thinks is needed for himself and for the Rangers. As for researchers and guides, and others performing sovereignty operations, these people are provided with firearms permits through Parks, with a focus on live rounds and bangers. Removing rubber bullets as a deterrent option for this group is preferred. The Council will follow up with the ILA and see what kind of training is provided to wildlife monitors regarding rubber bullets and other bear deterrents.

The Council's overarching goal is to ensure that bears are respected. To this end, the Council will address the circumstances under which rubber bullets are discharged and by whom.

Danny felt that it is important to state in the letter that rubber bullets can kill.

Richard agreed that recognizing the individual strengths and training needs of the Rangers is important. This summer when the rangers shot off noisemakers and a live round, it was clear that communication could use improvement. There is a bear strategy plan in place for the Rangers – it is used as a guideline for the Rangers.

## **Conservation planning discussion**

The Chair updated the Council on YNS conservation planning discussions. Since the last meeting a letter of understanding has been signed between Round River Conservation Studies and the Council to assist the Council in conservation planning work. Lindsay and Christine participated in a meeting between Round River and Tides Canada towards resourcing Round River to undertake some of the biophysical work. The meeting went well, although Tides does not have the financial flexibility to support this work in this year. Climate change and how it is affecting wildlife, habitat and traditional use was of interest at the moment in the philanthropic community.

Next steps will focus on the traditional use mapping work with Peter Armitage providing some guidance about state-of-the-art work in this area and addressing what the spatial component could look like. In January the Council will request Peter to scope out a terms of reference for this project.

In terms of the vegetation mapping work, this is a priority for the Eastern North Slope. Yukon is working out an Ecological Land Classification system that is Yukon-wide. The Council discussed the breadth and speed of this work.

Lindsay suggested that the development of a multi-year work plan for this project would be useful. This could involve a gap analysis in the first year.

### **Action Item 12-13-03: Aim to have a draft work plan for eastern North Slope completed for September 2014.**

The office will continue to develop the briefing package around the work. Until the Council has a fully developed work plan fundraising efforts will be hampered.

## **Imperial Offshore Oil**

There will be an environmental review on this project in 2014. When this happens, it will make demands on IFA committees. For the Council, these demands will relate to potential impacts on the coastline and coastal habitats, and the nearshore.

## **Polar Bear**

Polar Bear MOU – The MOU has been circulated and is ready to be forwarded to the WMACNWT to approve if they are prepared to sign it.

## **PBTK**

Jennifer updated the Council on the status of the PBTK report. It is being circulated for comments until mid-January, at which time we will compile the comments, make the edits, and finalize the document. Council members have received their copies to review. The Council will pay Danny and Ernest three days honoraria to review the document.

Those who are interested in commenting electronically can do so on the skydrive site. If people would like to comment electronically, they should send us an email and we will set them up.

### **CITES Update**

It is a given that polar bear will once again be a high profile species at the next CITES conference. The Chair and Secretariat continue to participate in national efforts amongst co-management boards and various governments toward planning and preparation for the next CITES conference. The Polar Bear Traditional Knowledge study will be a valuable contribution from the Council.

### **Southern Beaufort Analysis by USGS**

The Council continues to request without success a presentation by USGS on their work. Recently, the Council sent a letter on this matter (in Correspondence) with and received a response from Todd Atwood (USGS).

Ernest suggested that leading up to the next CITES conference it will be important for the Council to be strategic about which meetings we attend. Lindsay agreed, and urged Ernest to raise concerns if he thinks there are meetings the Council should be attending.

### **Muskox Plan**

The Chair reflected on the evolution of the draft plan, remarking on the various different agencies and their interests in managing these populations. When the Council began the planning exercise, the population numbers were modest, then they rose dramatically up to 230-240, and now they have declined to about 100. Although there are some muskox west of the Canning River in Alaska, there are no muskox in the Arctic Refuge at this time. The Yukon Wildlife Act has been amended to allow for Inuvialuit harvest on the North Slope. Danny is unaware of any harvest on the Yukon North Slope. The practical, active utility of the draft plan is questionable at this time.

Danny agreed this is a dead issue now. People in Aklavik can harvest muskox on the NWT at any time.

Perhaps the best use of this document is as a background document to inform future discussions. Ernest noted that east of Tuk the muskox seems to be able to increase quickly, but this does not seem to be the case on the North Slope. He reminded the group that the NS muskox are introduced and this may have something to do with their inability to increase their herd numbers.

Richard Gordon noted that the numbers on Herschel are steady, averaging between 30-40 animals. Rangers keep observation records of the muskox.

\*\*\*Richard Gordon left the meeting\*\*\*

Rob indicated he is comfortable with the idea of bringing some form of closure to this document that recognizes all of the work that has gone into the draft plan.

There is a need to reframe the report so that the considerations for the management of North Slope muskox should come to the fore in the report are front and center.

**Action 12-13-04: Reframe the Muskox plan document, as collaborative exercise, prior to March Council meeting.**

Circulate it well in advance of the meeting. Sit down with the Aklavik HTC after and go through it with them.

**Parks Canada update**

Chris provided a short update from Parks Canada. Staffing continues to be a high priority. The regional office operates at less than 50% capacity, with several pending parental leaves. Some new staff will be arriving which will be very helpful towards planning for next summer - some as temporary assignments and some people in a more permanent way. This year staff are looking to offer up to 10 visitor trips into the park.

The wastewater and solar power contract was awarded. The company who was successful has done over 200 similar projects including one in the Torngat basecamp. PC is trying to find a date to revisit the site plan for Sheep Creek. The existing plan was drafted 2008/09 and never finalized. Although it captured a lot from a staff perspective, it was less thorough in its treatment of the site from a visitor experience perspective. He plans to have a two-day workshop with a small group (including one or two people from Aklavik) to inform the site plan with a new vision and a conceptual site plan. A revised plan would follow shortly thereafter – within a few months.

**Upcoming meetings:**

The Chair reviewed upcoming meetings, and established a date for a January teleconference (Jan 31), and finalized the date for our March 2014 meeting (March 18-20). The Council briefly discussed options for where to hold our summer meeting in 2014, but deferred a decision until March.

*Motion 12-13-07*

To adjourn the meeting.

*Moved by: Ernest Pokiak*

*Seconded by: Chris Hunter*

*Motion carried*

Meeting adjourned at 5:07pm.