



MEETING MINUTES

WMAC (NS) Quarterly Meeting^[1]_[SEP]

July 13-15

Imniarvik, YT

Lindsay Staples (Chair), **Ernest Pokiak** Inuvialuit Game Council (Member), **Matt Clarke** Yukon Government (Alternate), **Craig Machtans** Government of Canada (Alternate), **Gerry Kisoun** Inuvialuit Game Council (Alternate), **Stephanie Muckenheim** Yukon Government (IFA Coordinator), **Mike Suitor** (North Yukon Regional Biologist), **Dave Tavares** Government of Canada (Member), **Kaitlin Wilson** (Staff), **Jennifer Smith** (Staff), **Kim Heinemeyer** (Round River Conservation Studies, Guest)

Friday, July 13, 2018

1. Call to Order^[1]_[SEP]

Lindsay Staples (Chair) called the meeting to order at 9:10. Lindsay acknowledged Stephanie and Kim in attending the meeting and thanked Dave for hosting. He welcomed Kaitlin in her new capacity as Program Manager. Lindsay thanked Mike for attending during a busy time of year.

2. Review and Approval of Agenda

Motion 2018-07-01: *Approval of Agenda – Moved by Ernest Pokiak, Seconded by Matt Clarke*

3. Review and Approval of Minutes

Motion 2018-07-02: *Approval of March 2018 Minutes– Moved by Dave Tavares, seconded by Matt Clarke.*

The Council discussed timing around IFA-funded research recommendations and

approvals. The Council aims to have recommendations to agencies by January of each year to allow for work planning and budgeting for summer fieldwork. Parks Canada needs recommendations by late March each year, for funding purposes.

4. Review of Action Items L SEP

Jen lead discussion of current action item list.

1. Research plan review and revision (**AI 2017-09-09**):

- process and priorities driven in part by WCMP outcomes; more proactive than reactive
- provide direction to Alfred Wagner Institute (AWI) re. funding agenda (Herschel)
- need for research feedback loop to ensure AWI work is supporting NS management goals
- potential for AWI MOU as a tool to shape working relationship
- need to shape projects at inception - how to harness other researchers? (encourage people to check out minutes/other resources to find ideas and get in touch with the Council, use website as a tool – minimize extra effort)
- need to ensure the published literature reflects the work being done in western Arctic/ISR – this helps attract more attention
- importance of seed money for pulling in additional funding
- need to ensure projects are being considered and reviewed (not just approved - make sure folks can understand the proposals and drafted in plain language)
- perhaps HTC or other groups could have some kind of checklist to ensure research is meeting certain baseline requirements when they are being reviewed

2. Caribou monitoring compilation (**AI 2017-11-02**) – tie in Federal work being done

3. Grizzly Bear (GB) North Slope Research (**AI 2018-02-01**) –2016 draft remains most recent draft and information piece.

4. Trapline Management (**AI 2018-02-04**) – Yukon Government provided update (verbal memo)

- Concession 403: license was required with schedule listing trappers by name (now obsolete), now managed as per the IFA, but regulations do not reflect current management structure

5. Polar Bear (PB) Bylaws (**AI 2018-02-11**) – NWT staff to join for August meeting discussion on this issue, Council may need to write a letter to YG, touching on GB and PB bylaws (TBD)

6. GB YT Plan (**AI 2018-02-12**) – Council would like to provide a formal letter of recommendation for plan, plan is going to public consultation soon

Action 18-07-01 – Staff to check into EISC for status of AWI project

Action 18-07-02 – Staff to add discussion of strategic priorities to August Council meeting agenda, including research

Action 18-07-03 – Staff to create high-level research interest summary for immediate use on website (in advance of updated WMAC research plan)

Action 18-07-04 – Council to write letter regarding boundary change and regulation change, once Yukon Government has shared summary email to staff; Stephanie to meet with Matt in advance to give updated details on file

Action 18-07-05 – Add note to website about trapping on the North Slope; consider communications piece with community/AHTC?

Action 18-07-06 – Staff to write letter to minister about ongoing status of wild animal regulations (draft letter to Dave for review)

Action 18-07-07 – Staff to circulate draft muskox research plan to the Council for review

Action 18-07-08- Staff to summarize the findings of the 2016 North Slope Grizzly bear project into a one-page communications piece for the website and general public

5. Staffing and Transition – In Camera

6. Correspondence L SEP

Letter to Environment and Climate Change Canada (ECCC) re. Bill C-69 (federal impact assessment) - Lindsay provided update/context for IRC + IGC letter to ECCC: We have yet to see the effect if any of the response; IRC now lobbying minister directly.

Boreal Caribou – Federal Indigenous engagement has been ratcheted up and will likely affect future approaches to Indigenous engagement.

BBC Filming of Porcupine Caribou herd – Yukon Government and Parks Canada have discussed options, co-management structure, and potential mitigations with producer. Producer has requested and received a filming permit for Parks and is aware of the consultation and EIS requirements. Potential challenge of filming (environment/challenges of subject matter/etc.), need for benefits to outweigh the costs of YG/WMAC participation and investment. Council to wait to receive formal application for review.

7. Report from the Chair

- Update on the PBAC meeting in Moose Jaw: adjustments to the Terms of Reference for PBAC, moving towards greater acceptance with Traditional Knowledge (TK) table; need for better communication of work + results
- Discussion of screening committee (EISC) role in research (September response likely to clarify Council position)

- need for matrix to clarify how to support/engage with/screen different researchers and projects (partners, externals, government, different types of research, projects with Council support, etc.) ***consider in new research plan
- Update on the JS meeting: new program coordinator position across Councils to be filled soon; JS legal opinion archive to be established + future legal work will also be reviewed by JS ED (to ensure better application to interests of other IFA committees, etc.)
- Board and committee federal honoraria review: aim to reduce the disparity between boards/councils; in some cases (WMAC-NS) no increase has occurred in ~30 years
- Commercial mineral extraction of lazulite on the YNS: under the IFA any development that requires a permit shall be screened; no development of this type is allowed in Ivvavik National Park; under the current withdrawal order that applies on the eastern Yukon North Slope, mineral extraction is not permitted; need more information re postings on the internet that lazulite has been removed from the YNS for sale.
- FJMC/Stratos Report on Guardian/Monitoring programs: federal money is directed at First Nations and not at Inuit; further work will be undertaken to determine if CBMP provides a suitable platform form for a guarding-type program; IRC/IGC to look more deeply into possibilities

Action 18-07-08 – Yukon Government to dig up more information on the existence of a permit, etc. regarding potential commercial mineral extraction on the North Slope

Action 18-07-09 – Staff to request all current and historic geo-referenced Porcupine Caribou harvest data for YNS from the Community Based Monitoring Program

Action 18-07-10 – Staff to follow up on review of ISR component of EC website (Steve Baryluk)

8. Report from Staff

ISR Shipping Coordination Meeting – first attempt to summarize and coordinate on a range of shipping issues; issues paper was shared as background material; significant funding was provided by the World Wildlife Fund Canada (WWF); need mechanism to maintain coordination on this issue and who will take the lead; report and “next steps” expected shortly from WWF-hired facilitator

WMAC(NS) Annual Report – forthcoming (to be reviewed at August Council meeting); draft provided to YG for funding requirements already

Action 18-07-11 – Staff/Council to review EISC Shipping Guidelines and cruise ship guidelines

9. Financial Report

JS Budget – Lindsay reviewed the Joint Secretariat (JS) 2018-19 budget for JS Boards and Committees (excepting WMAC-NS) with the Council

Proposed 2018-19 Inuvialuit Participation Budget (IP) Budget – budget has yet to be approved by JS; funds flow through the GNWT (who has yet to received their increase through a new federal/territorial contribution agreement)

Year End Statement (WMAC NS) – review of draft unaudited year-end statement; audited statement to be reviewed and sign-off at August Council meeting

Proposed 2018/19 WMAC NS Budget – Jen reviewed the 2018-19 budget; Council will review expenditures and finalize allocations at August meeting subject to sign-off of the 2017-18 audited statement (including carry-over amount)

Action 18-07-12 – Staff to confirm carry forward amount from 2017/18 budget

10. Report from Members

Dave updated the council on the initiative by Parks Canada to cross-designate Park Wardens and Yukon Conservation officers under the *Canada National Parks Act (CNPA) and Yukon Wildlife Act*.

Craig updated the Council about the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR) “1002 lands and the United States Department of Interior’s (DOI) scoping of the environmental impact statement (EIS) for assessing proposals for future oil and gas leases and related information:

1. With the exception of Nacho Nyak Dun, the signatories to the PCMB submitted letters went to the DOI outlining Canadian interests in the scoping of the EIS and matters and interests to be addressed.
2. The US made appointments to the International Porcupine Caribou Board. First meeting will be Sept 27th in Kaktovik.
3. Craig will meet with the US co-Chair in advance of the meeting.
4. A contract was tendered for work to summarize all the scientific work on the herd. The Council may be able to use this for its own communications use.
5. The EIS is expected to come out late in this fiscal year. A scoping report will also be out to address the comments that were submitted.

Mike updated the council on a workshop that was held of caribou experts with a view to informing technical responses to the potential impacts of ANWR drilling on the

Porcupine Caribou herd. The tender will be awarded shortly and the report deadline will be short (fall 2018).

1. There has been input into the Alaskan submission as well. The view is that the EIS will not include all of the items we would like to see
1. 400,000 acres has to be offered for lease to a company by law. A subsequent leasing of 400,000 could occur in the following 3 years – an area that would be difficult to keep out of the calving grounds).
2. The Porcupine Caribou Technical Committee is also looking at what a monitoring plan would look like in advance of development.

Hudsonian Godwit project – EC completed the project and they didn't see many birds; in they appear to be very low frequency occurrences.

Yukon- the Yukon GB plan will be going for final consultation soon; the plan will come to the Council for final review at the same time as the YFWMB

Parks Canada - Habitat project is also underway. A draft will be completed by the end of August, on target for finalizing in October 2018. The project outcomes may be available to inform the 1002 work.

Yukon Muskox update.

- Collars were put out
- Composition surveys
- Undertaking value –added work with trace minerals to look at copper deficiencies from qiviut
- \$50k in Polar Continental Shelf funding has been leveraged for muskox work
- Looking at new methods for doing composition work with fixed wing vs helicopter
- The Yukon North Slope muskox research plan is informing the work

Porcupine Caribou Traditional Knowledge study- The TK study has a framework and the Porcupine Caribou Management Board has hired a contractor to manage the project. The Council will be receiving a “package” describing the project. Next steps: the council will to be approached by PCMB with study priorities and a scope of work.

Beaver project – may not run this year if the supplemental funding is not available immediately

There may be a mark-recapture survey planned for the Southern Beaufort Sea polar bear with funding requirements coming forward.

Parks Canada - hired a new ecologist, Colleen Arnison. She will be in place in the fall and may be able to assist with the muskox research plan

In March 2019 or December 2018, Dave will provide an in-depth presentation on the ecological monitoring program and require time on the agenda

WMAC received a letter of invitation from the PC Western Arctic Field Unit (WAFU) to attend a workshop in November regarding the World Heritage Sites tentative list.

Action 18-07-13 – Lindsay will raise the issue of cross appointments at the IGC meeting and Dave will provide input in advance.

{SEP}

Action 18-07-14 – Dave will follow up on the objective of the meeting and dates for the meeting regarding World Heritage Site list.

11. Wildlife Conservation and Management Plan

Discussion of Volume II

1. Review of Meeting Notes (June 29)

- role of Critical Habitat designation through listing of barren ground caribou; habitat will be important to consider in discussion of management designation tools
- importance of tying plan goals to the three guiding principles from the IFA (plan pillars)
- not just habitat-wildlife linkages, also wildlife health goals, while still being mindful of population management efforts and linkages to decisions in a meaningful way (e.g. quota setting)
- identifying areas that are critical to the landscape, but also areas that are sensitive to change
- decision-support tool: who uses it and who makes the decisions, how will work be applied?

2. Structure of the Plan

- The general structure of the 2003 Plan is good, but should also include a piece on process (i.e. decision making and application)
- Lowest order in plan structure needs to be clear enough that it is actionable on a yearly/ongoing basis in creating workplans etc. (while not being too prescriptive – results-based is preferred)
- While the framework should support reactive responses across life of plan, it is also important to have a path along which to be proactive in the creation/synthesis of information to feedback into the decision-making process (e.g. how can information flowing from the Ivvavik Park Management Plan feed

into a broader North Slope perspective?)

- Importance of synching with existing plans (which operate at various levels/scales), as well as identifying gaps in the existing plans and infilling- **(Integrate our understanding of the landscape)**
- Focus more on what we want (objectives) as opposed to how we are going to do things – less prescriptive, more results oriented
- How can we make sure goals are linked, instead of silo-ed
- Include general threats section in context discussion (potentially in Backgrounder piece)
- Important to consider the economic future of Inuvialuit
- What does it mean to be Inuvialuit? And what will it mean in the future? How can these answers shape approach to economic goals?
- Include relevant Inuvialuit stories and quotes woven throughout plan (would help set context values) – could also show up in backgrounder piece
- Importance of plain language
- Linkage between guiding principles and values

3. Management Goals

- Guiding Principles are ISR-wide (IFA S.1) + YNS specific (IFA 12(2)a))
- Goals need to be re-jigged to better reflect current context (e.g. economic interests)

4. Decision support tool (DST)

- Could be nested throughout the plan
- Include static map elements throughout or as an appendix to show tool application
- Text to describe how DST will feed into various processes, such as EIS, communications, wildlife monitoring priorities (this would need to be part of a broader process piece in the plan)
- Potentially have a decision making chapter (this could also capture the coastal/near shore areas and how the Council interacts with these issues – this will come up naturally in many aspects of Inuvialuit use of the landscape/seascape and will likely be woven through other aspects of the plan)

5. Management Options and Goals for Withdrawal Area

- Still requires an analysis of available management tools (including existing Order-in-Council instrument (i.e. the Withdrawal Order)

Discussion of Background Document (previously Vol I)

1. What is the purpose of this document?

- Context for management on the NS (but not dry – tells the story)
- Stories + Quotes (sets values in context)

- Contemporary drivers of change (climate, social, economic, development, etc.)
- Selection of summary maps (e.g. summary TUS map, development landscape map, etc.)
- Inuvialuit Knowledge
- Updated Photos
- High communications value, visual, engaging
- “It’s not just the environment that is dynamic, Inuvialuit are dynamic, too”
- Decouple from management plan – end at page 36 in current Vol I (except for list of milestones/dates)

2. Audience (high level and general) – political, staff, Yukon public, Canadians, communities

Action 18-07-15 – Staff to summarize Principles, Goals, and Objectives of the existing Plan for Council consideration and Council to comment by end of August (this completed work will be shared with Joan Eamer)

Action 18-07-16 – Staff to synthesize Council discussion of plan framework for Joan Eamer and Council

Action 18-07-17 – Dave and Matt to provide between-meeting feedback/review support to staff and Joan over coming months, on behalf of the Council

Action 18-07-18 – Matt to provide existing summary of YG management/protection options regarding the withdrawal area

Action 18-07-19 – Staff to summarize discussion and communicate with Kelly regarding proposal for background document

12. Discussion Items

Herschel Management Plan:

The Council reviewed the final draft version of the management plan and will draft a response based on the following topic areas:

- Roles, Responsibilities, and funding allocation clarity
- Implementation plan- criteria for assessment of success of implementation
- Prioritized funding list to address various goals
- Link to IFA language
- Program development
- Consideration of research priorities
 - a. Managing and researching load on the park’s infrastructure, capacity + drain on funding by researchers should be considered
- Heritage values

Action 18-07-20 – Staff to prepare letter in response to the latest Herschel

Management Plan

Richardson Mountain Sheep Plan – Moving forward, awaiting further information

M. ovi in Sheep

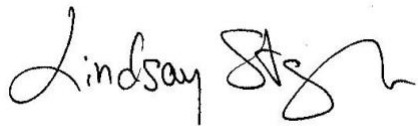
- Bacteria that leads to pneumonia, mass die offs in US lower 48 states
- M. ovi is present in Alaska (caribou, moose, and goats) and wasn't connected with a mortality until this year when detected in a Forty-mile caribou
- YG working with outfitters to get nasal swabs (none have tested positive yet) – some difficulty in collecting quality samples

13. Upcoming Meetings

Next WMAC NS Meeting - August 28-29 in Whitehorse

1. Inuvialuit-Inupiat Polar Bear Meeting (Edmonton), Aug 7-8
2. WMAC NS (Whitehorse), Aug 27-29
3. IGC (Whitehorse), Aug 29-Sept 1
4. IGC (Inuvik), Dec 4-7
5. ArcticNet, Dec 10-14

Meeting adjourned – July 15, 4:36PM.



July 14, 2020

Date

Lindsay Staples, WMAC (North Slope)
Chair



July 14, 2020

Date

Allison Thompson, Staff