

WMAC NS Teleconference

September 18, 2020

Attendees: **Matt Clarke** (Yukon Government), **Craig Machtans** (Canada Alternate), **Kaitlin Wilson** (WMAC NS staff), **Lindsay Staples** (WMAC NS Chair), **Danny C. Gordon** (IGC Representative), **Billy Archie** (IGC Representative), **Mike Sutor** (Technical Support, Yukon Government), **Tyler Kuhn** (Yukon Government), **Jen Smith** (Contractor for WMAC NS)

Meeting Started at 1:32pm.

1. Agenda

Lindsay provided a summary of what the Council will focus on today, including a suggested approach to how the Council develop the Council position on proceeding with the WCMP.

Motion 2020-09-01 to accept the agenda as drafted. Moved by Craig, seconded by Billy.

2. Minutes

Motion 2020-08-02 to adopt the August 27th teleconference minutes as circulated. Moved by Craig, seconded by Danny.

3. Action Items

Kait walked through the action items from the August meeting.

4. Correspondences

Florian Film (Ivvavik National Park filming proposal) – letter in response to proposal has been sent.

5. Discussion Items

Staffing update:

Kait provided a summary of staff scheduling over the coming months, including travel for Kait and Allison, and support in-office from Jen.

WCMP update:

Lindsay summarized his presentations to Aklavik in the past couple of weeks.

In the Inuvialuit caucus and the Meeting of the Parties (MoP), there seemed to be agreement on a way forward with the Plan. Yukon and Canada indicated that they were amenable to the changes made following the MoP. After more than 5 months Lindsay requested that Aklavik make an appeal to IRC to engage again in the Plan review.

Now that the Council has received IRC's comments, it appears that IRC has walked back much of the understanding that was reached at the MoP. IRC will be expecting a response to their comments and the Council should discuss how to respond.

Billy noted that Jordon McLeod (Aklavik rep on IRC) has made appeals to IRC regarding this file. Also, it's tricky given the overlapping mandates of IGC and IRC. Having people come in on this file so late in the process, when they haven't been fully briefed, is problematic, too. How is the Council going to tie all these views, strategies and plans together?

Lindsay acknowledged that there are different views on conservation throughout Inuvialuit bodies, including between IRC and IGC.

IGC has requested that Duane attend the upcoming IGC meeting. One of the items for discussion is the WCMP and IPCA. Billy Archie, Billy Storr, and Doug Esagok will all be present for both Lindsay's presentation and Duane's meeting with IGC board members.

WMAC staff will schedule a meeting with IRC to discuss the high-level comments emerging from today's discussion and our respective reviews of their proposed edits. Lindsay, Billy Archie, Billy Storr, Dougie Esogak and John Donihee will attend. The Council will indicate to IRC that they can expect a formal written response to their comments once Council members have had the opportunity to consider the outcome of the discussion with IRC.

It is Council's responsibility to recommend the Plan to the appropriate authorities (not Parties). Who are the appropriate authorities for approving or endorsing a wildlife conservation plan? The Plan is not legally binding, similar to the ISR Community Conservation Plans.

Following this general discussion, members had the opportunity to speak directly to IRC's edits.

Craig:

Dave and Craig have discussed possible approaches from Canada's perspective. Dave's impression is that the proposed edits diminish the Plan as written, but the Plan does go further to iron out details around the WO. These details can be worked through in time, outside of the context of the Plan if need be.

Suggest replying to IRC comments in a standardized way (accept/reject/modify).

Tyler:

Council members should consider where they want to have give and take in the Plan edits.

YG would likely be quite shy about signing a plan that not all Inuvialuit bodies support.

Matt:

John Donihee's review of IRC's comments is illuminating in regard to terms and interpretations.

Billy:

Aklavik Inuvialuit have the most to lose in terms of trust with IRC and economic benefit of the foundation funding. Inuvialuit need to come together and not be divided on these kinds of issues that would support our communities. The Council is getting caught in the crossfire of the leaders of our organizations who no longer appear to have a consensus view on the Plan and the IPCA.

Action Item 2020-09-01 – circulate Canada comments to the rest of Council for consideration; other members to provide their comments in writing, as well.

Within the strategy agreed to by the Canadian PCMA leaders is approval of the WCMP to protect caribou habitat.

What can members now share within their organizations in order to keep people briefed on the file? WMAC NS is engaging with IRC to address their comments. Once the Council has this conversation with IRC, the Council members can discuss how to proceed in recommending the plan.

YG will be looking for a formal recommendation from Council to kick off the public review process.

6. Upcoming meetings

Next Council meeting to be determined by Doodle poll.