



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

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MINUTES

WMAC(NS) QUARTERLY MEETING

**Westmark Whitehorse
New Village Boardroom**

September 22-23, 1998

September 22, 1998

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

Guest: Bill Fox- Parks Canada, Superintendent, Western Arctic
Mike Gill- WMAC(NS) / Canadian Wildlife Service

A minute of silence was observed by all members in memory of Johnny Charlie.

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 10 AM. Bill Fox, Parks Canada, Superintendent for the Western Arctic, was welcomed to the meeting. Alan Fehr was welcomed as the Government of Canada alternate member to the Council.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Chair commented that quite a few items on the agenda were information updates. Some items will need to be reviewed in more detail. Guests attending the meeting include Mike Gill who will provide an update on the Long Term Research Plan and Bob Kuiper who will address the Yukon's Protected Areas Strategy.

Billy Archie requested the addition of a report from the Aklavik HTC. The Chair commented that he would like to see a Chair's Report added to the agenda as a regular item.

Motion

to adopt the agenda, as amended.

Moved: Joan Eamer

Seconded: Billy Archie

Motion carried

C. Current Business and Issues

C. 1. Update from Parks Canada

Bill Fox, Superintendent for the Western Arctic, reported that Parks Canada is moving to agency status and will no longer be part of the Dept. of Heritage. The agency legislation is currently in the Senate and it is hoped that the legislation will be proclaimed next month. Parks Canada will operate with three-year budgets. A business plan will be produced for each unit. Priorities have been developed with the communities.

Parks has been working with the IRC and Aurora College on the development of an Inuvialuit Employment Strategy. The Strategy will include training and employment opportunities. The natural resources technical program has returned to Aurora College. Some Parks' staff are taking courses there.

Parks is also working with several agencies in Inuvik on a tourism strategy. This strategy has been developed because the economic benefits that were expected to arise from tourism have not happened. It is believed that tourism has to be developed in a larger context in order to provide business opportunities. There is a need for an organization to do the marketing or work with families who want to get into the tourism business. As it stands now, there are more benefits going to outside outfitters than to Inuvialuit. One problem is that there is no other work in the off season for qualified raft guides.

A market analysis has just been completed for Aulavik National Park. The Chair commented that it would be useful to review this when considering opportunities related to Herschel Island.

Action 98-09-01: WMAC(NS) Secretariat is to obtain a copy of the Aulavik Market Analysis from Bill Fox.

Cathy Cockney has just been hired as Park's Cultural Resource Manager. A District Planner has also been hired to develop regulations for Ivvavik. Park's hopes to hire a Heritage Services Officer in the spring. This will be a six month position that may be extended.

In reference to IFA implementation funding, Parks Canada has not requested additional funds from the federal government as was inferred in a recent letter written by DIAND. The figure noted by Parks was a projection, not a funding request.

The Chair commented that not all of the funds spent in the operation of Ivvavik National Parks are Inuvialuit funds. Parks provides funds as well. There just is a limited understanding among agencies as to who has contributed money to Ivvavik. It would be very useful to know who has contributed how much over the past 10 years. Bill replied that Parks could do a more detailed accounting on a project by project basis.

Action 98-09-02: The WMAC(NS) Secretariat will follow-up with Parks Canada to obtain an accounting of funding contributions made by various agencies to Ivvavik National Park.

The coastal clean-up has been completed. Two hundred drums have been removed and cached at Komakuk. These will be barged out with the remaining materials from Komakuk.

It is hoped that there will be field trips from Moose Kerr School in Aklavik to Ivvavik.

In reference to the Inuvialuit Coastal Heritage Project, Parks has completed two years of work on coastal sites. This project encompasses all available information, including interviews with elders, mapping and archeological sites. Parks still needs to develop a product for the schools based on the information that was gathered. A CD ROM may be the most meaningful and useful way to do this. Joan Eamer commented that the information could be added to the traditional knowledge database. The Chair added that this kind of information would also be an important addition to a sensitive areas map of the area.

A discussion arose as to the translation of the COPE tapes, which will require substantial funding. There is a need for a number of different agencies to work together on this. There is some funding and interest but no collective direction as to how to go about getting the work done. Some organization needs to take a leadership role. Council members agreed that the IGC should be asked to bring all the interested parties together to discuss the issue, possibly in December.

C. 2. Ivvavik National Park Report

Alan Fehr reported that there is now a draft memorandum in place between Parks Canada and the Department of National Defense regarding the removal of all contaminated materials from Komakuk. DND has accepted indefinite responsibility for the site. The clean-up is scheduled to be conducted in 1999.

Parks wants to meet with WMAC(NS) in December to plan research and monitoring projects for next summer. The Ecosystem Conservation Plan is due for renewal and it is hoped that research priorities can also be discussed at this meeting.

Ecological monitoring protocols were continued. Protocols monitored during the past season were climate, visitor impacts, breeding bird surveys, bird check lists, lemming population density, water velocity and volume of the Firth River and ITEX.

Parks' staff have hiked and mapped two potentially new hiking trails in the park. The coastal zone erosion monitoring did not take place this year.

In reference to a proposal submitted by Continental Helicopters to the EISC to remove old mining equipment from Sheep Creek, in Ivvavik National Park, Alan informed the members that the proposal didn't receive approval and will therefore not be going ahead.

C. 3. Report from the Chair

The Chair began his report with comments on the Joint Secretariat Board of Directors meeting held in August. One topic discussed was the input from the joint committees on the review, design and approval of research proposals. There has been some confusion as to the process and who is involved and at what stage. The EISC's position is included in the meeting binder. Projects do not receive exemption from screening solely on the grounds that they have been recommended by WMAC(NS). Projects must also have been reviewed by the HTC and the IGC. It was agreed that all parties should get together to discuss this issue further. Such a dedicated session is to be organized by the Joint Secretariat.

Action 98-09-03: WMAC(NS) will write to the Joint Secretariat regarding the need to hold a session with all IFA boards and councils to discuss the process for the preparation, review and approval of research proposals.

Also discussed at the Board meeting was the need to improve communications in the communities in regards to the implementation of the IFA. It was agreed that it would be helpful good to do a tour through all the Inuvialuit communities with a representative of each IFA committee in order to report on activities.

Billy Archie commented that the Aklavik HTC is already overworked and underfunded. It is dealing with many different boards, councils and agencies. The HTC plans to discuss

this matter with the IGC. When asked if the HTC had heard anything regarding an IFA workshop, Billy responded that there hadn't been any mention of one yet. This is another issue for the HTC to raise with the IGC.

In reference to the Inuvialuit Harvest Study, the Chair drew the members' attention to a letter in the binder from the IGC to the Inuvialuit Harvest Study Management Committee indicating the IGC's decision to deny the GNWT-DRWED access to harvest information DRWED had requested. The HIS information access protocol needs to be completed. These issues will be considered further during the report on the IHS. The Chair added that there are many questions about the future of the IHS. There needs to be better communications in the communities regarding the results and products of the IHS, as there have been problems in this area. Billy Archie added that Sheila Nasogaluak, the IHS co-ordinator, is willing to do any type of pilot project in Aklavik in order to ensure that the harvest information obtained is accurate.

The Chair reported that he attended the Coastal Zone Canada 98 Conference in Victoria, along with Bob Bell and representatives from the IGC. He attended in order to gather information on coastal zone planning as there is an initiative to undertake such planning on the Yukon North Slope. The Chair and Bob Bell did a presentation to the conference on the management framework on the Yukon North Slope. Even though the Council hasn't done any work focusing specifically on the coastal zone, the Chair reported that the Council is well ahead on many issues. The Council's work on ecological monitoring, as well as the community and cross agency involvement on many projects is advanced over many other agencies which are undertaking planning initiatives. During the closing remarks, the ISR was sighted as a good example of the way a management framework could be developed. Overall the conference was a valuable way to get a comparative sense of coastal zone planning and to find out what others are doing.

Meetings were held over the summer regarding the amendments to the Yukon Wildlife Act. It was a good experience for all those involved. The Chair commented that he will give a full report later in the meeting.

C. 4. Report from the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee

Billy Archie reported that the HTC is in support of the muskox telemetry work that has been proposed by Dorothy Cooley. The HTC would like to see opportunities to become involved in North Slope research and is hoping to establish a research arm. Billy and Carol Arey, the HTC's President, have been talking to the schools in an effort to get them more involved in projects.

In reference to bear problems, the HTC really wants to see something done. The Elders are saying that the bears are getting too use to people. The HTC needs to work with YTG and WMAC(NS) to clean up Shingle Point in order to reduce the bear problems occurring there. One proposal has been to impose penalties for littering. DND will be doing the clean up of Bar Two in 2000. The HTC wants to find money to co-ordinate the Shingle

clean up with the one at the Dew Line site. Joan Eamer commented that there could be money available through Action 21 for cleaning up Shingle. It might also be possible to get some help through YTG's Y2C2 program. Alan Fehr added that that garbage has become a problem in many communities. The IGC could consider looking at this issue as it relates to the whole ISR.

C. 5. Long Term Research Plan

Mike Gill gave a demonstration of the most recent version of the Yukon North Slope Long Term Research Plan. A number of the sections have been merged and the format has been simplified. Mike noted that all of the content listed on the introductory page is complete except for the researcher guide which will be developed at a later date. The Plan is very close to being ready for review. Once some additional editorial changes are completed this version will be put on the WEB. A letter will be sent to the reviewers informing them of the WEB site and asking them to complete a questionnaire as a means to comment on the content and format of the Plan. Reviewers will be given eight weeks to respond.

Action 98-09-04: Mike Gill will distribute the list of proposed reviewers to Brian Pelchat, Dorothy Cooley and Billy Archie for their comments.

Members were very pleased with the content and layout of the Plan. Mike will be demonstrating the Plan at the Open House scheduled for the following day.

Joan Eamer showed members the work she and the Mike Hartman, a CWS intern, have done on the Council's WEB page as well as the site she developed for the report of the Ecology and Management of Wolves in the Porcupine Caribou Range.

Action 98-09-05: Joan Eamer and Mike Gill will conduct an information session at the Aklavik school to demonstrate the taiga.net web site, and discuss the Long Term Research Plan and ecological monitoring, when the Council meets there in December.

D. Correspondence

The Chair referred to a letter written by Jim McIntyre in regards to the draft Yukon Protected Areas Strategy and reported that Bob Kuiper would be attending the Council meeting the following day to discuss this issue. It would appear that the suggestions made by the Council, in January 1998, such as the recognition of the coastal area and Inuvialuit interests in the Yukon, have not been incorporated into the latest version of the Strategy. There is still no recognition of the Inuvialuit or the ISR. Member agreed that suggested additions and corrections would be discussed with Bob the following day.

The Chair referred to two letters regarding the identification of those eligible to hunt the Porcupine caribou herd. One is from Joe Tetlich, Chair of the PCMB and the other is the

IGC's response. The Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement identifies Inuvik, Aklavik and Tuktoyuktuk as user communities that can hunt the caribou. However, under the IFA, the Inuvialuit have collective rights which are not parceled out by community. As the IFA overrides the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement, all Inuvialuit beneficiaries would be eligible to hunt caribou within the ISR. But there are still questions as to what rights the other Inuvialuit communities have to hunt the Porcupine caribou outside the ISR. It may be possible to get a legal opinion on this for clarification. The Chair added that he will mention this option to the IGC.

The Chair drew members' attention to the letter from WMAC(NWT) regarding the Community Conservation Plans. Billy Archie reported that the Aklavik HTC is currently reviewing the Plan.

Action 98-09-06: Billy Archie will forward a copy of the Aklavik HTC's review of the Community Conservation Plan to WMAC(NS).

Members reviewed the letter from Dorothy Cooley in regards to supporting the multi-year approval of the surveys on the Porcupine Caribou Herd. Dorothy is co-ordinating the multi-year submissions to the EISC on behalf of the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, for the annual calving surveys and the photocensus and composition count done every three years. It was agreed that the Council would make a motion of support on the following day once Nelson Green was in attendance.

C. Current Business and Issues (continued)

C. 6. Ecosystem Monitoring/ Arctic Borderlands Co-operative

Joan Eamer reported that the proceedings from the Third Annual Gathering have been distributed to the presenters for review and should be ready for distribution shortly, along with selected indicators which have been updated. The report from last year's Community Monitoring is being prepared and will be sent out for review when completed.

This year the Community Monitoring interviews will be conducted in the fall. It is hoped that the responsibility for coordinating this project will soon be taken on by someone in the area, possibly the Aurora Research Institute or the GRRB.

Joan added that she and Alan Fehr will be travelling to Yellowknife in October to attend the NWT EMAN meeting, where she will be giving a presentation on the Knowledge Co-op. The national EMAN meeting is scheduled to be held in Victoria in January 1999. There will be a full day of presentations from BC and the Yukon, with a lot of discussions about community involvement.

C. 7. Wildlife Act Amendment Update

The Chair noted that the summary document on the Wildlife Act Amendments included in the meeting binder is the one which has been made available to the public.

The Wildlife Act Amendment Working Group went through the proposed changes word by word. This group also saw the draft of the legal text in August. Everyone was generally pleased with the content. All those who worked on the amendments on behalf of YTG were very helpful. The amendments will go to the legislature this fall as planned.

There needs to be an opportunity to go through the amendments with Aklavik sometime in October. The Chair said that he has agreed to attend any briefing meetings where he is needed. The Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board had questions regarding the implications of the amendments on Yukon hunters and were told that there are none.

The Chair also commented that in the letter being sent to Sheila Copps regarding the Council's recommendations for a grizzly bear quota, he has added a reference to the need to amend the Parks Act. Amendments are needed so that Parks Canada has the regulatory instrument to regulate a quota in the National Park. The Chair added that he is not sure if Parks Canada has the jurisdictional authority under the Parks Act to regulate native hunting in a National Park.

C. 8. Implementation Review

The Chair referred to the letter in the meeting binder from DIAND regarding a meeting to be held in Edmonton in November which will see all relevant parties brought together to discuss various IFA implementation issues.

The Chair also brought the members attention to another letter in the binder written by Nellie Cournoyea, Chair, Inuvialuit Regional Corporation to Jane Stewart, Minister of Indian Affairs and Northern Development, regarding implementation issues. The letter states that implementation issues are not to affect future funding. There are many outstanding issues which have been around for a long time but they must be kept separate from funding discussions.

In relation to YTG implementation issues, there is a meeting scheduled in Inuvik in October to discuss concerns such as Herschel Island and YTG hiring practices.

Action 98-09-07: WMAC(NS) will write to the YTG Minister of the Public Service Commission regarding future hiring of staff for Herschel Island. The letter should refer to the intent under the IFA for the park to provide employment opportunities for area residents.

September 22, 1998

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

Guests: John Nagy, DRWED, GNWT, Inuvik
Bob Kuiper, Senior Planner, Protected Areas, YTG Parks and Recreation
Branch

Nelson Green asked to make some comments regarding the Coastal Zone Canada 98 Conference that he attended with the IGC in late August. Nelson noted that the Inuvialuit have never been given a chance to address a conference during the main forum. And yet it is the Inuvialuit who have so much experience and could contribute their knowledge on a number of issues. Nelson wants to discuss this with the IGC and will recommend that when next invited to participate at a conference, they should ask for the opportunity to address the main forum, not just small workshop sessions.

The Chair commented that he agreed with Nelson. The Inuvialuit had a lot to contribute to the Coastal Zone Canada 98 Conference. It was disappointing that the Arctic coastline only received a small recognition. A lot of work went into the presentation that was made at the conference but only about 40 people attended the workshop because it was held in a small out of the way room. It is important to become more proactive when it comes to being heard in the future.

E. Review of the Minutes

Page 10 - Brian Pelchat requested a change to a sentence referring to the Regional Management Teams.

Page 24 - Dorothy Cooley requested that the title of the muskox telemetry study by changed to 'Muskox Ecology Studies'.

Page 26 - Joan Eamer requested that the reference to hiring someone in the community be changed to region.

Motion

to adopt the minutes, of the May 29-31, 1998 meeting, as amended.

Moved: Joan Eamer

Seconded: Nelson Green

Motion carried

Billy Archie commented that WMAC(NWT) should also be involved in the proposed muskox work. The community of Aklavik is still interested in harvesting muskox. There are new opportunities now that the North Slope muskox have moved into the NWT.

Nelson Green inquired if the Council had made a financial commitment towards the translation of the COPE tapes. The Chair replied that no specific amount had been set aside in the Council's budget towards this project. He added that there is a need to get a group together to discuss how to proceed and assess what each party can contribute. Someone needs to be taking the lead. Joan Eamer commented that the entire project needs an overall assessment which could serve as a project description. Nelson Green stressed the importance of getting this project underway as the number of capable translators is decreasing as time passes. He added that he will raise the issue in the IGC meeting.

Action 98-09-08: WMAC(NS) will write to the IGC encouraging them to proceed with developing a process and work plan for the translation of the COPE tapes.

F. Review of the Action Items

Outstanding Items

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.

Outstanding.

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

Outstanding.

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

Completed.

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

Outstanding.

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

Completed. A letter is to be sent along with the report on the Third Annual Gathering.

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

Completed. Dorothy reported that the poster is completed but still needs to be transported to Aklavik.

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

Completed. The Secretariat report that Mark Zrum, Head, Land Use, DIAND, had been contacted regarding the garbage situation at Shingle Point. Mark suggested that it would be useful to bring all those with interests in the situation together for a meeting to discuss the problems and propose solutions.

Action 98-09-09: The Secretariat will arrange a meeting to discuss the garbage situation at Shingle Point. The meeting is to be scheduled for December, in Aklavik and include all relevant stakeholders.

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

Completed.

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

Outstanding. This presentation can be conducted when the Council meets in Aklavik in December.

Current Items

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

Completed. This issue was also addressed under action 98-05-04, below.

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

Completed. The Secretariat reported WMAC(NWT) is waiting for the Aklavik HTC to put together its working group which will participate in the review. Each community will be visited once they have completed their consultations. It is hoped that a workshop will be held in January with all the stakeholders to finalise the work. Billy Archie added that Carol Arey and Agnes Tardiff are on the review team. Efforts are being made to get someone from the Community Corporation to participate.

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

Completed.

Action 98-09-10: The Secretariat will include Alan Fehr's letter regarding Stokes Point garbage burial site in an information package to be prepared for the December meeting being held to address this issue.

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

Completed.

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

Completed.

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

Outstanding. The Chair noted that this refers to nuisance bears being included as part of the harvest quota. The IGC needs to talk to GNWT officials about this matter. The Chair told members that he plans to raise the issue at the IGC meeting.

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

Outstanding. The Chair suggested that this item be discussed in more detail directly with John Nagy. There is a need for all agencies to get together on this.

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

Completed.

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

Completed.

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

Completed.

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

Completed.

Action 98-05-12: Dorothy Cooley will prepare a summary report of Danny C. Gordon's trip. The report is to include an analysis of the objectives met by this survey method, its value as a monitoring project, the strengths and shortcomings of this kind of approach, as

well as the survey results and recommendations. The project's usefulness as a wildlife management tool and its cost effectiveness should also be addressed.

Outstanding. Dorothy reported that she has not done a summary report and will prepare a memo to file of the matter. The Chair commented that it is important that someone do an analysis of the 'value' of the trip. There needs to be an assessment of how well the trip worked as a monitoring tool. It will be important to be able to refer to an assessment when other projects like this are proposed. Joan commented that she hopes to put Danny's report of the trip on the Council's WEB site.

Brian added that there is a need for an evaluation of Danny's trip from a technical point of view. There are some areas where it is better to use local knowledge and some areas where biological research is a better tool. It is important to determine which area is which and then get everyone to work together. The focus should be on determining areas where traditional knowledge is appropriate to use.

Billy Archie commented that it is important for Dorothy to continue to work with Danny. Dorothy should be in Aklavik to assist the HTC with proposals. It is important to figure out how to use traditional knowledge.

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

Completed.

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

Completed.

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

Completed.

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

Completed.

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

Completed. Dorothy distributed a summary of ANWR- Yukon muskoxen precalving population estimates and harvest. The harvest quotas for the Alaska North Slope is 15 bulls.

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

Outstanding. Brian reported that he has contacted Pat Reynolds in Alaska and informed her of the intention to try to hold a joint meeting. Once it has been decided when to hold the meeting and who to invite, Brian intends to put together an information package for distribution.

It was suggested that the meeting should be held in Fairbanks in early November. Members discussed who should be invited and if other issues should be addressed at the same time. The Chair said he would raise the issue with the IGC.

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

Completed.

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

Completed.

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

Completed.

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

Completed. The topic is to be discussed in more detail when reviewing the wildlife research programs.

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

Completed.

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

Completed.

Action 98-05-25: The Chair will write to Bill Fox, Parks Canada, and copy Alan Fehr, to request that Parks Canada review their operational budget for Ivvavik National Park to identify what funds have been allocated for wildlife, habitat and ecosystem research in each of the last three years, and what level of funding can be anticipated for future research. The Secretariat and YTG should identify what level of contribution for research activities over this period of time have been provided from the Yukon's IFA-based wildlife research funding.

Completed.

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

Completed. The Chair reported that this topic was discussed at the recent Joint Secretariat Board of Directors meeting. Norm Snow will be arranging the meeting between all parties, which is scheduled to be held this fall.

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

Completed.

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

Completed.

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

Completed.

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

Outstanding. The Chair suggested that a reference to confidentiality be added to the Operating Procedures before they are circulated. Members agreed to add a statement on confidentiality that was circulated.

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

Ongoing.

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

Completed.

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

Completed.

Alan Fehr commented that he prefers to use the expression oral history and local knowledge rather than traditional knowledge. The use of the expression oral history and local knowledge is clearer. Traditional knowledge is very difficult to define. There are many different ideas as to what it means.

C. Current Business and Issues (continued)

C. 9. Herschel Island

Members reviewed the Terms of Reference for the Herschel Island Technical Committee, as drawn up by Brian Pelchat following the discussion at the Council's last meeting. Brian explained that the Terms of Reference outline the way that the Technical Committee is to proceed with the review of the Herschel Island Management Plan. The Chair commented that the process is similar to that used for the National Parks review.

Members all agreed that the Technical Committee should proceed as indicated. It is important to get the right people on the Committee. It would be good to have an Aklavik resident take part. Brian commented that YTG will probably be represented by the Parks Branch and the Heritage Branch. The Chair added that it is important that the wildlife issues don't get lost. The zero quota for grizzly bears on Herschel Island should be addressed along with other concerns.

Action 98-09-11: The Chair will contact Jim McIntyre, Director, YTG Parks and Recreation Branch, to inform him that the Council has agreed to the proposed Terms of Reference for the Herschel Island Technical Committee and that it is now the responsibility of his Branch to take the next steps in initiating the review process.

C. 10. Yukon Protected Areas Strategy

The Chair welcomed Bob Kuiper, Senior Planner, Protected Areas, YTG Parks and Recreation Branch. Bob was invited to attend the meeting in order to review the Council's comments regarding the draft Protected Areas Strategy for the Yukon.

The following is a summary of comments made by Council members:

- The strategy needs to include references to the management regime on the Yukon North Slope. It is different than other areas in the Yukon and needs to be recognised as such.
- There needs to be reference made to the Inuvialuit Final Agreement, its supportive legislation, as well as to the work of WMAC(NS).
- There needs to be some recognition of the special conservation regime on the North Slope.
- There is no mention of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region.
- In reference to page 13 of the draft, there is no reference to the Hunters and Trappers Committee or WMAC(NS), both of which play an important role in the northern Yukon.
- The draft should be reviewed to ensure that it includes updated information about the northern Yukon.
- The map on page 10 needs to include the protected area on the North Slope which lies to the east of the Babbage River.

- The classifications given on page 11 are not accurate. Some of the areas mentioned are jointly managed and should be recognised as such.
- In reference to the statement on page 9 regarding ‘the transboundary agreements of the Inuvialuit...’, it was noted that the IFA is not a transboundary agreement, it is a comprehensive land claim agreement which includes the Yukon North Slope. This reference should be corrected.
- The map on page 22 shows no reference to the Inuvialuit.
- The term ‘First Nation’ is not one that should be applied in reference to the Inuvialuit.
- The IFA created the first territorial park. There is a need to give some weight to its presence.
- Overall there needs to be more explicit reference to the Inuvialuit.
- There is no mention of conservation in reference to the coastal area. More effort is needed to recognise the importance of the coastal zone. There is an initiative on the part of the federal government to make this region into a pilot Marine Protected Area. Although YTG doesn’t have full jurisdiction in the coastal area, it does have an interest.
- Other agreements such as the Porcupine Caribou Management Agreement need to be referenced. The Beluga Management and Polar Bear Agreements both have an influence on coastal management and should also be referenced.
- A lot of work has already been done on the Yukon North Slope to identify areas that may require some form of special conservation or protection. Reference was made to the Aklavik Community Conservation Plan and the insect relief area identified in the Porcupine Caribou Management Plan. These areas need to be recognised and steps should be taken to implement protected status.
- The role of the Inuvialuit Game Council and the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee needs to be referenced. They need to be included in the references to mandated boards.
- There needs to be a separate reference to IFA boards.

Bob Kuiper acknowledged that the draft does not recognise the Inuvialuit in the north Yukon. He assured members that this will be corrected. He added that the Strategy is not intended to replace any existing plans or land claims. It is meant to work within them. A greater recognition will be given to coastal areas in the revised version. The Chair suggested that Bob should refer to the Long Term Research Plan for more information on coastal zone issues. The Council was requested to provide more information on other plans and agreements that effected the North Slope which should be recognised in the Strategy.

The technical document, accompanying the Strategy, does refer to WMAC(NS). The Chair commented that the Council needs some time to go through these additional documents.

Action 98-09-12: WMAC(NS) will review the technical papers of the draft Protected Areas Strategy for the Yukon.

It was acknowledged that it is important to bring the North Slope issues and concerns to the attention of the Renewable Resources Department so that actions will be taken to ensure full protection for the area.

Action 98-09-13: WMAC(NS) will write to the Yukon Government to request a meeting to discuss a process for implementing the Protected Areas Strategy on the Yukon North Slope.

Brian Pelchat noted that the habitat protection process is already underway in the Renewable Resources Department. WMAC(NS) should consider getting involved in the process.

Action 98-09-14: WMAC(NS) will pursue becoming involved in the habitat protection process currently underway in the YTG Renewable Resources Department.

Nelson Green commented that it would be useful know about all the mechanisms, in addition to National Parks, that can be used to protect an area. It is important for the Inuvialuit to know all the different means that can be used. Bob Kuiper noted that all the existing tools are listed in Technical Paper #2. The Chair suggested that an educational poster could be developed that would outline the different ways of creating protected areas. The members thanked Bob Kuiper for attending the meeting.

C. 11. Grizzly Bear Management

The Chair welcomed John Nagy, Department of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development, GNWT, Inuvik.

The Chair commented that, when the Council was reviewing its responsibilities in the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan, questions arose regarding the vegetation mapping. It would seem necessary to bring people together to assess the requirements to fulfill this action.

John responded by saying that it is necessary to look at all the actions in the Plan and to priorities them. There is a need to bring people together to discuss a number of items. It may be possible to do this in December in Inuvik when several groups will be meeting at the same time. One issue that really needs to be addressed is that of problem bears on the North Slope.

The Chair replied that the Council has already proposed a meeting in December to discuss problem bears. The clean-up of the Shingle Point Dew line site is scheduled for the summer of 2000. It's a good idea to co-ordinate a camp clean-up so that garbage can be removed in conjunction with DND.

Action 98-09-15: The Secretariat is to co-ordinate a meeting in December in Aklavik to discuss problem bears on the Yukon North Slope and the clean-up of Shingle Point.

John reported that he and Marsha Branigan will be going to Aklavik shortly in order to initiate a local knowledge study about bears. A study is already underway in Tuktoyuktuk. John added that it is also their intention to hold a workshop in Aklavik in the fall in order to get community input into how to conduct a grizzly bear population count in the area.

Action 98-09-16: The Secretariat is to obtain a copy of the recent status report of species harvested in the ISR from WMAC(NWT).

C. 12. Inuvialuit Harvest Study

After the December 1996 workshop, the IHS Management Committee took over from the IHS Working Group. It is composed of the chairs of the FJMC and WMACs and three IGC representatives.

The Chair reported that work is still being done on the new database. The access to data protocol was first drafted in 1997. In May 1998, the GNWT redrafted the protocol as an interim tool so that they would be able to get the harvest information that they needed. This interim protocol was approved by the IHS Management Committee but not by the IGC.

The Chair referred to the letter in the binder from the IGC to Bob Bell indicating that the IGC was denying the GNWT/DRWED access to the HIS data which they had requested. There are a number of serious concerns regarding this response.

It should be noted that the HIS information gathered in Tuktoyuktuk is not yet complete.

In general, the communities appear to be dissatisfied with the Harvest Study. They find it intrusive and they don't understand its value or purpose. This is a communications problem. Many people are questioning the future of the IHS. The IFA says that the HTC's have to collect harvest data, but it doesn't stipulate the method to be used. At the management level, work has been done as to how to overhaul the Harvest Study as a tool. But questions remain as to the study's future.

Statistics Canada has been doing a critical analysis of the data already collected by the IHS over the last 10 years, in order to determine the level of confidence and accuracy that it can be given. Although certain aspects of the study were found to be generally good, the decrease in response rates, the increase in the variance and the increase in the non-response bias all indicate that the study cannot proceed as it is.

The IHS Management Committee will be doing a presentation to the IGC at which it will recommend that the IHS is terminated for a period of one year in its present form. There is a need to look at new ways to collect the information. Sheila Nasogaluak, the IHS coordinator, feels that the communities should have more involvement in the design of the

study. The recommendation will be that data collection ends in December and that none is collected in 1999. Consideration needs to be given to better ways of collecting the data, as the calendars are not working. The Management Committee will also recommend that a 10-year trend analysis is done which will consider socio-economic indicators, such as hunting patterns and the effects of quotas.

Brian Pelchat commented that it is important that the Harvest Study has been reviewed in a critical way and that the Management Committee has decided to recommend a change. Brian added that the Yukon Government wants to develop a system for all harvesters. This needs to be a community driven process. The first workshop on this subject will be held next month.

Alan Fehr added that he is pleased that the IHS has been reviewed. He suggested that monitoring activities should be included in the new terms of reference for the study.

Billy Archie commented that Sheila Nasogaluak would like to see the communities become responsible for incorporating the data. The field workers could do this work. There is value at the local level to have accurate data. Sheila is keen to conduct a pilot project in Aklavik.

Nelson Green noted that the reporting has always been very good in Paulatuk. There are good people doing the work. And even though it is an easy community to work in, there are still discrepancies between the IHS and the GNWT statistics.

The Chair returned to the topic of multi-year approval of surveys on the Porcupine caribou herd, as reviewed the previous day. A motion was requested.

Motion

to support a multi-year approval for Porcupine caribou projects, as submitted to the Environmental Impact Screening Committee by the Yukon Government .

Moved: Nelson Green
Seconded: Joan Eamer
Motion carried

Action 98-09-17: WMAC(NS) will write to the Environmental Impact Screening Committee to convey the Council's support of a multi-year approval for the annual Porcupine caribou calving surveys, and the photocensus and composition count which is conducted every three years. The letter is to be copied to the IGC, YTG, CWS and the PCMB.

G. New Business

1. Environmental Youth Corp

The Chair drew the members' attention to the letter of application that he had written for funding of two research positions under Environment Canada's Environmental Youth Corp program. He explained that the program is designed to provide an opportunity for youth employment on an environmental project. Projects should have an international dimension. Environment Canada will provide 50 per cent of the funding, with a start up date of early October. The researchers' work would focus on coastal zone management and ecosystem monitoring. It is proposed that one position would be staffed in Whitehorse and one in Inuvik.

Environment Canada approved funding for two positions. A \$7000 contribution is expected from the sponsoring organization for each position. The Chair reported that he was not prepared to make any financial commitment to Environment Canada until members had an opportunity to review the proposal. The Chair added that he has discussed these projects with Bob Bell, Chair, FJMC. The FJMC will be discussing funding one of the positions at its meeting this week.

Members felt that the project descriptions were good but that proper job description should be developed, which includes a more formal statement of the work. A specific reference to Aklavik should be added. The job description could be circulated to members for their review and input.

All members supported the proposal and agreed to commit \$7000 from the Council's budget to support one position.

Motion

to commit \$7000 from the Council's budget as WMAC(NS)'s contribution to one of the proposed Environmental Youth Corp positions .

Moved: Billy Archie

Seconded: Brian Pelchat

Motion carried

C. Current Business and Issues (continued)

C. 13. 1998/99 Wildlife Management and Research updates

The Chair proposed a conference call to deal with a number of items that remain outstanding on the agenda, including the wildlife management and research updates.

Alan Fehr commented that Parks Canada has agreed to cover the costs of the fuel used during the muskox survey in April 1998, and that funding is no longer required from other sources.

H. Next Meeting

Members agreed to schedule a conference call for Tuesday October 20, at 1 PM Yukon time.

Members planned to hold the next Council meeting in Aklavik and Inuvik, beginning with a evening public meeting in Aklavik, December 7th.

I. Adjournment

Motion to adjourn

Moved: Billy Archie
Seconded: Nelson Green
Motion carried

WMAC(NS) Chair

Date

WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Date