



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

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**MINUTES**

WMAC(NS) Quarterly Meeting

Whitehorse, Yukon

September 23-24, 1997

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**Tuesday September 23, 1997**

**Present:**

Lindsay Staples - Chair

Nelson Green - Member -Inuvialuit Game Council

Joan Eamer - Member- Government of Canada

Billy Archie - Member -Inuvialuit Game Council

John Russell - Member - Yukon Territorial Government

Vicki Sahanatien- Parks Canada, Alternate- Government of Canada

Aileen Horler - WMAC(NS) Secretariat

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**A. Call to Order**

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9AM.

**B. Review and Approval of Agenda**

The Chair reviewed the agenda noting that the meeting will include a number of project updates such as for the Long Term Research Planning Workshop and the North Slope Conference. Consideration needs to be given to IFA implementation funding, as there are concerns over the next round of funding negotiations. It is essential to be prepared. The letter from the Yukon's Minister of Renewable Resources regarding the Council's recommendation on the muskox needs to be reviewed. The review of the minutes and action items, as well as wildlife project updates, should be deferred to the following day when Dorothy Cooley and Kelly Olson will be in attendance.

**Motion:**

*To adopt the agenda.*

Moved: Joan Eamer

Seconded: John Russell

Motion carried.

**F. Correspondence**

The first letter to be considered was a response to the Council written by Eric Fairclough, Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources, regarding the amendments to the Yukon Wildlife Act, the role of the IFA funded biologist and a number of other issues. The Chair reviewed a number of concerns, raised by WMAC(NS), the IGC and the IRC which were not fully addressed.

The Chair commented that the IGC has a meeting Friday afternoon with YTG officials to discuss IFA implementation funds. The roles and responsibilities of the IFA biologist will also be discussed. Billy Archie commented that Aklavik has real concerns about how little consultation is being conducted by the IFA biologist in the community. The Chair replied that the GNWT has just advertised for an HTC liaison co-ordinator. The position will be able to assist HTCs with administration, financial management and communications. Billy Archie added that the need for an IFA workshop in Aklavik still remains.

The Chair remarked that all agencies which receive IFA funding need to begin to prepare themselves for the next round of implementation funding discussions. The Treasury Board may conduct a performance audit, in which they will consider if the funding is being spent as it was intended. IFA funding is additional to government's A-based funding. However, in some cases it appears as if IFA funding is being used instead of A-based funding. If future funding discussions reflect those of the past, a Treasury Board analyst, assigned to the file, will go to all agencies and look at all their activities. Agencies will be asked what is being done without A-based funds in the ISR. As well, an assessment will be made to determine if the IFA funds are being well utilized, as per agency responsibilities.

The way the IFA funds are being spent is a general concern of the IGC and not directed at any one agency. All agencies have to be able to justify their expenditures or everyone will loose. It is very important to take a co-operative approach when negotiating future funding.

In the past, negotiations were underway a year and a half before the end of the contribution agreement. The current agreement expires March 1999, but as yet, there hasn't been any indication from DIAND that it is time to get things underway. The Council needs to raise the issue now. We need to be prepared and begin to document

range of activities of each agency. Joan Eamer commented that many programs have multiple funding sources and it may be difficult to show discrete spending. John Russell added that A-based spending is concentrated where it is needed and not in remote areas like the Yukon North Slope.

The Chair proposed that, early this winter, there should be a strategy meeting of representatives from all the agencies to start planning.

In reference to the amendments to the Yukon Wildlife Act, the Chair reported that the IGC was disappointed that the letter contained no commitment to undertake the work. However, since the letter was written, YTG has agreed to proceed with amendments as a stand alone section. When Nelson Green asked if the Council will receive a letter from YTG regarding the commitment to amend the Wildlife Act, the Chair replied that he was not expecting a formal letter, as the Minister was planning to announce it during his speech to the North Slope Conference delegates.

In order for the work on the amendments to proceed, a working group, with membership as proposed by the Council over a year ago, should be formed. As well, the Inuvialuit should review Laurie Henderson's work. The working group could meet before Christmas to establish a work plan. The 1998/99 North Slope Conference funds could be put towards the work on the amendments. John Russell commented that he felt it was better to have a group working together rather than one-on-one consultations. A group would be more productive and all the views can be heard.

**Action 97-09-01:** Following the North Slope Conference, the Chair will write to the Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources to suggest the establishment of a working group to discuss, identify and review the amendments to the Yukon Wildlife Act.

No comments were made regarding the two letters referring to the Canada-Yukon Oil and Gas Accord Implementation Act.

A letter written to the Chair by Dorothy Cooley explains the reasons why the Alaskan biologists were unable to carry out the 1997 Porcupine Caribou photocensus and composition count. Vicki Sahanatien reported that, in June, the Alaskans asked for permission to do work in Ivvavik National Park but problems arose because the Alaskans were not able to go through the due process of presenting their proposal to the EISC. Members agreed that rather than such a proposal being brought forward too late (due to changes in circumstances because of such factors as unanticipated animal movement), there is a need for a proposal that predetermines routine research elements such as possible routes and fuel caches. A multi-year permit would be best which would give automatic screening approval or exemption. Vicki Sahanatien added that Parks Canada issues 15-year block research permitting approvals.

**Action 97-09-02:** WMAC(NS) will write to Fran Mauer, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service suggesting that a proposal for work in the Yukon be brought forward this winter which includes multi-year activities and contingencies. The letter should make it clear that this

suggestion is being made in order to support research, not to put up an obstacle. Copies are to be sent to Dorothy Cooley and the Environmental Impact Screening Committee.

The Chair drew the members' attention to a letter written to Mark Zrum, Land Resources, DIAND, by the Akalvik HTC requesting information on laws dealing with litter and the disposal of garbage on Crown lands in the Yukon. The HTC recognises that garbage disposal is a growing problem, especially in the area of Shingle Point and they wish to take measures to address it. Vicki Sahanatien commented that it is very important to do something about the situation especially in regards to bear management. Garbage acts as an attractant to grizzly bears and is considered a 'hazard to wildlife'. John Russell suggested that a clause could be added to the Akalvik Grizzly Bear By-law regarding 'causing wildlife (bears) to become a nuisance'.

In reference to a letter written to the Chair by Andy Mitchell, Secretary of State (Parks), Vicki Sahanatien reported that the consultations on Parks Canada becoming a 'Special Agency' went well. She believes that someone attended on behalf of the IGC. There were some concerns expressed by NGOs and aboriginal groups that there should be a Northern Director in order to reflect interests which differ from those in the south.

In reference to the notification of the 8th North American Caribou Workshop, Billy Archie expressed an interest in attending. Members discussed the possibility of participating in the poster session and agreed that the proposal for a poster should be considered at the December meeting.

**Action 97-09-03:** The Secretariat will write to the organizers of the 8th North American Caribou Workshop to inform them of the Council's interest in participating in the poster session.

**Action 97-09-04:** The Secretariat and Joan Eamer will work together to develop a proposal for a WMAC(NS) poster, suitable for display at conferences.

Joan Eamer commented on the internet site being used by the conference organizers and reported that the North Yukon Ecological Knowledge Co-operative was now using it as well. She suggested that it would be a good site for WMAC to use if the Council should ever want to develop a web site of its own.

## **H. Old Business**

### **1. Muskox Management**

The Chair drew the members' attention to the letter written by Eric Fairclough, Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources, regarding the harvesting of muskox on the Yukon North Slope. He reported that he had met with the Minister's office in order to address the concerns he had with the contents of the letter and to attempt to clear up a number of misunderstandings.

The contents of the letter were reviewed and the following comments were made.

In reference to the first two points:

- It was agreed that the first two points were acceptable, but the Chair noted that the management of the 'entire population' is a requirement of the IFA.

In reference to the third point:

- The expression 'prevent alleged debilitation' was not one used in the Council's recommendation. This expression may have originated in Norm Barichello's draft Muskox Management Plan.
- Council members wondered about the statement regarding a concern 'with a goal that controls one species at a low population level over the long term for the benefit of another' in light of the government's wolf control program.
- A question arose as to which provision of the Canadian Biodiversity Strategy the letter is referring.
- The relevant clause in the IFA in regards to a management goal is its definition of conservation, which provides for long term optimum, not maximum, productivity. As the IFA supersedes all other legislation, it is the IFA's definition of conservation that should be used.

In reference to the fourth point:

- The Council has considered the harvesting interests of other users in its recommendation.
- The Council has tried to keep the lines of communication open between groups with an interest in the muskox population. For example, the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation were informed of the recommendation during the Council's presentation to the Porcupine Caribou Management Board. In addition, the Chair did a CBC radio interview in which he stated that a non-Inuvialuit hunt was not very likely in the foreseeable future given the size of the population, the Inuvialuit subsistence priority and the hunting restrictions within the national park.
- It is the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board that considers the interests of other harvesters, but they expressed no concern when informed of the recommendation. It is their job to follow-up on concerns. The Council's mandate and funding is confined to the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and it does not have the responsibility to consult extensively with other groups outside the area of concern.
- John Russell added that he has heard concerns from tour group companies regarding the hunt.

In reference to the fifth point:

- The Chair noted that section 3(3) of the IFA states that the IFA shall prevail over other legislation in cases of inconsistencies or conflict. Inuvialuit have the right to harvest as long as it is within conservation limits, with conservation being as it is defined in the IFA. Under the land claim, the burden of proof is on those who want to impose a limit, not on those who want to harvest.

- The Chair noted the divergence of understanding or confusion raised by the Minister's letter.
- John Russell commented that the letter reflects YTG's interpretation and shows that they can substantiate the conservation of muskox. The Order in Council of 1969 which declared muskox endangered was in place before the IFA and therefore would be incorporated into the IFA. He understands the letter to say that YTG has a different legal interpretation of the situation, but that a solution is possible. John added that he does not see this letter as a rejection of the recommendation. YTG has a concern with consultation which needs to be addressed.
- The reference to 'conservation concern' does not reflect the attitude of the local residents.
- Members felt that it is not the Council's job to do 'broad consultation'. The Council has consulted who it should.

Members were pleased that the Chair had taken the opportunity to talk directly with the Minister's office rather than allowing matters to develop into a big confrontation. Confusion remained as to what needs to happen before the tags can be issued.

**Action 97-09-05:** The Chair will write to the Deputy Minister of Renewable Resources to express the Council's concerns regarding YTG's response to WMAC(NS)'s muskox harvest recommendation. The letter will detail the process that the Council followed in developing its recommendation and express the Council's request that the harvest proceed.

John Russell added that a Council representative should be present at any upcoming consultations in order to support the harvest and the Muskox Management Plan.

The Chair referred to the draft 'North Slope Muskox Harvest Plan' recently developed in Alaska. This plan has similar management objectives and there is great potential for harmonization with the Council's plan. The possibility for shared administrative responsibilities is something that could be discussed at the North Slope Conference.

## **2. Grizzly Bear Management**

Members referred to the letter written to the Chair by Eric Fairclough, Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources, accepting the Council's recommendation for a total allowable harvest and harvest quota for grizzly bears on the Yukon North Slope. The Chair noted that the possibility for other First Nations to hunt still remains open under section 19(3) of the Yukon Act. John Russell commented that once all the land claims are settled in the Yukon, no Yukon First Nations will have the right to hunt on the North Slope, although First Nations from other regions of Canada will. The issue of section 19(3) is a good one to raise in the review of the Yukon Wildlife Act.

In reference to a letter written to YTG by an individual interested in hunting grizzly bears on the Yukon North Slope, John Russell acknowledged that the Council was

mistaken in assuming the no harvest in the area equates to no interest in hunting. John noted that, in his reply to the letter, he explained the rights of the Inuvialuit and current management concerns. The letter is an indication of interest in hunting grizzly bears on the North Slope should the possibility ever arise.

John Russell reported that two grizzly bears were shot as defense kills at Shingle Point over the summer. No skulls or other samples were submitted. The local conservation officer was not familiar with the HTC by-law. John commented that he is concerned that his investigations into the incidents were considered to be disrespectful. He was not accusing anyone of lying. He was just trying to establish the facts. There are some reports now that one of the bears was a black bear. John added that the HTC did return the hides, as per the by-law.

The by-law is in place to manage the bears, not to restrict the people. It is important that everyone know what the by-law says. The HTC should prepare a fact sheet, for distribution throughout the community, which explains the by-law. Billy Archie said that he will bring this matter up with the HTC.

**Action 97-09-06:** WMAC(NS) will write to the IGC and the Aklavik HTC to suggest that the HTC take action to inform the community of the terms of the grizzly bear by-law and the need to apply them. This action could take the form of a fact sheet, delivered to each household.

Vicki Sahanatien confirmed that there is a need for the Aklavik HTC to deal with the issues of camp maintenance and prevention of bear encounters. Inspections should be done and the community should be educated as to what can be done.

**Action 97-09-07:** Billy Archie will raise the issue of clean-up at Shingle Point and the prevention of defense kills with the Aklavik HTC.

When Billy Archie inquired as to what funding was available to help with a clean-up program, Joan Eamer suggested that some might be available through the Action 21.

**Action 97-09-08:** Joan Eamer is to supply Billy Archie with information on Action 21.

In reference to obtaining incinerators for Shingle Point, John Russell reported that Kelly Olson was able to find funds to have them built.

Vicki Sahanatien commented that there is a problem with the operational plan. There is a need to have something already in place to respond when problem situations arise. John Russell added that there is also a problem with funding. It would use up all of his budget to go up to Shingle to deal with a problem bear. He suggested that electric fences could be installed for little cost.

**Action 97-09-09:** WMAC(NS) will ask the GNWT to do a presentation on the Yukon North Slope grizzly bear population, at the Council's December meeting.

**Action 97-09-10:** WMAC(NS) will write to the IGC and the Aklavik HTC to assess their interest in receiving a presentation on the grizzly bear hunting points system.

The Council will revisit the issue of the defense kills at Shingle Point after the GNWT's presentation.

John Russell noted that grizzly bear tags will now be issued on July 1st of each year (changed from April 1st), which is the date used by the GNWT.

The Chair referred members to the Yukon Government's Grizzly Bear Management Guidelines, published July 1997. Questions have arisen regarding the population estimates and harvest data that is included in the publication. The publication does not reflect any of the information obtained through the Inuvialuit Harvest Study. The harvest level is actually much higher than it has been represented. Nor does the publication give any consideration to the Grizzly Bear Management Plan, recently developed for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Both the Management Plan and the Harvest Study have relied on a number of excellent resources, such as the HTCs and the IGC.

**Action 97-09-11:** The Chair will write to the Department of Renewable Resources to comment on the Yukon Government's recently published Grizzly Bear Management Guidelines and absence of information from the Grizzly Bear Management Plan for the Inuvialuit Settlement Region and from the Inuvialuit Harvest Study.

### **3. Ecosystem Monitoring Project/ North Yukon Ecological Knowledge Co-operative.**

Joan Eamer reported that the next National Ecosystem Monitoring and Assessment Network (EMAN) meeting will be held in Charlevoix, Quebec in January 1998. Environment Canada will have funding available to send a number of delegates from the Yukon. Joan added that she would like to have a poster of the North Yukon Ecological Knowledge Co-operative prepared in time to display it at this meeting in Quebec.

The proceedings from the Second Annual Gathering of the North Yukon Ecological Knowledge Co-operative will soon be ready for distribution. Joan commented that she was pleased to have received comments on the draft report from the Aklavik HTC.

The Knowledge Co-op is setting up a project in Old Crow, in conjunction with the Vuntut Gwitchin Renewable Resource Council, to do community vegetation monitoring using the ITEX system. Part of the project will include developing a reference collection of plants as well as recording plant phenology and soil temperatures.

Joan reported that the GNWT has committed \$5000 to the Community Monitoring Project. The project has also received further funding from the Northern Contaminants program, so overall, it is in good shape financially.



Over the summer, Joan was involved in setting up biodiversity forestry plots in Wolf Creek (Whitehorse), as part of a national EMAN initiative. Joan will be helping the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board establish similar plots in the Mackenzie Delta area.

The Chair asked the Council members to reconfirm their approval to provide funding for Billy Archie's snow machine trip across the Yukon North Slope, in April 1997, as it was not properly recorded in the minutes of the June 1997 meeting. Members agreed that \$1540 of the funding allocated to ecosystem monitoring should go towards Billy's trip. The Chair noted that Billy had provided a report of his trip. There is a need to establish a set format for recording information so that data is presented in a way that is useful for monitoring purposes.

**Action 97-09-12:** The Chair and Joan Eamer will establish a format for hunters to report ground-based observations while traveling on the Yukon North Slope.

## **5. Science Horizon Intern**

Joan Eamer reported that Mike Gill began work the second week of August. Mike has been working hard to prepare a summary of past North Slope research for presentation at the Long Term Research Planning Workshop. The nature of the work he does after the workshop will depend on the outcome of the workshop, but essentially it will involve developing the actual Long Term Research Plan.

The Science Horizon Intern is a two year program. The program provides up to \$12,000 per year. The Council must provide an additional \$6000 per year, but can provide more if there is a wish to keep the position running longer within each year. Members agreed that as the work Mike is doing falls into the category of wildlife research, it should be possible to secure further funding for his position from IFA Wildlife Programs funding.

This raised the question of the ability of YTG to carry-over IFA Implementation Funding from one fiscal year into the next. This is an issue that needs to be addressed as soon as possible. The Chair suggested that it is a topic the IGC and YTG should be discussing at their upcoming meeting.

## **4. Long Term Research Planning**

Council members reviewed the proposed agenda for the second workshop, scheduled to be held in Dawson City, October 2, following the North Slope Conference. The Chair reported that there are currently 40 confirmed participants. Four working groups will be formed to consider ecosystem management, contaminants and coastal zone planning.

Traditional knowledge, remote sensing and communications will be considered as tools for each group to incorporate in their proposals.

### **10. Inuvialuit Harvest Study**

The Chair reported that the Inuvialuit Harvest Study Working Group will be meeting in Dawson, before the North Slope Conference.

**Action 97-09-13:** The Secretariat will circulate the minutes from the June 1997 Inuvialuit Harvest Study meeting to WMAC(NS) members and to Harvey Jessup.

### **17. North Slope Conference**

Billy Archie made a trip to Whitehorse in June to attend a meeting at which an agenda was drafted for the North Slope Conference. The Chair reported that, to date, there are over 100 participants registered for the conference. The Begula Management Agreement won't be signed as the required Alaskan delegate is now unable to attend.

### **12. Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan**

A summary of action items arising from the Plan will be printed for distribution at the North Slope Conference. Updated versions of the Wildlife Population Status Report has been prepared and will also be available. The Chair commented that he will be doing a brief presentation at the conference to report on the action items.

### **14. Ivvavik National Park Report**

Vicki Sahanatien presented the report from Ivvavik National Park. Ecosystem monitoring work continues. The Park hopes to have its monitoring protocols finalized this fall and will distribute them once they are completed. Protocols implemented this year were climate (weather stations at Sheep Creek and Margaret Lake), campsite monitoring, breeding bird surveys, bird checklist, lemming population density and ITEX plant phenology monitoring. The breeding bird survey was done on foot. Collected data will go into the CWS database. The Firth River water station is running again, with thanks to the Council for their support.

Work continued on the coastal archeological survey and mapping. Interesting finds included a pre-contact house excavated on the Blackhouse River. Vicki inquired if the members would be interested in learning more about Parks Canada's research findings.

**Action 97-09-14:** Vicki Sahanatien will arrange for a presentation of Parks Canada's archeological and historical research on the coast over the past two years, when the Council meets in Inuvik in December.

Members received copies of a draft report titled 'BAR-1 Distant Early Warning (DEW)) Auxiliary Station Komakuk Beach, Yukon Territory' by David Neufeld. This publication is currently being edited and will be completed by March 1998. Vicki also distributed a paper titled 'Presenting the History of the Yukon North Slope', also by David Neufeld, which summarizes the objectives, methods and outline of his research for 1997-98.

The Dolly Varden Char research, begun in 1995, has continued. A hydro-acoustic weir was installed to count char as they moved up the Firth River. The weir proved to be only intermittently reliable. A second phase of the study includes laboratory work at DFO in Winnipeg which will archive and analyse all previously collected population data.

The research on coastal erosion monitoring went very well this year. It is the project's last year and reports are due in March 1998.

There was no progress this year on park clean-up.

In regards to the clean-up of Komakuk Beach, DND completed soil and water sampling and mapping of contaminants during mid-July. Descriptions of the sampling and testing methods are available in a document submitted to the EISC.

It is anticipated that a multi-disciplinary workshop will be held in Inuvik during this fiscal year to discuss research concerns for Ivvavik. This will feed directly into Ivvavik's Ecosystem Conservation Plan.

Several members of the Park's staff received training over the summer.

Vicki reviewed the new organization chart for the Western Arctic District. Ivvavik will have a full time Chief Park Warden, a full time Park Warden and three seasonal Patrolpersons.

## **16. ANWR - 1002 Lands**

The Secretariat reported that there are no immediate threats which would allow for oil development proceeding in the 1002 lands. Lobby efforts are continuing to have the area permanently protected.

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**Wednesday September 24, 1997**

**Present:** Lindsay Staples - Chair

Nelson Green - Member -Inuvialuit Game Council  
Billy Archie - Member -Inuvialuit Game Council  
Joan Eamer - Member- Government of Canada  
John Russell - Member - Yukon Territorial Government  
Vicki Sahanatien- Parks Canada, Alternate- Government of Canada  
Dorothy Cooley - YTG Renewable Resources, Alternate-Government of  
Yukon and IFA Biologist  
Kelly Olson- YTG Renewable Resources, IFA Implementation

Coordinator

Aileen Horler - WMAC(NS) Secretariat

**Guest:**

Jim McIntyre - Director, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Branch, YTG  
Renewable Resources

Andy Tardiff - YTG Renewable Resources, Herschel Island Territorial  
Park

Val Loewen - Habitat Inventory Co-ordinator, YTG Renewable Resources

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The Chair welcomed Val Loewen, the Habitat Inventory Co-ordinator, YTG Renewable Resources. Val had been invited to the meeting, at Kelly Olson's request, to report to Council members on a number of outstanding action items.

**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.

Val Loewen reported that wildlife key habitat maps have been completed, except for placing the names on it. Problem with some base features need to be dealt with as well. The Northern Richardson Mountains vegetation map has been completed and is available digitally. The only problem they are having is in getting the legend attached to the map. The North Slope vegetation map has been completed by CWS and is available digitally. This map has not been printed.

Member were shown copies of the six Yukon Wildlife Key Habitat maps. Everyone agreed that the maps were very well done. The Chair added that it would be useful to include such maps in the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan's Wildlife Population Status Report.

**Action 97-06-23:** Kelly Olson will inquire into the availability of habitat/ vegetation maps for the North Slope Conference.

Val Loewen reported that all the maps will be displayed at the North Slope Conference, but that copies will not be available until the problems noted above have been addressed. The maps can be ordered by anyone who wants them and they will be distributed once the work is complete. The GIS session at the conference will show the key habitat map and the North Slope vegetation map.

**Action 97-06-24:** Kelly Olson will inquire into what species habitat information is available for mapping and to what extent it can be utilized at a level which is practical for the Game Council.

Key habitat is mapped for moose, sheep, caribou, muskox, fox (den sites), wolf (den sites), beluga whale, bowhead whale, seals, polar bear, ducks, geese, swans, shorebirds, black guillemot, gulls, bald eagle, peregrine falcon and gyrfalcon. These are based on wildlife distribution at key times of the year for each species and are in a scale of 1:250,000.

The next step will be to use the available wildlife data for moose, sheep, geese and songbirds and relate it to the vegetation maps, in order to figure out which vegetation types the animals are using. There is some uncertainty as to how well it will work. This process has been tried with muskox but it didn't work very well as the data used was old and not very accurate. The Chair commented that during the next muskox survey it will be very important to ensure that precise locations are obtained. Maps could be produced for grizzly bears based on the abundance of bear food plants. Billy Archie requested that grizzly bear be given priority when trying to match distribution to known habitat. The main interest is in bears along the coast.

**Action 97-09-15:** WMAC(NS) will write to Val Loewen, Habitat Inventory Coordinator, YTG Renewable Resources, to request that grizzly bear be given a priority in the work to map species distribution to known habitat.

**Action 97-06-25:** Taking into consideration that the Yukon North Slope habitat mapping was an IFA funded project, Kelly Olson will inquire into the possibility of moving this project along so as not to have it slowed down by the Yukon-wide mapping work.

Val Loewen commented that this is not an unreasonable request and that efforts are made to keep the northern work moving along. However, she noted that YTG's GIS unit is only staffed by two people and that they have to work on departmental priorities. Data is being converted to GIS but there is a need to consider the appropriate data structure and not rush into something that will have to be changed later.

**Action 97-06-29 :** Kelly Olson will confirm with Beth Hawkings that she is aware the habitat digital work has been done for the Firth River.

Val Loewen confirmed that Beth Hawkings is aware the habitat digital work has been done for the Firth River, but that she does not have a digital copy. Joan Eamer noted that Jim Hawkings at CWS does have a copy. She added that there is a need to have a list of all GIS projects available through CWS, Parks Canada and YTG. Harvest information could also be obtained from Mike Muller at the Joint Secretariat. The list could be added to the Northern Yukon Ecological Knowledge Co-operative's web site.

**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.

## **15. Herschel Island Report**

The Chair welcomed Jim McIntyre, Director, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Branch, YTG Renewable Resources and Andy Tardiff, Park Ranger, Herschel Island Territorial Park.

The Chair explained that the Council is trying to review its own operations and mandate regarding Herschel Island Territorial Park. In order to do this, the Council needs to clarify its role in relation to the Technical Committee and requires more information on the status of the Herschel Island Territorial Park Management Plan. In addition, a number of questions have arisen regarding Inuvialuit hunting rights and restrictions in the park which need to be addressed.

Jim McIntyre commented that section 12(15) of the Inuvialuit Final Agreement gives direction for the establishment of the Territorial Park, but that it is fairly vague as to the principles and procedures to be followed. In order to develop a Management Plan, the IGC and YTG decided to form a technical committee, which originally was intended to be established only for the time it took to develop the Plan. The Plan was developed by WMAC, the IGC and YTG and signed in 1991.

After the Management Plan was completed, the Technical Committee continued to work on the development of an Implementation Plan. This Implementation Plan was completed and fulfilled. The Technical Committee has continued to meet to ensure that the intent of both the plans is being achieved.

The Chair clarified that the role of the Technical Committee has been to give detailed on-the-ground information while WMAC(NS)'s role is to consider the larger picture planning.

Jim McIntyre noted that the Plan calls for a formal review in five years' time, but it has now been seven years and nothing has happened. Some changes are required but there are questions as to how much to change and how to go about the review. The goal of the Park won't change but there is a need to be more specific about certain matters that have arisen since the plan was developed. The operational matters that need to be addressed will also be considered during the plan's review. Due to the demands of the UFA, resources in the Parks Branch have been limited, but it may be possible to deal with matters regarding Herschel Island over the next year.

Andy Tardiff gave a summary of activities on Herschel Island over the summer. Among the animals noted when the Park opened April 24th were 70 caribou and 12 muskoxen. More animals were seen as the season progressed. Rangers found a carcass of a grizzly bear and a new den was found on the south-east side of the island. There were more encounters with polar bears over the season. Two large bears, attracted to old garbage on the island, had to be scared off. Andy commented that since 1995 polar bears have become more of a problem. Rangers have to be alert because of concerns for the tourists. If there are bear problems, it is important to know where the campers are on the island. However, the rangers often don't know who has arrived from the Firth or has kayaked along the coast.

There were about 800 visitors to the Park this year. Most of them came from Inuvik, although some were rafters from the Firth River and some were from the two cruise ships which came to the island this summer. This large number of visitors keeps the rangers very busy, ensuring that nesting birds and gravesites are protected, and that the visitors themselves are safe.

Jim McIntyre used the example of cruise ship visitation as something that was not anticipated when the Management Plan was developed. This raises some questions regarding the non-economical value of tourism. Do we have to consider a maximum number of people to be allowed in the park? It would be difficult to determine a number, but it is an issue that should be addressed in the review of the Management Plan. According to the IFA, any economic development on Herschel Island should benefit the Inuvialuit as much as possible. We should consider if economic opportunities are wanted or needed. Other issues not dealt with in the plan, but that need to be considered, include bear management, garbage management, park closings and the recognition of by-laws.

The Chair commented that it is important to consider the overall intent when reviewing the Management Plan, as well as the addition of other issues which were not anticipated when the Plan was developed. Funding should be secured to proceed with the review. Jim McIntyre responded that this winter he is willing to develop what he considers to be a reasonable approach to reviewing the Plan.

The Chair referred to the recent correspondence from the HTC, regarding Inuvialuit hunting rights on Herschel. The IFA does establish hunting rights and the Council must always act to ensure that these rights are being protected. In reference to the letter regarding the removal of a skidoo from the island, Andy Tardiff responded that he was

unaware of the situation. He added that it is important for the staff on Herschel to have copies of the Aklavik HTC by-laws so that they know what regulations are in place.

**Action 97-09-17:** Billy Archie will request that the HTC address their concerns regarding Herschel Island in a letter directly to Jim McIntyre, Director, Parks and Outdoor Recreation Branch, YTG Renewable Resources.

**Action 97-09-18:** WMAC(NS) will write to Jim McIntyre outlining the Council's suggestions as to how to proceed with the review of the Herschel Island Management Plan. A draft of the letter will be circulated to the members before it is sent.

The Chair thanked Jim McIntyre and Andy Tardiff for their presentation.

Vicki Sahanatien commented that it would be good to get Ivvavik National Park and Herschel Island Territorial Park to co-operate with each other, as they have a number of common concerns and issues that would be better dealt with together.

## **6. 1995/96 Wildlife Management Projects Updates**

### **a) North Slope Wolverine Study (YTG)**

Dorothy Cooley reported that there has still been no progress on producing a report on the Wolverine Study, primarily due to her busy schedule. Now that she has hired a technician, she is hopeful that the report can be completed this winter.

## **7. 1996/97 Wildlife Management Project Updates**

### **a) GIS database**

An update on this project was given by Val Loewen earlier in the morning. (see above)

### **b) North Slope Wolves video**

Kelly Olson reported that the video is being reviewed by people in Renewable Resources department and that she is waiting for their comments. There are some changes needed to the credits and in the introduction but, other than that, no major changes are expected. There will be a copy available for viewing at the North Slope Conference. Kelly requested that John Russell try to view it there and then provide her with any comments he may have.

### **c) Finalization of Landcover classes**

An update on this project was given by Val Loewen earlier in the morning. (see above)

### **d) Ecosystem Monitoring- GOES Transmitter for Remote Weather Station**

Vicki Sahanatien reported that the transmitter was installed in June, south of



Margaret Lake. It is working really well and everyone is pleased with the results.

## **8. 1997/98 Wildlife Management funding updates**

### **a) Ecosystem Monitoring - Firth River Water Survey Station**

Vicki Sahanatien reported that the water survey station on the Firth River has been updated and installed. Parks Canada has an MOU with Water Survey of Canada for technical support. The data from the station is available to anyone who wishes to see it.

### **b) Muskox Management Plan Consultations**

The consultation are contingent on the completion of the Plan. The Chair commented that he has concerns with the divergence of opinions that have been received regarding the content of the Plan. There is a need to ensure that all those who are reviewing the Plan understand community concerns. There is also a need to be cautious regarding questions such as what is a management plan and what is the general model to be used. The recently produced draft Muskox Management Plan for the Alaskan North Slope will be good to use as a guideline. There is a lot of potential for the two plans to complement each other. Norm Barichello has completed revisions on the Plan based on the comments that were received. Members agreed that there is a need to have the Plan completed as soon as possible. The Council should be prepared to present the completed Plan to the IGC in December.

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

When asked by Billy Archie when the muskox tags will be available, the Chair replied that the date is still uncertain. The Council needs to address the concerns raised in Minister Fairclough's letter, as the issue of YTG's acceptance of WMAC(NS)'s muskox recommendation and the issuance of tags is still not settled.

### **c) Muskox School Unit**

Dorothy Cooley reported that she hopes to contact a contractor by mid-October in order to get the project started. Rosemary Kirby has been suggested as someone who could be contacted.

### **d) Muskox Population Survey and Composition Count**

Dorothy Cooley reported that the survey is scheduled for March 1998. Vicki Sahanatien commented that she has concerns with the survey being scheduled for late March, due to the usually poor weather conditions at that time and that it may be better to do it earlier in March or in April, using 1998-99 funding. Members agreed that what is most important is for the survey not to be cut short, as was the previous one, if it can't all be completed before the end of the fiscal year. It is very important that all the funding requirements are in place to ensure the survey is completed as designed. This issue is to be considered at the December meeting.

**Action 97-09-20:** Dorothy Cooley and Vicki Sahanatien will review the proposal for the Muskox Population Survey and Composition Count and recommend the most appropriate dates for undertaking the work.

**e) Wolf Head Submissions**

Dorothy Cooley reported that this project is linked to winter trapping activity and will therefore begin with this year's trapping season.

**f) Grizzly Bear Reproductive Rates**

The Secretariat reported that this work was completed in June.

Billy Archie commented that the Aklavik HTC really wants Dorothy Cooley to go to their meetings to update them on projects and assist them with developing proposals. He also commented that he wants to improve communications between WMAC and the HTC. Dorothy replied that she will try to make it to the HTC meetings, but she needs to have enough notice so that she can make arrangements to get there.

**9. 1997/98 Wildlife Management funding proposals**

Three projects were added to those to be considered for funding: the Inuvialuit Harvest Study, the Long Term research Planning Workshop and the Porcupine Caribou 'Adopt-a-Collar' program.

**a) Collection of Traditional Knowledge about Moose on Yukon North Slope (YTG)**

Members agreed that this project was too big and expensive to be undertaken for one species only. The collection of traditional knowledge on moose should be included in other projects. Joan Eamer commented that it is important to have any work of this kind co-ordinated with the community monitoring. Vicki Sahanatien noted that Muriel Nagy's work should be reviewed to avoid repetition in the collection of any traditional knowledge. Joan suggested that it would be worth while consulting Gary Kofinas to determine what material has been collected. The Council agreed to consider this matter again at its next meeting. Billy Archie, Vicki Sahanatien, Dorothy Cooley and Joan Eamer will have an opportunity to bring forward their ideas then. Vicki Sahanatien added there is a need to get Parks Canada and the HTC involved in any discussion.

**Action 97-09-21:** The Council will further consider the question of the collection of traditional knowledge about moose at its meeting in Inuvik, in December 1997. To aid in the discussion, the Secretariat will consult with Gary Kofinas beforehand on the extent of the existing documentation.

It will be important to consider the discussions on traditional knowledge which are anticipated to occur at the Long Term Research Planning Workshop. These discussions should result in a better understanding of how traditional knowledge will be used.

**b) Porcupine Caribou Adopt-a-Collar (YTG)**

This proposal was recommended by the Council in the last fiscal year. Members agreed to recommend it again.

**c) Inuvialuit Harvest Study**

The Council has regularly recommended a contribution of \$25,000 towards the Inuvialuit Harvest Study. The funding is still required for the development of the software and the maintenance of the study in 'low mode'.

**d) Long Term Research Planning Workshop (WMAC-NS)**

The Secretariat presented a proposed budget for the Long Term Research Planning Workshop. Projected expenses are \$7400. The contribution from WMAC(NS) will be \$2500. Therefore a further \$4900 is required.

**Motion:**

*To recommend for funding the Porcupine Caribou Adopt-a-Collar (\$6400), Inuvialuit Harvest Study (\$25,000) and the Long Term Research Planning Workshop (\$4900).*

Moved: Nelson Green

Seconded: John Russell

Motion carried.

A summary of the Wildlife Management Projects recommended by WMAC(NS) for funding from IFA Implementation Funds, to date are as follows:

**Funds Available**

Wildlife Management Project Allocation (includes FDIPPI)	\$147,980
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**Less**

Travel Costs	\$10,000
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Salary- IFA Biologist	\$50,000
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**Net Funds Available**

**\$87,980**

**Funds Allocated to Projects (as of September 24, 1997)**

Grizzly Bear Reproductive Rates and Cub Survival in the Richardson Mountains (GNWT)	\$5000
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Northern Richardson Mountains Dall's Sheep Census	\$4764
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Muskox Management Plan Consultation	\$3693
Muskox School Unit	\$4000
Muskox Population Survey and Composition Count	\$15,140
Wolf Head Submissions	\$900
Firth River Water Survey Station	\$4797
Inuvialuit Harvest Study	\$25,000
Porcupine Caribou 'Adopt a Collar'	\$6400
Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Planning Workshop	\$4900
<b>Total Funds Allocated</b>	<b>\$74,594</b>
<b>Balance remaining</b>	<b>\$13,386</b>

### **C. Review and Approval of Minutes of June 5-6, 1997 meeting**

page 3 - In reference to comments on action item 95-09-03, Joan Eamer requested that that the phrase 'over the summer' be removed.

page 12 - The Chair commented that the reference to WMAC(NS) in the last paragraph should be changed to YTG.

page 15 - In reference to the Inuvialuit Harvest Study Evaluation, the Chair requested that the expression 'low mode' be changed to 'low maintenance'.

page 16 - In reference to the letter written by Dave Mossop regarding birds of prey and population monitoring, Vicki Sahanatien commented that she would have preferred if Dave had contacted Parks to discuss the possibilities prior to sending the letter to WMAC(NS). His letter read like a proposal, rather than a suggestion, and Vicki felt that it committed Parks to activities that had not been agreed to.

page 18 - In reference to the Hunting Rights Pamphlet, Vicki Sahanatien inquired as to the status of the pamphlet as Parks had a number of concerns regarding its content. Kelly Olson replied that no work had been done on the pamphlet over the summer.

page 18 - In reference to the Ecosystem Monitoring Project Update, Joan Eamer requested that the phrase 'and annual gathering' be removed from the minutes.

page 19 - In reference to action 97-06-27, the Chair requested that the phrase 'send a letter' be changed to 'indicate'.

page 19 - In reference to action 97-06-31, the Secretariat, not the Chair, is to undertake this action.

page 20 - In reference to action 97-06-32, the phrase ‘ pursuant to the Yukon North Slope Conservation and Wildlife Management Plan’ should be added to the end of the sentence.

**Motion:**

*To adopt the Minutes of the June 5-6, 1997 meeting, incorporating noted changes.*

Moved: Joan Eamer

Seconded: Nelson Green

Motion carried.

**D. Review of Action Items of June 5-6, 1997 meeting.**

Due to a shortage of meeting time remaining during the afternoon, Council members agreed to postpone the review of the action items until the next meeting.

**H. Old Business (continued)**

**13. Environmental Impact Review Board/ Screening Committee**

The Chair referred Council members to the correspondence from Tom Beck, Chair of the Environmental Impact Screening Committee regarding an environmentally acceptable and defensible low-level flight limit. In particular, the Council was asked their opinion on the minimum above ground level to be used for rotary or fixed wing flights.

John Russell informed members that the Canadian Aeronautical Information Publication sets a guideline level for point to point travel of 2000 ft. Council members agreed that this is an acceptable guideline and that a copy of the relevant section should be forwarded to the EISC. Permissible levels for research should be evaluated on a case by case basis.

**Action 97-09-22:** WMAC(NS) will write to the Environmental Impact Screening Committee regarding the Council’s opinion on an environmentally acceptable and defensible low-level flight limit.

**J. Next Meeting**

The next WMAC(NS) Quarterly meeting will be held in Inuvik in the second week of December. Council members agreed to also hold an evening public meeting in Aklavik.

**K. Adjournment**

**Motion:**

*To adjourn the meeting.*

Moved: Vicki Sahanatien

Seconded: Billy Archie  
Motion carried.

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WMAC(NS) Chair

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Date

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WMAC(NS) Secretariat

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Date