

WMAC NS June Teleconference (Draft)

June 10, 2020

By Phone

Attendees: **Dave Tavares** (Parks Canada), **Tyler Kuhn** (Yukon Government), **Billy Archie** (IGC Representative), **Craig Machtans** (Canada Alternate), **Kaitlin Wilson** (WMAC NS staff), **Allison Thompson** (WMAC NS staff), **Lindsay Staples** (WMAC NS Chair), **Michelle Gruben** (IGC Alternate), **Matt Clarke** (Yukon Government Alternate)

Meeting called to order at 1:35 PM.

1. Agenda

Lindsay provided a summary of the agenda

Motion 2020-06-03 to accept the agenda as presented - Moved by Tyler Kuhn, seconded by Michelle Gruben.

2. Minutes

Council have reviewed the minutes from the previous two conference calls on May 28th and June 10th. Craig and Billy provided edits to the June 10th minutes, which were incorporated.

Motion 2020-06-04 to accept the May 28th minutes – Moved by Dave Tavares, seconded by Tyler Kuhn.

Motion 2020-06-05 to accept the June 10th as modified – Moved by Billy Archie, seconded by Tyler Kuhn.

3. Action Items

Kait provided an overview of the action items. There were three from the previous meeting; two are complete and one is outstanding and will be addressed this summer.

Lindsay provided an update on the correspondence received from IGC regarding the Porcupine Caribou Herd and collaring. On June 19th, IGC sent a letter to PCMB that supported Aklavik HTC's most recent motion regarding support for collaring Porcupine Caribou Herd. IGC is supporting Aklavik (and therefore reversing its December 2019 motion). WMAC (NS) still has an outstanding decision on a potential IFA funded YG research program that involves collaring PCH. The Council will defer this discussion until Danny C. Gordon is able to attend.

This issue is complex because WMAC (NS) IGC representatives look to IGC for guidance, and until June 19th, IGC's position on the issue was unclear. There was an additional request from some WNAC (NS) members for WMAC (NS) to request some more information from IGC on how they came to their decision. Lindsay drafted a letter; staff and some members have provided preliminary comments. The perceived rush to judgement on this item by IGC has had impacts on co-management partners and has led to confusion. Based on feedback received to date, the letter will be revised and likely shortened to one page, with the rest of the points included as an appendix.

Billy: We need better communication amongst boards and councils. Perhaps IGC members on WMAC NS can join the Chair at a meeting once a year or more regularly. A 42-directors meeting with all HTC directors could help.

Craig: Clarified that the key point is being mindful of the processes all parties have agreed on. The rest of the letter points out the realities of co-management and how it's difficult.

Matt: Thinking back to the PCMB Annual Harvest Meeting in February 2020 in Dawson, there was discussion of the decision-making process IGC should consider in a co-management context. The letter as drafted does come across as heavy-handed - it's important to focus the letter on the specific issue.

Lindsay: If members have additional comments, these can be sent along in the next few days and we will aim to have a new package out in the next week or so.

Michelle: Would like to be able to continue to provide feedback on this issue and the draft letter.

Tyler: Agreed with Matt - some reservations about the approach/tone the letter takes. Asking questions about how another organization makes its decisions is a pretty sensitive thing to manage and we'd have to be sure we get that right. Yukon representatives would likely need advice from higher up before signing off on a letter like this.

Lindsay: No letter will be sent without all parties to the Council being comfortable. The letter builds on old correspondence regarding Paulatuk HTC's decision to stop all collaring of wildlife, and also from past Yukon Government restrictions about the PCH. The intent was not to lecture the IGC.

Matt: building the rescinded motion into the letter can go a long way to change the tone.

Everyone will provide comments within a week.

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.

Action Item 2020-06-05 Members will provide comments to staff on the draft letter to IGC within the next week; staff and Chair will draft a new letter based on these comments.

4. Finance Update

Allison gave a presentation of the 2019-2020 final books. One major change is that 50% of the salary expenditures in the core budget have been shifted to the IPCA budget. We have approximately \$248,000 in excess, which was expected.

Billy: What if IRC does not support the IPCA work? How does this affect money spent to date?

Allison: All the money spent to date has been under various IPCA tasks within the contribution agreement, so there is no worry of Canada clawing back funds that have already been spent. The only money that we might have to return is what is unspent at the end of March 2022.

Action Item 2020-06-06 Staff will attach a short description to the budget presented to the Yukon Government that outlines why this budget is unique from previous years, with particular emphasis on the IPCA project and Covid-19.

Allison gave a presentation of the IPCA budget for 2019-2020. WMAC NS spent a total of \$420,000 in year 1 (using ECCC, Boreal Songbird, and Council funding). It is important to note that we do have the capacity to carry funds across to the next fiscal year, both ECCC funds and Boreal Songbird Initiative funds.

Motion 2020-06-06 Motion to accept the 2019-2020 financial report as presented, moved by Billy Archie; seconded by Tyler Kuhn.

Allison provided a summary of the 2020-2021 updated budget for the IPCA project. The briefing note and notes column in the excel spreadsheet provide further details about various budget lines. ECCC is now allowing us to extend the project budget and work plan into a third year if needed (2021-22); we currently have not allocated funds to the third year as we are still intending to wrap the project up this current fiscal year.

Kaitlin and Lindsay provided an overview of the Council's 2020-21 core budget. A briefing note summarizes proposed initiatives that could use some of the funds being rolled over from 2019-20. There are seven suggestions in the briefing note - ideas for Council input and prioritization. Kayla has confirmed that she is not extending her contract with the Council.

Billy: Would welcome someone on behalf of WMAC NS working with hunters to educate them on the objectives and actions in our management plans (WCMP, grizzly bear, etc.). Workshops with hunters on education are very valuable.

The HTC has indicated a desire to be more involved in the Council's work with Inuvialuit youth.

A workshop on peoples' rights on the YNS under the IFA is another idea.

Building capacity with Inuvialuit youth is important too - having locally-led population estimates and other aspects of wildlife monitoring would be very useful especially in situations like with COVID-19.

It was clarified that IFA funding for wildlife programs and research and core WMAC NS funding are two different pots and although both can be rolled over, YG receives and administers the wildlife program research funds. WMAC NS funding is to implement WMAC NS' mandate and, aside from TK projects, generally has not been used for research in the past, to keep these budgetary boundaries distinct.

5. Presentation - Parks Canada (Ashley Piskor, Cultural Resource Management Advisor)

Stokes Point Reburial - human remains were removed from the YNS in the 1800s, but have since been repatriated and reburied. However, in recent years, the remains have been unearthed by wildlife. The intent is that reburial can occur this year; a combination of Parks staff and community members might be able to do this work this summer (safety measures and comfort permitting).

Cultural Resource Management Tool and Online Story Map - ArcGIS-based, focused on Clarence Lagoon. Online story map would be more shareable - aiming to have it completed by the fall.

Shoreline erosion - Cultural resources are already threatened by shoreline erosion, especially along the western coast of Ivavik (including Clarence Lagoon). Currently working on a plan for how to manage these disappearing resources. Planning also included community workshopping of mitigation options. There is also potential next summer for on-the-land work with community members.

Some maps and images from this presentation may be of use in the WCMP and companion document (map on p. 6 of presentation, image on p. 8 - could go into the WCMP companion report on climate change).

Sheep Creek Gold Mining Interpretive Panels - Panels are ready for installation this summer. Phase II will include additional info gathering, targeting specific people, families, and objects (to be shared digitally and in booklet form)

Billy - Modern infrastructure has replaced some of the original mining camp infrastructure. Not everyone was compensated for their mining claims when the park was created.

Inuvialuit Living History Project - A highly collaborative project, which included a week-long culture camp at base camp in summer 2019, including 5 youth and 2 elders and some archeologists. There was lots of storytelling, sharing of family ties, traditional activities etc. Youth documented their experiences through a medium of their choice, the products of which will be featured on the project website.

Billy - Projects should be expanded to include education modules in the Aklavik school.

Parks is considering replica artifacts that can be included in educational kits for schools. Creating and sharing tools that are of use to the community is definitely of importance for Parks and staff are working to do this in partnership with the community and school board.

6. Chair/Staff/Member Reports

Term Report - Jennifer Smith is preparing the Council's term report. She almost has a final draft for Council review. The term report is part of the Council's package to YG to receive our second payment.

Council requested a Dropbox folder of legal opinions.

Action Item 2020-06-07 Staff will create a Dropbox folder for legal opinions that Council can access.

IRC communication - Lindsay has sent Duane Smith (IRC Chair and CEO) another note about advancing the WCMP and IPCA files. If he doesn't hear back he will follow up with a formal letter. Michelle clarified that the HTC is in support of Billy Storr as the Aklavik representative and are working with Aklavik Community Corporation on having Billy contact IRC.

7. Upcoming Meetings

WMAC (NS) next meeting is July 22nd, scheduled for a ½ day.

WMAC (NS) will schedule a call to talk about the Porcupine Caribou Herd for approximately two weeks from now.

For scheduling a meeting in August, staff will organize a Doodle poll.

Motion 2020-06-07 Motion to adjourn. Moved by Billy Archie, seconded by Craig Machtans.

Meeting adjourned at 4:07 PM.