



**Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)**

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

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

E-mail: [wmacns@web.ca](mailto:wmacns@web.ca) www.taiga.net/wmac

**MINUTES**

**WMAC (NS) Quarterly Meeting of June 28 & 29, 1995**

**Aklavik, NWT**

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**Present:** Lindsay Staples (Chair) Joan Eamer - Gov't of Canada  
John Russell - Yukon Gov't Vicki Sahanatien - Parks Canada  
Donald Aviugana - IGC Titus Allen - IGC  
C. McEwen (recording secretary/secretariat)  
Aileen Horler (secretariat)

**Guests:** Bill Fox , Brian Johnston, Grant MacHutchon

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**A. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:35 a.m. Welcomes were extended to Bill Fox, head of Cultural Heritage and General Manager of the Western Arctic office of Parks Canada, Brian Johnston, a York University graduate student working with Bill Fox, and Grant MacHutchon, Parks Canada consultant conducting a grizzly bear research project. A welcome was also extended to Joan Eamer, unofficially the member for the Government of Canada replacing Don Russell. Arrangements were made for Titus Allen, alternate for the Aklavik HTC on the IGC to attend the quarterly meeting in lieu of Nelson Green and the two alternates in Aklavik who were unavailable.

## **B. Review and Approval of Agenda**

The Chair reviewed the agenda and added two items:

G. 4. 1994/95 Wildlife Research

e) muskox update

G. 17. WMAC (NS) Operating Procedures

There were no further changes.

**MOTION:** *To adopt the amended agenda.*

Moved: Donald Aviugana

Seconded: John Russell

Motion carried

## **G. Old Business**

### **3. Ecosystem Monitoring Project**

The Chair introduced this topic for the sake of the new participants at the table. A discussion of the initiative to date, written by Gary Kofinas under contract to WMAC (NS), was tabled. Joan Eamer added further detail. The North Yukon initiative will rely heavily on community involvement which sets it apart from other ecosystem monitoring efforts across Canada. People in the communities are critical to a meaningful process. The database compilation is awaiting an upgraded computer at the WMAC (NS) office. A workshop held this past May in Whitehorse was attended by a small group including Martin Raillard of Parks Canada, Jim Hawkings, Don Russell and Joan Eamer of Environment Canada, Gary Kofinas, Matt Stabler of FJMC, and C. McEwen of WMAC (NS). The meeting was facilitated by Doug Urquhart. The action items from the workshop included the following.

- 1. A data gap analysis workshop will be held sometime in October or November '95.
- 2. CWS has applied for funding for a "State of the Ecozone Report" for a national ecosystem monitoring meeting in January 1996.
- 3. By March '96, a workplan will be developed with different agencies assuming responsibilities.

The State of the Ecozone Report is a one time report. An annual report or activity report would follow in consecutive years. This report and annual updates will be provided on the internet.

Workshop minutes will be available from Joan Eamer at a later date.

**ACTION 95-06-01:** Regarding NYEMAN (North Yukon Ecosystem Monitoring Network) and the associated database, Joan Eamer will contact Ross Wien at the University of Alberta, Edmonton about the effort to establish a database for the Beaufort Sea Region and its applicability to the Yukon efforts.

**ACTION 95-06-02:** Regarding NYEMAN, Joan Eamer will provide the WMAC (NS) Secretariat with a copy of the executive summary of the Alaskan project funded by the National Science Foundation and Man and the Biosphere.

**ACTION 95-06-03:** Regarding NYEMAN, Vicki Sahanatien will forward to the WMAC (NS) secretariat an update on Parks Canada's database group and biodiversity group.

#### **H. 4. 1995/96 Wildlife Management Proposals**

The Yukon Government tabled a proposal from the GIS Office entitled, "Improvement of North Yukon Wildlife and Habitat GIS Databases." The proposal seeks funding to allow the conversion or uploading of data into a Geographic Information System (GIS), in addition to testing some modeling with the data once entered and converted. The proposal was well received for its thorough detail yet there remained some confusion as to how this proposal is related to other existing databases among the various agencies.

Subsequent to this discussion, the Canadian Wildlife Service faxed a submission to the meeting entitled, "Discussion Regarding the current status of Land Cover Mapping efforts in the North Slope and their use for studies in Wildlife Habitat." The submission was both timely and informative, as it summarized the state of knowledge of digitized data sets of North Slope vegetation/habitat projects. As recommended in the submission, WMAC (NS) members proposed a workshop of informed and involved persons to determine who should manage the data, where it should be stored, etc.

**ACTION 95-06-04:** Regarding North Yukon habitat GIS databases, WMAC (NS) secretariat will convene a meeting this fall to discuss who will manage the databases, and where and how it will be stored. The meeting should include representatives from Canadian Wildlife Service, Joint Secretariat, Yukon Government, Parks Canada and DIAND.

**ACTION 95-06-05:** WMAC (NS) secretariat will extend thanks to Jim Hawkings for his memo tabulating the North Yukon vegetation GIS databases and recommendations of needs.

**ACTION 95-06-06:** Regarding NYEMAN, Joan Eamer will approach Bill Fox for inclusion of the Parks Canada cultural resources' database to the NYEMAN database.

Meeting adjourned at 11:20 for lunch.

The meeting reconvened at 12:30 for a meeting with the directors of the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee. Present at the meeting and representing the AHTC were: Renie Arey, Titus Allen, Jacob Archie, Dean Arey, and Billy Archie. The WMAC (NS) Chair presented the three major points for discussion: grizzly bear hunting, bylaw and quota; muskox hunting on the North Slope; and future areas or issues of wildlife on the North Slope.

The Chair started the discussion speaking of the quota of five bears which has been in place with the AHTC for two seasons. He mentioned that a desire to hunt in the park had been expressed informally to WMAC (NS) this past spring. Titus Allen said he and Danny A. had been in the park last year on their way to Barter Island and they had seen some good sized bears - maybe as many as 10, around Nunaluk Spit. Billy Archie asked what the quota would be in the park for grizzly bear harvest. It was agreed that for this hunting season, one of the five tags for hunting grizzly bear east of the Babbage River would be used for both in the park and east of the park border (i.e. across the entire Yukon North Slope) after August of this year (when the grizzly bear research concludes).

Vicki Sahanatien recapped the findings of the March '95 muskox survey on the North Slope. With an assumed, but unmeasured slight margin of error, the population count was 146 animals - 42 bulls, 53 females, 22 yearlings and 15 calves. Drawing from the Alaskan experience, they have a conservation harvest that averages 1-3 % of the population. Parks Canada wanted to know when and where people hope to hunt.

The Chair alerted the HTC directors to a memo from Don Russell concerning effects of muskoxen on caribou movements. The memo basically stated how very difficult, if not impossible, this influence would be to measure, given the technology used for tracking collared caribou.

**ACTION 95-60-07:** WMAC (NS) secretariat will forward to the Aklavik HTC a memo from Don Russell expanding how difficult it would be to measure muskoxen avoidance by caribou through their migration movements.

**ACTION 95-06-08:** Regarding the proposed North Slope muskox hunt, Vicki Sahanatien and Dorothy Cooley will provide the Aklavik HTC with information on the timing and methods of the Paulatuk and Alaska muskox hunts.

**ACTION 95-06-09:** Vicki Sahanatien will provide Renie Arey, President of the Aklavik HTC, with information on the upcoming Arctic Ungulate Conference in Fairbanks this August with the intent that a representative from the HTC may attend.

The Chair mentioned that Bill Fox has shipped out bones to be carbon-dated which were found at Engigstciak and are thought to be muskox. Dean Arey asked how the muskox found on Herschel Island would affect caribou going to the island. Directors were informed that the draft muskox management plan for the Yukon North Slope would be approved by the WMAC (NS) by September and a quota recommended.

The Chair briefed HTC directors on the status of some recent research projects, particularly the vegetation and habitat mapping project. He requested suggestions for any wildlife management plans needed or current wildlife concerns.

Billy Archie asked about the status of Komakuk Beach. Vicki Sahanatien replied that the wheels were in limbo. As the clean-up has not yet been done, Komakuk is not yet in

Ivvavik National Park and will not be included within the park until the responsibility of clean-up has been dealt with. Billy Archie questioned the contaminants in the soil. Vicki Sahanatien responded that the Royal Roads Military College had sampled the soil and that there was no need for more sampling, although the data could be re-examined. Joan Eamer offered that the worst contamination, the PCB contaminated oil, had been removed from Komakuk Beach. Stokes Point has been cleaned up. Titus Allen said lots of material is buried there.

The HTC directors spoke of meetings with the Gwich'in to deal with hunting in the overlap area. The Gwich'in initially rejected Inuviluit names but have since accepted 29 names for this year. Gwich'in hunting on the North Slope is not an entirely settled matter. There was also discussion of a cougar sighting, and a series of traps affected by the suspected cougar. The Chair spoke of the ecosystem monitoring project, as a follow up to Gary Kofinas' spring visit with the HTC. Community involvement is key and the Elders should be directly involved.

The Chair thanked the HTC directors for their time.

### **C. Review and Approval of Minutes of December 5 & 6, 1994 quarterly meeting**

**MOTION:** *To adopt the minutes as presented.*

Moved: Vicki Sahanatien  
Seconded: Donald Aviugana  
Motion carried

### **D. Review of Action Items of December quarterly meeting**

ACTION 94-06-05: Dropped, recognizing efforts will be undertaken in a number of ways (e.g. IFA workshop, wildlife act overhaul) to table YTG's views on Inuvialuit harvesting rights east of the Babbage River.

ACTION 94-06-11: Pending the completion of the Harvest Study Evaluation Report, YTG may do an internal assessment of the Inuvialuit harvest Study data, including requirements for its accuracy and reliability, and the needs of YTG for such harvest data, now and projecting into the future. In addition to the technical review, the assessment should produce a substantive statement of need addressing the requirements of the North Slope, speaking about the management requirements of the IFA for harvest information.

ACTION 94-06-15: The concern for the facilitation of an IFA workshop is in hand through an ad hoc committee.

ACTION 94-09-06: Done

ACTION 94-09-10: new Action, 95-06-04

ACTION 94-09-12: RE: Nelson Green will request comment from the IGC as to Gwich'in harvesting rights on the Yukon North Slope and any process for allowing such activity - Carried forward

ACTION 94-09-14: Done

**ACTION 95-06-10:** Kelly Olson, Yukon Secretariat, will wrap up the 10 year review of North Yukon wildlife projects funded through IFA implementation funds as soon as possible.

ACTION 94-12-13: WMAC (NS) secretariat and Vicki Sahanatien will follow-up on Grant MacHutchon's offer to work with Val Loewen on the northern Richardson Mountains vegetation data and define grizzly bear habitat. SEE ALSO ACTION 95-06-04

**ACTION 95-06-11:** Regarding the binder of FACT SHEETS, the secretariat will produce the first of these, reiterating Don Russell's paper on muskox - caribou interactions.

ACTION 94-09-15: Done

ACTION 94-12-01: Done

ACTION 94-12-02: Done

ACTION 94-12-03: Done

ACTION 94-12-04: Done

ACTION 94-12-05: Done verbally, to be communicated through a memo also

ACTION 94-12-06: Done

ACTION 94-12-07: This action of producing fact sheets is an ongoing process.

ACTION 94-12-08: Done

ACTION 94-12-09: Done

ACTION 94-12-10: Done, although not by January, as a number of items had to be worked around.

ACTION 94-12-11: Done

ACTION 94-12-12: Done

ACTION 94-12-13: RE: WMAC (NS) Secretariat and Vicki Sahanatien will follow-up on Grant MacHutchon's offer to work with Val Loewen on the northern Richardson Mountains vegetation data and define grizzly bear habitat - Carried forward to the proposed fall '95 GIS database workshop

ACTION 94-12-14: RE: WMAC (NS) will request a vegetation map for those candidate areas for protection mentioned in the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan which fall within their sampling area, etc. - Carried forward

ACTION 94-12-15: Done

ACTION 94-12-16: Not done, due to the Inuvialuit Participation costs issue, WMAC (NS) was not able to respond to the draft Polar Bear Habitat Conservation Strategy for Alaska.

ACTION 94-12-17: Done

ACTION 94-12-18: Done

ACTION 94-12-19: RE: Chair to write the Minister of Yukon Renewable resources to address the management of grizzly bears on the North Slope, vis-à-vis Inuvialuit hunting under a quota and the area being open to grizzly bear resident sport hunters - Carried forward

ACTION 94-12-20: RE: WMAC (NS) to recommend to DIAND, YTG and IGC to convene a workshop to discuss the Withdrawal and Prohibition Orders of the Yukon North Slope.

Not pursued. DIAND prepared a draft discussion paper which suggested that the federal government could unilaterally lift the Withdrawal and Prohibition Orders on the Yukon North Slope east of the Babbage River. This interpretation differed from the interpretation that WMAC put forward in its wildlife conservation and management plan which speaks to incremental changes to the withdrawal orders subject to the due process for environmental screening and review established in the IFA. The DIAND publication entitled, *The Northeast Yukon: Development within a Conservation Framework*, Canada Environmental Studies No. 49, written by David Livingstone, supports WMAC's interpretation of the Orders. Discussions with DIAND's Director General for Renewable Resources indicated it is an issue which DIAND will not pursue at this time. It also appears that Environment Canada does not share the views presented in the discussion paper.

ACTION 94-12-21: Done

ACTION 94-12-22: Done

ACTION 94-12-23: YTG had a free balance of \$30,000 at year end which they contributed to the Inuvialuit Harvest Study.

ACTION 94-12-24: Done

### **E. Correspondence**

One point of discussion of the correspondence was a question about the status of the Regulatory Efficiency Act, Bill C-62.

**ACTION 95-06-12:** Regarding Bill C-62, Regulatory Efficiency Act, the secretariat will contact Robert Gibson and ascertain the status of the proposed legislation.

### **F. Financial Report**

The Secretariat presented the review engagement financial report for the year ending March 31, 1995 prepared by the firm of Kim Tanner C.A. Ltd.

**MOTION:** *To adopt the financial statements as presented and pass the associated resolution 95-06-01.*

Moved: Joan Eamer

Seconded: Donald Aviugana

Motion carried.

### **G. Old Business**

#### **1. Grizzly Bear Management**

##### **b) Management Plan**

Given the increased staffing at John Nagy's office, the completion of the *Grizzly Bear Management Plan for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region* is expected out early fall.

##### **a) Hunting Quota**

Further to the discussion with the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee about hunting grizzly bear in Ivvavik National Park, WMAC (NS) passed a resolution, Resolution 95-06-02, whereby one of the five tags permitted for the North Slope east of the Babbage River would be available for hunting across the entire Yukon North Slope, with provision to close specific areas in Ivvavik National Park for public safety and with closure of the North Slope to Yukon grizzly bear sport hunters.

**MOTION: *To pass resolution 95-06-02***

Moved: John Russell

Seconded: Titus Allen

Motion carried

**ACTION 95-06-13:** The existing definition of bear cub in the Aklavik HTC bylaw is not the same as the definition used in the Yukon hunting regulations. John Russell will propose a wording change for the Yukon regulations for the North Slope Game Management Subzones. This definition must be agreed upon by Parks Canada to conform with its requirements as well.

**ACTION 95-06-14:** The Chair will draft a letter to the Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources requesting a closure to Yukon resident sport hunting of grizzly bears in the North Yukon, given the limited quota harvest, and requesting a change in the hunting regulations definition of bear cub for North Slope GMS.

**ACTION 95-06-15:** Vicki Sahanatien will provide a map and geographic description to the WMAC (NS) secretariat outlining those areas which Parks Canada would like to see closed to grizzly bear hunting in the interests of public safety (Firth River valley, Nuneluk Spit, Stokes Point) during June 15 to August 31.

**ACTION 95-06-16:** WMAC (NS) secretariat will provide the map and geographical description to the Aklavik HTC for inclusion into the amended grizzly bear hunting bylaw.

## **G. 2. Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan**

### **a) Volume 1**

The Secretariat briefed the members on the status of Volume 1 and provided a mock-up from the desktop publisher in black and white.

### **b) Options for completion of Volume 2 & c) Withdrawal and Prohibition Orders**

The Chair briefed members on the outcome of a meeting with himself and Hiram Beaubier in which they discussed completion of the North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan and treatment of the withdrawal order of the land east of the Babbage River. It was agreed that while there was a difference of opinion, the council was advised to go ahead with the plan.



John Russell tabled YTG's draft comments on the plan. The comments represent a major departure from any other reviewers comments on the plan and will be discussed at the next meeting of the Council.

Based on the Chair's Ottawa consultations it was advisable to recognize recent revisions to the Canada Wildlife Act addressing the establishment of Wildlife Management Areas.

In follow-up to the Ottawa consultations, review comments have been received from Wildlife Habitat Canada, comments from the Canadian Nature Federation are outstanding. Otherwise, no further consultation and review are to be undertaken. The Chair and Secretariat will work to completion of the plan, providing greater clarity where suggested. The Chair advised the members that many of the review comments were a product of how well or poorly the reviewer understood and knew the IFA.

**ACTION 95-06-17:** The Chair and secretariat will ensure that the provisions for Wildlife Management Areas in the Canada Wildlife Act will be incorporated into the final draft of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan.

The meeting was adjourned for the day at 5:00 p.m.

#### **THURSDAY, JUNE 29, 1995**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9:15 a.m.

#### **G. 5. Inuvialuit Harvest Study**

The ongoing evaluation of the harvest data and the adequacy of its collection has not yet been completed. Donald Aviugana and Titus Allen spoke of the difficulty in having the interviews done in Aklavik because the field workers resigned and no replacements were found immediately. Consequently for many months the hunter interviews were not done. The problem had been resolved and harvest data were collected for all months.

**ACTION 95-06-18:** Secretariat will write Michael Fabijan, Harvest Study Coordinator, requesting the status of the Aklavik harvest data given that there was no field worker for the better part of the year.

#### **G. 8. Polar Bear Habitat Conservation Strategy for Alaska**

There was fixed deadline for comment on the draft habitat conservation strategy. This deadline fell within the period when the WMAC (NS) was without funding for its Inuvialuit members and so was unable to confer and provide comment to the Alaskan authorities. The Secretariat was informed by the IGC that they would not be providing comment within the time period allotted.

#### **G. 11. ANWR - 1002 Update**

The issue is very critical now with the pending schedule of voting on bills by the U.S. Senate and Congress. The lobby effort works on many fronts concurrently. Persuading senators to vote in favour of protection of ANWR is a constant focus. A slide show presented by Lenny Kohm, entitled The Last Great Wilderness, focuses on enlightening and motivating the American constituents to lobby to protect ANWR. Letter writing campaigns are ongoing and WMAC (NS) secretariat is directly involved with this lobby effort. Parks Canada stated that they had contributed to the lobby effort through the Porcupine Caribou Management Board in their last fiscal year's budget.

### **G. 13. IFA Workshop**

An ad hoc committee has been formed to deal with the logistics of the workshop arrangements. The committee directly involves WMAC (NS) Secretariat and the Yukon Secretariat with circulars to the Inuvialuit Game Council and Joint Secretariat. The workshop will provide a 2-day grounding in the IFA with consideration for a third day for case topics. A bare familiarity with the IFA will be expected of participants attending the workshop. Participants would include personnel from Yukon Renewable Resources, Justice, and Economic Development, WMAC (NS) members, and personnel from DIAND's Whitehorse offices. It is not clear who may attend from Inuvik. Vicki Sahanatien referred to the success and informative nature of the 3 day IFA workshop which Parks Canada sponsored for its staff which was presented by Roy Murray and Bob DeLury. John Russell made it clear that September and October were too busy for him to attend a 2 or 3 day workshop.

**ACTION 95-06-19:** Regarding the IFA Workshop, the ad hoc committee will schedule the workshop for fall '95, giving consideration to the scheduling of other meetings (WMAC (NS) quarterly meetings, GIS workshop, NYEMAN workshop, Harvest study group meetings, IGC meetings, etc.)

### **G. 14. DIAND Yukon Commercial Wilderness Camp/Lodge Policy**

The status of this draft policy could not be determined prior to the meeting.

**ACTION 95-06-20:** Regarding DIAND's Whitehorse Commercial Wilderness Camp/Lodge Policy, the secretariat will indicate to DIAND that further comment will be reserved pending the receipt of further information on the development of the policy.

### **G. 15. Summary of Fourth Yukon North Slope Conference**

**ACTION 95-06-21:** Secretariat will draft a letter to the Yukon Deputy Minister of Renewable Resources commending the effort on the publication of the Fourth Yukon North Slope Conference.

### **G. 16. Newsletter - Wildlife Watch**

**ACTION 95-06-22:** Secretariat will undertake the production of the next Newsletter, Wildlife Watch, with a cover story on the Ivvavik Grizzly Bear Project and a secondary

story on the Ecosystem Monitoring project. Parks Canada, through Grant MacHutchon will provide the cover story materials.

#### **G. 4. 1994/95 Wildlife Research**

Members reviewed the wildlife research status reports provided by YTG. John Russell recommended to the members that the wolverine carcass collection project be continued into the next year. Parks Canada offered to assist in any way with the carcasses, advising that the Science Institute in Inuvik had freezers available.

**ACTION 95-06-23:** Secretariat will draft a letter to Manfred Hoefs, Yukon Renewable Resources, requesting the report of habitat use by muskox on the North Slope to assist in the preparation of the management plan, and to supplement a distribution and abundance survey done this past March.

**ACTION 95-06-24:** Regarding YTG's wildlife program updates, two reports remain outstanding, John Russell will report back on the status of these reports.

**ACTION 95-06-25:** Secretariat will improve on the format of Status Reports with Dorothy Cooley.

**ACTION 95-06-26:** Regarding YTG's distribution of funds during the past fiscal year, John Russell will request an explanation as to why the Habitat Programs are not part of the Wildlife Programs and why meetings expenses of \$6059 are in the Wildlife Programs allocation rather than Yukon Secretariat. The WMAC (NS) secretariat will follow-up informally.

In review of Yukon Scientists and Explorers Licenses, John Russell pointed out an oversight on the General Conditions of permits.

**ACTION 95-06-27:** Secretariat will draft a letter to Jeff Hunston, Director, Yukon Heritage Branch, requesting an addition to the General Conditions of the Scientist Permits - "4. Inuvialuit Hunters and Trappers Committees".

#### **G. 6. Ivvavik National Park**

Vicki Sahanatien briefed members on the changes of organization within Parks Canada. Basically there has been a downsizing in the organization. At the field level, all Chief Warden and Regional Superintendent positions have been eliminated. The responsibilities of these jobs will be redistributed although the allocation is unclear at this point. Bill Fox is currently the manager in the Inuvik office. There remains much uncertainty. Parks staff are concerned that Parks Canada will not be able to fulfill its mandate to protect and conserve natural areas and they are encouraging non-government organizations and others to comment to the appropriate authorities. Ivvavik's budget is through IFA implementation funds. Aulavik's budget is through Green Plan Funding which will continue for one more year, afterwards it must come from within Parks Canada's budget. Martin Raillard's salary is also funded through the Green Plan.

**ACTION 95-06-28:** Regarding cutbacks within Parks Canada and the western arctic region, WMAC (NS) Chair will write the Deputy Minister of Heritage Canada indicating the need to finance Ivvavik National Park sufficiently in order for managers to meet their responsibilities for conservation and preservation, and IFA requirements and the long term funding requirements of the NYEMAN initiative.

Regarding the Ivvavik Ecosystem Conservation Management Plan, Vicki Sahanatien explained that the plan is midstream and has been an in house exercise up to this point. Its development has been slowed by the reorganization changes. The objectives of the plan are to outline research/management plans needed for Ivvavik, using the basis of the '89 Conservation Plan and the recent Management plan for Ivvavik. At a later stage of development, there will be consultation with the Aklavik HTC, WMAC (NS) and other agencies.

**ACTION 95-06-29:** Vicki Sahanatien will provide WMAC with an outline or framework of the Ecosystem Conservation Plan for Ivvavik National Park.

## **G. 12. Inuvialuit Harvesting Rights on the North Slope**

### **a) Regulations and admin. procedures**

Given Parks Canada's reorganization, progress on the development of regulations for hunting within Ivvavik National Park is at a stand still. A Steering Committee, comprised of Peter Lamb, Norm Snow, Lindsay Staples and Bob Bell was named. As was a Technical Working Group, comprised of John Russell, Bill Smith, Steve Cadoo and Vicki Sahanatien. There needs to be stronger Inuvialuit representation. It is unclear where the process will go from here. Without regulations for Inuvialuit hunting in Ivvavik, park wardens will work as peace officers within the HTC bylaws.

## **G. 10. Herschel Island Territorial Park**

A new office has been opened in Inuvik from which Andy Tardiff will work when he is not out at the Park.

**ACTION 95-06-30:** Yukon Secretariat will provide WMAC with a status report from Yukon Parks of the implementation of the Herschel Island Park Management Plan and interpretive strategy.

## **H. New Business**

### **1. Inuvialuit Participation Costs**

The issue has been resolved, at least until 1999. DIAND will pay to the GNWT \$180,000 annually for the costs of Inuvialuit participation on the EISC, EIRB and two WMAC's with changes to the IFA to make the GNWT legally responsible for the participants involvement at meetings. It is necessary for these councils to amend their respective operating procedures to include a clear definition of "meeting".

**ACTION 95-06-44:** Regarding a change to the Operating Procedures, the Chair will provide wording for a definition of “meetings” to be inserted into the Procedures.

## **G. 7. Muskox Management**

On behalf of the other authors, Martin Raillard and Dorothy Cooley, Vicki Sahanatien presented the draft muskox management plan for the Yukon North Slope. It was explained that the plan was modeled after the Alaskan management of muskox. Various elements of the draft plan were reviewed. The basic objective of the management plan, as previously agreed by the WMAC (NS) members, was to arrive at a hunting quota within conservation limits based on the desire to allow the population to grow and expand. There was discussion around the table on this point and many other aspects of the draft plan.

**ACTION 95-06-31:** Regarding the draft North Yukon muskox management plan, the authors will make the following changes:

- the assumption that the Yukon population is the same stock as the Alaskan population should be made explicit in the plan;
- the population model could use more detail, regarding the dispersal of animals from Alaska to Yukon;
- the plan should speak of the Paulatuk harvest methods as much as the Alaskan methods;
- YTG data should be used to fill in the habitat requirements;
- comment should be made about muskox interactions with other animals (i.e. moose and predators) in addition to that already provided;
- comment on status of existing harvest should be made;
- a section added on current management issues and outstanding issues;
- the use of general categories as in the status reports of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan;
- use of historical information from Banks Island and Paulatuk in addition to what is already provided;
- an explicit statement that there is no living memory of muskoxen on the Yukon North Slope from among Aklavik elders;
- a section on regulations

**ACTION 95-06-32:** Secretariat will make a request to the Inuvialuit Game Council time at their next meeting in September for a presentation of the muskox management plan.

## **I. Next Meeting**

**ACTION 95-06-33:** Secretariat will make arrangements for the **next quarterly, to be held in Whitehorse, September 25 and 26.**

## **G. 9. EISC/EIRB Concerns**

### **a) Driftwood Lumber Co.**

The Chair reiterated the terms and conditions of the land use permit for the operation based on the environmental review by the EIRB. At present, there are signs of activity on the coast.

**b) Analysis by Robert Gibson**

The Chair requested comments from the members as to how they preferred to move forward with this analysis and present the findings to the EISC and EIRB. WMAC (NS) has a stake in the screening and review process and should have the ability to make ongoing contributions to the process. The efficiency of the process is of strong interest to WMAC (NS) and one test of the process is the Driftwood Lumber Co. application. The cost of processing this application was beyond \$115,000, of which \$56,000 was spent on legal costs.

**ACTION 95-06-34:** WMAC (NS) Chair will draft a letter to the Environmental Impact Screening Committee and the Environmental Impact Review Board providing comment on their processes, based on an evaluation done by Robert Gibson, in addition to mention of WMAC's dependence on the screening and review process for conservation on the North Slope, the link between the report and comment in the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan, and given the Special Conservation Regime for the North Slope, and lessons from the Driftwood Lumber Co. review.

**c) Prospecting/development permits update**

DIAND has recognized that the EISC has a place in the issuance of prospecting permits and licenses. Environmental Sensitivities Maps are to be developed by the proponent with the HTC. DIAND, IGC and IRC are in discussions to work up the procedures.

**d) Thetis Bay**

It is cost effective for the owner of the caisson to park and lease it rather than to abandon it. The lease costs are less than parking a car in downtown Vancouver for a year. Apparently the company is trying to sell the caisson. The Aklavik HTC has concerns with the Molipuk caisson regarding bird migration, particularly eiders avoiding the caisson and boaters have difficulty seeing the caisson in fog as the caisson is without any navigational lights to warn travelers.

**H. 5. 1995/96 WMAC (NS) Workplan/Budget**

The Secretariat reviewed and discussed the proposed workplan/budget with the members, with total revenue and expenses for office administration and IFA implementation projects. The allocation of \$3500 in capital assets was proposed for the purchase of a computer to upgrade the existing office computer. It is inadequate in many respects, particularly in the entry of the north Yukon ecosystem monitoring database. No funds have been allocated for printing all volumes of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan. Only in exceptional years has there been funding within WMAC's budget to cover costs of the plan, otherwise YTG has contributed to the

plan through its surpluses. The development of a conservation plan for the North Slope is a statutory requirement of the council that is not covered by implementation funding. One source of funding for the printing costs of the plan is IFA implementation funding earmarked for the North Slope Conference which is unused in non-conference years.

**MOTION:** *To adopt the proposed Budget Workplan for 1995/96 with the additional line items: a planning workshop for the implementation of the Plan; and public education/communications for the Plan.*

Moved: Donald Aviugana

Seconded: John Russell

Motion carried

**ACTION 95-06-35:** Secretariat will investigate three cost options to reproduce the Term Report - once available the council will teleconference to choose an option.

**ACTION 95-06-36:** Secretariat will release \$5,500 to the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge lobby effort through the Porcupine Caribou Management Board ASAP. The accompanying letter will release the PCMB to use the money in the lobby effort where they deem it most appropriate. It was acknowledged that Frank Elanik had been lobbying in Washington in the spring.

**ACTION 95-06-37:** Secretariat will table the Communications Strategy '90 by Macpherson Consulting for discussion at the next quarterly meeting.

**ACTION 95-06-38:** Chair and secretariat will investigate software for networking among members.

#### **H. 4. 1995/96 Wildlife Management Proposals**

Vicki Sahanatien listed the numerous projects ongoing or pending in Ivvavik, these include: grizzly bear study coming to completion at the end of August; muskox survey of March; non-aerial survey of raptors; establishment of long term vegetation monitoring plots; two weather stations established to be maintained by AES; a study of toponymy awaiting funding; campsite monitoring; archaeological inventory survey; three charr projects funded with DFO A-base dollars; set up of an annual breeding bird survey; and coastal erosion monitoring to be set up at gravesites. Last season, 106 visitors came to Ivvavik. Most were from commercial rafting trips and one hiking group. This year the Park expects that attendance to double, on the basis of more rafting trips, many of which are private, and three hiking groups. Parks Canada would like to conduct a coastal clean-up and is seeking air support funding. A proposal to WMAC will be submitted.

John Russell reviewed a list of potential wildlife projects and proposals, these included: GIS Habitat project - \$ 8,550; revisions to Yukon Wildlife Act - \$28,000; wolverine carcass collection - \$2,000; muskox population surveys for '96 - \$10,000 - 15,000. Beyond these possible projects, Hugh Monaghan would like to meet with Aklavik HTC

and hear their concerns and ideas and perhaps develop management plans for specific species (as already done with grizzly bear and muskox).

**ACTION 95-06-39:** Secretariat will direct Val Loewen, Yukon Habitat Branch, to directly contact Titus Allen of the Aklavik HTC regarding the clean up of camp materials at Canoe Lake and moving the materials to Tinhouse to fix another cabin.

**ACTION 95-06-40:** The GIS Habitat proposal presented by YTG will be deferred to the GIS database workshop proposed for fall '95.

**ACTION 95-06-41:** Regarding the draft proposal from YTG Renewable Resources for funding to amend the Wildlife Act to accommodate the provisions of the IFA, WMAC (NS) will present the draft proposal to the Inuvialuit Game Council at their next meeting in September for comment.

**ACTION 96-06-45:** WMAC (NS) will request funds from YTG to cover the costs of publication of the *Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan*. These funds would be drawn from the North Slope conference allocation.

**ACTION 95-06-42:** WMAC (NS) members will respond to the secretariat with their comments on the draft Term Report by Friday, July 7.

### **H. 3. Canadian Endangered Species Act**

There was no formal consultation from Ottawa with the WMAC (NS) on this proposed legislation. The secretariat attended the May workshop presented by CWS and YTG in Whitehorse as an observer. Due to the lack of Inuvialuit participation funding, WMAC (NS) was not able to confer on the discussion paper which was circulating at the time. The Inuvialuit Game Council chose not to comment on the discussion paper as there had been no formal consultation.

**ACTION 95-06-43:** Regarding the proposed Endangered Species conservation, the Chair will contact the Canadian Wildlife Service requesting formal consultation, preferably during the last week of September when the two WMACs and IGC will be in Whitehorse for meetings.



**MOTION:** *To adjourn the quarterly meeting.*

Moved: Titus Allen  
Seconded: John Russell  
Motion carried

Meeting was adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_  
WMAC (NS) Chair

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
WMAC (NS) Secretariat

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date