



DRAFT MEETING MINUTES

WMAC (NS) Quarterly Meeting

Inuvik, NWT • Shingle Point/ Tapqug, YT
July 18-25, 2008

July 19, 2008

Aklak Air hangar meeting room, Inuvik

Lindsay Staples Chair • **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Doug Larsen** Yukon Government (Member) • **Michelle Christensen** (Secretariat) • **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat)

A. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:40pm. The Chair thanked the Secretariat staff for organizing the meeting.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

Danny requested that the Department of Fisheries and Oceans' (DFO) research at Philips Bay (Niaqulik) be added to the agenda.

Motion 08-07-01

To approve the agenda for the July 18-15, 2008 meeting, as revised.

Moved: Danny C Gordon

Second: Ernest Pokiak

Motion Carried

C. Review and Approval of March 4-6, 2008 Minutes

Members reviewed the minutes of the meeting held March 4-6, 2008 in Whitehorse, YT.

Council members requested the following changes:

- Page 7: change to “The Council would like to know if exemptions were made for Vuntut **National Park** only, or if a National Parks **policy** decision was made **regarding the matter**.”
- Page 24: change to “...airstrip to a length 1000 **feet**.”

Doug requested clarification on Action 07-12-25 regarding a letter to be sent to Yukon Government (YG) about the research and permitting process. Doug would still like to review the letter before it goes out and provide advice on who to send it to.

A Council member inquired about the response from Vuntut National Park (VNP) after they were contacted about firearms exemptions and regulations. The Secretariat explained the VNP system. In the absence of a completed regulation review, VNP has a system that allows people to carry firearms as if they were in transit. Every time an individual goes into the Park with a firearm, they must take it into the Parks office to have a ‘seal’ put on it: a small piece of lead that fits into the gun barrel and is stamped with “VNP”. Once sealed, the firearm can be transported. Upon return from the Park, individuals must report to the Parks office and have the seal removed. If the firearm’s seal is broken a report is filed.

The Council discussed challenges in northern parks with respect to nationwide policies that may not be effective here.

The Council discussed the current method of keeping track of action items and suggested creating a log to track action items and correspondence.

Action Item 08-07-01: The Secretariat will create a new log system to keep track of action items and correspondence capturing the date letters go out and if and when responses are received.

A Council member inquired about the issue of honoraria and the need for increases. The Chair recommended that the issue be added to the fall agenda and raised with the IGC when we next meet.

A Council member inquired generally about the withdrawal order. The Chair explained that in 1979 the entire North Slope was proposed as a national park. To achieve this, the Minister had to issue a withdrawal order. An ‘order in council’ was passed. When the Inuvialuit Final Agreement was signed in 1984, it was decided that the Park was to cover only half of the North Slope. The withdrawal order was to be maintained in the remaining area (east of the Babbage River). DIAND and YG have questioned the interpretation of the withdrawal order as to its permanency. The withdrawal order was put in place for the purposes of establishing a conservation regime and the WMAC (NS) Conservation and Management Plan states that it is to remain in effect subject to a due process that it outlines for adjusting it. In the event sufficient studies support a removal of the withdrawal order, it would be reviewed as a project through the Environmental Impact Review Board. This issue was raised in the North Yukon Land Use Plan. When VNP was established the withdrawal order was lifted inside the Park. For the area south of the ISR,

Canada, YG, and Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation have the say whether the withdrawal order remains in effect.

Action Item 08-07-02: The Secretariat will locate the briefing note (power point presentation) to the IGC on the withdrawal order and send it all members.

The Chair discussed land use plans. There is no requirement for a land use plan on the Yukon North Slope under the IFA. DIAND was interested in pursuing land use planning in the area over a decade ago, but the IGC declined support stating that the area is already established under a conservation regime with effective instruments already in place.

Doug updated the Council on the PCMB initiative to engage Shawn Francis, North Yukon land use planner, to undertake a cumulative impact study for the entire range of the Porcupine caribou. This plan would assess the landscape on the basis of Porcupine caribou as the primary value. The PCMB will be contacting WMAC (NS) to propose collaboration on the project and cost sharing options. Doug explained that PCMB has budgeted money to start the one year contract and that it would cost \$50,000 – \$70,000.

Doug asked for an update on the Guillemot research proposal. The Secretariat explained that Cameron resubmitted this proposal.

Action Item 08-07-03: The WMAC (NS) Secretariat will review the North Yukon Land Use Plan to see how the Council's final comments on the plan were addressed.

Action Item 08-07-04: The WMAC (NS) Secretariat will contact Deana Lemke from the PCMB to request a letter explaining PCMB's proposed work with Shawn Francis on the Porcupine caribou planning exercise. The Secretariat will request a copy of Shawn's proposal.

Doug explained that the PCMB hopes to bring Shawn up for their upcoming meeting and that WMAC (NS) could use this opportunity to sit in and become informed on the project..

Motion 08-07-02

To adopt the minutes from the March 4-6, 2008 WMAC (NS) meeting, as revised.

Moved: Doug Larsen

Second: Danny Gordon

Motion Carried

Members reviewed the minutes of the teleconference meeting held April 18.

Ernest talked about polar bear defense kills and emphasized the need for safety education, possibly an initiative for ENR officers. The Council agreed to put the issue on the agenda for the next WMAC (NWT) meeting.

Ernest reported, based on a personal conversation, that the bear that was shot at Shingle Point a few days ago. He reported the bear was shot in defense. The young bear kept coming close to camp, so shots were fired to scare it away and when it didn't leave, it was shot. The bear was burned and buried, and because of the time of year, there was no value for the hide.

Council members agreed to ensure that an incident report is made to the Aklavik HTC. Doug offered his views on the event. There were two bears in the area at the time; a young one running away from a larger, older bear. The one that ran in toward the buildings was reported to be a skinny two year old. Doug informed members that often older, larger bears will chase or prey on smaller ones; he has witnessed this phenomenon in the past.

The Council will inform Ramona of the incident and ask her to discuss types of bear behavior with community people.

Motion 08-07-03

To adopt the minutes from the April 18, 2008 teleconference as presented.

Moved: Doug Larsen

Second: Danny Gordon

Motion Carried

Members reviewed the minutes of the teleconference meeting held June 23, 2008.

The Council discussed comments provided to YG on the SARA. Doug had some concerns with the initial letter that was drafted. The Council's direction to YG was to take one more year to develop the legislation; it now says to take the time that is necessary. Doug expressed concerns about losing the opportunity for species at risk legislation as YG has been hearing comments about not proceeding with the legislation.

The Chair explained that the Council has been clear from the start about its support for the legislation, but points out that important details are lacking that could very likely give rise to legal challenge later. For example, the NWT has much more detail about how co-management bodies are involved, and how Inuvialuit rights are affected and protected. The Chair cautioned about confusion at the species designation and management planning stages if details are not there to prescribe actions. He provided examples in other legislation where institutional roles are spelled out clearly.

The Chair reminded the Council that if the SARA is not recommended, the Council still has the ability to provide recommendations directly to the Minister on the matter.

A member reported that the co-management bodies in NWT were largely upset by the lack of involvement in development of Yukon's SARA, but that they are in support of the legislation. The Council understands that it was political direction that required the expedited the process..

Motion 08-07-04

To adopt the minutes from the June 23, 2008 teleconference as presented.

Moved: Danny Gordon

Second: Doug Larsen

Motion Carried

D. Review of Action Items

The Council reviewed the status of ongoing action items:

Action 07-10-03: The Council will send a letter to the IGC to identify the incident regarding Dennis Arey's comments on the Yukon North Slope Grizzly Bear Program at the September 2007 IGC meeting. The statements do not reflect the relationship between WMAC (NS) and the Aklavik HTC. The statements also do not reflect the implementation of the grizzly bear program. The Council will request IGC members collectively ensure members are acting on behalf of the communities they represent.

Complete.

The Secretariat will copy the letter to the HTC's.

Action 07-10-12: Ramona Maraj will contact Parks Canada regarding development of roles and responsibilities for the grizzly bear program. **Retired.**

Action 07-10-14: The Secretariat will send an information letter to the Aklavik HTC requesting support for the proposed Porcupine Caribou Traditional Knowledge Project.

In Progress.

Action 07-10-16: The Council will request a briefing from the appropriate person (Norm Snow or Jon Reid) on the Regional Action Plan for the Beaufort Sea. **Deferred.**

The Council will invite John Reid to the fall 2008 WMAC meeting to discuss the Regional Action Plan for the Beaufort Sea as well as his work on the Conservation and Management plan.

Action 07-10-19: The Council will discuss possibilities of collaborating on PC traditional knowledge project with WMAC (NWT). **Retired.**

Action 07-10-25: The Secretariat will draft a letter to Yukon Government recommending recommendation 2 and 3 regarding the research permitting and reporting process. As well, the Council will recommend rationalizing the two permit system within Yukon Government by combining Science and Explorers Permit with the Wildlife Permit for natural science research projects. **In progress.**

Action 6-03-01: Dorothy will make a poster for the Aklavik HTC on what hunters should do with collared animals that are harvested. **In progress.**

Comments from GNWT are currently being incorporated.

Action 07-06-26: The Chair will re-draft the muskox management plan and the Council will review the management plan. **Outstanding.**

The Secretariat will add the muskox plan to the fall 2008 agenda. The Chair will redraft with support of Doug, Dorothy, and Danny.

Action 07-12-01: The Secretariat will contact WMAC (NWT) to set up a joint meeting in 2008 to discuss any relevant issues including the grizzly bear project, the muskox plan, and wildlife compensation issues. **Outstanding.**

The Council will endeavor to meet with WMAC (NWT) on the weekend prior to Research Day (Sept 23, 08).

Action 07-12-02: The Council will prepare a letter to be transmitted to the Minister responsible for Parks Canada concerning the need for new regulations for Ivvavik National Park to further the implementation of the revised National Parks Act, the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, and the management issues that require attention as outlined in the Park Management Plan and by the Council. **Outstanding.**

The Secretariat will contact Parks Canada Western Field Unit to determine the national status of firearm regulations.

Action 07-12-05: The Secretariat will identify other co-management boards to engage in drafting a joint letter to the Minister responsible for Parks Canada concerning the need for new regulations for National Parks in the ISR to further the implementation of the revised National Parks Act, the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, and the management issues that require attention as outlined in specific Park Management Plans. **Retired.**

The Chair explained that this issue has been raised through public press. The Secretariat will provide copies of "Up Here" magazine article to Council members.

Action Item AHTC/WMAC (NS) 07-12-01: The WMAC (NS) Secretariat will work with the AHTC to plan a full day meeting to address all relevant issues, in 2008. **Outstanding.**

The Council will endeavor to meet with the Aklavik HTC in December 2008.

New Action Items:

Action Item 08-03-03: The Secretariat will distribute Ramona Maraj's briefing note on polar bear management to partners and have it signed off so that it may be filed as an information item. **Outstanding.**

The Secretariat will distribute letter before the fall meeting.

Action Item 08-03-04: The Secretariat will request jurisdictional maps from Yukon department of Energy Mines and Resources that delineate boundaries associated with oil and gas accords. **Requested.**

Action Item 08-03-06: WMAC will provide comments on Incidental Take to CWS before June 30, 2008. **Outstanding.**

The Secretariat will add Incidental Take to the fall 2008 Council meeting; the deadline for comments has been extended.

Action Item 08-03-08: The Chair will draft a letter inquiring about the federal appointment to the Council. **Retired.**

The Secretariat explained that Christian Bucher has been appointed as the federal member to the Council. Christian was unable to attend the on the land meeting but explained that Parks issues could be raised with Nelson Perry.

Action Item 08-04-02: Secretariat will draft a letter to the IGC and WMAC (NWT) expressing interest in meeting between now and December 2008 to discuss roles in polar bear management. **Outstanding.**

The Council will distribute a letter before the fall '08 meeting, after circulating Ramona's briefing note on Polar Bear jurisdiction.

Action Item 08-04-03: Christian Bucher will locate a copy of EBA's denning habitat report and send it to Ramona. **Outstanding.**

Action Item 08-07-02: The Council will provide comment to Christian Bucher at Parks Canada on the proposed Sheep Creek Site Plan by early July 2008. **Complete.**

E. Correspondence

The Council reviewed the following correspondence:

1. *CWS project update for "Red-Throated Loon as an Environmental Indicator", Jessica Beaubier.* Council members mentioned that some work was done in the 80's on red throated loon. The Council will invite Jessica to present at Research Day. Members discussed the need to have a monitoring plan to put projects into perspective. The Council thought that emphasis should be on long term projects and effective indicators of environmental health. The Council discussed how small sample size could be an issue with this project. A member raised that the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board is hosting a 2020 visioning workshop, and that WMAC (NS) may host an ecological monitoring meeting; this could be an opportunity to investigate a long term strategy for monitoring.

2. *Update on Old Crow moose project: Yeendoo Nanh Nakhweenjit K'atr'ahanahtyaa*
3. *Letter from CEAM advising of new name*
4. *Letter from Steve Solomon to WMAC (NS) regarding Coastal Monitoring on the Yukon North Slope.* The letter discussed how most money goes toward coastal monitoring for oil and gas projects and discussed collaborative potential for ecological monitoring.
5. *Species at Risk timetable for Yukon Species from Yukon Government.* The Council reviewed species assessed in the ISR. Danny talked about how 40 years ago, ringed seals were branded for a mark recapture exercise: the seals were never again located.
6. *WMAC (NS) letter sent to EISC regarding marine storage and SDC lease renewal in the Herschel Basin.* The Chair explained that WMAC (NS) has been receiving requests for comments on storage. Our written comments are an attempt to a longer term approach to the issue. The Council letter recommended looking at mooring conditions from Herschel east to Paulatuk.
7. *Letter from NYPC informing that the recommended NYLUP is available*
8. *Letter from Chris Burn proposing that the next North Slope Conference theme be Herschel Island*
9. *WMAC (NS) letter to COSEWIC recommending a designation for polar bear*
10. *Letter from Beaufort Sea Partnership thanking for participation in the Integrated Ocean Management Plan meeting*
11. *Letter from Tom Jung explaining designation listings for polar bear, Canada warbler, and short-eared owl*
12. *Invitation letter for comment on the listing of species at risk under the federal act.* The deadline for comment is March 2009.
13. *Invitation to comment on the draft Yukon Government Climate Change Action Plan*
14. *Land Claims Agreements Coalition welcomes Senate report recommendations*
15. *DC Marine update*
16. *WWF information on Beaufort Sea issues*
17. *Letter from Parks Canada informing of successful re-staffing of the superintendent position*

18. *June 5 update from WMAC (NS) for IGC meeting in Sachs Harbour*
19. *Letter from WMAC (NS) to the IGC regarding Yukon North Slope Grizzly bear research and IGC standards of conduct - the Secretariat will follow up with the IGC regarding the letter.*
20. *WMAC (NS) letter to Yukon Parks regarding provisions to carry firearms*
21. *WMAC (NS) comments to EISC regarding project screening of the Kulluk*
22. *WMAC (NS) support letter for Doug Clarke's "Aboriginal people, Polar bears, and human dignity" workshop. A Council member commented that interjurisdictional issues should be addressed before such a workshop takes place, or more questions than answers may be produced.*
23. *WMAC (NWT) letter to CWS on peregrine falcon and red knot listings.*
24. *Letter from Roger Connelly regarding community conservation plans. The Chair explained that the plans don't have legal standing, but the EISC takes them seriously. A comment was made that the Northwest Territories land use plans have legal standing and Yukon ones do not.*
25. *WMAC (NWT) comments to CWS regarding incidental bird take*
26. *WMAC(NS) letter to bank regarding account changes*
27. *Briefing from Stephanie Muckenheim discussing YTG implementation funding and distribution of funds*
28. *Letter from IGC to all HTC's regarding polar bear management in light of the US endangered species listing*
29. *WMAC (NS) letter to Yukon Government on the proposed Yukon Species at Risk Act.*
30. *Letter from Conoco Phillips regarding a planned inspection for the Tarsiut Caissons. The Secretariat will contact Richard Gordon, Yukon Parks, to see if he has any issues with the Tarsiut caisson.*

July 20, 2008

Danny C Gordon's cabin, Shingle Point

Lindsay Staples Chair • **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Doug Larsen** Yukon Government

(Member) • **Michelle Christensen** (Secretariat) • **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat) • **Mervin Joe Parks Canada** (Guest) • **Diane Volkers Parks Canada** (Guest) • **Gerry Kisoun Parks Canada** (Guest) • **Nelson Perry Parks Canada** (Guest)

The meeting was called to order at 3:30pm

The Chair invited Nelson Perry, the ecosystem scientist from Parks Canada to present the draft Stokes Point Remedial Action Plan.

F. Stokes Point Remediation Plan

Nelson presented an overview of the Draft Stokes Point Remedial Action Plan.

The plan was completed at the end of March 2008 after two years of site investigations, and Parks is soliciting comment this summer. Royal Military College led the site investigation and prepared the Plan with assistance from Parks Canada.

Nelson discussed the site history and use; steering committee details; and project timelines. He noted that an Operating Plan still needs to be written and that the full cleanup cost is estimated at \$2.5 million.

He provided a brief overview of training workshops, objectives, sampling summaries, and risk assessment conclusions. Nelson clarified that contaminant levels in both animals and the food they were eating were considered safe, and that Health Canada, DFO, and Environment Canada supported the risk assessment report.

Gerry inquired about whether floating logs near the site as well as sculpins had been investigated and whether there might be a relationship between them in terms of contamination levels. Nelson responded that Stokes has been sampled more than any other DEW line site in Canada because it is within a National Park, and the Aklavik community has raised so many concerns.

The Council wondered if all DEW line sites in Canada might be held to the same clean up standard as Stokes. Danny reported that in his opinion Stokes was one of the dirtiest DEW line sites. Danny talked about the Inuvialuit couple that used to camp in the garage at Stokes, where many of the contaminants were contained, and that they both died of cancer. He asked if a copy of the site investigation from that time was available. Nelson replied that no investigation was done at the time, but that most of the contaminated material from the garage was sent to Swan Hills Alberta, which has transformed Stokes to one of the cleanest DEW line sites. The transfer of Stokes Point lands into the park was conditional on its clean up and signing off by Parks Canada. Danny commented that he was pleased with the cleanup work happening.

Nelson presented the archaeological assessment, coastal erosion assessment, geotechnical assessment, clean-up options, Steering Committee decisions, and a description of the contaminated soil and debris left on site.

The Council questioned the section in the plan which describes how visible portions of large equipment in the ground will be cut off at ground level to avoid disturbance to the tundra. One of the Parks staff asked if someone will be monitoring the site to see if the underground portion of these items will re-surface. Nelson responded that monitoring will be in effect.

Danny noted a correction to one of Nelson's slides where reference is made to "Edward Lennie's ice house": the location is actually a storage pit not an ice house.

The Council discussed re-fuelling guidelines and protocols for the Stokes point and Shingle point DEW line sites.

Action Item 08-07-05: WMAC (NS) will draft a letter to Parks Canada recommending that they adopt the Stokes Point fuel storage protocol for Shingle Point DEW line re-fuelling area.

Nelson discussed clean up criteria, and remedial technology, noting that the Royal Military College was responsible for developing all sampling protocol.

Nelson concluded the discussion and indicated he would get back to the Council regarding the questions they had, and thanked them for their time.

The Chair stated that WMAC (NS) would comment on the Draft Remedial Action Plan for Stokes Point by the August 8th deadline, though commenting through the EISC and YESAA at a later date will be options as well.

Action Item 08-07-06: WMAC (NS) will provide comment to Parks Canada on the Draft Site Investigation and Remedial Action Plan for Stokes Point BAR-B, Stokes Point, Ivvavik National Park, Yukon Territory by August 8, 2008.

Nelson provided the Council with a copy of the "Draft Site Investigation and Remedial Action Plan for Stokes Point BAR-B, Stokes Point, Ivvavik National Park, Yukon Territory"; as well as a 19-page summary slide show presentation.

Danny noted that several families have cabins at Stokes Point and that local people don't want to see these cabins destroyed as part of the restoration work. He explained that three brothers at Komakuk had cabins which were destroyed when remedial work was carried out in that area. Nelson acknowledged that clear communication is an important part of the cleanup process.

Nelson noted that an open house would be held in Aklavik in November, and that the final plan should be released sometime in November.

Danny noted that in the 1960's a lot of garbage was left on the beach, gas and refrigerators. There is a large hump in the soil by the garbage dump: it appears to have something buried underneath. It has reportedly been checked and found clean.

Danny reported that he had concerns about the concrete floor in the garage with a drainage hole in the middle. Many contaminants would have been poured into the soil through that drainage hole.

Action Item 08-07-07: Nelson Perry will provide the Council with larger slide on page 9 (1) of his slideshow presentation for information.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:07pm.

July 22, 2008

Danny C Gordon's cabin, Shingle Point

Lindsay Staples Chair • **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Doug Larsen** Yukon Government (Member) • **Michelle Christensen** (Secretariat) • **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:30am.

G. Financial Report

Michelle provided an overview of the financials updated as of Wednesday, July 16, '08.

She discussed the estimate of expenditures for the year.

She explained options and approximations for staff and salary. One option for Michelle Sicotte would be to do some contract work before coming back full time if the arrangement was more beneficial to her than coming back full time right away. Money could come from the projects budget.

Michelle walked the Council through unallocated fund amounts noting that a number of projects had funds allocated to them in the March meeting. The areas of attention for juggling funds will be staff and projects.

The species status reports have \$4500 of discretionary funds allocated. The reports were recently updated and the Council agreed that this money could be reallocated.

Arctic Borderlands has \$2000 allocated, but is not committed and an ecological monitoring workshop has \$20,000 allocated, which a decision has to be made on.

The Council discussed the ecological monitoring workshop and agreed that preliminary work should be done before hosting the meeting. Doing some scoping work beforehand would provide a focus for the meeting and generate meaningful outcomes. The Council decided to look into creating a small contract to hire someone to pull together all of the work that is currently being done on monitoring for the Yukon North Slope. A report will be compiled showing what is being done, why and how we move forward. If the focus extends outside of the North Slope, the Council would look at other partners. All agreed that the workshop is important but will be challenging to pull off.

The Council discussed the last North Slope Conference which asked three questions: Who's doing what? How are they communicating results? How is this used for management decisions? Most people could not answer the last two questions: information is being collected, not published, and is largely not used. The Council would benefit from finding ways to encourage researchers to address the last two questions and to encourage researchers to come up with five or ten really important indicators to monitor over time.

Danny talked about repetition of research due to a lack of awareness of past reports and projects.

The Council concluded that money could be better spent on a contractor to pull together the ecological monitoring information and to provide recommendations on the future of monitoring. The contractor could review about five programs including Arctic Borderlands, Parks Canada work and Herschel work. The contractor would review it, analyze it, and produce a report. A workshop could be held a year later, using the report as a discussion document to spring off of.

The Chair mentioned that he knows of a capable candidate in Toronto that has strong environmental assessment and monitoring skills.

A Member raised that hosting the ecological monitoring workshop and the North Slope conference in the same year would be too much.

The Secretariat briefed the Council on co-management Research Day and who is doing what.

The Chair asked Michelle to discuss the ABEKC workshop she attended in Inuvik.

Michelle explained that the Co-op is waiting for direction from some assessment work that Wayne Wysocki and Don Russell are conducting independently from one another. She said the Co-op seems open to changes, but they grapple with two main issues: how to get organizations to work together well and not overload the systems, and determining what can be reported back to communities from the database and its questions.

The Chair mentioned that funders of the program have not always been clear how their money should be spent. Funders haven't taken the time to determine what they would like to see out of the project. The program also has become too large resulting in a failure to deliver to funding organizations because of the structure.

Michelle reported that she brought the concern forward that not enough funding members are sitting on the board of directors for ABEKC.

Michelle raised the question of WMAC (NS)'s support of \$2000 for the program; some members are hesitant to provide money when the money could be spent on Wayne's assessment of the program.

Michelle reported that Don Russell's work on Porcupine caribou should be in next month. The draft is ready.

Action Item 08-07-08: Invite Michael Svoboda to the fall WMAC (NS) meeting to report on ABEKC.

Action Item 08-07-09: The Council members will look at Porcupine caribou report prepared by Don Russell before the fall meeting.

Action Item 08-07-10: Invite Wayne to the fall meeting to present his work. Schedule him for a half a day.

Danny informed the Council that his membership is up in the fall. Re-appointments usually happen at the September meeting.

Action Item 08-07-11: The Secretariat will draft a contract and statement of work for the ecological monitoring report contractor.

Members noted that in order to spend money in this fiscal year we need to get the contract out and move on it.

The statement of work should include: the review of monitoring projects, the layout of information that has been collected, determination of why information is being collected, and a description of how all the work hangs together, as well as recommendations on where we should go in the future if there need to be changes. A local person should collect the information (in house) then turn it over to someone to do the analytical work. The Council agreed that someone should be hired before Christmas.

The Secretariat requested signatures on the financial statements: Lindsay and Ernest obliged.

The Council agreed to defer the ABEKC gathering support issue until next meeting. The Chair also suggested looking at John Reid's work before committing funds to the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan.

The Council will reallocate the remaining funds in the projects budget at the fall meeting.

Michelle reported that the uncommitted wildlife research funds could have an extra \$5000 for muskox work if Kris Hundertmark cannot do the DNA work. The Council discussed the outcomes of the muskox work. Danny informed the Council that he believes the muskox populations have already mixed. He reported that ten years ago there was a herd near reindeer station and that they have been seen near Elias Island as well.

Action Item 08-07-12: Michelle will contact Ramona to look for another muskox specialist for the 2008 IFA funded research projects.

Michelle concluded \$7,600 is unallocated and \$4,500 for the species status report has been deferred, resulting in a total remaining amount of \$11,600.

Action Item 08-07-13: The Secretariat will ask Ramona if she needs more money for the grizzly bear project.

Action Item 08-07-14: The Secretariat will invite Ramona to the fall meeting to report on her field season and her budget.

The Council discussed ways to spend the money, if not on the grizzly bear work. A Member suggested that the money could be spent on the Herschel ecological monitoring work write up and printing costs.

Action item 08-07-15: The Secretariat will contact Dorothy Cooley to see if she requires extra funds for the production of a Herschel Island ecological monitoring report.

The Council noted that only six months remain to spend the money after the fall meeting.

H. Report from the Chair

The Chair made an observation that the Joint Secretariat is struggling with staffing. He reported that the issue may be salary related. Industry in Inuvik has driven up the price of salary. He reported that some organizations like the National Energy Board have increased their pay scale to be competitive with industry; and that the JS may have to take a similar approach. WMAC (NS) will inquire with the JS about this issue.

The Chair suggested that wages are something that the Council should routinely examine to maintain a competitive pay scale. He recommended comparing the Council pay scale once per year or every few years.

I. Report from Members and Secretariat

Doug commented that his lack of issues to bring forth is a reflection on how well the Council works together.

He would like to see the muskox plan move forward.

Doug informed the Council about the status of his membership. He will remain on the Council in the short term, but YG will have to determine if it is cost effective as well as representative to keep him on the Council. Doug would like to remain on the Council and enjoys the work.

Michelle reported in Dorothy's absence that Dorothy will be doing work on Herschel Island in August instead of July. Cameron has been doing work on Herschel to date. Dorothy expects that the full amount of allocated IFA funding will be spent on the Porcupine Caribou Satellite program.

Jennifer reported in Wendy's absence that Wendy requested to put Incidental Take on the Council's fall agenda. She reported that CWS's funding allotments for the WMAC(NS) member should be adequate soon.

Results from the short-eared owl project on Herschel indicate that lemming numbers were very low and the majority of birds of prey's young starved in the nest.

The Chair reported that Christian Bucher is the new federal member and will have an appointment for three years.

Ernest and Danny had nothing to report.

J. Harvest Management Strategy

Doug, also a member of the Porcupine Caribou Management Board (PCMB) introduced the Harvest Management Plan (HMP). Doug discussed the roles of the Working Group and of the PCMB. The Working group has been responsible for developing a draft HMP; that plan will be released for public comment. After comments are received the Working Group's task is complete and the plan is reviewed by the PCMB; the PCMB will then make recommendations to government.

Doug provided an overview of the draft plan and discussed areas which require the Council's feedback.

Doug explained population scenarios developed by the working group. Four different scenarios project Porcupine Caribou population into the future under different harvest regimes.

Scenario one assumes that nothing changes and harvest remains at 4,000 animals per year. The result is a population decline to under 20,000 animals in less than 15 years.

Scenario two estimates a harvest reduction of 2,000 animals per year, which would result in a continued population decline.

Scenario three recommends a bulls only harvest and an average annual harvest of 4000 animals. The population will continue to decline, but not as rapidly.

Scenario four suggests a harvest reduction to 2,000 animals per year as well as a bulls only harvest. The result is population stabilization over the next few years.

The Working Group is currently recommending a scenario in which there would be a voluntary bulls-only harvest. The population projection for this scenario results in a continued population decline.

Doug explained Total Allowable Harvest (TAH) in the plan. The model allocates harvest based on current harvest distribution. User groups include Alaska, Yukon, and the NWT. The distribution is challenging because the Yukon and NWT have different approaches to how harvest is shared among aboriginals and non-aboriginals.

The Chair commented that the TAH system works well in the ISR. In the ISR, once quotas are recommended the IGC and community representatives sit down together and decide on allocations. TAH throughout the rest of the Yukon's First Nations remains a challenge, as it has not yet been implemented through land claims.

The Council noted that the Alaskans don't take many caribou and the herd hasn't been through Barter Island for 2 years.

Doug raised that his biggest concern is one of implementation of the HMP.

Danny asked how long low population levels would be tolerated before different management actions are taken.

Ernest raised some other issues to consider. He explained that restricted hunting on the Dempster Highway would aid in population recovery; he explained that grizzly bears and eagles take caribou so perhaps the harvest of grizzlies in some areas could be increased; and he stated that he would support a bulls-only harvest. He has seen people package meat improperly over the years, which results in meat wastage. He remembered seeing caribou in the dump at one time as a result of people making space in their freezer for fresh meat. Danny agreed that meat wastage is an issue, and stated that education is important, but difficult.

The Council recommended that a harvest meeting take place every three to five years instead of annually, except in the case of an extraordinary circumstance such as a census revealing new population information.

Doug expressed his concern that the HMP may stray from its original intent as a "bottom-up" or community based approach to wildlife management if all user groups don't buy

into the plan. It would be desirable if the harvest could be managed without government laws. However, for that to happen there must be absolute certainty from First Nations and Inuvialuit that harvest is being reduced.

The Council discussed the “let the leaders pass” approach to management and its relevance in different areas of the range. Danny explained that 50-100 years ago this was a practical rule because people spent more time on the land and knew when the leaders were passing, but today people don’t spend enough time on the land to know. Doug explained that for him the principal is also a way to show respect for the herd.

Doug brought the Council’s attention to the question posed by the plan regarding motor vehicle damage to habitat when snow cover is poor. Danny said that people have created snow machine trails out of Aklavik, which are used as early as August, because tussocks are easier to travel through when unfrozen. More people are travelling by motor vehicle on the land because flying has become cost prohibitive. In discussing this issue, the Council realized that the issue of motor vehicle damage to habitat is not just a Dempster Highway issue. The Chair raised concerns that the HMP may be addressing too many issues by covering topics such as motor vehicle damage to tundra. Although all the issues are important, including too many may make the plan too difficult to apply.

Doug raised the appropriateness of the recommendation to amend the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement (PCMA) within the HMP. The Chair noted that if such a recommendation is included in the plan it needs to outline the reasons for doing so and be clear about the implications.

Doug informed the Council that the Yukon Government, one party to the plan, would like to see recommendations come forward as early as this fall in order to implement harvest decisions this hunting season. The working group will be seeking comments by early October.

The Council discussed the importance of getting the Americans onside once the HMP is established in the Yukon and NWT.

The Council also talked about the public’s confidence in the model and the use of population indicators in the absence of an official count.

The Chair stated the importance of the Parties to the Plan being able to exercise their authority and that responsibilities should be laid out clearly in the HMP.

A question from the Plan was raised about whether we accept historical harvest allocations from harvest data collection. The Chair recommended that rather than a historical harvest allocation, all parties should come together and negotiate it. The Council agreed that this would be a task for leadership and not for the working group. The Chair mentioned the Inupiat/ Inuvialuit polar bear agreement as a good model.

The Chair asked for a recommendation from the Council on harvesting scenarios. The Council unanimously agreed on the fourth option which is a reduction in harvest by half and an all-bull harvest.

Given the mandate of the Council to conserve wildlife in the North Slope scenarios one and two are not options. Scenario three presents a case where the herd is just hanging on, and scenario four is about recovery. The Council has an obligation to recommend scenario four.

Although the Council is in support of option four, there is recognition that we are working on assumptions, we are assuming that the herd is approximately 100,000 animals, but it could be a lot less.

The Chair raised that one user group that has always demonstrated a huge commitment to conservation is the Inuvialuit.

The Chair commented that WMAC (NS) should make a presentation to the IGC on the HMP to share the Council's views at the next meeting in September.

Action Item 08-07-16: The Secretariat will check with the HMP working group if and when the IGC will be involved in the process.

Action Item 08-07-17: The Chair will draft a response to the working group of the HMP and articulate it to the Council by the end of August 2008.

A teleconference may be required to discuss the Plan at that time. The Chair noted that the response would be involved and comments would include: the mandate of the Council, recognition of challenges in putting the HMP together, concerns about current information, answers to questions that need to be addressed in the HMP, and recommendation of scenario four.

Other points to make: Once the HMS is implemented, the PCMB will review the strategy annually and make recommendations to government, if needed. The Council felt that once per year is too frequent, except in extreme conditions, as the population will likely not change that quickly. As well, allocation of harvest should be consistent with provisions under the land claims agreements.

Council comments will also include the recommendation to remove the section about amending the PCMA from the Plan. It must be done through a different process.

The Council comments will also mention the time that it takes to carry out a process like this and encourage them to move forward with it.

Members reiterate the importance of leadership in communities amongst user groups to exercise their authority in enforcing the plan. It was suggested by members to mention this in the beginning of the Council's comments as well as in the end.

July 24, 2008
Nova Inn, Inuvik

Lindsay Staples Chair • **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member) • **Doug Larsen** Yukon Government (Member) • **Michelle Christensen** (Secretariat) • **Jennifer Smith** (Secretariat)

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:20am and provided the Council with an overview of outstanding items.

Financial options with respect to staffing need to be discussed.

Action Item 08-07-18: The Chair will discuss financials and staffing options with the Secretariat before the fall meeting.

The Chair directed the Council's attention to the Elders newsletter produced by WMAC (NS) highlighting the celebratory dinner held for Aklavik Elders in December 07.

Action Item 08-07-19: The Secretariat will print and distribute the group photo on the elders newsletter to each person in the photo and write all of their names on the back.

Danny agreed to deliver a stack of newsletters to the Aklavik post office.

The Chair directed the Council's attention to the North Slope maps produced by WMAC (NS) and Gerry Perrier.

The Council discussed ideas to proceed with a larger scale mapping project which would map from Aklavik west to the Alaska border. The Council carried out a similar mapping project in the past and may have base maps to work from. Ideas for the project include creating a large map with a great deal of detail, including Inuvialuktun place names, water-proofing the paper, and creating a digital version with comments and photos attached to describe special places or areas of concern.

The Council discussed how the map could be a good way of recording information.

Action Item 08-07-20: The Secretariat will look into the old mapping project to locate past maps including the satellite image created by Jim Hawkings

used on a WMAC (NS) poster. The Secretariat will draft a one page outline to describe the project and present it at the fall 2008 Council meeting.

The Chair suggested technical support at Yukon Government may be able to help with the project. Doug will provide names of people that may be able to assist with the project.

Danny mentioned that ENR also has good maps.

K. North Richardson Dall Sheep Plan

The Secretariat informed the Council that comments on the Plan are due by Sept 15.

The Chair opened the discussion to general comments.

Doug mentioned that the draft has been cleaned up since the last time, but there are still holes in the plan.

The background information is incomplete. The plan hinges off of status reports which are not done.

The plan was started under pressure largely due to the two permits that Yukon Government gave out for the population. There was pressure to get a plan out, but as it stands that plan falls short, as a lot of detail has been left out. A scenario has been set up where a workplan will have to be done once the plan is completed which leaves more work for another day.

Doug worried that if the plan does not come together quickly, it may be dropped.

Other aspects of the plan were discussed.

Members thought that it was probably unrealistic to think that the lamb/ewe ratios could be monitored through community monitoring, considering there are not very many people on the land there.

The Chair said that the area is discrete with a small population and 50 tasks are probably too many. The tendency if there are too many tasks is to do none of them. From a practical perspective groups don't have time to go through that many action items in a plan on a yearly basis.

The Plan talks about an implementation team: the tasks should instead be up to principal governments.

The last count for sheep was done in 2006. There were approximately 715 sheep. Prior counts were completed in 2001 and 2003.

The Council discussed other details within the plan that will be drafted into comments.

The Council agreed that the Plan is a good management framework and should be used to advise guidance on future work.

Action Item 08-07-21: The Chair will draft comments on the North Richardson Dall Sheep Plan and circulate them to the Council by Sept 15.

Danny expressed the importance of having a management plan for this population so that people don't misuse it.

L. Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan

The Chair explained that John Reid identified areas in the Plan that need to be updated to reflect the current circumstance.

The Council didn't see any problems with the work that John Reid did and all of his suggestions appeared to be updates that are needed.

Action item 08-07-22: The Secretariat will review John Reid's work on the Conservation and Management Plan to assess what work can be done in-house and what will have to be contracted. The Secretariat will bring this assessment to the next meeting.

The Council agreed that for the contracted work, it would be ideal if John Reid could do the work as he is familiar with it.

Doug suggested that the Council re-read the plan before the fall meeting to become familiar with it again.

Action Item 08-07-23: The Secretariat will circulate copies of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan to the Council for them to review before the fall meeting.

M. Porcupine Caribou Traditional Knowledge Report

Jennifer updated the Council on her work with this project. Staffing issues at the AHTC have prevented a consultative meeting from happening to date, though she has taken some interview training and has spoken with many important players, generating a list of preliminary interview questions.

Doug reminded the Council that the PCMB is the motivating force behind this project and that WMAC (NS) should ensure we are collecting information they need, specifically for educational materials for schools and hunters and the Harvest Management Plan.

The Chair said that we should be mindful of other projects going on and try and keep focused on needs identified by the PCMB and the HMP. He suggested sitting down with the draft survey, circulating it internally, and then to the AHTC and the PCMB before finalizing. The survey would also benefit from a review by Wayne Wysocki.

It was brought up that the grizzly bear survey is a good model. Jen said that she spoke with Kyle Russell, who ran the grizzly bear survey; one of his recommendations was to conduct two rounds of interviews.

A member asked how information from the survey was going to be used. The Chair explained that understanding the changes in harvest patterns over time is the key purpose. An example of the value-type questions we're interested in are, "How did we use caribou in the past?"

Doug mentioned that study focus should reflect values and trends in hunting. The values should demonstrate how elders viewed the herd in the past and how it is viewed now. Hunting methods and patterns over time are tied to values, therefore understanding values reveals information about the herd over time. Questions could get at difference in dependences on the herd over time and similarities in the herd over time.

Doug cautioned that interviewees be selected as appropriate (hunters vs. non-hunters etc.).

N. Co-management Research Day

The Secretariat updated the Council that Co-management Research Day is scheduled to be held in Whitehorse on September 23, 2008.

The Secretariat will make sure to invite IFA-funded researchers including Dorothy Cooley, Wendy Nixon, Cameron Eckert, and Ramona Maraj. It will be important to have Whitehorse people there. Other researchers will be encouraged to come as well.

Action Item 08-07-24: The Secretariat will send an additional invitation letter to ENR, YG, CWS to attend Co-management Research Day.

O. Upcoming meetings

The IGC will be meeting in Whitehorse from Sept 25-28.

The Secretariat will inform appropriate people in Whitehorse that may be interested in meeting with the IGC. The Secretariat will contact Stephanie and Suzan at YG, Harvey Jessup, and Allan Koprowsky.

Council members proposed that the WMAC (NS) meeting be on Sept 20-22 including a half day meeting with WMAC (NWT) in Whitehorse.

The Council will try to meet with the AHTC in December 2008.

P. Research at Philips Bay (Niaqulik)

Danny reported on a research project occurring at Philips Bay. The Aklavik HTC met with DFO in December about the project but they were not advised that the project would be taking fish for sampling. Over 5000 fish were sampled and sent away for research.

It was not explained why fish were sampled and why so many were taken. 5000 seems to be an extraordinary number of fish to take for research, while not making any available for local consumption.

Action Item 08-07-25: The Chair will contact Bob Bell at the FJMC to inform him of the DFO project at Philips Bay and the concern over it.

Danny also raised the issue of travel coordination through the JS and common confusion in bookings.

The Secretariat explained that part of the problem is that after WMAC (NS) sends the request in, they are not copied on the actual bookings.

Action Item 08-07-26: WMAC (NS) will draft a letter to Norm Snow with issues raised regarding travel arrangements and provide a solution.

The Chair thanked members and secretariat for the meeting.

Motion 08-07-05

Motion to adjourn the meeting

Moved by: Danny Gordon

Seconded by: Doug Larsen

Motion Carried

The meeting was adjourned at 1:01pm.