

WMAC NS Teleconference

August 27, 2020

Attendees: **Dave Tavares** (Parks Canada), **Matt Clarke** (Yukon Government), **Craig Machtans** (Canada Alternate), **Kaitlin Wilson** (WMAC NS staff), **Allison Thompson** (WMAC NS staff), **Lindsay Staples** (WMAC NS Chair), **Danny C. Gordon** (IGC Representative), **Billy Archie** (IGC Representative), **Mike Sutor** (Technical Support, Yukon Government), **Kayla Arey** (Contractor for WMAC NS)

Meeting Started at 1:36pm.

1. Agenda

Added 'Update on IRC review of WCMP' to Chair Report.

Motion 2020-08-01 to accept the agenda as amended. Moved by Danny C. Gordon, seconded by Billy Archie.

2. Minutes

June 24th

- No comments from Danny C. Gordon or Billy Archie. Motion was already made to accept these minutes subject to Billy and Danny's comments.

July 7th

- No comments

Motion 2020-08-02 to adopt the July 7th teleconference minutes as circulated. Moved by Matt Clarke, seconded by Billy Archie.

July 22

- No comments

Motion 2020-08-03 to adopt the July 22nd minutes subject to any comments by Tyler Kuhn at the September Council meeting. Moved Billy Archie, seconded by Dave Tavares.

3. Action Items

Action Item 2020-06-04 Staff and Chair will draw up a briefing note on options for better communication and engagement between our IGC members and the organization they represent.

- Staff are working on drafting this briefing note. This will be on the agenda in September 2020.

Action Item 2020-06-02 Staff to work on a plan to present the map atlas, via video conference, to the Aklavik HTC and other relevant organizations, travel and technological capacity permitting.

- Kaitlin presented the map atlas over video with Danny, Michelle and Billy. They provided excellent feedback.
- There will be a presentation to AHTC on September 1st.

Action item 2020-04-09 WMAC (NS) staff work with members, Mike Sutor, PCMB on developing a proposal for a collaring workshop in Aklavik.

- Lindsay suggested adding this item to the agenda of the joint meeting with WMAC NWT
- There is work going on with this same issue in the NWT, through the Advisory Committee for Cooperation on Wildlife Management and with the Bluenose-East, Bluenose-West and Cape Bathurst caribou herds.
- The community of Aklavik is still expecting a workshop.
- It would be helpful to collect Indigenous knowledge in Aklavik on the issue. This could be incorporated into workshop design.
- Maybe treat the workshop not as a one-off, but think creatively about how to connect with people beyond a meeting, including ongoing dialogue.

4. Correspondences

Florian Film - Ivvavik National Park filming proposal

- Doing a story series on Canada's national parks, interested in Ivvavik as the next featured Park.
- There are a number of letters of support: Yukon government (Global Marketing Manager), Parks Canada (Director of Brand Experience), Canadian embassy
- Florian Film have reached out to WMAC NS and AHTC looking for support.
- WAFU hadn't heard of this proposal outside of the WMAC NS meeting package. No specific filming plan – they might join the annual youth camp.
- If WMAC NS were to respond, suggest including points about consulting with the community of Aklavik, community benefits, any support contingent on Parks Canada assessing the filming plan and putting mitigations in place for the filming work.
- PCMB asked Mike to do a technical review focused on concerns related to the PCH. Mike watched some of their other productions, they were well done and had a community focus. Mike spoke with them and they had no plans to film caribou or another species from a helicopter. Their intent was to go in to the site and work with local folks there, get some landscape shots, and that is mainly it.
- Billy: want to see an emphasis on the history of the Park, its role in the IFA and how Inuvialuit fought for legislated protection of the area.
- Response suggestion: notional approval, look forward to reviewing their specific proposal, and suggestion to be mindful of: the history of the Park, the role of the IFA, and a need for community benefit and working with AHTC, and that a detailed filming plan be worked through in detail with AHTC, WMAC NS and the Parks Canada Western Arctic Field Unit.

Action item 2020-08-01 staff write a response to Florian Film with the comments noted above, and pulling from the letter response to BBC in relation to their filming proposal from last year.

5. Chair/Staff/Member Reports

IRC Review of WCMP

- It's been 5 months since the meeting of the Parties
- A third draft of the WCMP was circulated to the Parties; Canada and Yukon provided comments. IRC has still not provided comments, despite multiple attempts to reach out.
- IRC committed to providing comments on the WCMP two weeks ago. As of yesterday, IRC is still reviewing internal comments on the WCMP.
- Lindsay provided an update to IGC last week. He has also drafted a letter for IGC to send to IRC; he is hoping to have this completed in the next week.
- Lindsay is hoping to convene a meeting of AHTC, ACC and the Aklavik Elders Committee to provide a briefing.
- At this point, we are concerned about the political window and the time left to have the WCMP signed off (which includes Yukon undertaking a public consultation period).
- Craig: seems like we need to assert some additional pressure. Is it worth getting someone from Ottawa to engage with Duane?
- Any intervention from the other parties would be valuable at this point in time
- Minister Frost is currently away and unable to engage
- Billy: Is there anything in the IFA that can facilitate IRC's engagement? No, the IFA just speaks to recommending a Plan.

Action Item 2020-08-02: Craig will get a director general to reach out to Duane/IRC to discuss the advancement of the WCMP and IPCA file.

Action Item 2020-08-03: Matt will follow up with Minister Frost about advancing the WCMP and IPCA file with IRC.

Discussion of companion document review to date (Lindsay)

- At the last meeting, there was feedback from the Council that the draft companion report chapters completed thus far were content-heavy, and were more content than was needed. There was also concern that this style of report could invite very specific, technical feedback which is not desired.
- This feedback was conveyed to the contractor, Joan Eamer. Given her limited time and other responsibilities, she has declined to continue working on the Companion Report.
- Since then, Lindsay and staff have discussed other writers who may be able to complete the work - the main hurdle being a lack of familiarity with the work done to date.
- Lindsay and staff have inquired with Round River Conservation Studies about their ability and interest to complete the drafting of the Companion Document. Their core task would be to complete the remaining chapters.
- The budget for working with RRCS will be a bit higher
- We dropped the Whales and Seals chapter in light of our focus in the plan
- RRCS will be able to start in September and will provide drafts as they are developed
- There is also the intent to hire an editor to refine the work already complete and make the new chapters consistent in terms of voice, as well as consistently supporting the conservation requirements
- Matt: we will need to scope the RRCS contract tightly so their work doesn't snowball in time and cost
- Eva Holland was suggested as a possible editor, Mike also suggested Kristen Madsen (sp.)

- Dave: how to incorporate existing comments? Should RRCS look at them? Or staff? Or the editor? Especially on fish chapters.

IFA Research Advisory Council (Billy)

- Inuvialuit need to be able to set their own research priorities and have research support their needs
- ITK produced a report on Inuit research sovereignty recently
- IRC is establishing the science and research branch - how this will function with the JS and co-management remains to be seen

Climate change report (Kait)

- The climate change report is finalized and has been added to the WMAC NS website. It can be found under 'resources' and there is a summary under 'news'.

Staffing update (Lindsay)

Allison will be leaving the Yukon at the end of September. The intent is that she will continue to work for WMAC NS from a distance (BC), joining in person as needed and as permissible by current safety protocols. The details of the transition to a new Whitehorse-based staff person have yet to be determined.

Inuvialuit graduate student project (Kait + Mike)

- Mike has been talking with Jessica Norris who is an Inuvialuit beneficiary and has worked for Yukon Environment for over a year now. She has a conservation biology degree from University of Alberta.
- Mike and Kait have been talking with Jessica about research opportunities on the Yukon North Slope and various graduate programs. Jessica is keen to start a program within the year, work on a science-based project on wildlife, in the ISR and work closely with the community of Aklavik from start to finish. Jessica might be able to work with Murray Humphries at McGill. Could follow the model we used with Laurence Carter.
- The WMAC NS staff are keen to support Inuvialuit beneficiaries however possible - mentorship, financially, collaboration, etc.
- Next steps: figuring out the details of Jessica's graduate career.
- Billy: interested in seeing hunters sit down with scientists to design better research projects and answer community-based questions.
- Lindsay: Allison can share the PBTC's Indigenous Knowledge working paper with Billy. In terms of the working relationship with science and Indigenous/traditional knowledge, the Council has been trying to address this for many years. This will be incorporated into the Council's long-term research plan.
- Dave: if Jessica has an interested in field work in the Park, talk to Colleen at WAFU this fall.

Action Item 2020-08-04: Allison will share the PBTC Indigenous Knowledge working paper with Billy.

Digital Atlas (Kait)

- Kait did a video presentation to Michelle, Danny and Billy on the Digital Map Atlas. She received valuable feedback from them.
- There were lingering questions about the Traditional Knowledge maps - about interpretation, sensitivity of the data, etc. We share ownership of the TK data with the HTC. The next step is to

take the atlas to the HTC to make sure they are comfortable with the data presented. That meeting will happen next week.

Spatial data transfer (Kait)

- With the exception of IRC/IGC, all parties are engaged in data transfer discussions. Will be doing data sharing agreements to make sure everyone is clear on how to/not to use the data.

BLM Decision on Arctic National Wildlife Refuge Environmental Impact Statement (Craig)

- Record of decision was released on Aug 17, 2020 (last document in the environmental review phase). The most aggressive leasing option has been selected, with the least amount of restrictions on surface development.
- Two lawsuits have since been filed by Audubon and the Gwich'in Steering Committee/Trustees of Alaska, respectively.
- YG is planning to hold another meeting of leadership to assess how everyone would like to proceed (by Zoom).

6. Upcoming meetings

Kait provided an overview of upcoming meetings, including the WMACs joint meeting, the next WMAC NS meeting, the Inuvialuit-Inupiat meeting, and ArcticNet.

Colleen at WAFU is interested in giving a field work update to the Council at an upcoming meeting.

Motion 2020-08-04 to adjourn. Moved by Craig Machtans, seconded by Billy Archie.

Meeting adjourned at 3:50pm.