



WMAC NS Regular Meeting Minutes

March 29, 2021

Attendees: Lindsay Staples (Chair), Dave Tavares (Canada member), Craig Machtans (Canada alternate), Tyler Kuhn (Yukon member), Matt Clarke (Yukon alternate), Michelle Gruben (Inuvialuit Game Council alternate), Billy Storr (Inuvialuit Game Council member), Allison Thompson (Program Manager), Kaitlin Wilson (Program Manager)

Meeting called to order at 9:30am.

1. Agenda

Motion 2021-03-04 to approve the agenda as tabled. Moved by Billy Storr, seconded by Tyler Kuhn.

2. Minutes

Motion 2021-03-05 to accept the February meeting minutes as tabled. Moved by Dave Tavares, seconded by Billy Storr.

3. Action Items

There were only two action items from the February 2021 meeting - to invite Brian Park to present on the IRC climate change strategy, and to comment on IRC's Cruise Ship Strategy. Both are complete.

An old action item was completed: staff sent out the joint letter to Parks Canada about harmonizing Wild Animal Regulations. Parks Canada confirmed receipt the letter.

4. Discussion Items

Staff provided some context for the IRC climate change plan presentation, prior to Brian Park joining the call (see "[IRC Climate Change Strategy - presented by Brian Park, IRC](#)")

Budget Wrap-up

Allison provided a review of the notional budgets for the 2021-22 Nature Fund budget and IP budget.

For Nature Fund, we are able to roll over unused funds to a third year, but there will be no new funds. Contractors and legal work will be a significant part of the budget in the third year. We are planning for some travel, recognizing that there is still uncertainty with covid and travel restrictions.



Lindsay noted that it is difficult to predict the rollover, but the YG election also adds to the uncertainty with planning forward.

Michelle asked about where the Aklavik staff person budget would come from. This would fall under our core budget, as opposed to the Nature Fund.

Action Item 2020-03-03 Staff will schedule a call with Michelle about moving forward with staffing in Aklavik.

For the upcoming Inuvialuit participation (IP) budget, Allison reviewed the IP discussion from the March finance meeting to provide context for the upcoming year. It's important to note that we are going to be relying on IGC alternate reps much more in the coming months. We are also working to include our Inuvialuit reps more in IGC meetings to improve the flow of information and support. Allison has prepared a briefing memo to send to the JS about increased financial support for the IP budget and is seeking input from Council on the memo.

Lindsay noted that these funds flow from Canada to the GNWT to the JS to WMAC NS. This agreement did not receive the same increase as the WMAC NS ten-year contribution agreement. As such, the budgets for Inuvialuit participation are probably about 15 years out of date.

Michelle noted that there is some confusion about IP payments for half versus full day meetings. Lindsay explained that there is a draft briefing note that addresses this. Further, WMAC NS needs to be consistent with the other boards and councils.

Action Item 2020-03-04 Staff to liaise with the JS about the existing policy on half vs full day payments and the need to account for the time IGC representatives spend working on Council business.

Dave: supports the IP budget in full. Noted that we might not want to rely on the covid changes in our argument for budget increases as we will still need this increase going forward, regardless of covid. And the arguments we've made are quite robust.

Lindsay: we should make this a multi-year request so that we don't have to go back to the JS each year.

Craig: suggested to change paragraph form to a table for tracking number of people and number of meetings, and put it in an appendix.

Allison: ideally, we would track additional work/calls going forward, so that we are reflecting the real draw on Inuvialuit time

Motion 2021-03-06 to approve the Nature Fund and IP budgets for 2021-2022. Moved by Dave Tavares, seconded by Tyler Kuhn.



Aullaviat/Aunguniarvik Community Video - Briefing note led by Kait

ECCC has been working with Indigenous organizations that have received Nature Fund monies, with an eye to do some video work to highlight the areas that are being considered for conservation. Wesley Johnston is the ECCC contact who is leading up this work.

The video can work for different audiences, depending on how it is developed. A meeting was held with Wesley, Kait and folks from Aklavik. ECCC does have funding available for the video. WMAC may contribute additional project funds.

Lindsay: Does the story of the video exist independent of the outcome of the establishment agreement negotiations? Yes. We received the funding opportunity because we received Nature Fund money, but the video is about celebrating how the area is special, so is not IPCA dependent.

Michelle Gruben is in support of the project.

Billy Storr: this opportunity is special, we want to put a lot of thought and care into what to do for it. We can have a brainstorming team, with ongoing meetings so we can grow the idea.

Tyler Kuhn: sees the potential for this video. If we can use this as an opportunity to tell the bigger story about why the area is important, why there is a special conservation designation in the IFA, there is real value in this video. It's also worth noting that Council has had a lot of requests from high quality videographers come through, which often gets pre-approved with the stipulation that b-roll footage be shared - maybe we can take advantage of this.

Craig Machtans: would be great to see a storyboard drawn up.

Dave Tavares: great initiative, it could be used to highlight the importance of the area in any planning project. Great to use Council funds to supplement any ECCC funding.

Kait Wilson: There is funding in our 2021-22 core budget already for a contractor in Aklavik to start pulling together footage, planning, etc.

IRC Climate Change Strategy - presented by Brian Park, IRC

Brian Park is the climate change program coordinator for the Inuvialuit Regional Corporation. Brian presented an overview of the Inuvialuit Settlement Region Climate Change Strategy and next steps.

Tyler: YG received the strategy through WMAC NS but passed it onto the YG climate change secretariat for specialist review. Some comments:

- Balance between language of adaptation and mitigation - the focus is on adaptation. The language in the introduction could reflect this focus.
- Could dive a little more into how the actions might be accomplished



- Offered to share YG comments

Brian did review the YG strategy before writing the IRC plan. There is definitely a focus on adaptation in IRC's strategy. The explanation in the introduction notes climate justice as a rationale for this focus.

Billy and Michelle would like more time to review.

Action Item 2020-03-05 Staff will schedule a call with Michelle and Billy to discuss the climate strategy prior to the April 7th IRC deadline.

Dave supports the staff comments. Under the Ecosystem Health section - no concerns with the section content as there is no contradiction of current work, but also does not reflect the full scope of substantive work that is already ongoing. Implementation is going to be difficult.

Lindsay: regarding the indicators and implementation, coordination across organizations is going to be very important.

WMAC NS to submit remaining feedback to IRC before April 7, 2021.

Establishment Agreement

Lindsay provided an introduction to this topic. There have been two "face to face" IFA parties meetings this year (2021), online.

IRC indicated that they are not in support of "IPCAs" - this comes from past Indigenous Circle of Experts work, where Inuit raised the concern that an IPCA could infringe on treaty rights. WMAC NS had legal work done that found that an IPCA would not infringe upon treaty rights. Despite this, we are no longer calling the idea an "IPCA" - we are simply calling it the Eastern North Slope Agreement.

Meeting of the parties is planned for every two weeks, although the next meeting is being set for a month out to allow time for the Inuvialuit parties to meet.

Yukon is also in the midst of an election run-up, so Yukon does not have a mandate to negotiate right now. Representatives are hoping to advance some issues that don't involve Yukon as much.

Timeline for completing the agreement is September 2021.

Work is ongoing to consider how the Trust would be formed etc. We want to make sure that the funding is all dedicated to Inuvialuit use and leadership on the EYNS. The goal is to use existing instruments under the IFA to implement this agreement, so the role of IGC, WMAC NS and AHTC are really important.



Chair Appointment

Lindsay provided an introduction to this topic. Lindsay worked with staff on clarifying the options going forward for the Council's chair situation.

What we are proposing: amend operating procedures to allow for an alternate Chair for WMAC NS (not just in between Chairs, but ongoing), and to designate an alternate Chair today.

Is Council agreeable to an alternate chair?

Tyler Kuhn: alternate chair position makes sense. Council needs an alternate chair, going forward. E.g. if Chair cannot attend a meeting. Updating Operating Procedures (going forward) is a very important step.

Dave Tavares: idea of alternate Chair makes sense. Not clear on: is this person 3rd party independent from Parties represented on Council? Are they on standing contract, do they come to all meetings, etc.? Mechanics are fuzzy.

Lindsay: can choose within existing membership, recognizing that that person is in a different role (they would be assuming the need to act with a measure of independence). In addition, it may require the alternate for that Party to step up and be a more active participant.

Craig Machtans: what do other Boards do for alternates? Chairing is an important role, some of other Boards appoint alternates more formally by Minister (if required), others do it in rules and procedures, and then question of who and why. Can the alternate Chair be a staff member, or a main member, an alternate member?

Allison explained the WMAC NWT model, with an alternate chair. This could be a model our Council uses.

Michelle: on other Boards, like FJMC, they appoint a temporary/interim Chair from within the Council. The Council is very busy though so it would not just be a case of stepping up for meetings - it would be a lot of work. If we appoint an Inuvialuit as alternate chair, would both alternates have to attend every meeting (since we are down one member)?

Lindsay: Yes, we need two Inuvialuit for quorum in addition to whomever is acting as chair. So if, for example, Billy were made alternate Chair, Evelyn and Michelle would have to attend every meeting (until there is a new Chair).

Matt Clarke: we clearly need to fill the gap, the WMAC NWT way of doing things does make sense.



Lindsay: for quite a while now, we have tried to have both members and alternates at meetings. Being plugged in is very important for our Council. We are trying to enhance participation for our Inuvialuit members/alternates too. The input from alternates makes us collectively stronger.

Craig noted that he feels the alternate chair should be drawn from the main members (as opposed to alternates). Then the alternates can step up to fill the gap. This can be incorporated into the operating procedures.

The WMAC NWT operating procedures language is as follows:

“A Vice-Chair shall be designated by the Council, from its own membership. The Vice-Chair shall, in the absence of the Chair, conduct Council meetings, represent the Council with government agencies, the IGC, other boards and committees, the media and at conferences or other gatherings, and carry out any other responsibilities of the Chair, as required.”

Michelle noted that staff should not be put into the chair role, as this is a very different role from the staff role. Matt and Dave did not see a concern with staff filling the alternate role (other than workload increase).

Some members noted that government representatives will likely struggle to step up as an alternate chair, given workload.

The Council discussed designating Billy Storr as vice chair.

Billy mentioned the possibility of co-chairs given that there is so much work. Lindsay flagged that quorum becomes an issue if there are two chairs. In terms of support, Lindsay will be assisting with the transition and staff can also shift their efforts to provide more support.

Tyler - we need to address the issue of compensation for the alternate chair. We can flesh this out in the operating procedures.

Motion 2021-03-07 to adapt the alternate chair language from the WMAC NWT operating procedures as part of the WMAC NS operating procedures, to be reviewed in spring 2022. Moved by Michelle Gruben, seconded by Tyler Kuhn.

Staff will add in that the alternate may be selected from “membership *and alternates*” and circulate this language to the Council.

Motion 2021-03-08 to support William Storr as the alternate chair and until such time as a new chair is appointed, William will be compensated at the rate of the chair. Moved by Dave Tavares, seconded by Tyler Kuhn.

Motion 2021-03-09 to adopt the revised 2021 Human Resources Manual. Moved by Michelle Gruben, seconded by Dave Tavares.



Outstanding agenda items will be addressed at the April Council meeting.

Motion 2021-03-10 to adjourn the meeting. Moved by Tyler Kuhn, seconded by Billy Storr.