



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

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

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

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

MINUTES

WMAC(NS) QUARTERLY MEETING

**Westmark Whitehorse
New Village Boardroom
and
Dalton Trail Lodge,
Haines Junction, Yukon**

May 28-31, 1998

Thursday May 26, 1998 - Whitehorse

Present: Lindsay Staples - Chair
Nelson Green - Member - Inuvialuit Game Council
Joan Eamer - Canadian Wildlife Service - Member- Government of
Canada
Billy Archie - Member -Inuvialuit Game Council
Brian Pelchat - Chief, Regional Management - Member -Yukon Territorial
Government
Dorothy Cooley- Alternate- Yukon Territorial Government
Alan Fehr - Parks Canada
Aileen Horler - WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Guest: Elena Jones - PCMB Wildlife Technician Trainee

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 1 PM. Alan Fehr, Ecosystem Secretariat Manager, Western Arctic District, was welcomed as the representative for Parks Canada.

Elena Jones was introduced to members by Dorothy Cooley, as the PCMB Wildlife Technician Trainee. Elena will be working with Dorothy for the summer.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda and noted that there are a number of shorter information items that can be covered during the afternoon. These include the review of the minutes, action items, correspondence as well as a number of program updates. The items which require longer and more detailed discussions, such as the Long Term Research Plan, review of wildlife research proposals and the Muskox Management Plan can be considered over the weekend.

Brian Pelchat questioned an item under Herschel Island Territorial Park, which referred to the 1998 work plan. Brian commented that, as far as he is aware, the activities in the Park will remain the same as in other years. He added that a new Chief Ranger has been hired by YTG. The hiring has led to some controversy, as under the Yukon hire policy, it was not possible to hire someone in the region.

Motion

to adopt the agenda.

Moved: Nelson Green

Seconded: Joan Eamer

Motion carried

C. Review and Approval of Minutes of March 26-27, 1998 meeting

The following changes to the minutes were requested:

- p. 5 - Billy Archie requested that 'resource person' in Aklavik be changed to read 'research assistant'. (twice)
 - Brian Pelchat requested that the first full sentence at the top of the page be changed to read 'The circumstances regarding Inuvialuit preferential rights will need to be understood.'
- p.6 - In reference to work to be conducted by Mike Gill, Joan Eamer requested that the sentence be rearranged to read 'Mike will spend his time finalizing and implementing the Long Term Research Plan, as well as working on the North Yukon Database.'
- p.11 - Joan Eamer noted the change in the name of the North Yukon Ecological Knowledge Co-operative to the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-operative.

p.14 - In reference to the section on muskox management, Brian Pelchat requested that the second sentence be changed to read 'It was confirmed that YTG will take the lead in co-ordinating the community consultations with WMAC(NS) and Parks Canada.'

Motion

to adopt the minutes of the March 26-27, 1998 meeting.

Moved: Brian Pelchat
Seconded: Billy Archie
Motion carried

Brian Pelchat distributed a handout titled 'Process for Establishing Harvest Quotas on the Yukon North Slope'. Brian noted that this is a draft document which he prepared for himself as a means of clarifying the process.

D. Review of Action Items of March 26-27, 1998 meeting

Action 96-06-32: Dorothy Cooley, Billy Archie and the Secretariat will work together to develop a proposal for the preparation of a video on the Muskox Management Plan.

Carried forward. Pending completion of the Plan.

Action 97-09-16: Joan Eamer will prepare a form, to be completed by Val Loewen, Jim Hawkings, Mike Muller and Vicki Sahanatien, which will summarize the information available on GIS.

Completed. Joan reported that she is waiting to receive the required material from YTG and then all the information will be compiled. See discussion under ***

Action 97-06-13: The Chair will write a letter to DND and Minister of DIAND with respect to the clean-up standards for Komakuk.

Carried forward. The Chair noted that he has been waiting to receive a copy of Parks Canada's letter from the IRC re. Komakuk clean-up standards before writing.

Action 97-09-19: The draft Muskox Management Plan will be circulated to the members for comments.

Completed.

Action 98-01-08: WMAC(NS) will write to Joe Tetlich, Chair, PCMB, to request a summary of sources contributing to research and management on the Porcupine Caribou Herd.

Carried forward.

Action 98-01-09: Steve Travis will forward a copy of Parks Canada's letter from the IRC re. Komakuk clean-up standards to WMAC(NS).

Completed. Alan Fehr reported that he brought copies of several letter regarding this issue to the meeting to give to WMAC(NS).

Action 98-01-21: The Yukon Government will take responsibility for co-ordinating the public consultations on the draft Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan. WMAC(NS) and Parks Canada will co-sponsor the consultation.

Carried forward.

Action 98-03-01: WMAC(NS) will write to the Aklavik HTC to clarify that the concerns regarding public safety, noted in the WMAC(NS) muskox harvest resolution, in no way restrict the right of Inuvialuit to hunt.

Completed.

Action 98-03-02: The Secretariat will contact WMAC(NWT) to request that any updated information received on CESPA, be forwarded to WMAC(NS).

Completed. The Secretariat will be receiving updated information on CESPA from WMAC(NWT).

Action 98-03-03: Joan Eamer will provide Council members with updated materials regarding CESPA, at the WMAC(NS) meeting, to be held in May.

Retired.

Action 98-03-04: The Chair will write to Duane Smith, Chair, Inuvialuit Game Council, to address the IGC's concerns, as expressed in their letter dated March 18, 1998.

Completed

Action 98-03-05: Joan Eamer will provide information on the Community Monitoring Project to the Inuvialuit Game Council.

Carried forward. Joan reported her need for further clarification on this item before proceeding. The Chair referred to the IGC's letter of March 1998 which had requested more information on the Community Monitoring Project. It was suggested that Joan respond to their specific questions.

Action 98-03-06: Dorothy Cooley will send a copy of the wolverine poster to the Aklavik HTC in time for their 1998 AGM.

Carried forward.

Action 98-03-07: The Secretariat will inform Parks Canada of the Council's intent to review all 1998-99 wildlife management proposals at its quarterly meeting in May.

Completed.

Action 98-03-08: The Secretariat will contact the Aklavik HTC to determine their current priorities for wildlife research. This information is to be forwarded to YTG, CWS and Parks Canada to assist them in the development of wildlife management proposals for 1998-99.

Completed.

Action 98-03-09: The Chair and Brian Pelchat are to meet with Jim McIntyre to discuss the process for the review of the Herschel Island Management Plan.

Completed. Brian Pelchat reported that he met with Jim McIntyre. A report of the meeting is given below. (see section on Herschel Island Territorial Park)

Action 98-03-10: The Secretariat will write to Ian Sterling requesting a clarification in regards to the protection of polar bears in the off-shore region. Copies of the letter is to be sent to Ross Leaf and Steve Curtis.

Completed. A briefing note from Ian Sterling was distributed to members as an information item.

Action 98-03-11: The Secretariat is to follow-up on progress regarding clean-up at Shingle Point.

Carried forward. The Secretariat reported that attempts have been made to contact Mark Zrum regarding the clean-up of Shingle Point.

Action 98-03-12: Brian Pelchat will ensure that the YTG Grizzly Bear Management Team writes to the Inuvialuit Game Council to clarify the omissions in the Grizzly Bear Management Guidelines.

Carried forward. This item needs to be completed in time for the IGC meeting, June 10, 1998.

Action 98-03-13: Brian Pelchat will prepare an explanation of the options for managing the grizzly bear harvest (ie. points system, 3-year quota, annual quota) for presentation to the Aklavik HTC.

Carried forward. A copy of a letter from Carol Arey, President, Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, to the IGC, regarding a three year quota for grizzly bears, was distributed to members. The letter expresses the wishes of the HTC members to have the grizzly bear tags allocated for a three year period. This system would give the community more flexibility and ensure that opportunities for hunting were not lost should the full allocation not be taken in one year. Concerns were raised as to the possibility of taking too many bears in any given year, if all the tags were issued at the same time, but with careful monitoring a potentially harmful situation can be avoided. Once the three years are over any unused tags could not be carried over. Brian commented that as part of the action item he could put together an information poster which explains the three year quota system.

Action 98-05-01: The Chair will raise the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee's request for establishing a three year quota for grizzly bears, at the next IGC meeting.

E. Correspondence

The Chair referred to a letter in the binders from Peter Usher, Chair, WMAC(NWT) regarding the review and updating of the Community Conservation Plans. It is the intent of WMAC(NWT) to consult with the Hunters and Trapper's Committees. Working groups will be formed in each community to work on the review. WMAC(NS) will be asked for comments and suggestions. Members agreed that the Council should be kept informed and up-to-date, in regards to the Aklavik consultation. Alan Fehr added that Parks Canada will also be reviewing the Plans.

Action 98-05-02: The Secretariat will write to WMAC(NWT) to request that WMAC(NS) be kept informed and up-to-date, in regards to the Aklavik consultation on the Community Conservation Plans.

The Chair drew the members attention to the Biodiversity Newsletter. Joan Eamer reported that she went to the forum's follow-up meeting, which was poorly attended. The forum was very good but the future direction of the biodiversity initiative is not clear. Joan will continue to keep the Council informed.

F. Financial Report

a) 1997-98 year-end report

The Chair reviewed the financial statement for 1997-98. The Council ended the year with a deficit of \$3,861.95 which can be covered from 1998-99 funds.

Motion:

To accept the 1997-98 year end financial statement.

Moved: Brian Pelchat

Seconded: Nelson Green

Motion carried

G. Demonstration of the taiga.net website

Joan Eamer gave members an on-line demonstration of the taiga.net website. The site contains a variety of home pages, such as one for the caribou and the Wolf Creek Basin, as well as news, events, reports and database links. Joan has added the Traditional Knowledge Database, recently completed by Val Walker. It is a useable database, which can be searched using variety of keywords. Several examples were shown. Joan noted that the database gives a summary of the works but not the full content.

Joan also showed members the site she has been developing for WMAC(NS). She has been able to use the text and photographs from the Council's poster. Joan reported that she hopes to have to site completed soon.

Brian Pelchat reported that a website is being developed which will present all recommendations to government made by a number of boards and councils in the Yukon with mandates for providing advice on wildlife and environmental management. It will include histories and updates. This site can be developed further and could include WMAC(NS).

H. Old Business

H. 1. Wildlife Act Amendments

The Chair reported that a meeting of the Wildlife Act Amendments Working Group was held in mid-May to review all of the suggested changes to the Act that had been discussed previously. The table in the binder lays out the gaps in the legislation and identifies potential conflicts. The Working Group went through all of these and identified the key items that need to be addressed. Among these are some definitions, Inuvialuit harvesting rights outside of the ISR, the issuance of permits, game management zone

boundaries and the enforcement of HTC by-laws in the Yukon. It is also important to look at enforcement powers and establish a reciprocal system. For example, Parks Canada personnel can enforce regulations outside of national parks but Yukon Conservation Officers don't have any enforcement authority inside a park. The work to date is now being reviewed by the Department of Justice.

The Yukon Government will be drafting legal instructions in time for the next IGC meeting. They will be worded in language suitable for the upcoming consultations.

The Chair plans to meet with the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board to discuss protocol and geographic areas of responsibility between the Board and the Council. The Council has the same kind of agreement with the FJMC. It is hoped that an agreement will streamline the process and avoid the kinds of delays that the Board has to deal with regarding changes to legislation.

H. 2. Inuvialuit Harvest Study

The Chair reported that Sheila Nasogaluak has been hired as the new Harvest Study Co-ordinator.

A workshop was held last month for all the field workers to review the revised field survey forms. There is still a possibility of adding monitoring items. The IHS will now only survey the active hunters. A reserve list has been established which identifies those not hunting on a regular basis. Field workers will have the same amount of work to do. The survey will be dropped in January and February, but others tasks will be added. For example the field workers can do actual field work such as monitoring and follow-ups to the interviews.

The new graphic interface is now running in ACCESS. A contract has been given out to provide an assessment of the reliability of the past ten years worth of data, with special emphasis being placed on the accuracy between the actual and extrapolated data. It would be useful to do a ten year trend analysis. All the expenses for this project are being covered by money saved by not having a co-ordinator last year. There aren't any new or additional costs.

There will be three to four data products per year. Sponsoring agencies will get the raw data, in an electronic format, as well as all other products, on a regular basis. Other users will have to follow the established protocol in order to access the data.

Members agreed that a presentation on the IHS could be useful for to all the co-management groups and the IGC. The Chair agreed to raise the issue at the next IGC meeting and IHS Management Group teleconference.

H. 3. Ivvavik National Park

Alan Fehr gave the report on Ivvavik National Park. In reference to staffing, Ian Brown has begun work as the Warden Manager, in Inuvik. Steve Travis is the acting Chief Park Warden for Ivvavik. Two patrol persons have been hired for the Park and Marvin Joe is returning as a seasonal employee.

The coastal clean-up will be completed this year. There will be a further assessment of Komakuk, with clean-up of the site scheduled for next summer. There is still a controversy over who will pay and what will be done. Parks will be meeting with the Department of National Defense in early June to discuss the matter further. There is a concern with setting a precedent for clean-ups in Nunavut. Materials at other sites have been buried but they were not located with National Parks. Alan reported that he has heard concerns that the burial site at Shingle is heaving. He has written to the IGC urging them to express any concerns they have regarding this site, especially as DND will want to use the same methods for removal at Komakuk.

Action 98-05-03: Alan Fehr will forward a copy of the letter he wrote to the IGC, regarding problems with the Shingle Point burial site, to WMAC(NS).

Monitoring will continue in the Park. These include ITEX (plant growth), birds, lemmings, water, weather, and campsites. Monitoring is still in a preliminary stage. Many of the protocols haven't been field tested. It has been important to pick projects that meet the protocols.

Some effort will be put into GIS this year. The Park is expected about the some number of raft trips as in past years.

H. 4. Implementation Review

The five-year funding agreement with the federal government runs out in March 1999. Concerns have been raised that the parties are given enough time to consider changes and to negotiate.

The Chair referred to the letter written by Terry Henderson, Director General, Claims Implementation Branch, DIAND, which proposes maintaining the current level of funding. Affected parties felt that not enough time was given to respond and many of them have written suggesting an alternative process for discussions. The Chairs of the Inuvialuit Boards and Councils will be getting together next week in Tuktoyuktuk to discuss the issue. There is a general feeling among the parties that the level of funding is adequate.

The Chair referred to the letter from Alan Koprowsky to the IGC regarding a meeting to coordinate an approach to implementation negotiations. It is hoped that this meeting will be held in the early summer. The Chair commented that he plans to raise this issue at the next IGC meeting.

I. New Business

I. 1. Regional Management Teams

Brian Pelchat reported on YTG's Regional Management teams. Over the last ten years wildlife management has moved from being species-based management to community-based management, co-ordinated by regional biologists. Dorothy Cooley was the first YTG regional biologist. There are now five management regions, whose boundaries coincide with First Nations' traditional territories.

When the regional programs were first set up, questions arose within the department as to how they should be co-ordinated with species programs. Initially species teams were set up for this purpose but staff have concluded that regional teams would better serve this function. The initiative now is to establish regional management teams, made up of Conservation Officers, biologists and habitat people. They will function as technical teams, responsible for planning, budgeting and regulations, as much as is possible. These teams were originally conceived of as being internal teams but now there are questions as to what will be the links with the Regional Resources Councils and the First Nations. How can WMAC(NS) fit into this process?

The northern region covers the Vuntut Gwitchin and Tr'ondek Hwech'in First Nations' traditional territory and the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. The Chair of the regional management team will be Dorothy Cooley. This team will meet this summer to develop a budget for wildlife management. Right now, the team will be composed of government employees only but there is an open invitation to the Chairs of the RRC's to attend. The team won't directly effect anything on the North Slope.

The Chair commented that it will be a challenge to include Inuvialuit representatives. It will be important for the Inuvialuit to know if their needs are being met and how they might be effected by decisions made by these teams. The way in which the team will work with WMAC(NS) may be a topic to include at the upcoming meeting on implementation.

Joan Eamer commented that the team could be useful in developing wildlife research proposals as it will be a forum which brings together species biologists and managers. Dorothy Cooley will be able to function as the liaison between the team and the Council. Billy Archie expressed his concern over the Regional Management teams, saying that the Inuvialuit have all they need under the IFA. The Chair replied that he thinks these teams will improve wildlife management and their potential should be explored further. Nelson Green added that he feels the teams are a good idea and could facilitate getting the government more involved with the IGC and WMAC(NS).

Friday May 29, 1998 - Dalton Trail Lodge

Present: Lindsay Staples - Chair
Nelson Green - Member - Inuvialuit Game Council
Joan Eamer - Canadian Wildlife Service - Member- Government of
Canada
Billy Archie - Member -Inuvialuit Game Council
Brian Pelchat - Chief, Regional Management - Member -Yukon Territorial
Government
Dorothy Cooley- Alternate- Yukon Territorial Government
Alan Fehr - Parks Canada
Mike Gill - WMAC(NS) / Canadian Wildlife Service
Aileen Horler - WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Guest: Elena Jones - PCMB Wildlife Technician Trainee

F. Financial Report (continued)

Members reviewed the 1997-98 Review Engagement Report, prepared by Kim Tanner.

Resolution:

To accept the 1997-98 Review Engagement Report, prepared by Kim Tanner, as tabled.

Moved: Brian Pelchat
Seconded: Nelson Green
Motion carried

H. Old Business (continued)

H. 5. Grizzly Bear Management

The Chair referred to letter in the binder, written by Marsha Branigan, which reports the grizzly bear harvest on the Yukon North Slope, over the last five years.

Billy Archie reported that Aklavik hunters only harvested two bears this spring. The quota season began in July 1997. There were 2 nuisance bears killed last summer. This brings the total 1997-98 harvest to 4 bears, 7 less than the allowable harvest. As the system stands now, if the full quota is not harvested within a given calendar year, the unused tags become invalid.

A discussion was held regarding the introduction of a three-year quota system, which Billy Archie reported, the Aklavik HTC would like to see to established. The Chair referred to a letter written by Carol Arey, President of the Aklavik HTC, to the IGC, expressing their desire to establish a three-year quota. Many factors effected the ability of the hunters to fill the quota. A three-year quota would provide the community with much more flexibility for hunting, from one year to the next, as it would only be after the three years have past that the HTC would have to return any unused tags.

If such a system were introduced it is very important the community understands that the full quota should never be taken all in one year. Even a harvest of twice the annual quota would be cause for concern. The HTC will have to monitor the rate of harvest carefully. Members agreed to support the initiation of the three-year quota system for grizzly bears on the Yukon North Slope.

Members reviewed Resolution 97.03.05 which states the Council's recommendations regarding the harvesting of grizzly bears on the Yukon North Slope. It agreed that no changes are needed to the Resolution.

Action 98-05-04: The Chair will write to the IGC to inform them that the Council has reviewed the grizzly bear quota for the Yukon North Slope and is recommending that the current quota be maintained. The letter will also convey the Council's support for the introduction of a three-year quota system for the grizzly bears harvest. The letter is to be copied to the Aklavik HTC, Parks Canada and YTG.

Action 98-05-05: WMAC(NS) will write to the Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources and the Minister of Canadian Heritage to inform them that the Council has reviewed the grizzly bear quota for the Yukon North Slope and is recommending that the current quota be maintained.

Action 98-05-06: WMAC(NS) will write to the IGC to suggest that the IGC hold discussions with the GNWT regarding improving the management of nuisance bears.

b) Grizzly Bear Management Plan

Members reviewed the WMAC(NS) Action Items in the Grizzly Bear Management Plan for the ISR. A summary of the Council’s actions and responses is given below.

1998-99 Work Plan Actions	WMAC(NS) Actions/ Response
<p>Population Information</p> <p>2) Help design a study to get a population estimate for the Richardson Mountains</p> <p>2) Continue to support the Richardson Mountains grizzly bear productivity and cub survival study</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project recommended to YTG for funding (third year).
<p>Habitat and Range Use</p> <p>2) Review with IGC and WMAC(NWT) the GNWT/ YTG/ Parks Canada recommendations on where vegetation studies should be done to produce a vegetation map for the ISR; recommend where studies should be done, and plan for those studies in the Treasury Board submission for ongoing funding.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outstanding
<p>Harvest Management</p> <p>6) Work toward amending the Yukon Wildlife Act so that the definition of ‘cub’ is consistent with the Aklavik Grizzly Bear By-law and so that it includes arrangements to allocate and account for tags used each year on the Yukon North Slope.</p> <p>7) Work toward amending the National Parks Act to include provisions for regulations to manage the harvest of wildlife by aboriginal people in National</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This issue has been raised during meetings regarding the amendments to the Wildlife Act. YTG maintains that a change would be difficult as it would effect the rest of the territory. IGC members involved in the amendments process have accepted YTG’s position. All parties will continue to work toward a solution. • Action item- WMAC(NS) will write to the federal minister regarding the need to change the Parks Act (see below)

<p>Parks.</p> <p>7) Work on harvest regulations and make arrangements to allocate and account for tags used each year in Ivvavik National Park that is consistent with those used by the DRR-YTG and DRWED-GNWT.</p> <p>9) Explore alternate ways to manage the grizzly bear harvest eg. the points system.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action pending changes to legislation • Discussions held at Council meetings and with Aklavik HTC. Council in support of Aklavik HTC's request for a three-year harvest quota.
<p>Co-management</p> <p>1) Work on a video about grizzly bears and their management in the ISR.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to consider what to include in a video which would address concerns about public information/ education and meet community needs for information • lots of information available- information at the beginning of the Grizzly Bear Management Plan would be good to include. • Action item- WMAC(NS) will write to YTG, GNWT and Parks Canada's bear biologists to suggest that they get together to discuss video content. Video can be produced using a power point presentation (as for North Slope wolf video) (see below)
<p>Culture and Education</p> <p>1) Support and help with the project to translate the COPE tapes.</p> <p>1) Support the project to document the current Inuvialuit traditional environmental and cultural knowledge about grizzly bears in Aklavik</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council supporting initiatives to have tapes translated and transcribed. • Aklavik HTC should take the lead, the Council will support where it can. This could be a pilot project for the collection/ documentation of traditional environmental and cultural knowledge,

<p>3) Help work on non-technical reports on the biology and management of grizzly bears in the ISR that includes traditional and scientific knowledge.</p> <p>3) Give the Grizzly Bear Management Plan and the annual reports to libraries, schools and the public</p> <p>3) Start work on posters on grizzly bear biology and management issues in the ISR.</p>	<p>but should also look at in context of other projects- difficult to examine one species in isolation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Members suggested that Marsha to be involved in determining what the community wants as the project's focus. Can include issue of problem bears. Could involve searching Muriel Nagy's work for grizzly bear references as well as the collection of new information. Could use IHS field worker to collect information. • Use of videos and posters preferable to written non-technical reports. • Council members feel that distribution should be the responsibility of the GNWT. • Posters are tied to research projects. A poster should be done when the Richardson Mountains work is complete. • When biologists get together to discuss video (above) they should also consider related poster.
--	---

Ongoing (each year) work plan actions were reviewed. Members agreed that these items are undertaken routinely and require no specific actions or follow-up.

Action 98-05-07: As directed by the 1998-99 WMAC(NS) Work Plan Actions in the Grizzly Bear Management Plan for the ISR, the Council will review with IGC and WMAC(NWT), the GNWT, YTG and Parks Canada recommendations on where vegetation studies should be done to produce a vegetation map for the ISR; recommend where studies should be done, and plan for those studies in the Treasury Board submission for ongoing funding.

Action 98-05-08: The Secretariat will provide members with further information on the legislative definition of 'cub'.

Action 98-05-09: As directed by the 1998-99 WMAC(NS) Work Plan Actions in the Grizzly Bear Management Plan for the ISR, WMAC(NS) will write to the federal minister regarding the need to work toward amending the National Parks Act to include provisions for regulations to manage the harvest of wildlife by aboriginal people in National Parks.

Action 98-05-10: As directed by the 1998-99 WMAC(NS) Work Plan Actions in the Grizzly Bear Management Plan for the ISR, WMAC(NS) will write to YTG, GNWT and Parks Canada's bear biologists to suggest that they get together to discuss the content of a video about grizzly bears and their management in the ISR. The video can be produced using a power point presentation, as was done for North Slope wolf video.

Action 98-05-11: WMAC(NS) will provide John Nagy with a summary of the Council's responses to the 1998-99 WMAC(NS) Work Plan Actions in the Grizzly Bear Management Plan for the ISR.

H. 6. Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-operative

Joan Eamer reported that a draft of the proceedings of the Third Annual Gathering are soon be distributed for review. Gary Kofnas is writing up the results of the Community-based Monitoring Project. A working group is looking into the possibility of the Co-op obtaining charitable status.

When asked about the initiative to have the Co-op funding more broadly cost shared, Joan replied that, in addition to the regular sources, the Co-op will be applying to the Gwich'in RRB for funding this year. The GNWT has already agreed to supply some funds. Established cost sharing will help the Co-op to get charitable status.

Alan Fehr commented that monitoring in Ivvavik is still developing. It is possible for Parks personnel to work outside the Park if there are links to other projects. He has talked to Dave Mossop about the raptor monitoring. Alan hopes to create more links and to broaden the scope of Park's involvement in monitoring.

H. 7. 1997/98 Wildlife Management and Research Updates

a) Muskox School Unit

Dorothy Cooley reported that work on the project is continuing. It should be completed by the end of the summer. Billy Archie agreed to follow-up on the progress of this project in the community.

b) Count of Muskox and Moose on Yukon North Slope

A report of Danny C. Gordon's trip is included in the binder. All the collected data was forwarded to Dorothy. Members recognised a need for a summary report which includes

an evaluation. This project needs to be finalised by looking at more than just the data. It needs to be assessed for its value as a monitoring project. How useful was it as a wildlife management tool? Was it cost effective? Were the expectations met? There is a need to have a good understanding of the project's objectives. What were we trying to learn?

Action 98-05-12: Dorothy Cooley will prepare a summary report of Danny C. Gordon's trip. The report is to include an analysis of the objectives met by this survey method, its value as a monitoring project, the strengths and shortcomings of this kind of approach, as well as the survey results and recommendations. The project's usefulness as a wildlife management tool and its cost effectiveness should also be addressed.

Alan Fehr referred to 'seen sheets' which is a technique used elsewhere to record on-the-ground, incidental observations for use by people on the land. Members agreed that it could be a useful way to enhance community monitoring opportunities. On-the-ground observations obtain different types of survey information than those done from the air. Alan added that the community wants to have an opportunity to provide information on trends. One trip is not enough to address this. There are community members who go to the same place year after year who could be recruited to record their observations on an annual basis.

c) Status of Traditional Knowledge on the Yukon North Slope

This project was completed by Val Walker at the Aurora Institute. The big issue remains the translation of the COPE tapes. This needs to be done as soon as possible as the vocabulary is being lost. It is already going to be difficult to find those willing and able to do the translating. The tapes themselves need to be protected.

Action 98-05-13: WMAC(NS) will write to Val Walker and William Hurst at the Aurora Institute to thank them for their work on the Status of Traditional Knowledge on the Yukon North Slope project.

Action 98-05-14: The Secretariat will distribute copies of the report on the Status of Traditional Knowledge on the Yukon North Slope to Council members, Parks Canada, the Aklavik HTC and the IGC.

d) Video - Count of Muskox and Moose on Yukon North Slope (Inuvialuit Communication Society)

The Secretariat reported that work is continuing on the editing of the video which should be ready early in the fall.

Saturday May 30, 1998 - Dalton Trail Lodge

- Present:** Lindsay Staples - Chair
Nelson Green - Member - Inuvialuit Game Council
Joan Eamer - Canadian Wildlife Service - Member- Government of
Canada
Billy Archie - Member -Inuvialuit Game Council
Brian Pelchat - Chief, Regional Management - Member -Yukon Territorial
Government
Dorothy Cooley- Alternate- Yukon Territorial Government
Alan Fehr - Parks Canada
Mike Gill - WMAC(NS) / Canadian Wildlife Service
Aileen Horler - WMAC(NS) Secretariat
- Guest:** Elena Jones - PCMB Wildlife Technician Trainee
-

H. 8. Long Term Research Plan

Mike Gill, Science Horizons Intern, gave a presentation on the work he has been doing on the Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan. Members were reminded that the full version of Volume 1 will be made available in digital form only, which will make it easily changed and updated. It will be possible to create a WEB version of the Plan once the digital version is finalized. Volume 1 will also be summarized in a pamphlet which will include information on the range of interests being addressed in the Plan, as well as the whos, whats and hows. This summary is to be developed for general distribution and will reference the full digital and WEB versions.

Mike distributed a hard copy example showing how the digital version of the Plan has been laid out. It has been broken down into sections which include Volume 1, Volume 2, projects outside of the plan, North Slope map, glossary, organization of management bodies and research review tables. An example of the first page of Volume 1 was followed by a page giving the example of coastal ecosystems concerns. Each concern is detailed on a further page along with a timetable for identified actions. Each action is linked to information on who identified it as important. Search engines on the digital version will help agencies identify their specific actions.

Members suggested that reference is made to the other Plans relevant to the Yukon North Slope, such as the Grizzly Bear Plan and the Herschel Island Management Plan. In addition, it was suggested that 'projects outside of the plan' be referred to as other identified projects.

WMAC(NS) will become the agency responsible for the ongoing review and monitoring of the Plan, including the implementation status. A full review can be done every three

years and tabled prior to the North Slope Conference. Conference delegates can further review the Plan, with changes being incorporated by WMAC(NS). A suggestion was made that the time period over which actions are to be completed be changed to coincide with the North Slope Conference dates. Timetables should read 3 years, 6 years and ongoing (beyond 6 years). A start-up date should also be given, were applicable. Members agreed that it would be good to have the Yukon North Slope Conservation and Management Plan Species Status Reports included in the Long Term Research Plan.

A question arose as to how WMAC(NS) can become more proactive in the implementation of the Plan. WMAC(NS) will have to set its priorities and solicit involvement by agencies and researchers. It is important to keep clear an understanding of the nature of the Plan. There haven't been any commitments on the part of any agency to take on any tasks. The Plan consists of suggestions and ideas. No one is being assigned any extra work and being told they have to do it.

Members agreed that the format being used for the digital version of the Long Term Research Plan could work well for the Grizzly Bear Management Plan.

Action 98-05-15: WMAC(NS) will contact John Nagy to bring to his attention the format of the digital version of the Long Term Research Plan, with the suggestion that this format could be a useful way to present the Grizzly Bear Management Plan.

Volume 2 will be a resource document for researchers which will provide information on procedures. Mike distributed a list of questions and challenges regarding content of the volume that need to be addressed. Questions arose as to how much should be included regarding community involvement. Is it enough to say that a project should involve to community or are more specific guidelines required? Members commented that it is important to provide specific information on criteria for community involvement, especially for those who have never done it before. It should be a users' guide to a system that is already established.

Billy Archie commented that it would be useful for the HTC to look at the question of community involvement strategies. The HTC could work with the Aurora Research Institute to develop guidelines for how researchers should work in and with the community. A community guide needs to be a two-way guide. It's not enough to say that a researcher has to hire someone local. Information has to be provided on how and why. The community must be able to establish guarantees and provide information on how to find competent assistants in the community. The duties of the locally hired person have to be made very clear in a contract. The HTC is going to have to establish a good reputation on its own.

It was recognised that the HTC wants to be involved in designing, implementing and communicating the results of projects. They also want to see economic benefits in the community. The HTC will have to determine how best to take advantage of the opportunities. Nelson Green commented on the importance and success of having the HTC involved right at the beginning of a project. Alan Fehr noted that although early

local involvement is preferable it is not always possible, especially if the researcher is based outside the territories.

Action 98-05-16: WMAC(NS) will write to the Aklavik HTC regarding their involvement in the development of Volume 2 of the Long Term Research Plan. Mike Gill will draft the letter, which is to be copied to the IGC.

Members reviewed the list of tasks which Mike identified as needing to be addressed in order to complete the Plan. The following comments were made in reference to each task:

1. Complete and review Volume 1- Members should review the Plan before it goes out for a broader review. Mike Gill will distribute Volume 1 in digital format to members by the end of June. Highlighted sections will be sent to Billy and Nelson. Suggested changes are to be forwarded to Mike by mid-August.
2. Convert Volume 1 to WEB format- Complete by September
3. Distribute Volume 1 for comments- Distribute to broad distribution list in early September with a request for comments to be returned by the end of October. A draft of the pamphlet can go out for review at the same time.
4. Develop a pamphlet explaining Volume 1- The summary pamphlet can be developed over the summer to be sent out for review with Volume 1.
5. Develop Volume 2- Work can begin on this once the summary pamphlet is completed.
6. Distribute Volume 2- Distribute for review in October/ November. The Council can review the document at its December meeting.
7. Revise entire plan based on review comments received - September to November
8. Final version of Volume 1- Should be ready for the December meeting.

Implementation of the Plan will begin in 1999. The development of 5-year agency sheets in support of the Plan, will be completed when Plan is finalized.

A discussion was held regarding the possibility of Mike going to Shingle Point this summer. Joan Eamer suggested that it would be a good opportunity to assess the kinds of monitoring that could be undertaken there. Questions arose as to whether such an inquiry would disturb people who are out on the land. Billy agreed to check with the HTC to see what they think. The Chair commented that it is important to clarify the product and to assess what specifically could be accomplished at Shingle as opposed to in Aklavik.

H. 9. Muskox Management

a) Muskox population survey and composition count (YTG)

The first formal study of muskox on the Yukon North Slope took place in 1993, when the population size was estimated at 157. A survey in 1995 counted 146 muskoxen. In 1996, an incomplete count of 121 animals was recorded. The draft Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan calls for a population survey and composition count every two years.

Dorothy Cooley reported on the results of the survey and population count completed in April 1998. A map was distributed which indicated the area surveyed and the location and numbers of the animals. The survey counted 94 muskox in total, a drop from the 121 animals recorded in 1996. The missing animals could have migrated or simply missed. Dorothy commented that it was difficult to count brown animals against the brown wind blown mountains in Ivvavik. The animals are grouped so if one group is missed, it will make a big difference to the total count. The distribution is too broad. There have been reports of a herd of 20 muskox near James Creek off the Dempster Highway.

Dorothy also noted the discrepancies in the distribution of age classes over the years. For example, in there were 2 female yearlings counted in 1996, but 7 female three year olds counted two years later. She added that there had been concerns about disturbing newborns by conducting the survey in April, but none were counted.

It was acknowledged that it is very difficult to base a quota on these surveys. It is difficult to support a harvest when the survey shows the population numbers are down. It would be better to base a quota on the entire North Slope population. Members agreed that it would be good to get together with the Alaskans, once the Yukon Muskox Management Plan is completed, and to develop a harvest management plan for the entire herd. The allocation to the Yukon North Slope would then become the quota. After the Council has finalized the Plan, and met with the Alaskans, it will then be possible to set the quota.

Action 98-05-17: Dorothy Cooley will inquire as to the harvest quotas for muskox on the Alaskan North Slope.

The Chair questioned whether the Council wants to meet with the Alaskans on the muskox issue alone, or is it worthwhile getting together a broader group to discuss additional items, such as vegetation mapping, coastal zone management and community monitoring. Members thought that the muskox issue was the most important one to concentrate on first but that other topics could be considered.

Brian agreed to contact Fran Mauer and pursue the possibilities of holding a joint meeting with the Alaskans, to consider the management of the common North Slope muskox population. Brian is to take the lead in establishing who would attend such a meeting, where it would be held and what other issues could be addressed.

Action 98-05-18: Brian Pelchat will pursue the possibilities of meeting with the Alaskans in order to discuss the management of the common North Slope muskox population.

The muskox resolution needs to be reviewed. This can be done once discussion have been held regarding the management of the entire herd.

Action 98-05-19: The Chair will write to the Aklavik HTC, the IGC and appropriate Ministers regarding the changes in circumstances which have occurred since the Council made its recommendation regarding a muskox harvest and to convey that the Council is not now in a position to set a quota.

b) Muskox Management Plan

It was agreed that Dorothy Cooley and Brian Pelchat will now be responsible for taking the draft Muskox Management Plan to its next stage.

H. 10. 1998/99 Wildlife Management and Research funding proposals

The Chair drew members attention to the list of priorities for research submitted to the Council by the Aklavik HTC. Members agreed that the list will provide valuable and important direction to future research initiatives. All of the indicated priorities are included in the long term research plan. In reviewing the list, it was noted that a number of the priorities are already being addressed. Others require further or new initiatives.

Action 98-05-20: The Secretariat will write to the Aklavik HTC to thank them for their list of research priorities and to provide a summary of WMAC(NS)'s actions regarding each identified item. A copy of the letter should be sent to the IGC.

Further to an action item to summarize the information available on GIS, Joan Eamer was asked if funding might be required to pursue any GIS related initiatives. Joan reported that she has been developing a database list of GIS products. A summary document of the database was distributed, complete except for YTG's input. Council members agreed that, as written, it is very difficult to understand what information is available. It should be easier to understand the potential application and current uses of the available GIS materials, especially as they relate to wildlife management. Joan Eamer agreed to attempt to include this kind of information in each summary. When questions arose as to what to do with the information, Council members agreed that the compiled information should remain as a stand alone document but be linked to the existing database of northern information sources, on the taiga.net web site. A print out could be distributed to relevant agencies.

The Chair reported that he had met with Val Loewen, Mike Gill and Jim Hawkings to discuss further mapping requirements for the North Slope. When questions arose as to the distribution of the existing maps related to the North Slope, the Chair reported that he had suggested that the maps be compiled into an atlas. The group also discussed the possibilities for undertaking environmentally sensitive areas mapping.

Members agreed that there is a need to gather the existing information. It will be difficult to define 'significant'. It might be easiest to 'map' opinions of those who are familiar with the areas, possibly in a workshop setting. Such an exercise would produce information not currently available in map form.

Printed maps are available from the different agencies upon request, but they do not specifically include sensitive area indications. A sensitive areas map should include cultural sites, use, habitat, and key harvest areas. All projects approved by the Screening Committee should also be mapped as a way to illustrate cumulative effects.

Members suggested that the Joint Secretariat be contacted to see if Mike Muller could take the lead in developing significant areas maps for the North Slope. Mike could start by integrating the existing mapped information from a variety of sources and then add on information contained in the Community Conservation Plans.

Action 98-05-21: The Chair will write to Norm Snow at the Joint Secretariat to request that Mike Muller develop significant areas maps for the Yukon North Slope.

Council members were asked to consider a number of projects for funding under both YTG's and CWS's IFA wildlife management program budgets. Dorothy Cooley tabled the following five project proposals for the Council's consideration.

a) Replacement of fuel used in April 1998 muskox survey (YTG)

Dorothy Cooley reported that during the April 1998 muskox population survey and composition count, YTG used helicopter fuel supplied by Parks Canada. This fuel was made available with the understanding that it would be replaced. The proposal presented includes the cost of fuel purchase and a portion of the costs to place the fuel in the field. The total cost is estimated at \$1711.

b) Wolf sample analyses (YTG)

In the winter of 1997-98, 14 wolf heads were purchased from Aklavik hunters and trappers. It is proposed that these samples are used for DNA sequencing to see how closely related these North Slope wolves are. In addition these samples are to be used to test for trichinosis and rabies. Funding required estimated as \$2430.

c) Herschel Island- vegetation map and muskox locations (YTG)

This project has three components. First, it is proposed that a field crew spend 4 days ground truthing the vegetation and soil maps that were completed on Herschel Island in 1985 and 1986 in order to produce a more accurate map. Second, during the May to September field season, Park rangers will map caribou and muskox locations on the island. These locations will later be used to evaluate habitat use and preference of both species, using the vegetation maps. The final component is to measure the permafrost site, which was last done in 1989. Council members supported this project as a way to learn more about muskox behaviour, and muskox and caribou interactions. Funding required is \$7400.

d) Muskox ecology studies (YTG)

There is still much which is unknown about the muskox on the Yukon North Slope. The aerial surveys which have been conducted since 1993 have produced varying results regarding muskox numbers. It is believed that the muskox move back and forth across the Yukon- Alaska border to their parent population but it is not known how many animals move or for how long. Reproductive rates, calf survival rates and mortality rates are also unknown. These gaps in the knowledge of basic muskox ecology make predictions in population dynamics very difficult. In addition, there is a need to obtain more information on the interactions between muskox and caribou.

In order to answer many of these questions, Dorothy Cooley presented a proposal to mark (with radio collars and/or eartags) and track 20 muskoxen on the Yukon North Slope. This proposal is still in a preliminary stage. It is proposed that YTG would work in partnership with Parks Canada, Alaskan agencies and Aklavik HTC. YTG noted that there is support in Aklavik for such a tracking project. This project would begin in 1998 and continue for 5 more years, with the tagged animals being located four times a year.

The proposed project has 5 objectives:

- to estimate reproductive rates, calf survival and calving interval
- to verify census results
- to calculate activity budgets when caribou are present/ absent
- to document behaviour of muskox and caribou when in proximity to each other
- to monitor the annual and seasonal use of collared muskoxen

Total funding required for the entire project is \$152,575. Of this amount, funding required in the first year is estimated at \$43,675.

Brain Pelchat commented that if this project receives the Council's support, a more detailed proposal will be prepared which will outline partnership responsibilities and provide further information on research activities. Members recognised the importance of having the Aklavik HTC and Parks Canada involved in the planning and implementation of this project. Billy agreed to inform the Aklavik HTC that this project was presented to the Council.

It was suggested that a count be included in the work during the first year as the same area will need to be covered when searching for animals to collar. Alan Fehr noted that this work can be expanded into ecology and on-the-ground behavioral observations.

Action 98-05-22: Dorothy Cooley will present a more detailed proposal on muskox telemetry to the Council at its September meeting.

Action 98-05-23: Billy Archie will bring the muskox telemetry project to the attention of the Aklavik HTC.

WMAC(NS) members gave the proposal an approval in principle. Accurate information is required to make decisions on management recommendations and harvest quotas. In

addition, this project will be able to supply more general information on muskox behavior. The Council recognised the importance of the research and agreed to recommend that this project be given a priority for funding.

e) Implementation of the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan (YTG)

In order to implement the responsibilities assigned for 1998-99 in the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan, YTG proposed \$3700 in funding for the following projects:

- Harvest Management - Help prepare and distribute posters and pamphlets that describe grizzly bear hunting areas, quotas, and regulations and the harvesting rights of Inuvialuit in hunting areas on the North Slope and in Ivvavik National Park.(\$1000)
- Co-management - Help prepare an annual report for work done last year. (\$500); Meet with the WMAC's, IGC, GNWT, and Parks Canada to coordinate grizzly bear population research and management in the ISR, and meet with the Inuvialuit, Gwich'in, Sahtu, Vuntut Gwitchin and Nunavut wildlife management boards, GNWT, Parks Canada and Alaska to review grizzly bear population status and to coordinate research and management for shared and neighbouring populations. (\$1200)
- Culture and Education - Help document the current Inuvialuit traditional environmental and cultural knowledge about grizzly bears in Aklavik (\$1000 travel costs)

The Chair presented the following proposal for the Council's consideration:

f) ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan - printing (WMAC-NS)

In order to make the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan more presentable to those who will be using it for reference and for its implementation, WMAC(NS), WMAC(NWT) and GNWT have agreed to share the expense of having the plan's layout redesigned and printed in a more readable and accessible format. The Council recommended that \$3000 be allocated to the printing, which represents half of the total funding required.

Additional funding requests were considered as follows:

g) Richardson's Mountains grizzly bear reproductive rates (GNWT)

This project was begun in 1993. The objective of the research is to monitor 15 radio-collared adult female grizzly bears over a 6 year period in the Richardson Mountains to assess reproductive rates and cub survival. 1998 is the last year that the bears are to be located. The collars will be removed in 1999. This project is to be cost shared with WMAC(NWT) and the GRRB. WMAC(NS) recommended \$5000 funding for this project as it did in 1996 and 1997.

h) Inuvialuit Harvest Study

The Council recommended \$25,000 be allocated to the Inuvialuit Harvest Study. This represents YTG's annual contribution.

i) Community-based ecological monitoring (CWS)

Joan Eamer presented a proposal for the Community-based ecological monitoring project which would be funded under CWS's IFA wildlife management program budget. Community researchers, in Aklavik, Fort McPherson and Old Crow, will be contracted to conduct interviews with local experts to record their observations on ecological conditions over the past year. This includes observations about caribou movements and condition, fish, berries, weather and general observations about changes in the health of the environment. This information, along with scientific monitoring information, will be archived and used through the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-operative to help understand what changes are occurring in the ecosystem. This is the third year of this project. This project is to be cost shared with Environment Canada, the Northern Contaminants Program, and the GNWT. The total project cost is \$38,370, with \$11,000 proposed as being allocated from CWS's IFA funds. A large amount of this funding is required to cover overall development costs which will hopefully be reduced once the project is established. It is hoped that once the project is better established it will be possible to hire someone in the region as co-ordinator. This is still considered to be a pilot project with many of the hows and whats being developed. Members agreed to support this project as it will further community involvement in ecological monitoring and addresses several of the Aklavik HTC's priorities for research.

Members agreed to adjourn for the day and to consider all the proposals further on the following day.

Sunday May 31, 1998 - Dalton Trail Lodge

Present: Lindsay Staples - Chair
Nelson Green - Member - Inuvialuit Game Council
Joan Eamer - Canadian Wildlife Service - Member- Government of
Canada
Billy Archie - Member -Inuvialuit Game Council
Brian Pelchat - Chief, Regional Management - Member -Yukon Territorial
Government
Alan Fehr - Parks Canada
Aileen Horler - WMAC(NS) Secretariat

H. 11. Herschel Island Territorial Park

Brian Pelchat reported that he had met with Jim McIntyre to discuss the process for reviewing the Herschel Island Management Plan. A document titled 'Herschel Island Technical Committee Terms of Reference' was distributed for review by members. This document was prepared by Jim McIntyre who has asked for comments and suggestions. The Technical Committee would be composed of two representatives from the IGC and two from YTG. The Terms of Reference needs to define the work and the role of the Committee.

When asked who would draft the Plan, Brian commented that it would be better for the Committee to do it rather than have the Committee advising someone else who would do the drafting.

Council members suggested a number of changes to the recommended process in the Terms of Reference, to ensure that the process is fully inclusive and thorough. These suggestions included:

1. adding the provision of information by WMAC(NS), Parks and the Fish and Wildlife Branch, at the beginning of the process, as a way for the Committee to identify relevant management issues that need to be addressed.
2. removing 'including' and using 'and' when referring to those who should receive an issues summary. Add the Fish and Wildlife Branch and Parks to this list.
4. changing 'information sessions' to 'consultations'
5. The Committee is to draft the new plan based on recommendations.

The target date for the completion of the Plan is March 1999, at which time the ongoing status of the Committee will be reviewed and recommendations made as to its future role. As now proposed, the Committee will disband once the Plan is completed. However, there needs to be some way to look at the operational aspects of the Park on an ongoing

basis. The Technical Committee could have an operational focus which could include reviewing work plans for the upcoming year hiring and gravesite management.

Action 98-05-24: Brian Pelchat will compile the changes suggested by Council members to the recommended process described in the Herschel Island Technical Committee Terms of Reference. These changes will be sent to members for review before being forwarded to Jim McIntyre.

H. 10. 1998/99 Wildlife Management and Research funding proposals (continued)

Council members again considered the proposals that had been brought forward the previous day. Funding requirements for each project were reviewed.

Resolution

to recommend \$1711 for the replacement of fuel used in April 1998 muskox survey, \$2430 for wolf sample analyses, \$7400 for Herschel Island- vegetation map and muskox locations, \$3700 for the implementation of the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan, \$3000 for the printing of the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan, \$5000 for Richardson's Mountains grizzly bear reproductive rates project, \$25,000 for Inuvialuit Harvest Study and \$43,675 for the muskox ecology studies, from the 1998-99 YTG wildlife management program funds. The Council recognises the importance of the muskox ecology studies and recommends that it be given priority for funding.

The Council further resolves to recommend that \$11,000 be allocated to the Community-based Ecological Monitoring from the CWS Wildlife Management Program Budget.

Moved: Nelson Green
Seconded: Joan Eamer
Motion carried

A summary of projects recommended by the Council for funding under YTG Wildlife Management Program Budget (1998-99) was given as follows:

Project

Muskox Population Survey and Composition Count (YTG)	15,000
Implementation of the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan (YTG)	3,700
Replacement of fuel used in muskox , April 1998 (YTG)	1,711
Wolf sample analyses (YTG)	2,430
Muskox ecology studies (YTG)	43,675
Hershel Island -vegetation map and muskox locations (YTG)	7,400
ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan- printing (WMAC-NS)	3,000
Richardson Mountains grizzly bear reproduction rates (GNWT)	5,000
Inuvialuit Harvest Study	25,000
Total	\$106,916

A summary of projects recommended by the Council for funding under CWS Wildlife Management Program Budget (1998-99) was given as follows:

Project

Community-based Ecological Monitoring	11,000
Science Horizons Intern	4,000
Total	\$15,000

A discussion was held regarding the past financial contributions to North Slope research made by Parks Canada. It was reported that quite a number of wildlife research initiatives which took place in Ivvavik have been funded under YTG's wildlife management funds.

Action 98-05-25: The Chair will write to Bill Fox, Parks Canada, and copy Alan Fehr, to request that Parks Canada review their operational budget for Ivvavik National Park to

identify what funds have been allocated for wildlife, habitat and ecosystem research in each of the last three years, and what level of funding can be anticipated for future research. The Secretariat and YTG should identify what level of contribution for research activities over this period of time have been provided from the Yukon's IFA-based wildlife research funding.

I. New Business (continued)

I. 2. Review of process for recommendations and approvals of wildlife research studies.

There are many questions regarding the process for recommending projects that need to be clarified. What is the role of the IGC after a project is recommended by a co-management body? Is the project presented to them only as an information item? The recent muskox survey is an example of the need to clarify the process. This project had the support of both WMAC(NS) and the Aklavik HTC, but in spite of this, it was initially not approved by the IGC.

Nelson Green commented that it is the role of the IGC to ensure that the communities are consulted and community priorities are met. The IGC represents the collective interest of the Inuvialuit.

The Chair suggested that this issue should be further considered in September when all the co-management groups could meet together. It is important to raise the issue with all parties involved in order to clarify the process and everyone's expectations.

Action 98-05-26: WMAC(NS) will write to the IGC, WMAC(NWT) and FJMC to suggest that a meeting be held in Whitehorse, in September, in order to clarify and establish a process for the review and recommendation of projects for funding under wildlife management program funds.

I. 3. Review of WMAC(NS) Secretariat Timelines

Members reviewed the draft of the Secretariat annual activity timelines included in the binder. A number of changes and additions were suggested. June was suggested as a good time for an annual planning session and a time to review plans, such as the Grizzly Bear Management Plan and the Long Term Research Plan, and action items. September could include a meeting with other co-management bodies if there were items of mutual interest to discuss. The December meeting should include the review and approvals of funding proposals for the upcoming year.

Action 98-05-27: The Secretariat will make changes to the draft annual activity timelines, as determined at the May 1998 meeting.

Council members agreed that, with so many Inuvialuit representatives in Whitehorse for meetings in September, it would be a good opportunity to hold an open house to get people together. Representatives from YTG, DIAND, the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board, PCMB and others could be invited to meet with the Inuvialuit groups at an informal reception. Others invited should include CPAWS, YCS, the Northern Research Institute, Parks Canada, and DFO. This would offer an opportunity for everyone to learn about each others roles and interests.

Action 98-05-28: The Secretariat will organize an open house/ reception to be held in Whitehorse in conjunction with the September meetings.

The Chair noted that the September meeting is also an opportunity for the IGC to meet formally with Yukon Government officials and the Minister of Renewable Resources. It might also be possible for invited Yukon groups to do presentations to the Inuvialuit at their meeting. WMAC(NS) could facilitate the organization of such meetings if the IGC is interested. He agreed to suggest this to the IGC at their next meeting and to inform them of WMAC(NS)'s intent to hold an open house in September.

I. 4. FJMC Marine Protected Areas Initiative and Beaufort Sea Conference

The Chair referred to the material in the binder regarding the Marine Protected Areas Initiative and Beaufort Sea Conference.

Preliminary discussions have taken place regarding the applicability of Protected Areas under the Oceans Act to the conservation and protection of marine mammals within the Inuvialuit Settlement region. A letter from Bob Bell, Chair, FJMC, outlines the issues and the next steps in the process.

The Beaufort Sea Conference is planned to take place in Inuvik in the fall of 1999. The conference is seen as an opportunity to map out a vision for the whole Beaufort area, and plan for future research. One conference planning meeting has already been held. Members commented that there is only one person from Inuvik on the steering committee. There isn't anyone from YTG, the IGC, WMAC(NS) or Parks Canada involved either. Members questioned the substantial involvement of Arctic Institute representatives in the planning, compared with the lack of local representation. The dominance of the Arctic Institute and DFO on the steering committee will be reflected in the agenda. More local people need to be involved right from the beginning for the initiative to have relevance to those living in the area.

Action 98-05-29: The Chair will write to Bob Bell to convey the Council's support for the Beaufort Sea Conference initiative. The letter will also encourage the participation of more northern representatives on the steering committee, in order to promote the relevance of the conference to local people.

The Chair commented on the Coastal Zone Canada Conference which is being held in Victoria, in August. WMAC(NS) and the FJMC submitted a joint abstract, which has been accepted for presentation. The intent of the presentation will be to inform and educate conference participants as to the issues in the Beaufort area, the institutional framework and opportunities available, while reminding them what makes this area different and distinct.

I. 5. Operating Procedures

The following changes were made to the Operating Procedures:

2.2.1. Minutes- change 'within four weeks of any meeting' to 'at a subsequent meeting'

4.1. change 'Annual Report' to 'Annual Reporting Requirements'

The Chair commented that some consideration should be given to changing the term 'IFA-funded Yukon biologist' as referred to in section 1.3.6. as the expression causes some confusion.

The appendix should include the air charter policy and the annually updated rates for meals and expenses.

Motion

to accept the revisions to the Operating Procedures.

Moved: Brian Pelchat

Seconded: Nelson Green

Motion carried

Action 98-05-30: The Secretariat will distributed the revised Operating Procedures to the members.

H. Old Business (continued)

H. 12. Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan

The Chair reported that a Summary of Actions from the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan was prepared for the North Slope Conference which indicated the status of the Plan's various action items.

The Chair added that the Council needs to review the recommendations of the North Slope Conference in order to assess if changes any need to be made to the Plan. The Council also needs to consider how to respond to the recommendations.

Members reviewed each of the recommendations from the Conference and responded as follows:

NSC Recommendation

WMAC(NS) Response

Transboundary Species

- | | |
|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expand the Northern Yukon Ecosystem Knowledge Co-operative through the region | <p>Plan should be changed to reflect expansion - include reference to Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-operative</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Link GIS projects and information | <p>should add as action under Goal C- also change to meta-database in A.3.2</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emphasize ecosystem-wide research | <p>addressed in Goal C</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage regular across-border meetings | <p>addressed in Goal C</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage greater exchange of all data across borders | <p>need to improve</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revive discussion of a free-passage agreement | <p>outside the scope of the Plan</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encourage a workshop to assess the co-management process | <p>process issue- outside the scope of the Plan</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Conduct a study to demonstrate the cost-effectiveness of the co-management process | <p>process issue- outside the scope of the Plan</p> |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use co-management bodies to coordinate and administer collaborative research | <p>implemented</p> |

Contaminants

- Set up a contaminants committee in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region under B.2.3- revise to include ISR Contaminants Committee- need to change action items and status section to reflect
- Convene a workshop with maximum community participation already addressed
- Recommend to appropriate agencies that more work be done on establishing/ determining acceptable levels in specific species need to know how much is safe to eat- need to consider how to include in the Plan
- Support the Canadian government's lobbying efforts in relation to regulation or stopping of long-range contaminants need to consider how to include in the Plan
- Recommend that the North Slope long-term research plan have a contaminants component implemented
- Recommend that any future workshops or committees dealing with contaminants include representatives from Health Canada and territorial health departments outside the scope of the Plan
- In an effort to facilitate the exchange of information across borders, we recommend that the Northern Contaminants Program make its findings available to the appropriate Alaskan agencies, including our friends in the workshops implemented- several meetings have been held already

Habitat Protection

- Hold meetings to address problems related to the nature and acquisition of traditional knowledge traditional knowledge component of the Plan needs to be expanded
- Look at the Northern Cross development as a case study of traditional knowledge and the permitting process outside the scope of the Plan

- Develop maps at a regional scale tie in with databases/ GIS- there is nothing which specifically identifies significant areas- these areas should be recognised- should add as an action item
- Look at co-operative agreements for addressing transboundary habitat issues addressed under Goal D
- Conduct a gap analysis of programs and research to see where work needs to be done completed in the development of the long term research plan
- Develop a consultation process that respects the government-to-government relationship outside the scope of the Plan
- Further work is needed in the Peel River watershed to protect fish habitat outside the jurisdiction of the Council
- Identify sensitive habitats included as an item in long term research plan
- Assess cumulative effects of developments included as an item in long term research plan
- Compile and disseminate existing databases underway
- Introduce traditional ecological knowledge into the databases has been initiated- need to include as action in section on traditional knowledge
- Look beyond regional boundaries and manage all habitats of animals that range beyond the North Slope implicit in Plan
- More research and monitoring is needed for marine habitats included as an item in long term research plan
- Investigate the status of major watersheds need to look through Plan to see if watershed approach can be incorporated- good idea in terms of large watersheds
- Look at ways to increase awareness of the importance of habitat protection done routinely

- Invite industry representatives to the next North Slope Conference completed for last conference- requirement of the IFA

The Animal Rights Lobby and Protection of Harvesting Rights

- Create a northern lobby group and establish links with other groups political action- outside the scope of the Plan
- Educate people from outside the north about traditional lifestyles outside the scope of the Plan
- Lobby politicians, especially Canadian politicians, and get their support political action- outside the scope of the Plan
- Get a better understanding of the range of groups lobbying issue - outside the scope of the Plan
- Establish careful alliances with environmental groups lobbying issue - outside the scope of the Plan
- Keep aboriginal control over expressing the aboriginal perspective lobbying issue - outside the scope of the Plan

Climate Change

- Monitor and report climate change to communities and decision-makers done through Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-operative and Sustain project- requires further action
- Use remotely sensed data for monitoring some already undertaken- also included as an item in long term research plan
- Undertake a research project to look at climate changes observed by the elders some work being undertaken through the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-operative- need to include as action in section on traditional knowledge- included as an item in long term research plan
- Conduct research on expected species movements and changes in plant communities included as an item in long term research plan

- Continue monitoring of human use and activities ongoing
- Co-ordinate data collection and analysis ongoing
- Freshwater quality and quantity should be monitored ongoing
- Support existing research activities: ITEX, LTER, GCTE, ARCSS ongoing- included as an item in long term research plan
- Include winter research included as an item in long term research plan
- Look at the correlation between winter temperature and snowfall, freeze-thaw cycles, freezing rain included as an item in long term research plan
- Monitor animal health and condition included as an item in long term research plan
- Monitor social and economic indices included as an item in long term research plan
- Prepare and integrate vegetation maps underway- included as an item in long term research plan
- Support long-term research on ecosystem mechanisms that are sensitive to climate change ongoing- included as an item in long term research plan
- Use experience from Yukon North Slope for other areas responsibility of others
- Report all observed changes back to communities and political decision makers incorporated into reports of the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-operative
- Translate findings into plain language. It has to be understandable incorporated into volume 2 of the long term research plan
- Use audiovisual methods (radio, TV, videos), something that's accessible incorporated into volume 2 of the long term research plan

- Involve HTC and other co-management groups in this communication incorporated into volume 2 of the long term research plan
- Workshops on climate change in communities. too specific for Plan
- Increase transboundary communication and co-ordination between scientists Ongoing
- Compile oral history and traditional knowledge on climate change responsibility of Aklavik HTC- need to include as action in section on traditional knowledge
- Climate change to be included in school curriculum outside the scope of the Plan
- Translate climate change findings into native languages so people can understand what's happening procedural- communications as part of volume 2 of the long term research plan
- Make global warming a major issue at the next North Slope conference to be considered during preparations for next conference
- In the meantime, we should inject North Slope issues related to global warming into ongoing meetings and conferences underway
- Take global change into account in management, especially when developing new wildlife and species management plans need to incorporate into Plan

Action 98-05-31: WMAC(NS) will revise and update the action items and status of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan to reflect the review undertaken by Council members in May 1998.

It was agreed that the revised and updated version the action items and status of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan should be circulated to members for review in August 1998. This issue is to be considered again at the September meeting, when a half day should be set on the agenda for discussion.

Members agreed that the Council should review the North Slope Conference recommendations at its May/ June meeting every year, in order to assess the status of each item.

H. 13. Environmental Impact Screening Committee

The new appointments to the EISC have not yet been made by DIAND. Until this happens the EISC cannot meet to review projects, many of which need to proceed soon. Brian Pelchat reported that YTG is also following up on this issue with DIAND.

K. Next Meeting

Members agreed that the next WMAC(NS) meeting will be held in Whitehorse, September 22 and 23, 1998.

I. New Business (continued)

I. 6.. Traditional Knowledge Database

A discussion was held as to how to follow-up on Val Walker's work on the Traditional Knowledge Database. Joan Eamer suggested that the actual content of each reference document could be added, making it more useful as an actual source of information.

It is a question of accessibility. Is it available to those who want to use it? The intent is for researchers to know what information is available and to use it in their research. Members agreed that it is enough for researchers to know, through the database, what is available and to know where to find it. The full content of each document does not necessarily have to be included in the database. It was suggested that a reference to the database should be included in Volume 2 of the Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan.

The issue of translating the COPE tapes is seen as a priority. It will be a lengthy and expensive job but one that should be done soon. It will need to be a multi-party project. A suggestion was made that during the upcoming negotiations with the federal government on IFA Implementation Funding, a lump sum could be negotiated for the translation. The translation of the tapes combined with current interviews will enhance the database and accessibility of traditional knowledge.

Action 98-05-32: The Chair will raise the issue of funding to translate the COPE tapes with the IGC and suggest that it be brought forward as a discrete project when negotiating the IFA Implementation Funds should additional monies be sought. If it is generally agree to work within existing funding levels, then this matter should be addressed collectively by the various co-management bodies, possibly at their September meeting in Whitehorse.

A question was raised as to whether the Environmental Impact Screening Committee and the Review Board can include references and/ or include questions regarding the researcher's use and incorporation of traditional knowledge in their screening and review processes.

Action 98-05-33: The Chair will contact Tom Beck and Robert Hornal to inquire as to the possibilities of including the researcher's use of traditional knowledge as part of the screening and review process.

F. Financial Report (continued)

a) Review of 1998-99 budget

The Chair reported that there is \$21,158 as yet unassigned in the Council's budget. It was suggested that \$2500 be allocated to the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan and a further \$2500 to the Bylaws, Regulations and Legislation category, in anticipation of work being done on the Wildlife Act Amendments. The remaining unassigned funds can be left to be allocated at the September meeting.

Motion

to revise the WMAC(NS) 1998-99 budget, as determined.

Moved: Joan Eamer
Seconded: Nelson Green
Motion carried

L. Adjournment

Motion

to adjourn the meeting.

Moved: Nelson Green
Seconded: Brian Pelchat
Motion carried

WMAC(NS) Chair

Date

WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Date