



MEETING MINUTES

WMACNS QUARTERLEY MEETING

August 28-29, 2018

Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre, Whitehorse, YT

Tuesday, August 28, 2018

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Lindsay Staples (Chair), **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member), **Matt Clarke** Yukon Government (Alternate), **Tyler Kuhn** Yukon Government (Member), **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member), **Craig Machtans** Government of Canada (Alternate), **Jennifer Smith** (WMACNS Staff), **Kelly Milner** (WMACNS Staff), **Kaitlin Wilson** (WMACNS Staff), **Stephanie Muckenheim** Yukon Government, **Chanda Turner** Inuvialuit Game Council Staff.

A. Call to Order ^[L]_[SEP]

Lindsay Staples (Chair) called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Council reviewed the agenda. No revisions or additions were made.

Approval of Agenda – Moved by Craig Machtans, seconded by Danny Gordon.

C. Review and Approval of Minutes

July Meeting Minutes – A few small typos were noted by Craig Machtans and he will provide suggested revisions to staff.

Approval of July 2018 Minutes subject to additional comments from Craig – Moved by Ernest Pokiak, seconded by Craig Machtans.

D. Review of Action Items ^[L]_[SEP]

WMACNS staff led the review of action items. Specific interest to see action on trapping regulation follow-up and the beaver project were noted by WMACNS members. The Action Item table is included as an appendix to these minutes.

Action 18-08-01 – Staff will draft a contract for some legal research on jurisdiction and how UFA and IFA line up regulations (bylaws) and authorities (IGC vs YFWMB) under

the Yukon Wildlife Act.

Action 18-08-02 – Staff will draft a letter to the Screening Committee regarding the sale of rocks from the Yukon North Slope.

E. Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan Designation Options

[L]
:SEP:

Staff presented a summary of work to date and an initial list of candidate designations for consideration for the withdrawal area. The information is part of a preliminary discussion about potential designations. It was noted that there is a window of opportunity to provide a recommendation about the designation specifically that may require delinking this conversation from the broader Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan initiative.

Council discussed the process for identifying the social interests for the level of proposed conservation. The Chair outlined the process in the agreement and the role of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan and confirmed his understanding that the plan is the vehicle for determining conservation designations under IFA section 12 (3) and 12 (4).

Staff raised the point that there was Inuvialuit interest conveyed in 1977 through the Inuvialuit Agreement in Principle to have the entire YNS established as a national park with full wilderness protection. Council has an opportunity to provide clarity and reduce conflict in the future with respect to the conservation requirements of the eastern YNS withdrawn area.

Council discussed what constitutes development, the importance of economic opportunities for Inuvialuit, and how these can be accommodated through designation and additional funding that may flow through conservation management.

The potential use of the withdrawal order as the tool for management was discussed and the merits of maintaining it. A new statute would be difficult, but a regulation under existing legislation is feasible.

There is no sunset on the withdrawal order. IFA says the withdrawal order will be maintained under the provisions of section 12. Need to have management plan before changing its application. Making the case for a specific conservation designation could be part of the planning initiative.

Stating values in a spatial way is something the council can now do. Could have more than one conservation tool.

Caribou use is better known and may become a factor for future use of the eastern North Slope. Listing of barren ground caribou under the federal Species at Risk Act and the subsequent need to identify Critical Habitat on the YNS is a consideration as well.

F. Correspondence

EISC Letter re Lantuit Proposal. Council raised concerns that there should be more clarity about hiring locals and reporting. The proposal is inaccurate as he did not consult WMAC NS.

Action 18-08-03 – Staff to follow up with AWI regarding long term planning and 2018 season report

Action 18-08-04 – Stephanie to follow up regarding YG Scientists and Explorers permit review for AWI.

G. Report from the Chair [L] [SEP]

As there was only a month between meetings the Chair had nothing substantial to report.

H. Report from Staff

Annual Report [L] [SEP]

The Draft 2017-18 Annual report was presented to the Council.

Action 18-08-05 – Council members will review the content and provide comments to staff by the first week of September.

Communications

The Facebook site is getting more traffic and council members are encouraged to share information so staff can post it.

The website is still being updated and improvements are happening all the time.

Action 2018-08-06 – Staff will review existing communications strategy this fall and update council in December.

Draft Herschel Island Qikitaruk Territorial Park Plan

Council discussed the most recent amendments to the draft plan following submission of Council comments.

Action 2018-08-07 - Council will send a letter to Minister Dendys outlining interest in seeing Inuvialuit involvement in heritage planning.

Action 2018-08-08 Council will draft a letter of transmittal and draw attention to both Inuvialuit engagement, particularly in area of heritage engagement, planning and economic opportunities and look forward to ongoing engagement.

Motion 2018-08-01 The Council recommends the Draft Herschel Island Qikitaruk plan. Moved by Ernest Pokiak, seconded by Craig Machtans.

Porcupine Caribou Harvest Study

Staff presented a draft pilot study using focus groups to an estimate for harvest of Porcupine Caribou. The project is moving forward but may not be implemented until April 2019.

Action 2018-08-10 Council will review the draft PCH harvest study proposal and provide comments to staff this fall.

Action 2018-08-11 Staff will identify a few people (Gary Kofinas, Todd Brinkman) who can peer review the draft study.

Environmental Screening Proposal

There is currently a project proposal being screened by YESAB regarding Tundra North Tours doing tours in Ivvavik. This is a duplication of process as the project should also go through the EISC.

Action 2018-8-12 Staff will review the Tundra North Tours EISC project, once submitted.

I. Financial Report

Audit^[1]_{SEP}

Staff walked through a final draft audit statement. Council discussed some of the notes. It will be reviewed and a motion will be made on August 29 to sign the official papers.

Quarterly Financial Report^[1]_{SEP}

A quarterly report was prepared, but WMACNS regular bookkeeper did not put it together as she was on holidays. There are several issues with the report and Staff will follow up with bookkeeper.

Action 2018-08-13 Staff will update the quarterly report and distribute it to the Council members before October.

Inuvialuit Participation Budget

Staff presented the draft Inuvialuit Participation budget and indicated that there likely will be an increase in the budget. However, it still needs to be formally approved by Canada and the Joint Secretariat.

Resolution 2018-08-01: WMAC accepts the audited statements dated August 29th, moved by Tyler Kuhn, seconded by Craig Machtans

J. Department of Environment (Ed Van Randen and Christine Cleghorn)

The Chair provided an update on the Council's work on the Wildlife Management Advisory Council including an overview of completed projects (Traditional Use, Wildlife Traditional Knowledge, habitat mapping, and specialized caribou research). This information will be used as the basis for an updated Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan. He also described some of the background information on the activities around the withdrawn area and some of the political tension around it. With the election of a new government, WMAC has seen a window of opportunity to move the conversation around the management of the North Slope and the withdrawn area in particular, being mindful of IFA 12(3) and 12(4). Looking at options for designation. Have met with the Minister and indicated that there will be plan presented to her in the next year.

One council member clarified that Inuvialuit are not opposed to industrial activity but that they rely on animals for their food and survival and that there needs to be a balance between conservation and development.

The Chair provided clarification on IRC's position that there needs to be more discussion on any additional conservation reserves. He requested some feedback from Yukon Government on what their interests are for both conservation and development.

The Deputy Minister suggested that the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan could be the vehicle for ensuring that agreement on the values and how this could be addressed.

Minister is very keen and protection is another way of acknowledging this area as a breadbasket. Timing perspective to make sure something is to the minister by November. Need to be able to speak to her colleagues. Lots of options available and the point is to move it towards something.

The IFA indicates that the Plan shall be recommended by the council to the appropriate authorities. Who are the appropriate authorities? Possibly the Yukon Minister of Environment, Federal Minister of Environment, IRC and IGC.

How do Indigenous Protected and Conservation Areas (IPCAs) work jurisdictionally? Council members talked about the level of protection and how that may or may not meet Canada's interest for IPCAs, which may not make them the best choice. However, current management regime for the North Slope already meets the requirements for IPCAs, with the exception of maybe the Order in Council (not the strongest legal tool for long term protection).

Question was raised if the withdrawn area becomes formally designated as a protected area, how does it affect the overall percentage of protected areas in the Yukon and the representation of different ecoregions overall.

Consider linking the IPCAs to the federal environmental guardian program applications. Brings to life opportunities for economic development. Consider economic spin offs from conservation regimes.

Prepare a briefing note in November to the “appropriate authorities”, including the Yukon’s Environment Minister, outlining the best option for future conservation designations in the withdrawn area and discussion of next steps.

Council suggested option for having a cultural orientation workshop with Environment staff to get an idea where Inuvialuit are coming from.

ADJOURNED at 4:20PM.

Wednesday, August 29, 2018

Kwanlin Dun Cultural Centre, Whitehorse, YT

Lindsay Staples (Chair), **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member), **Matt Clarke** Yukon Government (Alternate), **Tyler Kuhn** Yukon Government (Member), **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member), **Craig Machtans** Government of Canada (Alternate), **Kelly Milner** (WMACNS Staff), **Kaitlin Wilson** (WMACNS Staff), **Jennifer Smith** (WMACNS Staff), **Allison Thompson** WMAC NWT, **Mike Suitor** Yukon Government, **Marsha Brannigan** WMAC NWT, **Rob Gau** WMAC NWT, **Larry Carpenter** WMAC NWT

K. Report from Members

Environment Canada

- Consideration of the listing of Barrenground caribou:
 - endangered and threatened species prohibitions (killing/harming/harassing) would apply in National Parks, with subsistence activities continuing without prohibitions (land claims take precedence)
 - National Recovery Strategy will be required but will need to consider herd-specific issues and existing management frameworks
 - Critical Habitat would follow from NRS, new protections could be created OR could rely on existing protections
 - One Council member noted that over 60 years ago, PCH calved near Aklavik – caribou habits change in reaction to lots of things
 - Listing likely wouldn’t occur until 2020 (comments close Oct 22, 2018)
 - Inuvialuit position paper (led by IGC/WMAC NWT) for the Cape Bathurst and Tuktoyaktuk Peninsula caribou herds in prep for NWT recovery strategy and in light of potential national listing, including views on critical habitat and ecological integrity

- Grizzly bear and wolverine are now listed as of summer 2018 (management plans required shortly – 3 yr timeframe)

Regional Biologist

- Muskox
 - Collar top up in late winter 2018
 - 344 muskox counted (highest count to date, likely close to population total)
 - Composition survey (average productivity compared with previous years)
 - Grazing + trampling induced habitat change field sampling season was a success (no results to share yet)
 - Diet data collected + examining health and pregnancy with hunter-based sampling
- Caribou
 - Standard annual data collection plus emphasis on 1002 EIS
 - Pregnancy was average, but calf survival was high
 - Movement and distribution report (1970-2017) is forthcoming
 - Sensitive habitat mapping (based on density of use for cow calving range May 26-June 10) **some overlap with EYNS area
 - Mid-summer and moving into late summer high density use of EYNS by cows/calves
 - 1002 Expert technical meeting, EIS Oct 18 release and Dec 3 deadline, contracted team of experts to tackle some big questions in order to respond
 - PCH Traditional Knowledge Study Preparatory workshop, study design in place by end of fiscal, multiparty meeting around PCMB harvest meeting

Yukon Government

- Grizzly Bear Management Plan
 - Draft has been circulated
 - Public review Sept 15 - Nov 15 (later for Consultation)
- Wetland Policy
 - Development of policy for territorially managed lands
 - Currently in a multi-stage roundtable process
 - Aiming for public review in Spring 2019, Consultations in Fall 2019, Final Policy in Winter 2019
 - No content to consider yet
 - Potential role of expert scientists to inform policy
 - Mid October for next roundtable meeting

Action 2018-08-14 Council to review draft Grizzly Bear Management Plan in advance of November WMAC NS meeting

L. Fish Monitoring (DFO, Ellen Lea)

- Dolly varden co-management plan exists; plan now required under SARA
- Summary of mark-recapture program and results

Action 2018-08-23 Staff to liaise with Ellen/DFO throughout the drafting of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan to ensure North Slope fish are considered, where appropriate in the Plan and in implementation

M. Fish Memorandum of Understanding

- Establishes relationships for fisheries management on the North Slope
- Currently the MOU sits with FJMC
- Deferred to December

N. Strategic & Research Priorities

The Council discussed the strategic priorities for the remainder of the fiscal year and into the new year, as well as some of the high-level research priorities to highlight on the website:

Immediate Strategic Priorities:

1. **Planning** - Completion and implementation of the Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan for the Yukon North Slope
2. **Protected Areas** - Formalization a path and commitments for designating the Eastern Yukon North Slope
3. **Porcupine Caribou** - Strategic engagement in the US Environmental Impact Screening process for the 1002 lands in Alaska; harvest management pilot study; Federal listing under the Species At Risk Act

***Training of two new staff will also be a priority for the fall and early winter

Research Priorities:

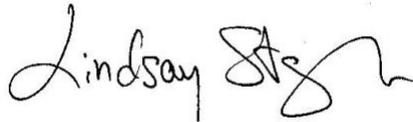
1. Applying Inuvialuit Knowledge to emerging environmental and wildlife issues on the Yukon North Slope
2. Expanding our understanding of focal species (caribou, sheep, muskox, beaver) and their habitat and ecology
3. Establishing environmental baselines and proactively gathering knowledge that will support conservation in dynamic, changing ecosystems

Action 2018-08-24 Staff will update the website with the high-level research interests of the Council

O. Upcoming meetings

- IGC, Aug 29-Sept 1 2018
- NACW, Oct 29 – Nov 2, 2018
- WMAC(NS), Nov 27-29th (WMAC NWT – Nov 27/Inuvik; AHTC – Nov 28/Aklavik; WMAC NS – Nov 29/Inuvik)
- WMAC(NWT) Nov 27-29th
- IGC Dec 4-7
- ArcticNet, Dec 10-14

Motion 2018-08-01: Meeting adjourned at 4:40PM, Moved by Danny Gordon, Seconded by Tyler Kuhn



Lindsay Staples, WMAC (North Slope)
Chair

July 14, 2020

Date



Allison Thompson, Staff

July 14, 2020

Date