



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

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MINUTES

WMAC(NS) QUARTERLY MEETING

Whitehorse, YT

Oct 15-16, 2001

Monday October 15, 2001

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Danny C. Gordon- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Herbert Felix- - Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Doug Larsen – Member- Yukon Government
Joan Eamer- Member- Government of Canada- Canadian Wildlife Service
Dorothy Cooley – Alternate - Yukon Government
Alan Fehr- Alternate- Government of Canada- Parks Canada (late afternoon only)
Aileen Horler- Secretariat

Guests: Dave Ladret, YTG Parks and Recreation Branch.
Richard Gordon, Herschel Island Territorial Park

A. Call to Order

The Chair called the meeting to order at 9 am.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Chair reviewed the agenda and highlighted the items that will need the most attention. The primary focus of the meeting will be to further discuss the proposed muskox management workshop to be held in Aklavik the following week. There will be

a number of guests presentations, including one on behalf of the Alaska Gas Producers Pipeline Team. Grizzly bear management was added to the agenda.

Motion

To adopt the agenda, as amended.

Moved: Doug Larsen

Second: Joan Eamer

Motion carried

C. Review and Approval of Minutes of the June 25-26, 2001

Members reviewed the minutes of the June 25-26, 2001. The following changes to the minutes were requested:

Page 8: change the sentence that begins with ‘There is a need to settle the overlap agreement...’ to ‘there is a need to address reciprocal harvesting rights....’

Motion

To accept the minutes of the June 25-26, 2001 meeting, as revised

Moved: Doug Larsen

Second: Herbert Felix

Motion carried

D. Review of Action Items

A written status report on action items from the May and June meetings was distributed. Comments were made regarding the following actions:

Action 00-07-02: The Secretariat will contact a curriculum specialist to determine what needs to be done to integrate the information gathered for the muskox school unit into the current curriculum.

Revise. The Chair commented that the material gathered for the muskox school unit can't be used in its present form. It needs to be put into a more practical format. The draft Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan identifies a number of educational objectives. This material could be used to contribute to a package of information for a broader audience. A strategy to communicate information on muskox would be of value in determining the most effective way of to develop educational material.

Action 01-10-01: WMAC(NS) will draft a Request for Proposals to retain a contractor who can prepare and implement a proposal for the development of a communication and educational package on Yukon North Slope muskox.

Action 00-12-03: The Secretariat will circulate Dorothy Cooley's report on the spring 1998 muskox survey and ground-based monitoring for comments. Comments will be incorporated along with a section describing the community benefits into an expanded report that shows the strengths and weaknesses of the two methods.

The Secretariat reported that this action is underway and will be completed for the next meeting.

Action 00-12-24: WMAC(NS) will prepare a Request for Proposals to undertake a literature search of materials related to the coastal zone of the Yukon North Slope. The Secretariat will circulate the RFP to members before it is distributed.

The Chair distributed a draft RFP. The intent of this work is to identify sources of information right across the North Slope, especially those related to hydrocarbon development and wildlife. Questions were raised as to whether this work would be just to cite documents or would it include a critical review. The most useful document would be an annotated bibliography. Joan Eamer commented that it would be good to incorporate the information identified in the coastal zone literature search into the Council's traditional knowledge and the Arctic Borderlands' information sources databases. Both of these databases need to be converted into a web enabled Access database. It makes more sense to do this work first and then add the coastal information. Joan agreed to prepare a proposal to outline that work that would be involved in developing such a database for the Council's consideration. Members agreed that the first step would be to develop the Access database and then next identify and add the new coastal information.

Action 01-05-03: WMAC(NS) will develop a communication protocol based on the discussions at the Roles and Responsibilities workshop and circulate it to members.

The Chair reported that the IGC has received copies of the summary report of the Roles and Responsibilities Workshop. Once they approve the report it will be distributed. There is still a need to develop a communications protocol. It could be done in a chart form in order to clearly lay out the lines of communication and attached to the summary report.

Action 01-05-06: WMAC(NS) will draft a request for proposals to incorporate traditional knowledge comments into the species reports of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan and circulate the draft to members for comment.

The Chair distributed a draft RFP titled 'A Traditional Knowledge Assessment of the Yukon North Slope Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan's Wildlife Population Status Reports'. Members were reminded that the intent of this work is

to update the reports from a local knowledge perspective. This would not be a full traditional knowledge study but an assessment of what has been recorded in the reports. It was suggested that the RFP be changed to reflect that the activities described would be the first part of a two part study. Part of this first phase would be to identify priority species that should be considered in more depth. Members decided to discuss funding for this project when reviewing the Council's budget later in the meeting.

Action 01-05-09: The Secretariat will distribute a copy of the proposal for the Ivvavik National Park Vegetation and Terrain Survey to members as soon as WMAC(NS) receives a budget for the project.

This action was completed and members agreed to recommend funds for this project. A formal motion needs to be made when discussing wildlife research programs later in the meeting.

The Chair commented that other actions which need to be discussed will be covered at later points in the meeting.

E. Correspondence

The following correspondence was reviewed:

- A letter from Ione Christensen, Chair, Senate Subcommittee on Aboriginal Economic Development in Relation to Northern National Parks, regarding Lindsay Staples' and Danny C. Gordon's appearance before the committee. The Subcommittee's report is now available.

Action 01-10-02: The Secretariat will send copies of "Northern Parks- A New Way" to all members.

- A letter from Katie Hayhurst responding to the Council's letter to Eric Val on the proposed process for future communications on activities related to Herschel Island Territorial Park. The Chair noted that there seems to be some confusion regarding the existence and role of the Herschel Island Technical Committee, which needs to be clarified.

Discussion regarding the correspondence concerning the Yukon North Slope grizzly bear quota was deferred until later in the meeting.

F. Financial Report

Members reviewed the September 30, 2001 statement. The Secretariat explained the spending in a number of categories. The budget for some of the categories, such as 'meetings- other' will not be enough to cover the expected costs for this year. Members

decided to look at the budget allocations and the unassigned funds when reviewing the wildlife projects funding later in the meeting.

G. Report from the Chair

The Chair reported that he attended the IGC meeting in Tuktoyaktuk in June. He gave IGC members the summary report of the Roles and Responsibilities Workshop for their review. Once the IGC has given its approval to the summary report, it can be distributed.

The Chair added that there was some confusion at the IGC meeting regarding the Hunter Education Workshop and the need for Aklavik trappers to take this YTG course. Dorothy Cooley said that she would try to get an update on the workshop and report back to members before the end of the meeting.

H. Members' Reports

a) Joan Eamer

In reference to the Arctic Borderlands Ecological Knowledge Co-op, Joan commented that the location of the next Gathering will be decided soon. It will probably be held in Fort McPherson in late February. The Coop received some funding from the Northern Ecosystem Initiative which will be used in partnership with the Gwich'in Renewable Resource Board to hire a local supervisor for the community monitoring program. Joan added that she will be traveling to Kaktovik later in the month with Annie B. Gordon. While in that community Joan and Annie will have the opportunity to promote the Coop.

Joan reported that she had submitted a proposal to Environment Canada for funding to respond to recent oil and gas initiatives. Work to be covered includes an update of the Coop's indicators, an update of the database of information sources and area capacity building. The funding has been approved but not released. There is some concern that the funds may not be released due to the federal government's reevaluation of its proposed spending.

Joan will be going to a meeting in Winnipeg related to oceans management in Canada. The meeting is titled 'Integrated Management, Complexity and Diversity of Use: Responding and Adapting to Change'. Doug Larsen commented that he had recently received a briefing on the implementation of the Oceans Act.

Joan distributed some information on the upcoming EMAN North meeting in Yellowknife. Joan commented that she will be attending and gave an outline of the agenda. She added that it would be valuable for another Council member to attend. Herbert Felix, who has attended several EMAN related conferences in the past, agreed to go to the meeting.

b) Danny C. Gordon

Danny reported that the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee has a new Board of Directors. Danny raised a question regarding who should be contacted about hunting more snow geese. There is an interest in hunting larger numbers of geese as they leave Sachs Harbour in September. Joan responded that Danny should contact her at the Canadian Wildlife Service.

c) Herbert Felix

Herbert commented that WMAC(NS) is the only co-management committee on which he has served whose members do not travel to conferences and other meetings. Very valuable contacts can be made by attending conferences. They are also an important way to keep up to date on issues.

Action 01-10-03: The Secretariat will contact the Joint Secretariat to ensure that WMAC(NS) receives information on upcoming conferences and meetings which may be of interest to Council members.

d) Doug Larsen

Doug reported that Tom Young has been hired as the new YTG biodiversity biologist. Tom will be working on the Species at Risk initiatives. Don Toews will still be involved as well.

The Yukon Government is now going into phase two of the revisions to the Wildlife Act. This phase includes the Species at Risk legislation.

Doug reported that he is now the Yukon Government member on the Porcupine Caribou Management Board. Dorothy Cooley is the alternate.

In reference to the proposed Trapper Education Workshop in Aklavik, Doug reported that he had just talked to Helen Slama, as a follow-up to the discussion held earlier that day. Helen no longer has any plans to conduct a workshop in that community. It is now mandatory in the Yukon for all trappers under 65 years of age to attend a workshop before they can get a license to sell their furs. A trapper meets YTG requirements if the course is taken in either the Yukon or the NWT. The workshop will not be held in Aklavik due to a number of reasons. In the NWT trappers are not required to take a course or to have a license to sell their furs. In addition, the IGC is challenging the need for the course, in relation to Inuvialuit rights to trap. YTG will now only offer the course if they are invited to do so by Aklavik trappers.

I. Old Business

1. Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan

The Chair reported that he is preparing a number of letters to those who commented on the draft of the Plan. The letters indicate the Council's response to the comments and how they were considered in the writing of the final document.

Members still need an opportunity to review and comment on the outstanding revisions. The Chair indicated that he hopes that by December the web version of the Plan will be available and the printed version will be into final production.

2. Muskox Management Workshop

Members reviewed the objectives of the proposed workshop to be held in Aklavik the following week. A copy of the draft agenda was distributed and the Chair outlined the steps that would be followed in order to meet the workshop's objectives. In addition to exchanging information about muskox, it is important for the workshop to provide an opportunity to review and revise the Yukon North Slope Muskox Management Plan.

Peter Esau from Sachs Harbour and David Ruben from Paulatuk will both be attending to contribute their experience with muskox. The North Slope Borough is unable to send anyone due to a conflicting meeting but Pat Reynolds, the muskox biologist from ANWR, will be there to provide some information about muskox in Alaska. There are currently about twenty-five confirmed participants.

3. 2000-2001 Wildlife management and research updates

a) Muskox Ecology

Dorothy Cooley reported on the muskox survey that was conducted in July. There was a total of 192 muskox found in 16 groups. Calf numbers were low, yearling numbers were normal and there were lots of bulls. The count was higher this year, probably due to more animals moving over from Alaska. The satellite collars are showing more movement than expected. They are also showing that some of the muskox that are moving away do return to the North Slope. Dorothy estimates a total of 199 for the Yukon/ NWT population when the five animals seen in the Richardson Mountains and the two near Old Crow are added to the survey numbers.

The Chair commented that it is important to think about what kind of research should be done over the next years. What should the research agenda look like?

Dorothy noted that she would like to be able to do some work on the muskox that are moving into the Richardsons. And the Vuntut Gwitchin First Nation are interested in using the available satellite collar to track muskox in their area. Dorothy commented on the expensive of doing over the full range of the muskox.

b) Porcupine Caribou Studies

Dorothy Cooley reported that the census photos were taken July 3. The caribou were not grouped up as tightly as usual. As a result more photos needed to be taken. The estimate of herd size should be available by the end of October. The caving surveys went well. It wasn't possible to use the helicopter due to bad weather so the composition count wasn't done.

There was no need for wildlife programs funds to be used for the body conditioning program as Dorothy reported she received funding from the Northern Ecosystem Initiative. However, the funds didn't arrive in time to do the work in Old Crow and the caribou now not near the community.

c) Herschel Island Territorial Park Vegetation Studies

Dorothy reported that the Rangers on Herschel Island collected the required vegetation data. Dorothy met with the rangers pre-season to explain the program. It was a good thing to do and Dorothy added that she wants to do again next year. Joan Eamer commented that EMAN North is developing a handbook on ITEX methods.

4. Herschel Island Territorial Park

The Chair welcomed Richard Gordon, Senior Park Ranger, Herschel Island Territorial Park and Dave Ladret, Yukon Protected Areas Secretariat.

Richard referred to the documents related to the park that were included in the meeting binder. The Chair congratulated Richard on the quality of the written material he had provided the Council.

Richard distributed an additional document that provided further information about the park including a Mission Statement and an outline of goals and objectives. Richard reported that the Park's staff is working on a paper to address issues related cruise ships. The bear strategy plan, included in the meeting binder, is being prepared as a guideline for the rangers. This paper still needs to be reviewed by the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee and the Inuvialuit Game Council. It is important to consider alternatives to destroying bears.

Richard commented that he has begun to write up a description of the Elders and Junior Rangers programs for Herschel Island in order to define the objectives and structure of the programs. This description identifies the Aklavik HTC and Community Corporation as having some responsibility for running the programs. Richard is also working on a draft Operations Plan in conjunction with the rangers. This plan would be reviewed every year. He noted that the Management Plan must be completed before the Operations Plan. The rangers are very happy to be having a chance to participate in the development of the Operations Plan and other documents. The Chair commented that operational and management issues that have arisen in the past and been of ongoing concern to the

Aklavik HTC and the IGC appear now to be receiving the attention they deserve. He expressed his appreciation for Richard Gordon's work and the support he has been receiving from YTG's Department of Renewable Resources.

Tuesday Oct 16, 2001

Present: Lindsay Staples – Chair
Danny C. Gordon- Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Herbert Felix- - Member – Inuvialuit Game Council
Doug Larsen – Member- Yukon Government
Joan Eamer- Member- Government of Canada- Canadian Wildlife Service
Dorothy Cooley – Alternate - Yukon Government
Alan Fehr- Alternate- Government of Canada- Parks Canada
Aileen Horler- Secretariat

Guests: Don Toews- YTG Renewable Resources
Dave Ladret- YTG Parks and Protected Areas Secretariat
Richard Gordon - Herschel Island Territorial Park
Tod Collard- Alaska Gas Producers Pipeline Team
Carol Stefan- Alaska Gas Producers Pipeline Team
Michael Fabjian - Alaska Gas Producers Pipeline Team
Mark Hoppe.- Alaska Gas Producers Pipeline Team
Don Russell- Canadian Wildlife Service
Jim Hawkings- Canadian Wildlife Service
Chuck Hubert- YTG Environmental Assessment Analysis

5. 2000-2001 Wildlife management and research updates (continued)

d) Reproductive Ecology of Tundra Swans in the Mackenzie Delta Region

Joan Eamer reported on this project which is being conducted by Heather Swystun. Objectives of the 2001 field season were to establish long-term monitoring plots at "control" and "development" sites in the Mackenzie Delta, in order to evaluate cumulative impacts of future industrial development and climate change on Tundra Swans. The project will also document reproductive biology and habitat requirements of swans and document traditional knowledge of the distribution, abundance, and biology of swans. Nine local knowledge interviews were completed in 2 of 5 communities in spring, 2001. Local knowledge interviews will be summarized together when all are completed this winter. Joan added that Heather recommends some form of collaboration with Parks Canada regarding the field work to be conducted next summer.

6. Implementing the Species at Risk Act- YTG Update

The Chair welcomed Don Toews, YTG Renewable Resources, who is the Manager of the Species at Risk process. Don began by explaining that the Yukon Government is in the process of developing Species at Risk legislation as part of the process to amend the Wildlife Act. The amendments to the Wildlife Act are being done in three stages. The first stage is to complete administrative and enforcement revisions. The next stage is to

develop the Species at Risk legislation, and the third is to bring the Wildlife Act in to line with the UFA and First Nation Final Agreements.

Don outlined the process that has led to the development of the Yukon Species at Risk legislation, which began in 1992 with the United Nations Convention on Biodiversity. At the federal level the government has drafted Species at Risk legislation (Bill C-5). Also at the federal level, COSEWIC was established to identify and assess species at risk in Canada. If the Yukon Government doesn't proceed with its own legislation, the federal legislation will apply directly in the Yukon.

The Yukon Government has a long history of managing species at risk, such as peregrines and bison. In order to implement the species at risk amendments to the Wildlife Act, the Yukon Government needs to create a program to monitor the status of wild species in the Yukon and identify which ones are at risk. But there are many outstanding questions related to what kinds of programs YTG will develop to implement the legislation.

The objectives of the legislation are the prevention of species extinction, planning for recovery and the prevention of species becoming at risk (species considered vulnerable but not yet at risk). Species listed as vulnerable will require the development of a management plan. The Yukon will be able to identify species that are of concern in the Yukon even if they are not necessarily of federal concern. In the Yukon a traditional knowledge component needs to be included in the listing and assessment processes.

The federal government retains responsibility for migratory birds (Canadian Wildlife Service), all fish, including all aquatic species, plants and invertebrates (Department of Fisheries) plus all animals and plants in National Parks. Until devolution, DIAND will be the land manager and will therefore have jurisdiction over plants. There is a habitat component throughout. The definition of critical habitat still needs to be determined.

There is a need for one program in the Yukon that includes all agencies – government, First Nations and co-management boards. Although different species are of concern to different agencies, a cooperative effort is needed by all parties in order to develop a complete program.

How do land claims boards fit into the process? There is a need to develop a Yukon COSEWIC process that is at arm's length from government. It has to be an independent process. The only organizations in the Yukon that are at arm's length from the government are WMAC (NS), the FJMC and the Yukon Fish and Wildlife Management Board. It is this group that should be responsible for listing and assessing the Yukon species.

Don concluded by saying that although there is recognition of the need for developing a Yukon process for the implementation of the Species at Risk legislation, many questions remain as to how it should be done and what kinds of programs it would include.

7. Presentation by the Alaska Gas Producers Pipeline Team

The Chair welcomed members of the Alaska Gas Producers Pipeline Team. Tod Collard (ExxonMobil Resources Ltd) began the presentation by introducing himself as the Senior Environmental Specialist for the Alaska Gas Producers Pipeline Team. Other team members present were Carol Stefan, (AGA Consulting Group), Michael Fajjian (Kavik – Axys), and Mark Hoppe.

Tod and Carol gave a summary of 2001 fieldwork conducted by the team in the Inuvialuit Settlement Region. Information was provided related to fieldwork objectives as well as logistics and staffing. Results of the whale, snow geese and moulting waterfowl surveys were presented along with summaries of the oceanography, hydrology, and hydrogeology studies. Also presented were the results of fisheries, wildlife and archaeology studies. Tod outlined the next steps for the team which include traditional knowledge studies, socio-economic studies and the review and assessment of current data. The team also wants to conduct more detailed biophysical studies. Documents are being prepared for the required regulatory submissions related to the pipeline construction. The intention is to file with the NEB in November 2002.

A discussion was held regarding the traditional knowledge component of the studies. There is a need to establish a process for the inclusion of traditional knowledge. There also needs to be a clear definition of what is needed and how it will be gathered. Tod reported that the intent for this year is to define the scope of a traditional knowledge project and talk to the communities about how it should be done.

The Chair described the WMAC(NS)'s species status reports and commented on the Council's intention to do a traditional knowledge assessment of the information they contain. The Chair also described the Council's plans to conduct a search for information related to the North Slope's coastal zone and to update the information sources database. Meeting participants agreed that there could be an opportunity for the Council and the Producers Team to work together on these projects.

Tod commented that the gas producers are trying to determine if a pipeline project is economical based on the information they have gathered to date. He added that, until a decision is made regarding which route will be used for the pipeline, no new work for 2002 will be funded or initiated.

8. Grizzly Bear Management

The Secretariat distributed a number of tables, prepared by Marsha Branigan, that summarize the use of grizzly bear tags in the ISR and on the Yukon North Slope, July 1996 to June 2001. The Chair commented that the use of the expression 'Yukon North Slope' in the summary when referring to the area to the east of the Babbage River is misleading and confusing. This area could be referred to as 'Yukon North Slope East of the Babbage', 'East of the Babbage' or 'Eastern North Slope'.

Action 01-10-04: WMAC(NS) will write to the GNWT and YTG to request that the name 'Yukon North Slope' not be used when referring only to the area east of the Babbage, and to make alternate suggestions.

Also distributed was a briefing note that summarized the summer 2001 grizzly bear issues. The Chair clarified that the Yukon North Slope quota is 8 grizzly bears – 3 in Ivvavik National Park and 5 on the North Slope east of the Babbage. Between July 2000 and June 2001, there were 2 bears harvested in Ivvavik (one under quota) and six bears harvested east of the Babbage (one over), for a total of 8 bears taken during that hunting season. In addition, there was a problem bear shot on Herschel Island, in August 2001 that will effect the number of tags issued for use between July 2001 and June 2002.

Members reviewed the letter sent to the Aklavik HTC by Sharon Keaton, Conservation Officer for the Old Crow District and the letter sent to the Yukon Minister of Renewable Resources by the Inuvialuit Game Council. A discussion was held as members tried to understand what happened regarding the allocation of the extra tag in the spring, the tagging of a bear with a tag from a different area, and the process that was used to issue the tags. Also discussed were the roles played by the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, the WMAC(NS), the Yukon Government and the GNWT in recommending quotas, allocating tags and in developing and enforcing by-laws.

Members raised concerns about and discussed the following points:

- The ability of the HTC to administer and enforce its by-laws.
- A hunter threatening to go hunt without a tag.
- The tag being left at Shingle and not returned to the HTC according to the by-laws.
- The use of a tag outside of the area of its allocation.
- WMAC(NS)'s role in the decision to withhold a tag
- Communication with WMAC regarding the incident.

In reference to the over harvest by one bear in the area to east of the Babbage, members agreed that it is not a conservation issue, as the overall quota for the North Slope was not exceeded. For this reason, members did not think that a tag should be withheld in this area, for the 2001-02 season. It was an administrative error and should be dealt with by trying to correct the breakdown in the tag issuing process. However, consistent with the ISR Grizzly Bear Management Plan, it was agreed that one less tag should be issued in the 2001-02 season, as a result of the problem bear shot in August on Herschel Island.

In response to all of the actions taken by the various parties involved and to all of the issues these actions raised, members agreed that the Council should write to the Minister, YTG Renewable Resources and the Chair of the Inuvialuit Game Council with copies to the Superintendent, Parks Canada- Western Arctic, Sharon Keaton, YTG Renewable Resources, the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, WMAC(NWT) and the GNWT Dept. of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

The letter should include a confirmation of the total allowable harvest for the area. It should also confirm the quota for the Aklavik Grizzly Bear Hunting Area, as per the Aklavik by-law and Yukon regulations. The letter should identify tag administration issues and issues related to the communication of quota infractions. The letter should recommend that the over harvest in the area to the east of the Babbage be addressed through improved administration and not through the withholding of a tag for the following season. The problem bear shot on Herschel Island should be assigned a tag for the 2001-02 season. The Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee can decide if it is to be an Ivvavik or east of the Babbage tag. The letter should stress the importance of conducting population surveys as soon as possible and suggest that a 3-year period for quota allocations be considered.

Action 01-10-05: WMAC(NS) will write a letter to the Minister, YTG Renewable Resources and the Chair of the Inuvialuit Game Council to convey the Council's recommendations regarding recent Yukon North Slope grizzly bear management issues, as per the discussion at the Councils October 2001 meeting. Copies of the letter are to be sent to the Superintendent, Parks Canada- Western Arctic, Sharon Keaton, YTG Renewable Resources, the Aklavik Hunters and Trappers Committee, WMAC(NWT) and the GNWT Dept. of Resources, Wildlife and Economic Development.

9. Herschel Island Territorial Park Management Plan

Dave Ladret provided an update on the review of the Herschel Island Territorial Park Management Plan. Dave reported that most of the writing of the first draft is complete. The Heritage Branch is writing up their own section. A broad internal review will be completed by Oct 29. The first draft should be ready for distribution by November 15. Comments will be sought from WMAC(NS), Parks Canada, the IGC, the Aklavik HTC and others. Dave said that he wants to go to Inuvik and Aklavik in December to present the draft. He hopes to have everything wrapped-up by the end of the fiscal year.

Action 01-10-06 : The Secretariat will obtain a draft of the revised Herschel Island Territorial Park Management Plan from Dave Ladret for circulation to members prior to the next meeting.

Dave also informed members about the Yukon Government's new Land and Certainty Act. Under this Act, Herschel will be classified as a 'Natural Environment Park'.

A discussion was held regarding the letter the Council had received from Katie Hayhurst concerning the proposed process for future communications on activities related to Herschel Island Territorial Park. Dave acknowledged that some of the wording in the letter was not clear and has led to a misunderstanding. Dave committed to write a letter to the Council to clarify what was meant by comments related to the Herschel Island Technical Committee.

10. Parks Canada

Alan Fehr reported on activities of the Western Arctic Field Unit of Parks Canada.

Alan began by distributing the following items:

- two maps recently produced by Parks Canada in Inuvik titled 'Ivvavik National Park of Canada' and the 'Western Arctic Field Unit'.
- a copy of a book Alan co-authored with Alestine Andre titled 'Gwich'in Ethnobotany'.
- The Annual Report of Parks Canada Research and Monitoring in the Western Arctic, 1999 and 2000
- Parks Canada September 2001 update- Western Arctic Field Unit

Alan highlighted some of the activities reported in the update, including staffing, interpretation, education and law enforcement issues. Alan reported that Parks Canada has plans to put more effort into its comprehensive communication strategy.

Alan commented on the report of the Senate Subcommittee on Aboriginal Economic Development in Relation to Northern National Parks, 'Northern Parks- A New Way'. This report contains eight recommendations addressing issues of training, funding of boards, aboriginal education and employment, policies and infrastructure development. It will result in changes but no action has been taken yet.

Parks Canada has been assisting Arctic Nature Tours in the development of opportunities for short term corporate tours into Ivvavik National Park. Parks is also considering assigning a staff member to the GNWT visitor center on a daily basis.

All the comments from the national office have now been incorporated into the Ivvavik National Park Management Plan. The final draft will be sent out for comments in two to three weeks.

F. Financial Report (continued)

WMAC(NS) 2001-02 budget

The Secretariat explained that there is an unassigned balance in the WMAC(NS) budget for 2001-02 of \$17, 080. Joan distributed a short proposal describing the conversion of two databases to relational Access databases. After a discussion regarding the various funds needed by different projects, the following allocations were suggested:

Meetings-other	5000
Database development	2000
Website development	1000
Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan printing	4000
Coastal zone literature search	2000
Traditional knowledge assessment of the species reports	5000

Members decided that funding for the coastal zone literature search and the traditional knowledge assessment of the species reports could possibly come from an outside source, such as the pipeline interests. Members agreed that other funding possibilities should be pursued before any funds are allocated to these projects from the Council's budget.

Motion:

to allocate the following amounts from the unassigned funds in the 2001-2002 WMAC(NS) budget- Meetings-other (\$5000); Database development (\$2000); Web development (\$1000) and Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan printing (\$4000)

Moved: Doug Larsen

Second: Herbert Felix

Motion carried

This leaves \$5,080 still unassigned. Members will reassess this amount at the next meeting.

I. Old Business (continued)

11. 2001- 2002 Wildlife Management and Research

Ivvavik National Park Vegetation and Terrain Survey

The Secretariat explained that Council members still had to make a formal motion to recommend \$10,000 for the Ivvavik National Park Vegetation and Terrain Survey. This project was reviewed by the Council at its May meeting at which time members agreed to consider a recommendation for funding once the final budget for the project is available. The final budget was circulated the following month and Council members agreed to recommend \$10,000 to this project.

Motion:

to recommended the allocation of \$10,000 from IFA wildlife program funding to the Ivvavik National Park Vegetation and Terrain Survey.

Moved: Joan Eamer

Second: Danny C. Gordon

Motion carried

A discussion was held as to the amount of funding remaining in the wildlife program budget. It was not clear from the summary of YTG's expenses how much is available. Members agreed that the \$3000 previously recommended for the Hunter Education Workshop could be reallocated to North Slope Harvest data transfer project, as presented by Doug Larsen.

Motion:

to recommended the allocation of \$3,000 from IFA wildlife program funding to the North Slope Harvest data transfer.

Moved: Danny C. Gordon

Second: Joan Eamer

Motion carried

Members reviewed the proposal by Ian McLeod, GNWT- DRWED, in Aklavik, related to the construction of bear fences at Shingle Point. A discussion was held about the effectiveness of the fences and the ability of DRWED to carry out the project. As the funding is not required until the next fiscal years, it was agreed to consider this project again at the next meeting.

12. Yukon Environment and Socio-economic Assessment Act

The Chair distributed two letters related to the Yukon Environment and Socio-economic Assessment Act (formerly DAP) – one to WMAC(NS) from the EIRB, dated October 12, 2001 and one from the IGC to Robert Nault, Minister of DIAND, dated September 25, 2001.

The Chair explained the Inuvialuit concerns regarding the overlap and duplication of environmental assessment processes on the Yukon North Slope as a consequence of the YESAA and Inuvialuit Final Agreement provisions. He added that these issues remain largely unaddressed in the proposed YESAA after the many discussions that have occurred on this subject over the last four years.

Action 01-10-07: WMAC(NS) will write to the Yukon Environment and Socio-economic Assessment Act negotiators for the federal and territorial governments and the Council for Yukon First Nations to express the Councils concerns.

J. Next meeting

The next Council meeting will be held in Aklavik and Inuvik, December 11-12, prior to the Inuvialuit Game Council meeting. If the IGC plans to have a meeting again this year for governments and co-management bodies to report on research in the ISR, these dates may have to be adjusted.

K. Adjournment

Motion

To adjourn the meeting

Moved: Danny C. Gordon

Second: Doug Larsen

Motion carried

WMAC(NS) Chair

Date

WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Date