



Wildlife Management Advisory Council (North Slope)

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MINUTES

WMAC(NS) TELECONFERENCE

February 16, 1999

Present: Lindsay Staples - Chair
Joan Eamer - Canadian Wildlife Service - Member- Government of Canada
Danny C. Gordon – Member -Inuvialuit Game Council
Billy Archie- Alternate Member -Inuvialuit Game Council
Brian Pelchat - Chief, Regional Management - Member -Yukon Territorial Government
Dorothy Cooley- Alternate- Yukon Territorial Government
Mike Gill - WMAC(NS) / Canadian Wildlife Service
Alice Hartling – WMAC(NS) Environmental Youth Corp Intern
Aileen Horler - WMAC(NS) Secretariat

1. Pilot Harvest Study in Aklavik

As an information item, Billy Archie reported on a draft proposal which the Aklavik HTC is planning to present to the Inuvialuit Harvest Study Management Committee. The proposal addresses changes to the study which would see hunters being paid \$25 to complete questionnaires on a regular basis. Participants would also have their name entered in a draw for a drum of gas and a case of oil. The questionnaire would be species driven and questions will depend on which animal is usually hunted during the specified time period. Billy added that the Harvest Study Coordinator wants to see the HTCs take a more active role in collecting the data. It will be up to the HTC to convince the hunters that it would be a good system.

The Chair commented that the Management Committee is scheduled to hold a teleconference to discuss a workplan for the next year. The Aklavik HTC proposal will

be considered then. There is still a need to look at all the possibilities for a renewed harvest study. Many questions need to be settled regarding the collection and distribution of data as well as about the funding. It is good to look at new approaches for the collection of harvest data like this one. The Aklavik proposal needs to be looked at in terms of all the other possibilities. It is important to have a system that works across the whole ISR. The Harvest Study Co-ordinator is putting together a binder of information which will provide members with background materials.

2. Financial Statement – 1998/ 99 year end projection

Members reviewed the financial table included in the meeting package. The Chair commented on the need to be more explicit in showing the difference between core costs and project costs. The Secretariat is spending a lot of time managing projects that fall outside of core duties. Time spent on these additional tasks should be reflected as part of the cost within the individual projects.

The Secretariat explained the projected balances in a number of categories. Spending under 'Bylaws and Regulations' is overbudget due to the expenses incurred by the Chair in attending meetings related to the amendments to the Wildlife Act. Expenses related to the Yukon North Slope Long-term Research Plan are also overbudget. If some of the costs related to the Plan are recovered through funding under YTG wildlife program, the Council's overall budget should be balanced.

3. 1998/99 Wildlife Management and Research proposals

The Chair noted that WMAC(NS) had recently received a letter from Kelly Olson, YTG's IFA Implementation Co-ordinator, identifying approximately \$30,000 of unexpended funds in YTG's 1998-99 IFA budget that could be used towards wildlife programs. Kelly asked the Council to recommend projects that would see these funds put to use prior to the end of the 1998-99 fiscal year. The following projects were reviewed by the Council in response to this request.

a) Yukon North Slope Long-term Research Plan

A number of tasks remain in order to finalise the Plan. The proposal reviewed by the Council members consisted of two components that will see the outstanding tasks completed.

The first component is a contribution towards the preparation and distribution of a pamphlet which will serve as a notification of the Plan's contents and purpose. As the Plan is a web-based document, the pamphlet will be used as a means to bring the Plan to the attention of researchers and managers who have an interest in the Yukon North Slope. The Council has already contributed toward this project from its own budget. The Secretariat reported that a further \$4500 is needed. The second component is a \$5000 contribution towards a contract to complete the Plan itself. It is proposed that Mike Gill,

be hired to complete the outstanding sections and revisions identified in the review. The WMAC(NS) Secretariat will administer both these projects.

Members recommended an allocation of \$9500 towards the Yukon North Slope Long-term Research Plan- \$4500 toward the pamphlet and \$5000 toward Mike Gill's contract.

b) Yukon North Slope satellite images and poster production

In reviewing the proposal for this project, the Chair commented that the purchase of the satellite images should be regarded as the primary component. It was acknowledged that although the satellite images are expensive they can be used by managers, researchers and educators for any purpose that requires an aerial view of the region. The images can also be used for mapping purposes, including land cover mapping, and can be integrated with other digital geographic data in a geographic information system. The production of a poster is just one of the uses that can be made of the images. It was proposed that the Council purchase the images as that would then allow for WMAC's member agencies to use the images.

The satellite imagery will be used as the central feature of the poster. Surrounding the satellite image would be a number of sidebars containing photographs, diagrams and text about various aspects of the landscape and its wildlife. For example, a sidebar for Herschel Island could contain a description of its history with an accompanying photo, as well as some text and photos of the flora, Guillemots and rough-legged hawks that are part of its unique natural history. The exact subjects and content would be decided in consultation with the appropriate groups and individuals. Each sidebar which refers to a specific location would have a thumbnail map indicating its location in the larger image. The finished poster size will be 2 feet by 3 feet.

The total budget for the Yukon North Slope satellite images and poster production project is \$18,880. Members recommended that \$16,000 be allocated to this project in the 1998-99 fiscal year, for the purchase of the satellite images and the production of the poster. WMAC(NS) will fund the balance of the project.

c) Yukon North Slope Land Use and Wildlife Atlas

At its regular meeting in December 1998, the Council had recommended that \$6000 be allocated to this project from the 1999-2000 Wildlife Programs budget. The project also received the support of the Inuvialuit Game Council at this time. However, having received the request from Kelly Olson for further recommendations for projects in the 1998-99 fiscal year, Alice Hartling, the WMAC-NS Environmental Youth Corp Intern who is co-ordinating the development of the atlas, was able to determine which components of this project could be brought forward into this fiscal year. A summary of the proposed purchases was included in the meeting package.

The Council recommended that \$4268 (of the estimated \$6000 total) be allocated to the Yukon North Slope Land Use and Wildlife Atlas, in the 1998-99 fiscal year, for the purchase, production and laminating of selected maps.

d) Muskox Ecology Studies- fuel placement

Dorothy Cooley proposed that some surplus funds could be used to purchase and position fuel to be used during the muskox ecology studies. This funding has already been recommended for 1999-2000 but it could be brought forward into this fiscal year if required. Dorothy noted that the placement of three additional loads of fuel (4 drums each) would cost \$8760 or \$2920 for each trip. Council members agreed that, although it is not necessary to the project to have the fuel in place by the end of March, it would be a good use of unexpended funds should the need arise.

e) ITEX Plot - Herschel Island Territorial Park

Dorothy Cooley commented that there are a number of items that could be purchased in advance to be used during the vegetation work on Herschel Island next summer. The cost is estimated at \$1500 for 3 data loggers, a point frame box and other sampling supplies. Funding for this project was recommended at the December meeting but this amount could be brought forward into the current fiscal year.

Motion

to recommend that the following amounts be allocated from the 1998-99 YTG wildlife management program funds - \$9500 to the Yukon North Slope Long-term Research Plan; \$16,000 to the Yukon North Slope satellite images and poster production and \$4,268 to the Yukon North Slope Land Use and Wildlife Atlas.

The Council further moves to recommend that, should there be surplus funds available in the 1998-99 Wildlife Programs budget, the Yukon Government allocated those funds to the purchase and placement of fuel to be used in the Muskox Ecology Study and to the purchase of equipment to be used in establishing the ITEX plot on Herschel Island.

Moved: Brian Pelchat

Seconded: Danny C. Gordon

Motion carried

4. 1999/2000 Wildlife Management and Research Proposals

a) Grizzly Bear Reproductive Rates

Members reviewed a proposal submitted by the GNWT, titled 'Grizzly Bear Reproductive Rates and Cub Survival in the Richardson Mountains, NWT/ YT'. This is the final year of the study which was initiated in 1993. The Council has recommended funds for this project in previous years. The GNWT has requested \$15,000 which will be used to relocate the tagged bears in June and to remove the collars in September. WMAC(NWT) and the GRRB will both be contributing \$15,000. Council members agreed to recommend the requested funds.

Motion

to recommend that \$15,000 be allocated from the 1999-2000 YTG wildlife management program for the GNWT's project titled 'Grizzly Bear Reproductive Rates and Cub Survival in the Richardson Mountains, NWT/ YT'.

Moved: Joan Eamer
Seconded: Billy Archie
Motion carried

5. Next Meeting

Council members discussed the need to hold a regular quarterly meeting in March. The most pressing issues to be addressed were those related to wildlife programs funding and the Council's budget. As these issues have all been dealt with during the teleconference, members agreed that the next meeting could be postponed until April. The meeting will be held in Aklavik. The Secretariat will establish a date which suits everyone's schedule.

Billy Archie raised the issue of the proposed muskox harvest management meeting in Alaska and asked about who was being invited. The Chair replied that representatives from the Inupiat, the Inuvialuit, and those agencies involved in harvest allocation have been invited to discuss how to share the harvest. Once discussions move into considerations of a management plan, then others, such as the Gwich'in, can become involved. Billy commented that community members in Aklavik want to know what is happening with the muskox issue.

6. Adjournment

Motion

to adjourn the meeting.

Moved: Danny C. Gordon
Seconded: Brian Pelchat
Motion carried

WMAC(NS) Chair

Date

WMAC(NS) Secretariat

Date