



MEETING MINUTES

WMACNS QUARTERLEY MEETING

November 27-29, 2018

Inuvik and Aklavik, NT

Tuesday, November 27, 2018

JS Boardroom, Inuvik NT

Lindsay Staples (Chair), **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member), **Tyler Kuhn** Yukon Government (Member), **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member), **Dave Tavares** Government of Canada (Member) **Kaitlin Wilson** WMACNS Staff, **Allison Thompson** WMACNS Staff

A. Call to Order [1:11:56]

Lindsay Staples (Chair) called the meeting to order at 9:04 am.

B. Review and Approval of Agenda

The Council reviewed the agenda. Teleconference minutes review was added to the agenda.

Approval of Agenda – Moved by Ernest Pokiak, seconded by Tyler Kuhn.

C. Review and Approval of Minutes

August Meeting Minutes – no comments.

Approval of August 2018 Minutes – Moved by Tyler Kuhn, seconded by Danny Gordon.

October Teleconference Minutes – no comments.

Approval of October 2018 Minutes – Moved by Dave Tavares, seconded by Ernest Pokiak.

D. Review of Action Items ^[1]_{SEP}

WMACNS staff led the review of action items.

Action 18-11-01 – Staff to confirm with Regional Biologist which Porcupine caribou herd range boundary to use moving forward (raised in the discussion of conservation areas map)

E. Financial Reports

Yukon Government representative walked the Council through the YG Wildlife Programs budget. Stephanie Muckenheim (YG) joined by phone to discuss the YG Wildlife Programs budget.

Parks Canada – Regarding the allocation of some YG wildlife program monies to conservation officer work, it is worthwhile to have a dedicated pot of money for patrols for the Conservation Officer Service (COS). PC has something similar and there is increased potential for collaborative work and greater coverage of the YNS.

Ernest – No concerns.

Danny – Concern about tourists travel on the YNS, especially people that are leaving garbage/mess on the land. More CO presence could help deal with this issue.

Council generally supports the \$20,000 set aside for the COS.

Council will consider the recommended requests and allocations as it continues its quarterly meeting and priorities.

ADJOURNED at 12:50PM.

Wednesday, November 28, 2018

Aklavik Hamlet Chambers, Aklavik, NT

Lindsay Staples (Chair), **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member), **Tyler Kuhn** Yukon Government (Member), **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member), **Dave Tavares** Government of Canada (Member), **Richard Gordon** (Herschel Rangers), **Kaitlin Wilson** WMACNS Staff, **Allison Thompson** WMACNS Staff

F. Financial Reports (continued)

Quarterly financial report and budget review

Kaitlin provided the Council with an overview of the quarterly financial report (to October 31, 2018) and Council budget document, including budgeted items, committed financials and what's been spent to date.

The Council is expecting a surplus this year. This is reflective of the staff turnover – there isn't capacity to take on big projects. The Council will likely be underspent on mandated meetings, office costs, communications, staffing. It's acceptable for the Council to have a surplus this fiscal because it's so early on in the 10-year funding cycle.

Joint Secretariat Inuvialuit Participation Budget

The Inuvialuit Participation budget as of October 31, 2018 was presented on screen. In 2017/18, the total budget was \$56,565. In 2018/19, the annual budget is \$88,989.96. The GNWT negotiates the Inuvialuit Participation funds for all Boards. This negotiation is not complete. Last year, WMAC NS was asked to compile a budget of Inuvialuit Participation needs; this resulted in a figure of about \$89,000. The JS adjusted WMAC NS' Inuvialuit Participation budget to reflect the number that was submitted, but the Council can't be certain this entire amount is committed to Inuvialuit Participation given that negotiations aren't completed yet. Last year the Council spent around \$80,000 in Inuvialuit Participation funds expecting the funding negotiations were complete, but this was not the case.

The Council will spend the Inuvialuit Budget to around \$56,000.

The Council is in support of the current state of finances.

G. Report from the Chair

CEAA Sustainability policy

Lindsay was present on behalf of ITK, themes included intergenerational equity, integrated approach to assessment, sustainability, etc.

It is unclear if there will be a final report on the outcomes of the meeting, but Lindsay will share info package that came from the event.

IPCA's

Lindsay went to a meeting with federal government representatives on the topic of IPCAs.

Federal reps were interested in a scenario where there is an existing modern treaty (IFA) and an IPCA could be used as an implementation tool. They have two major priorities re IPCAs: meeting Canadian protected areas target and indigenous reconciliation.

Dave – concern about legal instrument to give teeth to “protection”

Lindsay – the withdrawal order could act as such

Council will discuss this further throughout the week.

EISC Announcement

It is unclear what the announcement adds in terms of due diligence or process. The other issue is that there was no consultation or discussion before this announcement, which puts others (including WMAC NS) in an adversarial position.

The Chair indicated that there are issues of interpretation of the IFA in this announcement by the EISC that should be addressed. Parks Canada also expressed concerns about ambiguity in research process, and supports a letter from the Council (which includes many parties).

Action 18-11-02 – The Chair will draft a formal response to the EISC announcement to be circulated before end of year.

H. Correspondence

Lindsay presented the Council's correspondences since August 2018.

Action 18-11-03 – YG member to contact YG and inform them that the Council is reviewing Inuvialuit Group Trapline Letter (Nov 30 deadline will not be met).

This letter is from YG and proposes opening up the YG regulations to do with the Inuvialuit trapline to be better aligned with the IFA. One method could be to get rid of the list of names for people who can use the trapline. The regulation could be completely removed, or simply amended. There is some benefit to keeping the regulation on the books, e.g. right now YG cannot give a license to a trapper that is not part of a trapping concession. So if the trapping concession were entirely removed, it could be hard for the Inuvialuit to allow someone who is not an Inuvialuit beneficiary to trap in that area. The intention of this letter is to align the trapping regulations to better reflect the IFA.

Action 18-11-04 – Staff to forward the YG Inuvialuit Group Trapline regulations letter to AHTC.

COSEWIC polar bear assessment letters

WMAC NS supported the proposed COSEWIC designation of polar bear as a species of special concern, but reminded COSEWIC of the work that still needs to be done to properly engage Wildlife Management Boards and use traditional knowledge. The Council is okay with WMAC NS continuing to engage on COSEWIC polar bear assessment.

BBC Caribou Filming Proposal Letter

The BBC is seeking WMAC NS' support to film in Ivvavik National Park in Spring 2019 and 2020. AHTC supported this project. It was clarified that the filming will take place before calving and outside the calving grounds. The Council will discuss this further later in the meeting.

I. WCMP Update (including ToC)

September 2018 Vancouver Meeting

In September 2018, Kaitlin, Lindsay, Kim Heinemeyer, Joan Eamer (the writer on contract), and John Donihee met. The meeting objective was to produce key themes so that Joan could come up with a draft Table of Contents. John Donihee also provided some context about the Withdrawn area on the EYNS and the implications for a designation recommendation.

October 12, 2018 teleconference

On October 12, 2018, the Council held a teleconference to discuss the use of two key values, traditional use and caribou habitat use, to drive Round River Conservation Studies' mapping exercise to provide an ecological argument for the conservation needs of the EYNS. Kaitlin spoke on the phone with the Inuvialuit members in advance of the phone call to gauge their comfort. The Council agreed to move forward with the emphasis on Traditional Use and caribou habitat use.

What's Next:

- Lindsay will present to IGC in early December
- WMAC NS will present to PCMB at their December teleconference
- The Council will aim to submit a briefing note to YG by Christmas 2018 with a recommendation for a management framework for the EYNS (requesting comments back from YG to by March 2019)
- May 2019: Draft WCMP for partner consultation
- September 2019: Finalize the WCMP
- Fall 2019: Have plan signed off

In 2018, the focus has been on concepts. In 2019, the focus will be on process, content and hoops (e.g. the various approval processes).

YG questions:

- Is there an open public consultation requirement?
- Cabinet submission process – how does it work?

Canada questions:

- Need to consult with AANDC?
- Who is the appropriate Minister?
- Land ownership/responsibility?
 - o John Donihee had some legal work done looking at history of Orders in Council. It seems that the federal Order in Council (OIC) may not have been removed, meaning there could be two OIC's on the EYNS (one federal, one territorial)
 - o Post devolution, the Yukon Government is the land manager but the owner remains the Crown. YG has certain subsurface rights, e.g. for

extraction.

Action 18-11-05 – Staff to advise other parties (HTCs, IGC, WMAC NWT, IRC, VGG, ECCC, YG) to inform them of the process and timeline for review and recommendation of the WCMP. Confirm other parties’ processes for receiving, reviewing and approving (if required) the WCMP. Forward responses to Council.

November 6th meeting with AHTC, ACC, Aklavik Elders

- It was raised that there may be a desire to have an Inuvialuit delegation in conversations about the plan or future of the EYNS.

WCMP Table of Contents

Joan Eamer, the WCMP writer on contract, has produced a draft Table of Contents for the WCMP. She is looking for feedback on: the content of the ToC and the four thematic sections and high-level guidance on content (what belongs in the main text vs. appendices). It was explained that the major change between the current WCMP and the 2002 version is the themes. Another difference is that the new WCMP will only be one document, rather than various component documents.

The Council’s feedback was as follows:

- It’s important to work within the context of the IFA and lean on the IFA as much as possible
- Highlight the direct quotes from the IFA and make sure they stand out from other statements (e.g. text boxes, something graphic)
- The principles are good, but the Council suggested adding IFA 14.(4) as that section speaks directly to Inuvialuit participation
- The goal statement should be wordsmithed:
 - o Remove ‘traditional’ from Inuvialuit use
 - o Mirror IFA language as much as possible
- There were some questions about the goal statement:
 - o What is rationale for including explicit language speaking to change?
 - o Is the goal of the plan to manage? Or to have the landscape continue to exist in some desired state?
 - o Are we thinking of a vision for the landscape into the future, or speaking to management?
- Feedback on Themes, Objectives and Strategies
 - o Theme A.
 - Including aquatic habitat in this section means DFO will need to be engaged
 - Level of detail in objectives and strategies is good
 - TU is a function of habitat, wildlife pops, other activities,

geography, where people live, changing ecosystems – so, it might not work intuitively to link TU and habitat in that way (e.g. if there is loads of habitat but no wildlife using it)

- Incorporate this by adjusting the wording for the theme A heading – make sure the heading reflects the underlying rationale
 - Introduce concept of conservation-based economy
- Theme B. Wildlife Populations – no comments
- Theme C. Healthy, Resilient Ecosystems
 - Ensure there is a clear distinction between wildlife habitat and ecosystems
- Theme D. Activities
 - This section can elaborate on the conservation economy
 - Can link to Ivvavik National Park Plan

Action 18-11-06 – Council members to review draft Table of Contents for the WCMP and provide feedback to staff by Christmas 2018.

J. Designation Discussion

Lindsay provided the Council with an update on the Council’s efforts to recommend a designation for the EYNS as part of the WCMP. The feedback from IGC was that they questioned the need to change things, since the Withdrawal Order has been in place for 40 years? Since the Withdrawal Order was established, the Council and partners have done a significant amount of work to collect more information to inform the management of the EYNS.

Action 18-11-07 – Staff to provide the Council members with a copy of the Withdrawal Order.

A discussion of the various tools available for the EYNS followed.

Yukon Government Tools

Wilderness Area: The tool requires a management plan for the geographic area; without that the tool itself does not provide much direction. This tool will likely be used for the Peel Watershed. This tool can be implemented in the short-term.

Yukon Parks Act: Can’t be applied without changing the IFA (as it refers to controlled development) so this tool is off the table.

Habitat Protection Area: Has never been considered on this large a scale. The extent of protection depends on the Management Plan. Can allow for some controlled development.

It was noted that most Yukon Parks have Withdrawal Orders in place, so the tool adds meaning and direction to the area, and it is underlain by the Withdrawal Order.

Canada Government Tools

Indigenous Protected and Conserved Areas:

- Seem to be able to recognize land claims and their governance structures
- Have no legal foundation and can be layered with other tools, e.g. Yukon Wilderness Area, the existing Withdrawal Order
- Can be applied short-term and are flexible to modification over time
- Can provide a name and recognition of importance to an area
- The governance would be Inuvialuit led, or an Inuvialuit-government partnership

An IPCA has the potential to count toward the Canadian 2020 goal for protected areas. YG recognizes that an IPCA in the Yukon would help the territory contribute to that goal.

ADJOURNED at 12:00PM.

Thursday, November 29, 2018

Aklavik Hamlet Chambers, Aklavik, NT

Lindsay Staples (Chair), **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member), **Tyler Kuhn** Yukon Government (Member), **Danny C. Gordon** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member), **Dave Tavares** Government of Canada (Member), **Richard Gordon** (Herschel Rangers), **Kaitlin Wilson** WMACNS Staff, **Allison Thompson** WMACNS Staff

K. Designation Discussion (continued)

Craig Machtans called in for the designation discussion.

Lindsay summarized the previous day's discussion. WMAC NS is interested in tools that can be implemented quickly and are flexible – e.g. they can be layered with other legal mechanisms. An example could be an IPCA that is layered with a YG Wilderness Area for some or all of the region.

The Edézhhié Establish Agreement and IPCAs

The Council discussed the *Edézhhié Establish Agreement* - the agreement that established the Edézhhié IPCA. It seems that Establishment Agreements are flexible. The parties to an Establishment Agreement would likely be the Principles – the Inuvialuit and

Yukon/Canada.

Based on this Establishment Agreement, it seems that EAs identify:

- Legal instrument to be used for protection (e.g. National Wildlife Area)
- A designation or name for the area, chosen by the Indigenous group e.g. the Deh Cho protected area
- Management objectives
- Economic benefits, e.g. \$1 million/yr and 6.5 PY of employment for Edézhhié – it was noted that it may be worth highlighting this figure to the IRC as a potential benefit

It was noted that there are other ways to execute an IPCA – e.g. in the context of a land claim. An IPCA could add recognition of the significance of the EYNS, and can be informed by all the wildlife, habitat and TU data that have been collected. Given that the OiC and 12.(3) of the IFA don't elaborate on why conservation should be first priority for the region, an IPCA can add context and meaning. IPCAs are flexible, so they could be responsive to climate change concerns.

The Council discussed 12.(2) 12. "The Yukon North Slope shall fall under a special conservation regime whose dominant purpose is the conservation of wildlife, habitat and traditional native use." And the meaning of 'dominant' – can a level of protection be assigned to 'dominant'? The voice of Aklavik and the AHTC is strong when it comes to what's needed to maintain the EYNS for traditional use.

The IRC Chair indicated that any changes to the Withdrawal Order would require consultation with all Inuvialuit, not just Aklavik.

There may be interest in an Inuvialuit Guardians (or guardian style) program for the EYNS.

It was noted that proposing an IPCA or other designation for the EYNS addresses the WMAC mandate to advise on matters related to wildlife, habitat and Inuvialuit use. An IPCA would require IRC as a signatory to any agreement; if Inuvialuit don't want to pursue such an option, that is for IRC ultimately to determine on behalf of Inuvialuit.

The Canadian Nature Fund will likely have a call for funding on Tuesday December 4th. An expression of interest will likely need to be submitted by end of 2018. Council needs to be sure about what kind of funding would be achieved.

The Council plans to submit a funding application to the Canadian Nature Fund and if any party is uncomfortable, the application can be pulled.

Designation for EYNS:

The Council needs to do some critical thinking about the scope of each piece (the Briefing Note, the WCMP and an IPCA/application for funding) and how they all fit together. The briefing note should articulate these relationships.

The Council discussed the political timing, which is the cause of the urgency behind recommending a designation for the EYNS. The WCMP won't be complete before the designation piece, so the WCMP can be designed to underpin the recommended designation.

There was a suggestion that the Council could recommend that the entire YNS become an IPCA, including Ivvavik and Qiqiktaruk. Another perspective is that designating just the EYNS as an IPCA would complete the picture for conservation on the YNS.

It was noted that after WMAC NS submits its briefing note, Minister Frost will have to engage directly with the Inuvialuit (IRC and IGC) to move forward with an IPCA for the EYNS.

Briefing Note on the EYNS:

- Audience: YG, IRC, IGC, Canada
- Show the five layers of the TU and caribou map stacked in an intuitive way
- Anticipate the response from the different audiences (YG, IRC, etc.) and offer responses in anticipation (e.g. sell the 'conservation economy' aspect to IRC)
- Describe the 'value-added' benefits of having an IPCA on top of the other layers of management (IFA, OiC, CCPs, WCMP) – e.g. opportunity for a conservation economy
- Present two or more options for the EYNS and recommend one
 - o 1) OiC + WCMP
 - o 2) OiC + WCMP + IPCA
 - o 3) OiC + WCMP + IPCA + YG tool

The Council will work with Parks Canada staff to produce a compelling image of the five layers of mapping for the TU + ecological case for the EYNS.

The Council agreed that the Briefing Note should have two options (OiC + WCMP and OiC + WCMP + IPCA) with option two being the recommended path forward.

Action 11-18-13 – Staff to draft a briefing note on the EYNS with 2+ options for designation. Council to review. Work with Dave and Craig on the mapping component.

L. Decision Items

BBC Support Letter

The Council spoke on the phone with Jane Atkins at the BBC. The BBC is planning a *Frozen Earth* six-part series focusing on northern. Their plan is to have a short segment on the Firth River breakup and the porcupine caribou migration. This segment will be filmed in spring 2019 in Ivvavik National Park. The BBC is conscious of working in a way that is sensitive to wildlife. The series will air in 2021.

The Council made it clear to the BBC that there is great sensitivity around portraying the Porcupine Caribou herd. Inuvialuit have been living with the herd for generations. The Council has spent significant energy combatting misleading accounts about the state of wildlife on the Yukon North Slope over the years. The Council has a vested interest in ensuring that the story being told about the PCH is accurate and sensitive.

After discussion with the Council, the BBC will:

- After filming, provide WMAC NS with a rough cut of the caribou segment and the outline of the story for approval
- Share photos and short clips after filming and during editing
- Aim to send over DVDs of the final series as soon as possible, possibly have someone from the BBC come speak on the series
- Try to collaborate with Inuvialuit aircraft companies
- Try to interview someone from Aklavik for context about the caribou and possible use in development of educational materials
- Make non-copyright footage available to the Inuvialuit and other agencies for use in education
- Contact Mike Sutor for fact checking
- Include Inuvialuktun place names where possible

Action 18-11-14 – Provide the BBC with relevant materials related to the PCH (podcasts, footage).

Action 18-11-15 – Write a letter of support for the BBC Frozen Planet Project, noting the Council's main points of feedback.

M. Discussion Items

Arctic Spill Response

Billy Archie provided an overview presentation on the proposed Arctic Spill Response program. It was noted that this program could tie into the WCMP in the 'resilient ecosystems' section and that Billy could be looped in with the Yukon Protection branch.

N. Report from Members

Yukon Government (Mike Sutor + Tyler Kuhn)

Mike provided an overview of his recent work.

PORCUPINE CARIBOU HERD TRADITIONAL KNOWLEDGE (TK) STUDY

The parties all strongly supported the project but cautioned not to duplicate previous efforts and be wary of interview fatigue. The study will aim to address the interplay between Traditional Knowledge (TK; informing management planning) and Local Knowledge (LK; informing annual decision making), to address key management needs. Multimedia, interactive outcomes are proposed.

Trailmark provided the successful expression of interest.

Funding applications has been submitted (CCHAP) and the project team will kick off work in January (including community visits and board engagement). Full design and project scoped out by March 2019.

Council has confirmed that sufficient information has been provided to allocated the \$16,000 set aside earlier in the fiscal year for the development of the Porcupine Caribou Traditional Knowledge project.

Action 18-11-16 – Mike will circulate the Trailmark expression of interest

MUSKOX HERBIVORY STUDY

Mike shared a recent poster from Laurence Carter's graduate work (preliminary results).

WETLANDS POLICY

Tyler provided an update on the consultation timeline re the development of the YG Wetland policy. A working group has been formed to put pen to paper. The next round table should be in late February, whereat the working group will present framework and content to date. Tyler will continue to provide updates, but given the management context of the YNS, there will likely be minimal application of the new policy in this region.

Action 18-11-17 – Yukon member to create summary of the Wetland Policy to date and how it relates to the YNS

Action 18-11-18 – Staff to draft update to IRC regarding the YG Wetlands Policy

Parks Canada (Dave Tavares)

WILDLIFE SURVEY PLANS 2018/2019

Surplus funds became available mid-year. PC is proposing three additional aerial surveys

with these funds (winter moose, dall sheep, and polar bear den surveys). They would be in support of the current Ivvavik Management Plan and would also employ community research assistants.

*Moose – last moose survey was incomplete and occurred in 2009 in the Park
 Sheep – last winter sheep survey was 2002 (summer in 2001 + 2017)
 Polar Bear – den survey, important for ISR PB Joint Management Plan objectives*

Council supports the additional work proposed for winter 2019 in Ivvavik NP.

Inuvialuit Representatives

Ernest provided a written update of his attendance at the Beaufort Sea Partnership Meeting.

O. IFA RESEARCH FUNDS 2019-2020

Table 1. Proposed IFA Research Funding for the 2019/2020 Fiscal Year

Agency	Project	Funding Consideration	Recommended by Council?
<i>Parks Canada</i>	Remote Cameras and Soundscape in Ivvavik NP	\$20,000	Yes
<i>Parks Canada</i>	Song Bird Abundance w/ Sound Recorders	\$15,000	Yes
<i>Yukon Government</i>	Muskox Survey + Research	\$57,000	Yes
<i>Yukon Government</i>	Porcupine Caribou	\$52,000	Yes
<i>Yukon Government</i>	Polar bear genetic mark recapture	Amount TBD	Notionally supported, but Council to recommend in March
	TOTAL	\$144,000+	

Motion 2018-11-01 The Council recommends the IFA Research Funding proposals for the remote camera and song bird projects presented by Parks Canada. Moved by

Ernest Pokiak, seconded by Tyler Kuhn.

Motion 2018-11-01 The Council recommends the IFA Research Funding proposals for Porcupine caribou and muskox presented by Yukon Government. Moved by Dave Tavares, seconded by Danny Gordon.

Action 18-11-19 – Staff to draft letter of recommendation to Parks Canada for 2018-19 and 2019-20 research projects.

P. STAFF UPDATES

Muskox – more work is required to finalize the research plan.

Action 18-11-20 – Staff will work with Council to finalize the muskox research plan before the March meeting

Guardians Programs – staff will track this file and provide an update at the next Council meeting.

Chris Burn - Chris Burn contacted WMAC NS with some concerns about sumps in the ISR and concerns about community research priorities not being addressed by the wider research community.

Staff will contact IRC about Chris Burns' concerns about sumps in the ISR and his research plans.

Meeting adjourned at 5:12 PM on November 29, 2018. Moved by Dave Tavares, seconded by Danny Gordon



Lindsay Staples

July 14, 2020

Date

Lindsay Staples, WMAC (North Slope)
Chair

Allison Thompson

July 14, 2020

Date

Allison Thompson, Staff