



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

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MINUTES

WMAC(NS) Quarterly Meeting

Yukon Inn, Whitehorse

September 11-12, 1996

Wednesday September 11, 1996

- Present:** Lindsay Staples (Chair)
Joan Eamer - Canadian Wildlife Service, Member- Government of Canada
John Russell -YTG Renewable Resources, Member-Government of
Yukon
Billy Archie- Member -Inuvialuit Game Council
Nelson Green - Member -Inuvialuit Game Council
Vicki Sahanatien -Parks Canada, Alternate- Government of Canada

Aileen Horler - Secretariat (recording secretary)
Kelly Olson - IFA Implementation Coordinator
- Absent:** Dorothy Cooley - YTG Renewable Resources, Alternate-Government of
Yukon and IFA Biologist
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A. Call to Order

The Chair opened the meeting by welcoming all members and Kelly Olson, the IFA Implementation Co-ordinator for the Government of Yukon.

B. Review and Approval of the Agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda, highlighting a number of topics for review and discussion. These included the resolutions on muskox and grizzly bear hunting, the contents of a proposed presentation to the House of Commons Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development on Bill C-6, the status of the Wildlife projects budget, and the Inuvialuit Harvest Study Evaluation report.

The following items were added under New Business:

4. Herschel Island
5. Protection of polar bears off-shore
6. World Wildlife Fund workshop in Montreal
7. The American Association for the Advancement of Science

Motion:

To adopt the agenda.

Moved: John Russell

Seconded: Nelson Green

Motion carried.

C. Review of the Minutes of June 7-9, 1996

The following changes to the minutes were requested:

page 16- The sentence which begins 'Joan Eamer stressed...' should be changed to read 'Joan Eamer stressed the importance of establishing population status and criteria for determining whether the population is increasing, decreasing or stable.'

page 9- in reference to Action item 96-03-12. John Russell wished to clarify that this action item should read that 'preferential' means that the IFA beneficiaries have the right to fulfill their subsistence needs first before any other harvest is conducted.

Motion:

To adopt the Minutes of the June 7-9, 1996 meeting, incorporating noted changes.

Moved: Joan Eamer

Seconded: Nelson Green

Motion carried.

H. New Business

6. World Wildlife Fund Workshop, Montreal

The Chair noted that the discussion regarding this workshop would also address Item 11 of the agenda (ANWR) and Action Item 96-06-35.

A letter to the Chair from Arlin Hackman, the Director of the Endangered Species Campaign at the World Wildlife Fund, was circulated to the members. The letter was written to inquire if the Chair would be interested and able to participate in a workshop on the feasibility of nominating the calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou herd for World Heritage status. It is proposed that the workshop be held on October 14, during the time the IUCN World Congress is taking place in Montreal. The Chair commented that it had come as a surprise when he first heard of this initiative early last summer to declare the calving grounds a World Heritage site. There had been no community consultation or communication regarding the action. The World Wildlife Fund hasn't informed those most effected as to why this action is important or what is motivating it.

In the letter there is a reference to a discussion document prepared in January 1995 by Nigel Bankes, the then-Chair of the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee, which considers some of the advantages and disadvantages of nominating the site under this Convention. The full title of this paper is 'Briefing Note on the Proposal for a Joint Canada-United States World Heritage Designation for the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, including the 1002 Lands, Ivvavik National Park, Vuntut National Park and potentially the Old Crow Flats Special Management Area and the Yukon North Slope Area Protected under the Inuvialuit Final Agreement.' The Chair noted that a copy of the briefing document was not received in the Council office until it was requested earlier in the week.

The Chair reported that Alaskan members of the Gwich'in Steering Committee have a number of concerns about the process and substance of this initiative. It is seen as being driven by environmentalists and has left First Nations with a number of concerns about their hunting rights. Any initiative which focuses on the calving grounds could jeopardize the protection of the rest of the range. The Alaskan Gwich'in are opposed to it and will not be attending the workshop. They feel it is the wrong proposal and the wrong group driving it forward. Nelson Green said that he would not like the Council to be involved in something that does not have the support of the Inupiat and Gwich'in in Alaska.

There is a need to look at other conservation tools to protect habitat. Is a World Heritage designation the right tool to protect the 1002 lands? John Russell commented that if the calving grounds has World Heritage designation then it would be very difficult to proceed with development.

In the concern with protecting 1002, interest groups may be proceeding in the wrong way. It is the entire range that needs protection. Is it better for the Council to sent representation and present our view or to ignore the workshop? If someone doesn't go then the group initiating this action will just proceed as is.

Members agreed that they would like to see a 'delegation' attend the workshop, which could include the PCMB, IGC and WMAC(NS). Together they could present a co-ordinated northern position at the workshop. There is a need for consistent advise. The PCMB, IGC and WMAC(NS) should meet prior to the workshop to discuss a group approach, if time allows.

A letter was then circulated from the PCMB to the Council requesting a contribution of \$500 towards the \$3500 cost of a table at the IUCN World Congress. The PCMB feels that having a table would help them in their lobbying efforts and allow them to reach and talk to as many press and delegates as possible. They have asked the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board and the Inuvialuit Game Council for the same contribution. Nelson Green commented that if the Council is going to contribute to this lobbying effort it is important to ensure that there is a common position. IGC is going to send a large delegation to the IUCN World Congress.

The Chair noted that the Council is concerned with broader issues other than caribou. \$500 is not a lot of money to contribute but it is important that the PCMB understands the Council's perspective on North Slope issues. Members agreed to contribute the \$500 on the condition that the Council has the opportunity to sit down with representatives from the PCMB to discuss how the Council's needs can be supported and met. It was noted that the PCMB needs to look at other sources of funding besides Inuvialuit such as the Vuntut Gwitchin Renewable Resource Council, the Yukon Fish and Game Association and the Fish and Wildlife Management Board.

Action 96-09-01: The Secretariat is to arrange a meeting with representatives from the PCMB to discuss the Council's perspective on North Slope issues. In addition, the secretariat will ask the PCMB to make copies of Volume I of the North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan and other printed materials available at their table at the IUCN World Congress. The Chair will contact the Gwichin Steering Committee to further discuss their interests and concerns with respect to this issue.

Motion:

To contribute \$500 to the Porcupine Caribou Management Board to be used toward the cost of a table at the IUCN World Congress. The PCMB is to be encouraged to find other sources of funding.

Moved: Joan Eamer
Seconded: Billy Archie
Motion carried.

Members agreed that a representative of the Council should attend the workshop to raise some of the discussed concerns. It is important that there is Inuvialuit presence. Prior to the workshop, the Council representative(s) should meet with a representative of the PCMB to discuss their position.

Action 96-09-02: Vicki Sahanatien is to inquire about Parks Canada's position regarding the initiative to have the Porcupine Caribou calving grounds designated a World Heritage site, and notify the Secretariat.

Action 06-09-03: The Secretariat will distribute copies of the Nigel Bankes' briefing note on the World Heritage designation to all members.

Motion:

Nelson Green and Lindsay Staples will attend the proposed World Wildlife Fund workshop in Montreal October 14, 1996, to discuss the feasibility of declaring the calving grounds of the Porcupine Caribou herd as a World Heritage Site.

Moved: Billy Archie

Seconded: John Russell

Motion carried.

4. Herschel Island

The Chair reported that he had recently had an opportunity to talk with Andy Tardiff, who works for YTG Parks Branch, on Herschel Island. It was suggested that, considering Andy's experience on the North Slope, an invitation be extended to him to attend Council meetings. The members agreed that Andy would be valuable to have in attendance for many of the discussions.

Action 96-09-04: WMAC(NS) will extend an invitation to Andy Tardiff to attend Council meetings.

G. Old Business

3. Proposed Amendments to the Yukon Mining Acts

The Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development will be holding hearings on Bill C-6 via video teleconference from Whitehorse. The Chair of WMAC(NS) is scheduled to appear Sept. 23. The IFA gives the Council its mandate to appear at the hearings.

The Chair explained that it is important for the Council to comment on Bill C-6 in case the Withdrawal Order, which now protects the Yukon North Slope from development,

should ever be lifted. The Withdrawal Order was put in place to conserve wildlife and habitat and protect the rights of the harvester. The Chair has been working with Joan Eamer to prepare the presentation, which will consider the legislation from the vantage point of the Yukon North Slope and the Inuvialuit Final Agreement. The Council's comments will be pointing out the relationship between Bill C-6 and the IFA, and proposing solutions to address inconsistencies between the two pieces of legislation.

The proposed legislation is activity related rather than area specific. The greatest concern is with Class 1 activities which would allow for a certain level of exploration being conducted without any notification. The activity levels are based on the impact on the land without consideration or recognition of the cultural, wildlife or habitat sensitivity. Section 12 of the IFA states that all development will be screened. Is exploration defined as development? A lot of damage can be done under Class 1 depending on the sensitivity of the area. There should be a provision for bringing forward regulations which would be area specific. The IFA is very clear on questions of compensation. They should be included in the presentation so as to be clear on the inconsistencies. The burden of proof should be on the developer to prove that they will not hinder or impair what the IFA is trying to protect.

The problem concerning mining exploration has arisen in the NWT. DIAND and the IGC developed an agreement which the Council should review.

Billy Archie reported that representatives from DIAND did a presentation in Aklavik during the previous week. The community was surprised to hear that many companies were of the view that anyone could go out onto Crown lands and 7(1)(b) lands in the ISR (outside of the Yukon North Slope) and explore without informing the HTC. According to the agreement developed in the NWT anyone exploring must notify the local HTC. Billy produced a copy of a letter written to the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation from Northern Affairs regarding the issuance of mineral prospecting permits and licenses in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region which details the agreement between the two parties. Aklavik is concerned with the type of protection there is from mining on the coastal plain.

Action 96-09-05: The Secretariat will distribute copies of the letter to the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation from Northern Affairs regarding the issuance of mineral prospecting permits and licenses in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region to all members.

The Chair commented that it would be valuable for the Inuvialuit to do a presentation to the hearings to tell their story as hunters. He will ask the IGC if someone can be there when the Council does its presentation to the hearings.

A discussion was held regarding how to consider or incorporate YTG's position as a WMAC(NS) member into the Council's presentation.

Action 96-09-06: WMAC(NS) position regarding Bill C-6 is to be circulated to members before it is presented to the Standing Committee on Aboriginal Affairs and Northern Development hearing.

D. Review of Action Items

Outstanding Action Items

Action 95-06-19: IFA Workshop. Regarding the IFA Workshop, the ad hoc committee will schedule the workshop for fall '95, giving consideration to the scheduling of other meetings.

Ongoing. The Secretariat distributed a proposal to conduct an IFA Workshop, in Whitehorse. It was noted that the contents of the proposal are the result of many discussions and a number of planning sessions over the past two years. The proposal include suggested dates (November 1996) , participants, facilitator, resource persons, session topics and a budget.

The Chair stressed that it is important for the Council to know what it wishes to accomplish by holding the workshop. If it is to have an effect, who are the target people and how do we ensure that the workshop is useful? Kelly Olson commented that there are a number of people within the Yukon Government who need to learn about the IFA. Now that the focus is on the Umbrella Final Agreement, it is more difficult than ever to get people there to think about the IFA.

Council members agreed that a workshop should be held November, in Whitehorse, and include participants from the federal and territorial governments as well as some Inuvialuit representation. When planning, it is important to have the sessions as practical as possible. People need to know how to use the IFA as a document. Discussions should be directed at what people need and information should be provided on such issues as the screening and review process, as well as land, hunting and overlapping rights. Suggested formats were discussed which would make attendance easier for some people. By reducing the time spent presenting an overview and by making it possible for those with specific areas of interest to attend relevant sessions only, it should be possible to for the workshop to attract a large number of participants. Kelly Olson and the Secretariat were instructed to continue on with the planning, incorporating the suggestions of the Council members.

A further discussion was held concerning the many problems that have arisen because people, including the beneficiaries, do not understand the agreement. The question was raised as to whose responsibility it is to provide education on the IFA. The Council members agreed that the Inuvialuit Game Council should consider conducting a workshop in Aklavik for the beneficiaries. It was noted that an educational package is being prepared for the schools.

Action 95-09-03: Joan Eamer was directed to inquire with Canadian Wildlife Service if they could produce a publication of their 10 year review of wildlife projects on the North Slope, similar to YTG's recent publication.

Carried forward.

Action 95-12-06: WMAC (NS) Secretariat is directed to draft a memo to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee explaining the use of a hunting quota as an instrument for managing wildlife.

Completed. This action was incorporated into a letter sent to the Inuvialuit Game Council and copied to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee.

Action 95-12-16: WMAC (NS) Secretariat is directed to draft a letter to Department of Fisheries and Oceans regarding the Coastal Zone Planning Project and encouraging the initiative. The contents of the letter should include: the recommendation of this kind of approach within the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan; reference to WMAC (NS)'s response to the Marine Conservation Strategy; and reference to the ecosystem monitoring initiative for the north Yukon.

Completed. The Secretariat provided an update on the Coastal Zone Planning Project. A document titled the 'Bibliographic database for Coastal Zone Planning in Cumberland Sound and Yukon North Slope area of Arctic Canada' has recently been completed. The WMAC(NS) office has been sent a copy. The database, which summaries the information that is available for coastal planning, contains over 1800 entries pertaining to the Yukon North Slope. Copies of a letter to the Council from Dr. John Cooley (Department of Fisheries and Oceans) were distributed to members. The letter invites the Council to participate in the second phase of the project which seeks to compile information on all existing working groups who are dealing with the management of ocean/coastal resources of the Arctic. This phase will also identify and gather information on the science-based policy papers that are being used. Joan Eamer reported that Environment Canada recently responded to this request for information.

Action 96-09-07: Joan Eamer will provide the Secretariat with a copy of Environment Canada's response to the second phase of the Coastal Zone Planning Project.

Action 96-09-08: The Secretariat will send a copy of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan to the managers of the Coastal Zone Planning Project.

Action 95-12-17: WMAC (NS) Chair will consider the feasibility of responding to the Marine Conservation Strategy.

Completed. The Chair reported that the Canadian Oceans Act is expected to pass the Canadian Parliament later this year. Under the act, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans will be responsible for implementing the Marine Conservation Strategy.

Action 95-12-18: WMAC (NS) members are directed to review the draft Mining Regulations and provide comment to the WMAC (NS) Secretariat who will compile a digest. Review comments are needed in late January.

Completed.

Current Action Items

Action 96-06-01: WMAC(NS) will write a letter to Bill Fox, Departmental Operations Manager, Parks Canada, to thank him for his assistance in providing the opportunity for the Council to hold the current meeting in Ivvavik National Park.

Completed.

Action 96-06-02: The Chair will write a letter to Hugh Monaghan thanking him for his contribution to WMAC(NS).

In draft. To be completed within the week.

Action 96-09-09: The Secretariat will purchase an appropriate gift to be given to Hugh Monaghan from the Council, in recognition of this contribution to WMAC(NS).

Action 96-06-03: The Chair will write a letter to the Minister of Renewable Resources acknowledging Hugh Monaghan contribution to WMAC(NS).

In draft. To be completed within the week.

Action 96-06-04: The Secretariat will work with members to ensure that those with the capacity to use e-mail are able to communicate with each other. A list of e-mail addresses will be distributed to members.

Completed.

Action 96-06-05: Billy Archie will investigate the possibility of having an e-mail system installed in the office of the Aklavik HTC.

Completed. The Joint Secretariat will provide assistance to the Aklavik HTC in getting e-mail capabilities.

Action 96-06-06: The Secretariat is to inquire, by phone, on the status of the Coastal Zone Planning Project.

Completed. Reported under Action 95-12-16 (above)

Action 96-06-07: The Secretariat is to provide Joan Eamer with a copy of 'Seas the Day', produced by the Canadian Arctic Resources Committee and the Canadian Nature Federation.

Completed.

Action 96-06-08: The Secretariat is to send a letter to the principles of the National Science Foundation Community Sustainability Study requesting that the Council be kept informed of their progress.

Completed.

Action 96-06-09: John Russell will request that the Director of Fish and Wildlife Branch send a letter to the Alaska Fish and Game Department to inform them of WMAC(NS) initiatives regarding muskox management. Dorothy Cooley will draft a copy of the letter for the Director's consideration.

Carried forward. John Russell reported that this item will be undertaken once the Muskox Management Plan has been adopted.

Action 96-06-10: Billy Archie will undertake to formally notify John Russell that, in future, all hunting tags are to be sent to the Aklavik HTC for distribution.

Completed.

Action 96-06-11: Billy Archie will raise the issue of an up-to-date grizzly bear hunting by-law with the Aklavik HTC.

Retired. Bill Archie will raise the issue of by-laws at the next Aklavik HTC meeting and try to get them to produce a bylaw for grizzly bear and muskox hunting. It was suggested that a representative of the Inuvialuit Game Council attend the meeting with him.

Action 96-09-10: Billy Archie will ask the IGC for assistance in getting the Aklavik HTC to produce bylaws for grizzly bear and muskox hunting pending, the IGC acceptance of the WMAC(NS) resolutions.

Action 96-06-12: John Russell will find out who from YTG Renewable Resources will be attending the next Canadian Council on Ecological Areas Conference.

Completed. John Russell reported that John Meikle, YTG Parks Management Specialist, will be attending the conference. It was agreed that the Council should make use of his attendance at the conference to distribute some of its printed materials..

Action 96-09-11: Kelly Olson will ask John Meikle to contact the Secretariat regarding taking WMAC(NS) printed materials to the Canadian Council on Ecological Areas Conference for distribution.

Action 96-06-13: John Russell will investigate the possibility of Inuvialuit conducting a commercial hunt for grizzly bears on the North Slope.

Completed. The Secretariat drew the members' attention to a copy of a letter, included in the meeting binders, that was written to the Aklavik HTC by John Russell regarding a commercial hunt for grizzly bears on the North Slope. Billy Archie asked how the HTC should proceed on this matter. The Chair replied that, as the next step, a letter of interest should be sent by the HTC to WMAC(NS) expressing their interest in pursuing the possibility of establishing a commercial hunt.

Action 96-06-14: WMAC(NS) will draft a letter to Minister Fisher regarding the closure of grizzly bear hunting to Yukon residents on the North Slope. This letter, to be conveyed with a copy of the WMAC(NS) grizzly bear resolution, is to include references to the Grizzly Bear Management Plan and the history of initiatives taken by the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, such as the moratorium, and a recommendation that the hunt be conducted by tag only. A copy of this letter is to be sent to the Inuvialuit Game Council.

Carried forward. The action has been delayed pending the acceptance of the grizzly bear resolution.

Action 96-06-15: WMAC(NS) will write a letter to the Inuvialuit Game Council bringing to their attention the issue of a closure of grizzly bear hunting to Yukon residents on the North Slope. This letter is to include a request for the IGC to review WMAC(NS)'s letter to Minister Fisher and ask that they consider responding to it.

Carried forward.

Action 96-06-16: John Russell will provide WMAC(NS) with an amended copy of the proposed regulation change regarding grizzly bear hunting.

Completed. John Russell reported that the regulation change has continued to make its way through the YTG review process. The proposed change was presented to the Fish and Wildlife Management Board. The Board was told that the regulation has been proposed to support the Aklavik HTC bylaw. It is possible that the proposed change could be in effect by next hunting season.

Action 96-06-17: John Russell will find out if there is any reason why Hugh Monaghan, as an former YTG employee, could not be contracted WMAC(NS).

Completed. John reported that it is possible for Hugh Monaghan to be contracted by WMAC(NS), unless some specific arrangement was made on his departure from the government.

Action 96-06-18: The Secretariat will take action to ensure that volume 1 of the Plan is for sale in the appropriate locations by mid-June.

Completed. The Secretariat reported that Volume 1 is for sale in Whitehorse, Dawson, Inuvik and at the Dempster Highway Interpretive Centre. It retails at \$10 per copy, \$6 of which the Council receives. To date, the Council has made about \$400 in sales. Copies are also being displayed in a number of Visitor Centres with information as to where they can be purchased.

Action 96-06-19: WMAC(NS) will write a letter to the IGC to inform them of the Council's current initiative to open up correspondence with Alaskan agencies. The letter is to include a summary of what the Council has done to date, with copies of the correspondence to Alaska attached.

Completed. The Chair reported that the IGC has been kept up-to-date with all correspondence between the Council and Alaska.

Action 96-06-20: WMAC(NS) will write a letter to the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee responding to a number of issues. The letter is to contain a reply to the HTC's inquiry regarding the allocation of three bears in Ivvavik National and should include the minutes from the WMAC(NS) meeting at which the issue was discussed. The letter is also to contain an explanation of the muskox quota with references to the relevant provisions in the IFA and the discussion held at the public meetings. WMAC(NS) is also to encourage the HTC to see that a workshop is held in the community to examine the issue of conservation and quotas as stipulated in the IFA.

Completed.

Action 96-06-21: WMAC(NS) will write a letter to the Inuvialuit Game Council, as the group responsible for protecting the rights of the Inuvialuit, strongly recommending that they hold a beneficiaries workshop in order to clarify the questions which have arisen in Aklavik regarding conservation and quotas. The letter should outline sections of the IFA that support the use of quotas. A further response to the issues of an increase in the polar bear quota and the letter to Minister Copps should also be included.

Completed.

Action 96-06-22: In response to the letter that was written to the Inuvialuit Game Council regarding the cougar on Jacob Archie's trap line, John Russell will write to Jacob and inform him that he can shoot the cougar 'in defense of property' if it continues to destroy animals on the trap line. John will also inform Jacob that the carcass must be turned over to a Conservation Officer within 24 hours, but that he can apply to have it returned.

Completed.

Action 96-06-23: The Secretariat will provide Dorothy Cooley with a listing of where WMAC(NS) has been sending information on the muskox public meetings.

Completed.

Action 96-06-24: Billy Archie will ask the Aklavik HTC to send a letter to Fenton Rexford in Kaktovik requesting information on interactions between muskox and Western Arctic caribou herd.

Revised. WMAC(NS) will send the letter.

Action 96-06-25: Vicki Sahanatien is to send WMAC(NS) a copy of the report on the archeological evidence of muskox on the North Slope.

Completed.

Action 96-06-26: Dorothy Cooley is to prepare a report which summarizes the results of each of the muskox population surveys. The report is to document the results and the circumstances of each survey and is to include her personal impressions and experiences.

Carried forward.

Action 96-06-27: John Russell and Vicki Sahanatien will get a legal opinion on whether YTG regulations will apply in Ivvavik National Park, in the absence of any contradictory Parks Canada regulations, assuming that Parks Canada is in support of the regulations and that the administrative mechanism exists.

Completed. Vicki Sahanatien reported that she has yet to receive an official response to her inquiry. However, in conversation with the Parks Canada Policy Department in Ottawa, she was informed that YTG regulations do apply and can be enforced in Ivvavik as long as the enforcement is carried out by a designated officer. Changes are soon to be made to the Parks Act which will make it possible for Ivvavik to develop its own regulations.

Action 96-06-28: The muskox resolution will be accompanied by a letter to the Inuvialuit Game Council and the Aklavik HTC which recognizes that the resolution allows for the first regulated hunt of muskox on the Yukon North Slope, and thereby

gives effect to Inuvialuit rights in this area. As it acknowledges there is still a lot to learn about muskox, the Council is initiating a research project and hopes that the HTC will be involved. It should be stressed that this is an interim quota. The provisions in the IFA regarding conservation and quotas should be cited, and the letter should be used as another opportunity to suggest that a workshop should be conducted to clarify these issues for the community.

Completed.

Action 96-06-29: The Secretariat will send a copy of the muskox resolution to Vicki Sahanatien.

Completed.

Action 96-06-30: Billy Archie will try to draft a bylaw for the Aklavik HTC regarding the hunting of muskox on the Yukon North Slope.

Retired. The HTC will assume the responsibility for drafting a bylaw for both muskox and grizzly bear.

Action 96-06-31: Dorothy Cooley will prepare a proposal for further projects related to the Muskox Management Plan. The proposal is to cover the costs of the layout, printing and distribution of the plan and the costs of community consultations. A list of the communities is to be included in the proposal.

Completed. John Russell distributed Dorothy's proposal for conducting the community consultations and producing the plan. Vicki Sahanatien commented that the GNWT and the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board are interested in participating in the consultation. She added that the outfitters in Ivvavik want to know more about the plan and that Parks will be providing the information. When the Chair questioned the need for a public meeting in Whitehorse, John Russell replied that there is interest among the public in Whitehorse to know what is going on. YTG is trying to avoid surprising the public on hunting issues. YTG has a policy to do public consultations. Joan Eamer commented that public meetings are expensive and that, as an alternative, it may be possible to advertise the availability of the Muskox Plan and ask for comments. Some local groups like CPAWS can be informed of the plan by mail.

It was acknowledged that the consultations are a WMAC(NS) initiative. It was agreed that the consultations should be conducted, as proposed, in Aklavik, Inuvik, Old Crow and Fort McPherson, before forwarding the draft plan to the YTG Minister of Renewable Resources, for the purposes of recommending a muskox quota.

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.

Action 96-06-33: WMAC(NS) will write a letter to Norm Snow regarding the Joint Secretariat assisting the Aklavik HTC to get on e-mail.

Completed. The Joint Secretariat is prepared to assist the Aklavik HTC.

Action 96-06-34: Joan Eamer will prepare a 'Bulletin' which outlines the current and anticipated activities related to ecosystem monitoring. The Secretariat will be responsible for its distribution.

Carried forward. Although a 'Bulletin' in the form of a newsletter has not yet been produced, the Secretariat reported that the participants of the Northern Yukon Ecological Knowledge Co-operative First Annual Gathering did receive an update on ecosystem monitoring activities when they were sent the Gathering's proceedings.

Action 96-06-35: WMAC(NS) will write a letter of inquiry to Arlin Hackman at World Wildlife Fund requesting that the Council be kept informed regarding recent initiatives to declare ANWR and the North Slope as a World Heritage Site.

Completed. (For comment refer to previous discussion on World Wildlife Fund meeting.)

Action 96-06-36: The Chair will write a letter to the Minister of Renewable Resources seeking a commitment to continue with the work to amend the Yukon Wildlife Act. Now that the review has been completed, the Council would like to see a draft of the amendments. The letter is also to express the Council's desire to see a working group have the opportunity to review the amendments in the fall.

Carried forward.

Action 96-06-37: The Secretariat will provide copies of the draft Muskox Habitat Report to Billy Archie and Nelson Green. Billy and Nelson will respond, by phone, to the Secretariat if they have any comments, by June 17.

Completed.

Action 96-06-38: Vicki Sahanatien will send a copy of the Key Habitats of the Firth River Valley to the YTG Renewable Resource regional office in Dawson.

Carried forward. Vicki is having more copies made of the report and will distribute it as soon as possible.

Action 96-06-39: WMAC(NS) will write to the Aklavik HTC to let them know that the Council is expecting to receive a report on the March trip to Kaktovik.

Completed. The Secretariat reported that the Aklavik HTC was notified several times by phone and in letters, with a clear expression of the Council's expectations and terms for the preparation of a report. The HTC informed the trip's participants but, to date, no report has been prepared. Council members expressed their dissatisfaction with this situation and no longer anticipate that a report will be prepared.

Action 96-06-40: Joan Eamer is to supply Lindsay Staples a copy of the database in ACCESS format.

Completed.

Action 96-06-41: The Secretariat will write to Tom Beck and Bob Bell to inform them that a copy of the North Yukon Ecological Knowledge Co-operative Database has been sent to the Joint Secretariat.

Completed.

Action 96-06-42: Joan Eamer will ensure that a description of the North Yukon Ecological Knowledge Co-operative Database is included in the upcoming issue of the Ecosystem Monitoring Bulletin.

Carried forward.

Action 96-06-43: John Russell, Joan Eamer and Lindsay Staples will work together to formulate a response to the proposed amendments to the Yukon Mining Acts.

Completed.

Action 96-06-44: As soon as it is known, the Secretariat will phone John Russell, Joan Eamer and Lindsay Staples to inform them of the date of the Standing Committee Hearings on the proposed amendments to the Yukon Mining Acts.

Completed.

Action 96-06-45: Joan Eamer, Vicki Sahanatien and John Russell will form a working group to review Volume 2 of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan.

Ongoing. The Chair reported that Kate McEwen has been compiling information and working with Joan Eamer, Dorothy Cooley and others to get the text update.

H. New Business

Council members were joined by Bill Fox, Departmental Operations Manager, Parks Canada, Inuvik, who presented a Parks Canada district wide update. A new national park is being established near Paulatuk. The Paulatuk Park has been primarily established to protect the calving grounds of the Bluenose Caribou herd. Under the recent 'Park Establishment Agreement' a management board is to be set up within six months. A workshop will be held to look at long term planning, staffing and infrastructure.

The Pingos on the Tuktoyuktuk Peninsula are being designated as a Canadian National Landmark. Kittigaryuit, near Tuktoyuktuk, has been named a National Historic Site. In the nineteenth century, Kittigaryuit was the largest native settlement in the Arctic with an economy based on beluga harvesting. The community has been involved in work at the site. A new Communications Officer has been hired to work in the district.

The Chair asked Bill what information he had regarding the current devolution proposal and how it could effect the status of federal lands that are currently under the Withdrawal Order. Bill replied that he has concerns about this and has been trying to get more details from the Parks' legal branch in Ottawa.

In reference to the proposed Canada-Yukon Oil and Gas Accord, the Chair inquired about the special consideration that is being given to Shoalwater Bay and Phillips Bay. Bill replied that he is looking into this matter and will let the Council know what he finds out.

G. Old Business

12. Canada-Yukon Oil and Gas Accord

It appears that the proposed legislation entitled Canada-Yukon Oil and Gas Accord established two areas for future oil and gas development outside of the areas withdrawn from development on the Yukon North Slope. These two areas are Shoalwater Bay and Phillips Bay and receive special consideration in the proposed legislation. No reasons are cited for these provisions, nor have the Inuvialuit been notified about their designation. The Phillips Bay designation abuts Ivvavik National Park and Shoalwater Bay is the principal beluga harvesting area for the Aklavik Inuvialuit.

On a related point, concern was raised with respect to how the area under the Withdrawal Order will be maintained as such following devolution.

Action 96-09-12: WMAC(NS) will prepare a response to the proposed devolution of responsibilities from Northern Affairs to the Yukon Territorial Government.

Action 96-09-13: WMAC(NS) will prepare a response to the Canada - Yukon Oil and Gas Accord.

Brendan O'Donnel (Parks, Policy and Legislation) has been following these issues and will be contracted for an update on these questions.

1. Muskox Management and 2. Grizzly Bear Management

The Chair drew the members' attention to the correspondence, included in the meeting binder, regarding muskox and grizzly bear management. This correspondence includes letters between WMAC(NS), the IGC and the Aklavik HTC.

The letter from Renie Arey on behalf of the Aklavik HTC raises a number of questions and concerns. The Chair reported that all issues raised in the letter have been referred through a letter to the IGC and in conversations with Norm Snow and Richard Binder. The Chair was scheduled to meet with the IGC the next day and said that he will be raising the apparent confusion in the Aklavik HTC regarding the roles of the Council and its members, and the use of quotas as established in the IFA.

The Chair reported that, at their June meeting in Aklavik (June 11-13), the IGC did not accept the WMAC(NS)'s resolutions on muskox and grizzly bears. A teleconference was held on June 17 to further discuss the issue, followed by a letter to the Council from the IGC June 26 which outlines the IGC's concerns. The Chair referred members to a copy of the letter in their binders. The IGC seeks a blanket quota of 10 grizzly bears for the Yukon North Slope, including Ivvavik National Park, with designated sub-allocation by zone. A zero quota should be maintained for Herschel Island. The Chair noted that whenever the Council has recommended sub-allocations it has been at the request of the Aklavik HTC. It is not the Council's responsibility to sub-allocate the quota by area. The IFA establishes this as an IGC and HTC responsibility. The IGC also wants to see 2 of the bears allocated to the NWT returned to the Yukon and included in the quota there. In addition, any reference made to restrictions in Ivvavik National Park relating to public safety should be removed from the resolutions and not included in any new resolution.

A discussion followed on the question of public safety restrictions. Section 12 (24) in the IFA states that Inuvialuit harvesting rights are subject to the laws of general application respecting public safety. It was under this provision that WMAC(NS) included public safety restrictions in Ivvavik in their muskox and grizzly bear resolutions. In their letter the IGC stated that any reference to public safety is not required at this time as they feel that the hunters are skilled enough to determine safe hunting practices.

Vicki Sahanatien stated her opposition to removing the public safety provisions from the resolutions. These restrictions are not arbitrary. The Firth River Valley has a recent history of heavy use by rafters during the months of July and August. Ivvavik has to have restrictions on hunting in this area. In the future Ivvavik can direct its visitor use, but the Firth River Valley already has established use. Grizzly bears are not hunted in this area during the summer anyway so a restriction would not be hampering any traditional hunting.

John Russell agreed with Vicki. There cannot be any possibility of jeopardizing visitors in a National Park. Parks Canada has certain responsibilities. This is, in fact, not a restriction as there isn't any grizzly bear hunting in this area at this time of year. And there is lots of opportunity to hunt muskox elsewhere. Public safety is a legitimate concern.

When asked what area the Firth River Valley included, Vicki replied that she is referring to an area about 2-3 kilometers from the river to the height of the big hills. She also noted that other restricted areas would include Stokes Point, Nanaluk Spit and Komakuk Beach which also see heavy visitor use. There are no regulations currently in place for Ivvavik Park. There is only a general regulation for no hunting which does not apply to Inuvialuit.

Nelson Green commented that the IGC has concerns with Inuvialuit rights being restricted in the future, either in Ivvavik or any other national park. Billy Archie and Nelson observed that these restrictions are seen as constraining their right to hunt when, where and how they have always hunted.

Billy Archie inquired if the proposed hunting closures would apply to caribou as well. Lots of people want to be able to hunt caribou there. How can there be a restriction on one species and not the another? John Russell acknowledged that a public safety restriction would not be considered reasonable if it applied to one species and not another. He concluded that the Council is proposing a resolution which is not enforceable. The park needs to have a regulation prohibiting the discharge of a firearm in general, as opposed to a hunting restriction.

Members agreed that it is not possible to include a public safety restriction in the resolution which does not apply to all species. The Chair commented that it becomes a question of people voluntarily altering their behavior and not hunting near tourists. But in changing the resolution it is important that the IGC is aware of Park's concerns and responsibilities.

Vicki Sahanatien said that she would like to know how the IGC would handle the question of public safety. How would they inform the hunters? Would they share the liability in case of an accident? There is a need for the IGC and Parks to get together to discuss safety matters. The Chair said he would raise these questions with the IGC.

The Chair inquired as to how, under section 12(24) of the IFA, hunting restrictions can be subject to laws of general application if such laws have not been passed?

Action 96-09-14: Vicki Sahanatien and John Russell will look into the question of what is meant by IFA section 12 (24), regarding public safety restrictions. Their inquiry is also to address the legal instruments for exercising that restriction and what is the test for determining the reasonableness of the restriction. John Russell will investigate the case law.

In reference to changes to both resolutions, members agreed to include an acknowledgment of public safety concerns with respect to the areas of Komakuk Beach, Stokes Point, Nanaluk Spit and the Firth River Valley. The resolutions is to recommend that representatives of the Yukon Government, Parks Canada and the Inuvialuit Game Council meet to address these concerns.

All references to a sub-allocation of grizzly bears are to be removed. The resolution will instead recommend a harvestable quota of 10 bears across the Yukon North Slope, with the exception of Herschel Island which is to have a zero quota. WMAC(NS) will inform both responsible Ministers of the blanket quota. As a means of explanation, the Chair clarified that the original harvestable allocation under the Grizzly Bear Management Plan was for 12 bears on the North Slope. Four of these bears were 'moved' into the NWT to provide increased opportunities closer to Akalvik. The quota was later adjusted to 'return' two bears to the North Slope, establishing a total harvestable quota of 10 bears.

Nelson Green commented that the IGC needs to deal with the Aklavik HTC regarding the setting of quotas. He suggested that WMAC(NS) present the revised resolutions to the IGC the next day and then leave it to them to deal with the HTC.

Motion:

To adopt the muskox and grizzly bear resolutions, with the noted changes.

Moved: Nelson Green

Seconded: John Russell

Motion carried.

H. New Business

2. Canadian Polar Commission Contaminants Workshop

Joan Eamer reported that the Canadian Polar Commission is in Whitehorse to conduct a regional meeting on contaminants in preparation for a larger meeting to be held in Iqaluit in October. The Commission wants to determine the interest in and the future direction of contaminant research. Joan is to attend the meeting the next day and is prepared to raise any Council concerns.

Billy Archie said he is aware that people are concerned about contaminants in subsistence species. The Chair commented that communication is an important factor. It is important that information is communicated in a way that the people effected can understand. Work should be kept community based. Diet studies should be followed up and maintained on an ongoing basis. Contaminants should be looked at in the broader context of ecosystem health. Nelson Green added that he would try to find out the IGC's position to report to the Council.

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting for the day

Moved: John Russell

Seconded: Nelson Green

Motion carried.

Thursday September 12, 1996

Present: Lindsay Staples (Chair)
John Russell -YTG Renewable Resources, Member-Government of Yukon
Billy Archie- Member -Inuvialuit Game Council
Nelson Green - Member -Inuvialuit Game Council
Vicki Sahanatien -Parks Canada, Alternate- Government of Canada
Aileen Horler - Secretariat (recording secretary)

Absent: Joan Eamer - Canadian Wildlife Service, Member- Government of Canada
Dorothy Cooley - YTG Renewable Resources, Alternate-Government of Yukon and IFA Biologist

The chair called the meeting to order at 10 AM and reviewed the agenda. He noted that in the past the Council has found it useful to have a Vice-chair to keep the meetings going when the Chair is not available. Council members agreed that it would be useful to have a Vice-chair. Billy Archie was nominated and accepted the position.

Motion:

To appoint Billy Archie as the Vice-chair of the Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope).

Moved: John Russell
Seconded: Nelson Green
Motion carried.

The Chair reported that during his meeting with the Inuvialuit Game Council that morning, it was decided delay the **IFA Workshop** until early in the new year, as a number of the key Inuvialuit participants are already committed to other events in November. The Secretariat was directed to proceed with the planning of the workshop to be conducted at this later date.

F. Financial Report

Members reviewed copies of the 1995-96 Financial Statement prepared by J. Kim Tanner Ltd. The Chair drew attention to the letter written to Council members by Ms. Tanner which outlines the nature of her involvement with the preparation of

WMAC(NS)'s financial statement and clarifies the processes involved in completing a review engagement report. Such a clarification is useful in assisting the members and YTG to understand the scope and content of the financial report.

Motion:

To accept the 1995-96 Financial Statement.

Moved: Nelson Green

Seconded: Vicki Sahanatien

Motion carried.

The Secretariat presented the Statement of Income for the period ending Sept. 6, 1996. It was noted that there is a balance of \$6,059 which remains in the 1996-97 budget as unassigned funds. Members decided to review the budget in more detail at the next meeting, at which time a decision would be made regarding the allocation of the unassigned funds.

G. Old Business

10. Ivvavik National Park

Vicki Sahanatien distributed a written status report and presented an update on activities in the park

- A Land Bird Survey was carried out in the park in the early summer. Nine areas were surveyed with a point count being the primary method used for inventory. A draft report is due Dec. 1, 1996. A preliminary list accompanied the status report. The final report is due in January, 1997.
- Research has continued on the structural geology of the park. Maps are being developed and will be distributed. The Firth River research will be published as an interpretive booklet, funded by the Geological Survey of Canada.
- Coastal erosion monitoring was conducted for the second year with the objective of increasing the understanding of coastal geomorphologic processes and to provide a means to assist in the protection of the coastal cultural resources. A report on this project is due in March.
- Year 1 of the two year coastal cultural resources survey and mapping project was completed. The project will map and photograph the larger historic sites, create an inventory of visible features and list of surface artifacts. The work found that some sod and log houses have been damaged by erosion, but the grave sites are fine. A review and summary was also conducted of existing historical research collections.
- Ecological monitoring continues with weather stations, ITEX monitoring and visitor impact monitoring.
- Work has continued on the environmental clean-up of the park by moving fuel drums and other debris to caches along the coast. This is seen as a long term project.

- Production on a pamphlet for Ivvavik is almost completed.
- A film crew from Good Earth Productions, in Toronto, shot footage in the park in July as part of a series called Great Canadian Parks. It will be aired on the Discovery Channel.

Action 96-09-15: Vicki Sahanatien will look into getting a tape of Good Earth Productions' TV show on Ivvavik National Park for Billy Archie, so that it could be shown in Aklavik.

9. Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan

The Chair reported that work is continuing on Volume 2 of the Plan. Kate McEwen has been contracted to work on updating the text. She has been in touch with Dorothy Cooley, Joan Eamer, Lois Harwood of Fisheries in Inuvik and the Chair in order to complete the revisions.

H. New Business (continued)

7. The American Association for the Advancement of Science

Bill Archie indicated an interest in attending the AAAS meeting in Alaska in conjunction with Joan Eamer, Don Russell, and Gary Kofinas to report on the ecosystem monitoring project.

G. Old Business (continued)

5. 1995/96 Wildlife Management Project Updates

a) North Slope Wolf Studies. The wolf study has been compiled and is in draft form. Bob Hayes and Al Baer from YTG Renewable Resource presented the results of this study conducted between 1987 and 1993. Their presentation included the following key points:

- Two types of wolves were found in the study area: migratory wolves on the North Slope and territorial wolves along the Porcupine River and in the mountains south of the treeline.
- Between 1987 and 1993 there were half as many on the North Slope tundra compared to the mountains.
- There was no change in pack size during the study. The population remained low at 1-2 wolves per 1000 square kilometres. The density in the rest of the Yukon is 6-18 wolves per 1000 square kilometres.

- During the 1987 census, there were 116 wolves counted in a 50,000 square km. area, giving a normal concentration for Arctic wolves. Sixty-five of these were collared which represented 13 out of the 20 known packs. In 1989 10 packs were collared. The collared wolves were difficult to follow as they would move a long way and at times be very spread out. They moved with the seasonal caribou migrations.
- Predation is mainly on the Porcupine Caribou herd. Wolves remove about 3-5% of the herd per year. People hunt as many caribou as the wolves. In April 1989 they followed 7 packs for 25 days. One caribou was killed per wolf every two weeks, which amounted to 29 caribou per year. This is considered a normal rate and it is similar to the findings of an Alaska study. Each wolf is eating about 5 kg/ day which is within the normal range.
- The caribou's migratory behaviour keeps predation low. Predation is not a major cause of mortality among the caribou. Wolves are not regulating the size of the herd.
- There was a low denning success of 17 out of 32 (53%), with a normal litter size of 4-5 pups born in the fall. Most dens occurred near treeline which is a good strategy as this is where the caribou are found in September when a reliable source of food is needed for the pups.
- The survival rate is normal at 73%. The rate declines with age, the highest being 86% for yearlings and the lowest 62% for old adults.
- Disease rates were high- 29% of wolves were found to have brucellosis and 71% canine distemper. It is very hard with a wild population to determine the cause of death. It is only possible to determine how many animals have a disease not how many die of it.
- Long distance dispersals are common. This is an important feature of the genetic mixing.
- Hunters in Aklavik were paid to report their wolf kills and submit carcasses or skulls. Between 1987 and 1993, there were 121 reported wolf kills. Pups and yearlings made up 70% of the kill which corresponds to their representation in the population. Most hunting is done on snow machine with 1-2 wolves killed at each encounter. There was light to moderate hunting in all years except 1992 when 25 wolves, or 53% of the North Richardson's Mountains population, were shot by Aklavik hunters. 1992 was the only year that the hunt was higher than sustainable levels which should be about 40%.
- It is recommended that current hunting techniques continue, hunters should avoid killing all the wolves in a pack and that Aklavik hunters should kill no more than 25 wolves per year.
- In conclusion it was noted that wolves in the Northern Yukon and adjacent NWT are regulated at a naturally low number by seasonal caribou availability, low denning success, normal natural mortality (1 wolf in 4 per year), and harvest activity level by hunters and trappers within the entire range of the Porcupine Caribou herd. Predation rates on caribou are normal but wolves don't have a strong impact on the Porcupine Caribou herd due to the small wolf population size.
- The satellite data is still to be incorporated into the study results.

The Chair thanked Bob and Al for the presentation and suggested it would be useful to do a presentation to the IGC in person. Bob commented that a video of the presentation could be made for under \$2000, which could then be distributed to a wide audience. Members agreed to consider recommending the production of a video on the wolf study when considering the allocation wildlife project funding.

b) Muskox Habitat Report. Kelly Olson reported that YTG has received a final draft of the report. Four copies were distributed to Council members. It will be printed as soon as the reviewers have had a final look at it. It is anticipated that more copies will be available in three weeks. The Chair suggested that Nick Larder, with the GNWT in Inuvik, could review the draft as he has a great deal of experience with muskox. Kelly Olson replied that YTG would consider the suggestion.

c) Aklavik HTC trip to Kaktovik. This item was discussed under action 96-06-39.

d) Paulatuk fact finding trip. The Secretariat reported that all parties concerned with this trip have been notified that preparations must begin immediately to ensure that the trip is conducted as planned and on schedule.

e) North Slope Wolverine Study. John Russell reported that Dorothy Cooley hopes to have the report completed by the end of December.

6. 1996/97 Wildlife Management Project Updates

a) GNWT -Northern Richardson Mountains Dall's Sheep Census. It was not possible to conduct the census as planned due to unfavourable weather conditions. The project will not go ahead this year.

b) GNWT- Grizzly bear reproductive rates and cub survival in the Richardson Mountains, NWT and YT. This work was conducted in June. There was nothing further to report at this time.

c) GIS Database. Kelly Olson distributed an status report on the project. The digital NTS data has been translated and compiled. Tests are currently underway as training projects for the re-conversion and documentation of wildlife and habitat data. Once the training is completed the conversion of the North Slope data will proceed. The Chair suggested the production of habitat maps as a deliverable on this project. Maps would give people something concrete to look at and would be of interest to the people in Aklavik.

Action 96-09-16: Kelly Olson will look into what maps can be produced for the Yukon North Slope from the Yukon's GIS and habitat and vegetation mapping work, and determine when they could be available.

d) Muskox Management. Dorothy Cooley's proposal for the printing of the Muskox Management Plan and the community consultations was previously discussed as Action 96-06-31.

H. New Business (continued)

1. The North Slope Conference

The North Slope Conference is held every three years. One is scheduled to be held in 1997. YTG provides the funds for the conference and is responsible for the organizing, but WMAC(NS) provides ideas and suggestions on the theme, topics and participants. It is YTG's turn to appoint a Chair for the conference, although suggestions are accepted from WMAC(NS). Nothing has been decided as yet on the location, date or theme.

Billy Archie commented that the next conference should be held within the Inuvialuit Settlement Region, possibly at Shingle Point, so as to give the beneficiaries an opportunity to attend. A discussion followed on the costs and logistics of holding the conference within the Settlement Region. Shingle Point has limited facilities and is very costly to reach. The last conference was held in Dawson City, which could host it again. It was felt that the number of participants coming from outside the territory would be reduced if the conference was held any further north, as travel expenses would be very high. The question of facilitating beneficiary attendance was considered to be very important in the conference planning.

Action 96-09-17: A working group consisting of Billy Archie, Lindsay Staples, Kelly Olson and the WMAC(NS) Secretariat will meet for a day, by the end of October 1996, to discuss and plan for the next North Slope Conference. The Secretariat will contact Billy Archie to assess his availability. Should Billy be unable to attend such a meeting, Lindsay Staples is to phone him to discuss his views on the planning.

3. Annual Activity Report 1995/96

The Secretariat clarified that every two years the Council produces a Term Report which outlines the Council's activities over a two year period. The Term Report contains financial statements as well. It is usually produced with some colour and contains a number of photographs. During the alternate years, the Council prepares a shorter, less expensive Activity Report, which is a summary of one year's activities and does not include a financial report. When asked for suggestions on further content, it was suggested that a section on the initiation of the Inuvialuit Harvest Study Evaluation should be included.

Action 96-09-18: WMAC(NS) Members will review the draft 1995/96 Annual Activity Report and provide comments to the Secretariat by October 30, 1996.

G. Old Business (continued)

7. Inuvialuit Harvest Study

a) Review of the Inuvialuit Harvest Study Evaluation Report

Council members were joined by Harvey Jessup, YTG Renewable Resources and member of the IHS Working Group.

The final report titled 'Evaluation of the Inuvialuit Harvest Study' was prepared over the summer by the contracted consultants, P.J. Usher Consulting Services and Symbion Consultants. The evaluation report contains two levels of recommendations; general ones which address administrative concerns, and the more technical recommendations. The evaluation states that the IHS should continue but it should be revamped.

The ad hoc group, consisting of the WMAC(NS) Chair, Billy Day, Herbert Felix, Bob Bell and John Bailey, which was formed to oversee the evaluation, feels that its work will be complete after the workshop is concluded tomorrow. The workshop is being held to hear the observations of the various co-management groups and to decide on the next steps in the evaluation. The Council needs to consider its position so that it can report along with the other groups.

Nelson Green reported that the IGC has questions about the need to collect data. The report was supposed to include an evaluation of the data collected over the last ten years to determine if it is sufficient. The question of what data and how often to collect it was not answered. It is hoped that the recommendations that come from the joint bodies will help to determine how to proceed. In their discussions, the IGC didn't get into the technical aspects of data collection. Members questioned the need to collect data every year now that a database has been established. Perhaps information could be collected at 3-5 year intervals, although it would be necessary to maintain an annual collection for tagged species. However, in order to determine the gaps in the data that is presently being collected the needs for data must first be determined.

Harvey Jessup commented that there is a lot of information in the report but it is lacking in direction. There is a need for detail to be given to the options presented. The report doesn't always make recommendations as to appropriate actions. An example was given of the recommendation on page 28 in which detail is given as to the target audience but there is no suggestion of a product. And there is no reference as to how the product could be used. There needs to be lots of discussion on the types of outputs that are required to meet the needs of each group.

Giving agencies the data that is collected so that they can analyze it as they want is a good recommendation. Any data distributed has to have the approval of the HTCs. It

would be useful for the data to have qualifiers, such as conditions and circumstances of a kill, which could be added as foot notes.

Questions remain regarding the reliability of the data. It is being used and is considered reliable. But there is a question of whether it can be used for compensation. Nelson Green observed that the report raises a concern about using the data in court. There must be an evaluation of the data to assess if it will be accepted in a court. The Environmental Impact Review Board and the IGC use the data when negotiating compensation agreements with developers. But if an insurance company goes to court, what would happen then? The Chair pointed out that data from the IHS is currently used in negotiating compensation agreements and is not used after the fact.

There is a need to divide management data from compensation data. Different species require different types of management data. It may be time for the IHS to serve specific requirements as opposed to blanket ones. The costs of the IHS are high compared to those of other specific studies. The IHS is gathering lots of data but not necessarily lots of information or information to meet real needs. The study was set-up to address socio-economic needs not as a tool for wildlife management.

The report suggests expanding the role of the field workers but doesn't detail what other kind of work they could do. The HTC's could be involved in other types of projects if not collecting data annually. Ecological monitoring could become a component of the IHS. This would mean that someone would have to determine what the IHS will be, a tool for management or a tool for monitoring.

The Council members agreed that the recommendation that implementation funds for the IHS should flow directly from DIAND to the Joint Secretariat is a good one.

Some direction has to be determined before it is possible to move on to the next stage. Council members must consider the overall administrative needs of the study. If, as the evaluation recommends there are to be two bodies responsible for the implementation of the IHS, then there it must be decided who will sit on the two bodies, what they will do and what they are going to do next.

A discussion was held regarding the recommendation that the Joint Secretariat Board of Directors should take a more active role in setting priorities and in providing general direction. It was felt that this Board might be larger than is actually required to oversee the IHS. A large group is not necessarily needed to take on the administrative responsibilities, but it must be possible to hold someone accountable. There is a need to somehow incorporate a more direct representation from the communities.

The Harvest Study Working Group (HSWG) could continue dealing with technical issues. The HSWG can oversee and administer the technical work but do they represent the funding/ contributing agencies or the co-management boards? It is through the co-management boards that the communities would have representation on the HSWG. It is critical that there is a technical group to review many of the recommendations and follow

up on them. All the members of the HSWG have backgrounds in wildlife management, not socio-economics. They have been asked to make some decisions that they shouldn't have been dealing with. Perhaps it would be possible to bring in other people as needed to deal with specific issues. If the technical group is representing the co-management bodies then the overseeing administrative body would already be aware of the actions being undertaken. The question remains how to involve the HTC's in the next stages of the evaluation.

With reference to the overseeing administrative group, Council members agreed that it is a good idea to use the Chairs of the three co-management bodies plus representatives from the IGC, which would give the group the same make-up as the ad hoc committee which has been overseeing the evaluation. The technical group should consist of the members of the HSWG plus other individuals with specific expertise as needed. There should be some means for the HTC's to have direct representation on this technical group. There needs to be some connection between the members of the technical committee as individuals and the co-management bodies.

H. New Business (continued)

5. Protection of polar bears off-shore

John Russell presented a copy of correspondence from Ian Stirling, of the Canadian Wildlife Service in Edmonton, regarding the legislative protection of polar bears when hunted on the ice off-shore. It has come to Ian's attention that there is a gap in the Canadian legislation regarding the protection of polar bears. The only legislation protecting polar bears off-shore, where they spent a lot of time hunting on the ice, is the National Parks Act. To be protected under this Act, however, the bear must be within the boundaries of a national park. Polar bears are provided no protection off-shore through Provincial or Territorial legislation as their jurisdictions do not extend beyond the low water mark. In the United States, polar bears are protected under the Marine Mammal Protection Act. However, in Canada, the Marine Mammal Regulations, enacted under the Fisheries Act, does not include polar bears.

John Russell proposed that a solution to this situation is to have polar bears recognized as a marine mammal under the Fisheries Act. Any territorial, provincial or federal enforcement officer would be able to enforce the regulations.

Action 96-09-19: The Secretariat is to contact Ian Stirling to obtain an update the situation and to discuss future actions.

Action 96-09-20: The Chair will write to the Ministers responsible for the Department of Fisheries and the Canadian Wildlife Service to have polar bears recognized in the Marine Mammal Regulations. The letter is to be copied to the responsible territorial Minister and to the Inuvialuit Game Council.

G. Old Business (continued)

8. 1996/97 Wildlife Management funding proposals

Members reviewed a summary of the IFA Implementation Funds available for 1996-97 Wildlife Management Projects. The balance remaining is \$96,698, which includes the \$5000 which will now not be spent on the GNWT's Sheep Census.

Members agreed that there is a need to improve on the way proposals are brought forward to the Council. A lot of the baseline work has already been completed. It is time to seriously consider the future direction. The Chair commented that important areas to consider for research include Ecosystem Monitoring, habitat related research and special wildlife management issues.

Research on muskox and caribou interaction is of great interest in Aklavik. People with experience working with these two species should be consulted to determine how to approach such research. It may be possible to use satellite collars.

Vicki Sahanatien raised the issue of further funding for consultation on the development of regulations for Ivvavik. Green Plan funding which has been used in the past is no longer available.

The Chair asked the members to consider developing an 'Environmentally Sensitive Areas' map. There has never been a consolidation of information on important or sensitive areas. Vicki Sahanatien added that this type of map had to be prepared for Ivvavik.

Vicki Sahanatien handed out a project proposal titled 'Coastal Environmental Clean-up', which would see non-degradable garbage moved from various locations in Ivvavik to staging areas for permanent removal and disposal. Project costs total \$22,500, for helicopter and fixed-wing time. A decision is needed as soon as possible as the work would have to be completed within the next few weeks. A discussion followed during which time some members expressed their concern about using wildlife management funds to clean up Ivvavik Park.

John Russell reported that Dorothy Cooley is requesting funds to buy two more satellite collars to be used in the monitoring of the Porcupine Caribou herd. Each collar would cost \$3300.

Several other ideas for projects were discussed including an ecosystem monitoring co-ordinator in Aklavik (\$3000-\$4000) ; a video production of the muskox management plan (\$2000-\$3000) ; a video production of the wolf studies (\$1500-\$2000) ; and, the implementation of activities under the muskox management plan (\$10,000-\$15,000).

Action 96-09-21: The Secretariat will schedule a teleconference for mid-October when proposals are sufficiently developed to discuss the allocation of wildlife management funds. Proposals must be submitted to the Secretariat who will distribute them to the members prior to the teleconference.

I. Next meeting

The next WMAC(NS) meeting is scheduled to be held in Inuvik in December. There was no discussion on this topic.

Motion:

To adjourn the meeting.

Moved: John Russell

Seconded: Vicki Sahanatien

Motion carried.

Meeting adjourned at 4:45 PM

WMAC(NS) Chair

Date

WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Date